Ribbons & Souls Reporter

August 2026

Editor: Diane Isaacs
President: Jake Kaunitz

VOL. 8 No. 8

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BYO brown bag picnic before the Wednesday class 5:30 pm August 19			Visitation to Buckles & Bows on August 29 is a Field Trip — sign up to take our bus with us!			**1** VISITATION SHORELINE SQUARES PAUL WATERS
2	**3**	**4**	**5** 6:30 BEGINNER CLASS 7:45 BEGINNER WORKSHOP 8:15 PLUS CLASS 9:15-9:30 PLUS FUN DANCE	**6** A1 CLASS 4:00-5:15 A2 WORKSHOP 5:15-6:30	**7** VISITATION MIKE SIKORSKY HONOR DANCE	**8** FUN & GAMES CLASS LEVEL SSD DALE HOPPERS MEL BRANHAM
9	**10**	**11**	**12** 6:30 BEGINNER CLASS 7:45 BEGINNER WORKSHOP 8:15 PLUS CLASS 9:15-9:30 PLUS FUN DANCE	**13** A1 CLASS 4:00-5:15 A2 WORKSHOP 5:15-6:30	**14**	**15** VISITATION TINSELTOWN SQUARES TERERI SHERRER
16	**17**	**18**	**19** 6:30 BEGINNER CLASS 7:45 BEGINNER WORKSHOP 8:15 PLUS CLASS 9:15-9:30 PLUS FUN DANCE	**20** A2 CLASS 4:00-5:15 A2 WORKSHOP 5:15-6:30	**21** VISITATION GUYS & DOLLS LUAU SYLVESTER NEALON JAMES CATON	**22** BEACH PARTY PLUS DANCE DARREN GALLINA JUDY KELLER-SMITH
23	**24** R&S BOARD MEETING 7:30PM	**25**	**26** 6:30 BEGINNER CLASS 7:45 BEGINNER WORKSHOP 8:15 PLUS CLASS 9:15-9:30 PLUS FUN DANCE	**27** A1 CLASS 4:00-5:15 A2 WORKSHOP 5:15-6:30	**28**	**29** VISITATION BUCKLES & BOWS SSD DANCE ROD SHUPING
30	**31**					

Have you been thinking about learning to round dance? Judy Keller-Smith is resuming her class on September 13. See the flyer on page 19 for more information.

Hit the Road, Jake

Jake Kaunitz, President

OUR FIRST JULY CLUB DANCE was held on Saturday, July 11th, themed "**60s-70s**". We had a good turnout with four squares, aided by our ever-reliable Computer Squares staffed by the ever-reliable **Stuart** and **Fredi**, who sacrificed their high-powered rounds to keep the square dance rotations going . Costuming was festive with lots of tie-dye bellbottoms, beads, peace symbols, and other trappings of that era, which most of us not only lived through but were a part of. **Rick ("Tricky Ricky") Gittelman** called and was able to show his stuff at times especially for the Plus bonus tip. **Mel** cued in his inimitable style, including two beginner-level round dances that encouraged folks to get on their feet. Note that he seemed happier demo-ing with **Janice** than

(See ON THE ROAD WITH JAKE *on page 9)*

8/19 Craig Brunell
Gail Root
8/27 Jennifer Ryba
8/28 Lois Brower
8/31 Jo Achariya Choonhachat

Beginner & Plus Classes

Annette Maxwell, Class Coordinator

WE HAVE COMPLETED THREE MONTHS OF OUR BEGINNERS CLASS, with one more month to go. **Our 11 new students are doing extremely well**, thanks to Dale's patient teaching and all the Angels who are gently guiding them as needed.

Don't get confused with the 3 Larrys!

New students from left to right: Larry T. & Stephanie, Susan, Catherine & Larry J, Margaret W, Larry B & Marge, and Mark. Sharon & John H are not in the picture.

Larry T with Stephanie found their way back to square dancing after a long break. Larry B with Marge have done other type of dancing, including line dancing, contra dancing and international dancing. All were referred to us by current dancers. Larry J with Catherine found us on Nextdoor. Sharon and John H, Susan, Margaret W and Mark were also referred to us by current dancers. Word of mouth is our most successful recruitment strategy. **So tell your friends that a new class is starting September 2nd and September 9th and bring them along!** The first class is free for new students. See the flyer in this newsletter.

On Wednesday, August 19th, we will celebrate the end of this session of classes with a picnic right before the class, starting at 5:30pm We will have tables in the courtyard in front of our dance hall. Bring your own everything: Food, drink, utensils, etc. This is a time to socialize, get to know each other, and celebrate the successful completion of the class with our new students.

We hope that we will see all of our beginners at the upcoming **Class-Level Dance on Saturday, August 8th, with Dale Hoppers calling.** Class-Level Dances are specifically for beginners who have just been taught all of the beginner-level calls. The theme is "Fun and Games," in case you like to dress up for the occasion! We will start round dancing (choregraphed ballroom dancing) at 7 pm and squares at

(See CLASS COORDINATOR *on page 5)*

ASSOCIATED SQUARE DANCERS

Christine Kaunitz,
A Square D Delegate

Fun From Every Angle!

Go Fund Me for Mike Sikorsky, being set up by Marvin Fishman.

Boots & Bows: Next dance is August 15th, with Rod Shuping calling, Judy and Jim Smith cueing "Hot August Nights" dance. They dance SSD tip (patter and singing call) followed by one round dance followed by a Plus patter tip followed by one round dance.

New Mainstream class is to begin on September 10th, with Dale Hoppers teaching. The class will also be open to new students on the 17th and 24th. It goes from 7:00pm to 8:30pm for beginners, 8:30pm to 9:15pm for Plus-level workshop. There is a graduation being planned for early August for four graduates from last group. Club dances and the class both meet at the Riviera United Methodist Church, 375 Palos Verdes Blvd., Redondo Beach.

The club is looking for a new webmaster, to manage their website, probably a professional who is from outside of the club. There is a potluck picnic planned sometime in August at the Retiro Park.

Inglewood Guys & Dolls: Next dance is August 21st, Luau Dance with Sylvester Nealon calling and James Caton on lines. It will consist of SSD, lines, Plus, and lines. The venue is the Ahmanson Center, 3990 Bill Robertson Lane, Los Angeles.

Their Tuesday and Thursday classes taught by Sylvester Nealon will continue through the summer until Labor Day, at which time there will be a one-week break; then classes will resume September 15th at the Inglewood Senior Center and September 17th at the Ahmanson Center. The time is 2:00pm-3:30pm for both classes.

OC Lariats: Next dance is August 14th, with Mike Hayworth calling and Judy Keller-Smith cueing their "Hot Days of Summer" dance. The level is Plus with Advanced Star Tip. They dance at the Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim. Singles rotation is available.

Their class is on summer break due to no A/C in their class building. It will resume on September 10th with Mel

SEE **ASQD** *page 4*

Theme Team

Julie DaVanzo
Annette Maxwell
Cathy McNamara

The theme of our **August 8 class-level SSD dance** is "Fun and Games." Think of an activity you did as a kid (or now do) that brought you pleasure. Was it a board game, a character you watched on TV, or a sports team that made you happy? Then dress with that idea in mind. They say "not everything is fun and games," but this dance will be.

"Beach Party" is the theme of our August 22 Plus dance -- an opportunity to wear something cool and comfortable.

Because of the La Ballona Festival, we will not be having a dance in Culver City on August 29. Instead we will be going by bus to the Buckles & Bows SSD dance in Thousand Oaks. Details can be found in this newsletter. We suggest wearing the club t-shirt or something with the club fabric.

Visitations

Pamela Bailis

Shoreline Squares August 1 with Paul Waters.

Mike Sikorsky Honor Dance Friday August 7 hosted by Cowtown Squares in Riverside (flyer on page 18).

Tinseltown Squares August 15, Terri Sherrer calling SSD/Plus/Advanced (no rounds). (Flyer on page 18)

Guys & Dolls August 21 Squares and Lines with Sylvester Nealon and James Caton (Flyer on page 17).

Buckles & Bows August 29 "field trip". Squares no rounds with Rod Shuping. (Flyer on page 17).

Advanced Class

Ruth Fisher

I'm delighted to share that as of August we now have six Ribbons & Souls dancers in our A-1 class. **Cathy**, **Christine**, **Greg**, and **Meighan** have been with us since the beginning of the current session. **Annette Maxwell** and **Rick** are rejoining us. They almost completed A-1, having taken 20 weeks of A-1 in the previous session. Truth be told, our vice president was a proficient Advanced dancer years ago.

With **Herb** from Tinseltown, who danced Advanced before the pandemic and has chosen to consider himself a student, we almost have a square of new dancers.

We're elated to grow our class, especially since we've recently lost a few of the A-2 dancers to ill health. With the advent of our new class, for the first time Ribbons & Souls has the majority of dancers, followed by Tinseltown, Valley clubs, and the South Bay dancers.

Our beloved instructor, Janienne Alexander Kellogg, will be returning full-time as of August 13th, with only one planned absence during 2026. We're excited to experience Rick Gittleman's instruction on September 17th.

ASqD *from page 3*

Branham teaching. The class is held at First Christian Church of Orange, 1130 E. Walnut Ave., City of Orange, and the time is Thursdays, 6:45pm-8:30pm. They combine square dance with line dancing teaching. For social function, they get together for breakfast once a month at the Flapjack Restaurant, usually attended by 20+ members.

Shoreline Squares: Next dance is August 1st, with Paul Waters calling. They rotate through SSD, Plus, SSD and Advanced without the rounds. They dance at the St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 53006 E. Arbor Road, Long Beach.

Classes are through the City of Bellflower Parks and Recreation and taught by Jim Smith on Thursdays 6:00pm -8:00pm. The class is to start on August 20th. Please note the early date. Advanced workshop meets every Monday night at a private residence in Downey from 7:00pm-9:15pm, taught by Terri Sherrer.

Grin- N- Square It: Delegate did not attend the district meeting; the information is from the website. Next dance is September 19th with Shauna Kaaria calling and Bill Barry cueing "Back to School" dance. They dance at the First United Methodist Church, 5957 Golden West Ave., Temple City, in a fully air-conditioned hall with parking lot across the street. Their level is Mainstream (SSD) and Plus.

Class will resume on Monday September 14th at the Duarte Elks Lodge, with Jim Smith as the teacher.

See you in a square!

On the Road Again

Meighan Maguire
Field Trip Coordinator

We're taking a bus to the Buckles & Bows Square Dance on Saturday, August 29!

The B&B dance will take place at Goebel Adult Community Center in Thousand Oaks from 7pm to 9pm (1385 E Janss Rd). Rod Shuping is calling this Mainstream (SSD) dance, and there will be no rounds. Everyone who has been attending our cherub-level workshops (Wednesdays 7:45-8:15) should join us for this fun evening, whether you've been to a dance before or not.

We'll meet at 4:30pm in the parking lot of the former Bed, Bath & Beyond in Culver City (10822 Jefferson Blvd), and depart by 4:45. We'll stop for dinner at the Panera in Thousand Oaks (205 N Moorpark Rd), attend the B&B dance, and return to Culver City by about 10pm.

R&S members are encouraged to wear our official club colors (material available from Jennifer) or R&S t-shirts (limited stock available from Meighan). If you'd like to purchase a t-shirt ($10), please find Meighan at the R&S dance on Saturday, August 8; the upcoming R&S workshops on Wednesday, August 5 & August 12; or the R&S class picnic on Wednesday, August 19.

Costs: The bus ride is $10 (payable in cash to Meighan by 8/19), dinner at Panera is $15-$20 (everyone pays for themselves), and the dance is $12 (payable to B&B at the door).

We have space for up to 28 people on the bus! So far, we have the following folks confirmed: Greg, Geli, Jane, Bradley, Val, Diane, Dale, Kathy, Julie, Frank, Deb, Craig, Jennifer, Mark, Lauren, Debbie, Amelia, Leslie & Meighan.

To add your name to this list, please email or text Meighan ASAP: meighanmaguire@icloud.com or 310-883-4221.

Upcoming R&S field trips will be approximately once a quarter — likely in November, January, April, and beyond. If you have suggestions for places for the club to visit (museums, gardens, etc.), please send them to Meighan!

(CLASS COORDINATOR *from page 2)*
7:30 pm. If you like, you can come early to watch the round dancing and to socialize. We have computer rotations. After you pay your $12 donation, you tell the computer operator your name, what role(s) you are dancing – male and/or female, and if you want to dance as a couple with the same partner all evening or as a single who gets matched with different partners.
If you haven't visited our website lately, check it out. Julie keeps it updated and interesting. Check out our club activities at https://ribbonsandsouls.com/. You can enjoy a video from the beginning of this course, that now seems so long ago. Can you believe that since that evening our students have learned about 50 calls? Our website attracted even international visitors: Two square dancers from Germany came to one of our classes and they fit right in. I heard several "Auf Wiedersehn"s as they were leaving. That reminds me – **when you are traveling here or abroad, you can always look up if there is a square dance at your location. It's a great way to meet new people.** Check out this website: https://www.wheresthedance.com/

See you on the dance floor!

July 22 class at Ribbons & Souls with German visitors Alexandra and Manfred, front row between Kay and Annette M.

What's Next after Beginner Square Dancing Class?

The Ribbons & Souls Square Dance Club hopes you enjoy dancing at our Wednesday Social Square Dancing class. But how can you continue to dance once the class ends on August 26? Fortunately, there are many opportunities to continue dancing with our club.

When the class ends, you will have been taught all the calls in the Social Square Dancing program. (In September this will be renamed "Mainstream," but it is the same calls you have been learning.) But new calls take time to sink in, so it is helpful to get more practice, especially with the calls taught in the last few weeks of class. Here's how to do that.

Re-Take the Class
To help you hone your new skills, take our next class **starting September 2** in the Multipurpose Room on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm. **You will see that the class is much easier the second time around and more fun!** As you become more proficient, we count on you to help our new beginners to learn the calls. Most of our regular dancers continue coming to the Wednesday class to help with the teaching of new dancers and over time many learn both roles (male and female) for an extra challenge and to be able to fill in as needed.

(WHAT'S NEXT *on page 6)*

(WHAT'S NEXT *from page 5)*

Stay for the Beginners Workshop

Starting September 2nd, you are also invited to stay after the beginners class for another 30 minutes until 8:15pm to attend the **beginners workshop.** This workshop is designed for those who have completed an entire course. In the workshop, Dale Hoppers will increase the complexity of the dances by putting together different combinations of calls, calling more quickly, and ensuring that you can execute complex calls like Grand Square without step-by-step instructions. The workshop will prepare you for the challenge of club-level dancing to a variety of callers.

Come to Class-Level Dances

Several times each year we have Class-Level Dances specifically for beginners who have just completed our course. They are on Saturday evenings in our regular Multipurpose Room in the Veterans Building. We start at 7pm with 30 minutes of Round Dancing (choreographed ballroom dancing with a cuer announcing the steps). You are welcome to come at 7pm to watch and socialize. Square dancing starts at 7:30pm and goes until 10pm. We have a computer program that matches you with a partner. After you come in and pay your donation of $12 to the cashier, move on to the computer operator and tell him/her your name, if you want to dance as a couple or if you want to be computer matched with another partner, and if you want to dance in the male and/or female role. **Our next class-level dance is on Saturday, August 8th. Dale Hoppers is calling, and you will know almost everyone from class.** The theme is "Fun & Games". Some of us take every opportunity to dress according to the theme. Be creative or come as you are!

Club Membership

The Ribbons & Souls Membership Committee consists of seven experienced dancers who meet two to three times each year to decide who is ready for membership. Club membership certifies that you are proficient at the beginner (Mainstream) level and therefore ready to go to any beginners-level club dance. Most dancers take the class more than once before they are invited to become a member. You can recognize members by their silver name badges.

Ribbons & Souls is one of ten square dance clubs in the Southern California area that offer club dances. Our club square dances take place on the second and fourth Saturday of every month, and the fifth Saturday when there is one, from 7:30 to 10 PM. In addition, club members visit other clubs and attend special regional and national square dance events. Check out our website that lists club activities and our monthly newsletter https://ribbonsandsouls.com/.

And Beyond

Square dancing has roots in the United States, but there are active clubs around the world, all using the same calls and always calling in English. CallerLab.org is an international organization of callers that standardizes which calls define different square dancing programs.

Standardization makes it possible to dance anywhere once you have mastered the calls in a given program. **So check if there is a square dance if you are traveling here or abroad! It's a great way to meet new people!**

In addition to the beginners (Mainstream) class, Ribbons & Souls offers a Plus class on Wednesday evenings from 8:15 to 9:30 pm and an Advanced class on Thursdays from 4 to 6 pm. New dancers will be invited to join these classes, which will introduce many new calls, after they have more experience. Plus is a program of 50 additional calls. Our fourth-Saturday and fifth-Saturday dances are at the Plus level. Advanced is the level beyond Plus. Our club offers a bonus Advanced tip at the end of our Plus dances.

Many clubs in Southern California belong to ASquareD.org, a regional organization that supports member clubs by listing information about upcoming dances and regional/national conventions in the Grapevine Quarterly Newsletter, by publicizing beginning square dance classes, and by providing liability insurance. A Square D also sponsors four region-wide dances every year.

6:30-7:45 Beginners 7:45-8:15 SSD workshop 8:15-9:15 Plus workshop 9:15-9:30 Fun Plus dance

Ribbons & Souls
Mainstream, Plus Calls
July 29, 2026

Calls taught July 22, 2026

Calls taught previously

Mainstream Program 2026
1. Circle Left/Circle Right
2. Forward and Back
3. Dosado
4. Swing
5. Promenade Family
a. Couples (Full, 1/2, 3/4)
b. Single File Promenade
c. Wrong Way Promenade
d. Star Promenade
6. Allemande Left
7. Arm Turns
8. Right and Left Grand Family
a. Right and Left Grand
b. Weave the Ring
c. Wrong Way Grand
9. Left/Right-Hand Star/Star Transitions
10. Pass Thru
11. Half Sashay Family
a. Half Sashay
b. Rollaway
c. Ladies In, Men Sashay
12. Turn Back Family
a. U-Turn Back
b. Backtrack
13. Separate
a. Around 1or 2 to a Line
b. Around 1/2 Come into the Middle
14. Split Two
15. Courtesy Turn
16. Ladies Chain Family
a. Two Ladies Chain (Reg. & 3/4)
b. Four Ladies Chain (Reg. & 3/4)
c. Chain Down the Line
17. Recycle (From a Wave Only)
18. Lead Right /Left

Mainstream Program (Continued)
19. Veer Left/Veer Right
20. Bend the Line
21. Circulate Family
a. (Named Dancers) Circulate
b. Couples Circulate
c. All Eight Circulate
d. Single File Circulate
e. Split/Box Circulate
22. Right and Left Thru
23. Grand Square
24. Star Thru
25. California Twirl
26. Single Hinge / Couples Hinge
27. Centers In
28. Square Thru/Left Square Thru 1,2,3,4
29. Cast Off ¾
30. Dive Thru
31. Wheel Around
32. Spin the Top
33. Slide Thru
34. Fold/Cross Fold
35. Tag the Line Family
a. Tag the Line (In/Out/Left/Right)
b. Fraction (1/4, ½, ¾) Tag
36. Scoot Back
37. Trade Family
a. (Named Dancers) Trade
b. Couples Trade
c. Partner Trade
38. Ocean Wave Family
a. Step to a Wave
b. Balance
c. Alamo Style
d. Single Circle to a Wave (NEW)
39. Swing Thru/Left Swing Thru

6:30-7:45 Beginners 7:45-8:15 SSD workshop 8:15-9:15 Plus workshop 9:15-9:30 Fun Plus dance

Ribbons & Souls Mainstream, Plus Calls July 29, 2026

Calls taught July 22, 2026

Calls taught previously

Mainstream Program (Continued)
40. Run/Cross Run Family
a. Run
b. Cross Run
41. Pass the Ocean
42. Extend
43. Wheel and Deal
44. Double Pass Thru
45. First Couple Go Left/Right, Next Couple …
46. Zoom
47. Flutterwheel/Reverse Flutterwheel
48. Sweep a Quarter
49. Trade By
50. Touch 1/4
51. Ferris Wheel
52. Box the Gnat

Plus Program 2026
1. Acey Deucey
2. Teacup Chain
3. Ping Pong Circulate
4. Load the Boat
5. Peel Off
6. Linear Cycle (From Waves Only)
7. Coordinate
8. (Anything) & Spread
9. Spin Chain the Gears
10. Track II
11. (Anything) & Roll
12. Follow Your Neighbor
13. Fan the Top
14. Explode the Wave
15. Explode & (Anything) from Waves only
16. Relay the Deucey
17. Peel the Top
18. Walk and Dodge

Plus Program (Continued)
19. Diamond Circulate
20. Do Paso
21. Trade the Wave
22. Flip the Diamond
23. Grand Swing Thru
24. Crossfire
25. All 8 Spin the Top
26. Cut the Diamond
27. Chase Right
28. Dixie Grand
29. Walk around the Corner
30. See Saw
31. Circle to a Line
32. Thar Family
a. Allemande Thar
b. Allemande Left to Allemande Thar
b. Wrong Way Thar
33. Slip the Clutch
34. Shoot the Star/Shoot the Star Full Around
35. Cloverleaf
36. Eight Chain Thru/Eight Chain 1, 2,…
37 Pass to the Center
38. Dixie Style to an Ocean Wave
39. Spin Chain Thru
40. Spin Chain and Exchange the Gears
41. Clover and (Anything) NEW
42. Pass the Sea NEW
43. Pair off NEW
44. Partner Hinge NEW
45. Partner Tag NEW
46. Triple Scoot NEW
47. Triple Trade NEW
48. Turn Thru NEW
49. Quarter thru (3/4, Grand quarter thru, Grand ¾ thru) NEW
50. Scoot and Dodge NEW

(ON THE ROAD WITH JAKE *from page 2)*

with **Christine**, but maybe the beanie was bugging him. We even had an unexpected appearance by our Vice President **Rick** who sang classic Dylan tunes accompanied by his vintage Yamaha acoustic guitar and harmonica. **Sheila** purveyed the goodies and everyone had a good time.

Janice and Greg embraced the 60s-70s theme

Did you know that Bob Dylan was in the house? With a groupie! (Rick and Annette M)

Bob Dylan entertained us while we were cleaning up after the dance.

(CLUB DANCES *on page 10)*

*(*CLUB DANCES *from page 9)*

Our second dance of the month occurred on July 25th, with **Frank Lescrènier** calling and **Judy K-S** cuing, with the theme "Margaritaville". As would be expected, Tommy Bahama and similar-looking apparel was in abundance, with a good showing of Parrot-themed as well. The dance was greatly enhanced by a visitation by the **Valley Trailers**, who brought 7 representatives including their 'first couple', **Linda** and **Steve**. A sly one, Frank snuck in some real zingers, including converting the squares into facing conga lines and other unusual formations to themed tunes by none other than Jimmy Buffet and others in his genre. As Frank confided, "I like different more than difficult". Thanks to **Richard**, **Kinu**, and **Norma** for keeping the money flowing, Rick for the snacks, and a big shout out to the return of **Judy F**, now aided by **Greg** and **Diane** who serve as alternates for the Computer Squares to spread out the responsibility. Since I made the announcements (thanks in large part to a thorough prepping by **Cathy**), I omitted the group photo, substituting a photo of a pair of our exceptionally lovely ladies, **Donna** (VT) and **Christine.**

JAKE'S MONTHLY VISITATION REPORT

The first dance of the month was again at **Sets in Steps**, our friendly and welcoming neighbor to the north. The Friday evening drive was uncharacteristically short due to the absence of traffic – it took us about the same time as it usually does for us to get to Culver City on Wednesdays. **Phil Farmer** called in the sequence SSD-SSD-Plus that got almost everyone on the floor to the July 4th theme. There were many clubs represented, including the Valley Trailers and others from nearby locations.

Sets in Steps features dancers with a broad spectrum of proficiencies providing challenges at times to maintaining the dance flow and avoiding breakdowns. I have found that helping out others with hand signals, gestures, and voiced suggestions presented constructively are universally well received. If things truly break down, maintaining a lighthearted and jovial spirit can do wonders for improving the esprit of the square, converting an otherwise challenging experience into a joyful event.

*(*JAKE & CHRISTINE VISIT OTHER CLUBS *on page 11)*

(JAKE & CHRISTINE VISIT OTHER CLUBS *from page 10)*

On July 12 we headed north on the 405 and the 5 to the beautiful city of Santa Clarita for an official R&S visitation to the Sierra Hillbillies Square Dance Club for their Special Sunday "Patriotic Colors" dance. They dance is a large wood-floored room with plenty of amenities and parking. **Pat Carnathan** called while **Cindy Mower** cued in a SSD-Round-Plus sequence. Up to five squares were present with the level of proficiency quite good. We saw many of the folks we knew from **Sets In Step**, the **Valley Trailers**, and other clubs that were from the north chapter of ASqD. Pat turned out to be a superb caller with plenty of tricks up his sleeve balanced by an eagle eye for missteps and out of position dancers, sometimes even stopping the tip to practice some key calls. You needed to be a bit thick-skinned since he did not shy away from pointing our errors, although we all understood that he was trying to up the game for everyone. We had some really fun tips where we went nearly full speed with minimal errors and lots of styling, singing along to the Fleetwood Mac anthem "Yesterday's Gone" among other memorable tunes. The Hillbillies were quite welcoming, (see photo with their ASqD rep **Allan Willis** and our own rep, **Christine**}. We were joined by a good-sized R&S contingent including **Rick**, **Annette**, **Janice**, **Diane**, **Amelia**, and **Christine**. They served a light late lunch halfway through capped by hot dogs (again), apple-rhubarb pie and root beer floats. We all had a great time and had a wonderful afternoon that was well worth the drive.

The following Friday, we headed south on the 405 to **Mel's Dance Hall** for a dance with the **Ichabod's**, one of the many active Orange County Clubs. We were treated to a repeat performance by **Pat Carnathan,** whose straightforward calls and acerbic wit, combined with a sharp eye for miscreants and other errant dancers added

(JAKE & CHRISTINE VISIT OTHER CLUBS *on page 12)*

(CHRISTINE & JAKE VISIT OTHER CLUBS *from page 11)*

to the jovial spirit. We were doubly blessed by the presence of **David Mee**, accompanying his wife and cuer **Dawn Mee**, the former who called and harmonized on occasion. As usual, the ride back was far shorter (in time) than the ride there. The theme was "Batter Up" (baseball, not pancakes), and with this being the OC, a sea of red Angels shirts (popular despite their loser status). Nevertheless, a brave band of Dodger Blue held their ground, owing in some part to the championship status and natural superiority of their team. The refreshments carried the theme with popcorn, peanuts, and hot dogs (but no Crackerjacks). They even had a backdrop for themed photos of each dancer.

On Saturday the 18th we headed up the 405 through relatively light traffic to the **Wilkinson Center** to the **Valley Trailers,** a prospering ASqD affiliate in the San Fernando Valley for a dance themed "Celebrate USA/ Hot Dog Hoedown". There was plenty of Red White and Blue to go around and there were plentiful franks, the fourth one that I have consumed this year. The caller was **Darren Gallina** with his live band that practically filled the spacious stage. We were joined by **Fredi**, **Kinu**, **Richard**, **Pamela**, **Jim**, **Cathy**, **and Lauren**. There were about 12 squares at the peak, always a wonderful atmosphere that generates its own energy, adding to the fun. This was an all Plus dance with intervening rounds that gave everyone an opportunity to get on the floor. After making some adjustments for sound, the calls were straightforward, with everyone having a great time.

Having had my fill of hot dogs and patriotic-themed costuming, it's time to cruise in August.

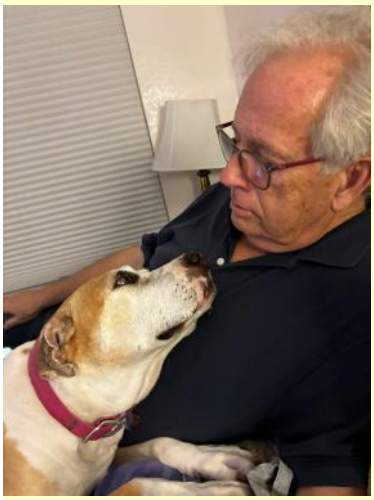
Meet Our Members
Kathy Stafford
as told to Sheila Berman

Square 'Em Up!
A Conversation With Ginger... and Kathy Stafford

They say some dancers have two left feet, but Ginger, Kathy's beloved American Staffordshire, actually does! Though Ginger doesn't dance, she's the unofficial Ribbons & Souls mascot, and at 18 ½ years of age, it's her turn to shine in our Meet Our Member feature. Ginger was assisted in her answers, when necessary, by Kathy.

Ginger, how long have you lived with Kathy, and when did you start coming to square dance workshops?

I have known Kathy all my life, though I came to live with her just five years ago. She told me the story of how her son Joel raised me after a friend showed up with me, still a puppy, and told Joel he had to take me to save my life as I had no where else to go. I'm so glad I got a good home, but Joel travels a lot and lived at that time on a sailboat (I'm not a seafaring dog!), so five years ago I got a special pet transport from Florida to Kathy in California, and here I am ! Two years ago, I got to go to Boots & Bows, and I love Ribbons & Souls, too, though it's a longer car ride.



Ginger, what do you enjoy most about coming to square dance?
Oh, that's an easy one to answer...I love all the pets and hugs and attention! Kathy says I'm a needy dog, but I just enjoy being around all those nice folks ! Sometimes I get my leash tangled up and someone comes to help me. Matt and Kay are my special dance buddies. I've lost my hearing, so I can't hear the music or Dale's calling, but I see the dancers smiling, and it makes me happy to know they are having fun.

Do you have favorite treats, toys, places to hang out ?
I'm a people kind of dog – I never liked toys or balls and, frankly, my coordination is not terrific...I could never catch a treat tossed to me – it would bounce off my nose, but I'd gobble it up as soon as it hit the floor.

I mainly like to hang out with my people, and I will whimper and cry until they pick me up and put me on the bed. (Now that I'm a super senior, I need a little help.) You'd never guess by looking at my calm demeanor, but Kathy says I was a feisty youngster ! Though I've slowed down, I still LOVE my walks even if it's just around the block. Oh, and my appetite is strong !

Ginger, thank you - and Kathy – for sharing your story with us. In closing, do you have any advice for your two-legged dancers ?
Yes! LISTEN TO THE CALLER!!!

Julie DaVanzo

Julie and Frank see Shan and Emmett in Seattle

On a recent family trip from Portland to Seattle to Victoria, British Columbia, Julie and Frank and their younger daughter and her family had dinner with Shan Cretin and Emmett Keeler and their youngest daughter in Seattle.

Shan and Emmett were very active in the Red Ribbons and Ribbons & Souls and were key Red Ribbons members negotiating the merger of the Red Ribbons and Heels & Souls. For many years Shan was the coordinator for the RRs and R&Ss square dance class, and Emmett served many terms as club president.

Shan and Emmett moved to Seattle two years ago to be with their three daughters and five grandchildren and are very happy there. They are no longer square dancing, but wanted to send their greetings to all members of the club who remember them.

Julie and Frank showing off their R&S t-shirts.

Back row: Lexi Keeler, Emett Keeler, Shan Cretin, Frank DaVanzo.
Front row: Poppy Bowler, Betty Bowler, Karen DaVanzo Bowler, Julie DaVanzo

Pamela Bailis

High Steppin' in the High Desert…*celebrating 50 years of fancy footwork!*
ICBDA Convention #50
St. George, Utah July 8 - 11, 2026

I recently spent six days at the annual convention of the International Choreographed Ballroom Dance Association (ICBDA). This was an amazing week of round dancing at all levels and all phases -- something for everyone. And a great opportunity to meet many of the dance teachers and choreographers whose dances we learn and who we all hear about!

I was a "first-timer" along with 64 other first timers. There was a special **"first timer"** gathering on Tuesday night before the "trail in dance." We first timers were assigned a "mentor" to be our guardian angel, to answer questions, and make sure all was going well for us. At this introductory meeting, all of the first timers were introduced along with our mentors. It was nice to know that we were not alone!! After announcements and introductions, we enjoyed delicious brownies and cookies.

It was fun seeing and dancing with new/old friends at the very casual trail-in dance. The dance program was geared to include dances that most of us knew and could do. Lots of "hellos" and hugs throughout the evening as we bumped into friends and dance buddies from back home and elsewhere. The entire evening was full of fun, friendship, and support.

The daily schedule included **Showcases** (previews of dances that will be taught the next day). This was great because you got to see all of the dances for tomorrow and pick the **"teaches"** you want! And, yes, oftentimes it was a difficult choice since you wanted to learn many dances taught at the same time.

However, if you missed a **teach** or needed extra practice, there were many **Reviews and Dance-Thrus** of dances taught. These review sessions were fabulous, and happened each day and maybe twice! Really well done and great reinforced learning!

One of my favorite sessions was a clinic where we practiced and learned "picture figures." These are beautiful "snapshots" of when a dancing couple creates a beautiful position, (either in motion or at the end/or beginning of a dance, often to show off or highlight the lady dancer. hand-drawn-ballroom-dancing-silhouette_151622538.htm

Approximately 290 dancers participated full time, some part time. There were a few local attractions, some museums, Zion and Bryce National Parks, a desert garden, and other attractions. However…it was desert-weather, HOT and DRY. Temperatures ranged from 95 to 111.

If you love to round dance, this is definitely for you! ICBDA will be in Montgomery, Alabama, next year.

Happy Round Dancing!

Amelia Kacena and Nancy Tu
Dance Schedulers

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for cashier and refreshments duty. Members who have not signed up will be assigned arbitrarily to the remaining open dates. If the date assigned is not acceptable with their calendar or an unexpected conflict arises, the member has the responsibility to find a replacement and inform Nancy at nncyt2002@aol.com and Amelia at akacena@yahoo.com. Check with Jennifer Ryba at jlryba27@gmail.com regarding refreshments. Be assured: new members are not expected to volunteer for cashier and/or refreshments for their first year.

Jennifer Ryba
Refreshments Coordinator

Thank you for providing refreshments**!** **In return for this service to the Club, you will get into the dance for free.**

***Please remember**: If you're unable to honor your commitment date, it will be your responsibility to find and notify us of your replacement.*

If you are also acting as cashier, you will be responsible for managing the sign-in table, so all refreshment set up must be finished before the dance starts.

We will provide the following for your use (currently housed in a large bin):

- Round plastic trays
- Paper napkins, plates & cups
- Two Plastic storage containers
- Ziploc bags

Please bring finger food snacks for approximately 24 people (**ideally, nothing that needs to be served or requires utensils**). **To care for the environment, we ask that you not bring any plastic or Styrofoam or other non-recyclable items**.

Some snack suggestions :

- small cupcakes (18 to 24)
- Fruit that can be eaten with fingers such as tangerines , grapes, or mini-apples (15 to 20)
- Candy, especially chocolates are popular (15 to 20 individual pieces)
- Wrapped snack items such as Ritz crackers with peanut butter or cheese (8 to 10)
- Small bags of chips and/or cookies (8 to 10)

When you arrive, please put the food in the kitchen.

- Arrange the food on any trays for easy self-serving.
- Place a trash receptacle beside the kitchen window in the dance hall.
- Pull open the metal roll-up door so food is available for people to enjoy throughout the dance.

About 9:30 please begin cleaning up. Before you leave the dance hall, please check the kitchen, seats and floors of the dance hall for any empty bottles or trash and place these in the recycle or trash containers by the entrance doors.

Please take home with you any leftover perishable food and any special "theme" items you brought to serve/decorate your refreshments.

Leftover nonperishable wrapped food and those supplies provided by the Club are to be boxed and handed over to the person bringing refreshments to the next dance.

Thanks again for contributing to Ribbons & Souls dances in this way! Please let Jennifer know if you have any questions. You can reach her by email at jlryba27@gmail.com or by text at 310-717-0719.

Sponsorship

Lois Brower
Diane Isaacs

Do you have a special occasion to celebrate? A birthday? A promotion at work? Are you a new grandparent? Did your book get published? Perhaps a special "thank you!"

Club members have been known to share these special occasions with us and support the Ribbons & Souls club at the same time by sponsoring a dance.

Sponsorship helps defray the cost of club dances. For a special donation of $100 you can choose the dance you wish to sponsor. We will announce your sponsorship at the dance and prepare a themed poster thanking you for your contribution to our club. We'll showcase the poster and take your photo at the dance so we can share it in our newsletter.

Let **Lois** know which dance you want to sponsor. Lois will take your money. **Diane** will keep track of which dance you have reserved, and create the poster.

Contact Lois at ljbrower@aol.com and Diane at di6@earthlink.net (talk/text 213-309-2630).

VOLUNTEERS FOR CASHIER AND REFRESHMENTS

Date	Caller	Cuer	Theme	Cashier	Refreshments
8/8	Dale Hoppers	Mel	Fun & Games	Annette C	Kathy S
8/22	Darren Gallina	Judy	Beach Party	Pamela	
8/29	DARK	DARK	DARK	DARK	DARK
9/12	Phil Farmer	Mel	Oktoberfest	Renate	Renate
9/26	Michael Haworth	Heather	Musicals	Deb & Craig	
10/10	Mike Seastrm	Mel	Under he Sea	Jane	Jane
10/24	Michael Kellogg	Judy	Petticoat Junction	Jim	
10/31	Andy Allemao	Judy	Halloween	Diane	Diane
11/14	Sylvester Nealon	Judy	Scotland—Wear Plaid	Nancy T	
11/28	Lawrence Johnstone	Mel	Hollywood's Golden Age	Gary & DeeDee	
12/12	Dale Hoppers	Judy	Ugly Sweater	Jennifer	
12/26	Rod Shuping	Larry Johnson	Pre-New Year's Eve Dress Up		

TINSELTOWN Squares

TINSELTOWN SQUARES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND AUGUST DANCE WITH:

Terri Sherrer

SATURDAY AUGUST 15

Membership meeting at 6 PM

DANCE 6:30 TO 9:30 PM

SSD / Plus / Advanced (No Rounds)

Suggested Donation: $10 per person

* Please bring snacks to share *

PLUMMER PARK, COMMUNITY CENTER

7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood CA 90069

For more information, visit

www.facebook.com/TinseltownSquares or www.ttsq.org,

Or contact Gordon Morris, gordonmorris20@gmail.com, 818-384-2455

Tired of sitting at home? Want to try something new that's lots of fun?

Try Square Dancing!

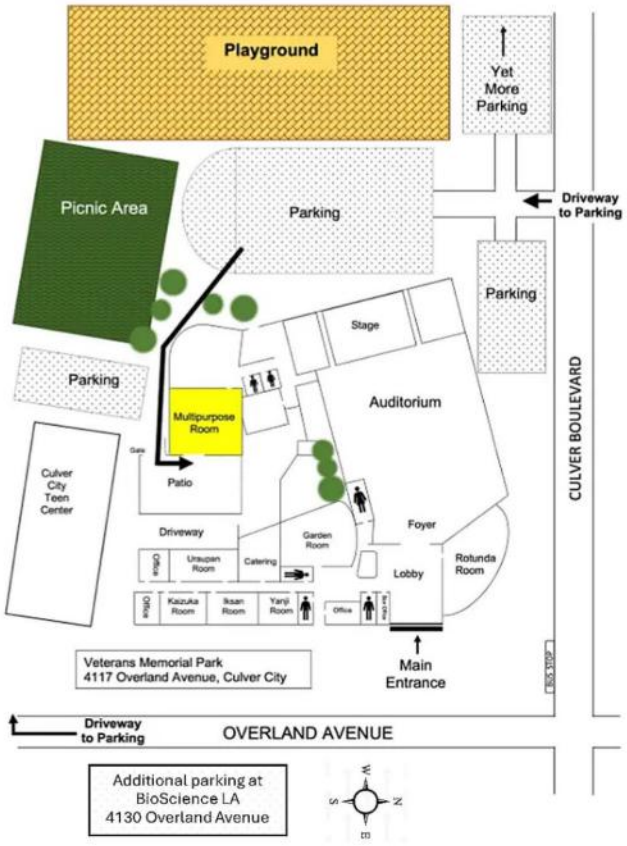
Square dancing is a wonderful opportunity to move aerobically to music, while having a lot of fun and making new friends. Square dancing doesn't require any special musical or athletic talent. If you can walk and shake hands, you can square dance. Dress casually and wear comfortable shoes. Singles and couples are welcome. We have experienced partners for you if you don't have one. Masks are optional.

Starting Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026
Kick up your heels at our
Square Dancing Class!

Open to New Students on September 2 and 9 at 6:20 PM
Subsequent classes 6:30 to 7:45 PM.

After September 9 the class will be closed to new students until the next session which begins in January.

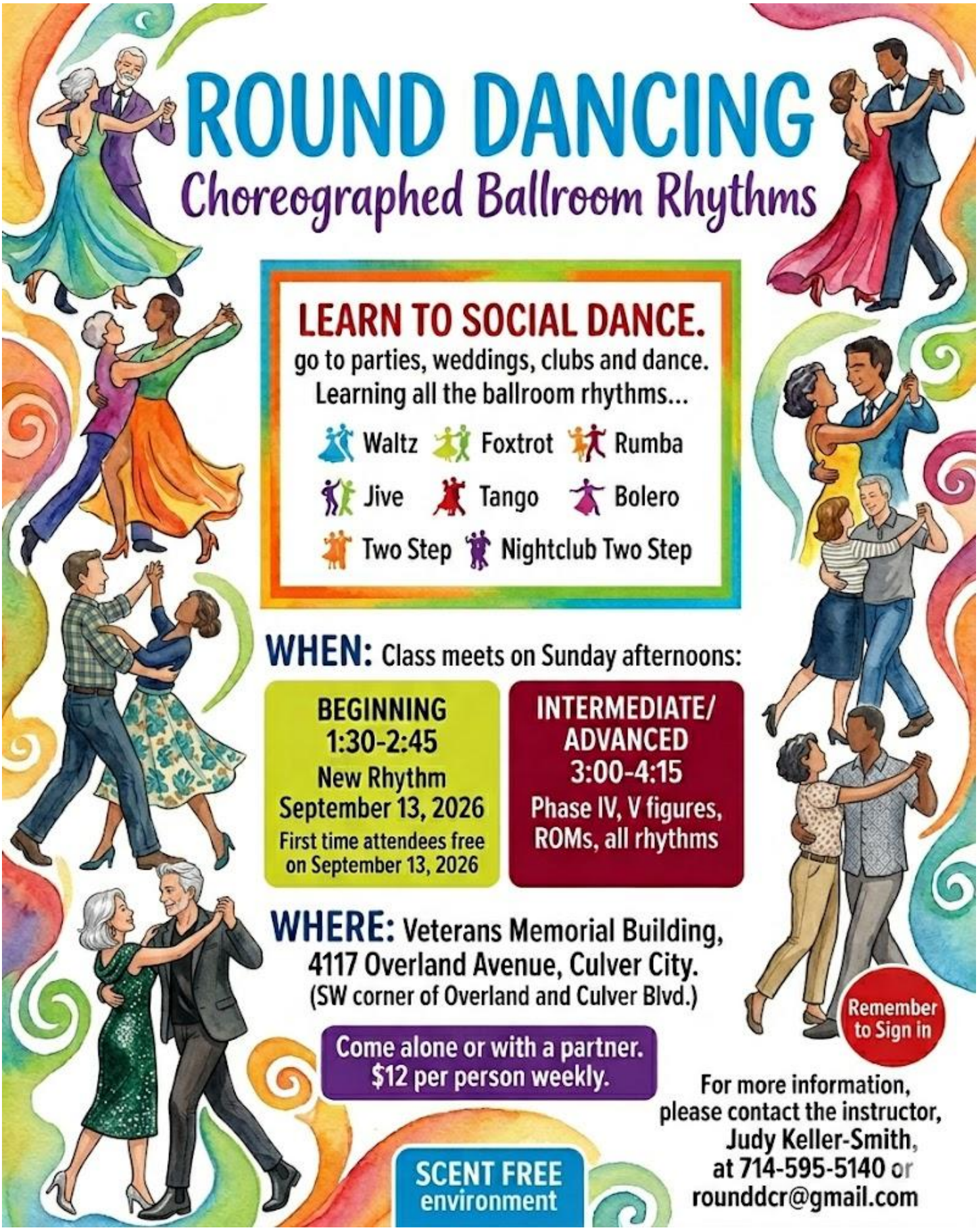
First class is free for new dancers (please come early to sign in); after that $10 per person.



Class meets every Wednesday in the
Multipurpose Room at **Veterans Memorial Building**
SW Corner of Overland Ave. & Culver Blvd. Culver City 90230

For more information, visit www.ribbonsandsouls.com
or text (310) 256-6434 or call and leave a message.

SQUARE DANCING
Fun From Every Angle!


ROUND DANCING
Choreographed Ballroom Rhythms
LEARN TO SOCIAL DANCE.
go to parties, weddings, clubs and dance.
Learning all the ballroom rhythms...
Waltz
Foxtrot
Rumba
Jive
Tango
Bolero
Two Step
Nightclub Two Step
WHEN: Class meets on Sunday afternoons:
BEGINNING
1:30-2:45
New Rhythm
September 13, 2026
First time attendees free
on September 13, 2026
INTERMEDIATE/
ADVANCED
3:00-4:15
Phase IV, V figures,
ROMs, all rhythms
WHERE: Veterans Memorial Building,
4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City.
(SW corner of Overland and Culver Blvd.)
Remember
to Sign in
Come alone or with a partner.
$12 per person weekly.
For more information,
please contact the instructor,
Judy Keller-Smith,
at 714-595-5140 or
rounddcr@gmail.com
SCENT FREE
environment