

# NEWSLETTER

Convention Chatter PLUS!

Issue #2026-5

May 12, 2026

## AFTER PARTY TALENT SHOW! - Claudia Littlefair, Editor

Definition of "After Party" – a party held after an event. Typically, at every Alberta Dance Convention, some entertainment and refreshments are arranged for all to enjoy after the Closing Ceremonies on Sunday evening.



This year's After Party on Sunday evening, September 6<sup>th</sup> is the "Alberta's Got Talent, eh?" Talent Show with entertainment supplied by you!

**Strut your stuff! BE A PARTICIPANT!**

**Who is Eligible to Perform in the "AGT, eh?" Talent Show**

**ALL DANCERS AND LEADERS** in attendance at the 2026 Alberta Dance Convention.

Note: You do not have to be from Alberta to be a participant.

### Guidelines

1. Keep acts family-friendly and non-offensive.
2. Keep it short - no longer than 5 minutes in length.
3. Can include any number of performers - solo acts, duets or groups.
4. Set-up time is minimal – avoid elaborate set-ups or props.

### Examples of Acts

Magic act, comedy skit, poetry, singing, instrumental, reading, or any other act suitable for a mixed audience of all ages.

### Judging

There is no judging. This is purely for entertainment and fun! A chance to display the diverse and varied talents within our dance community.

### How to Register for "AGT, eh?" Talent Show

Prior to Convention, email the organizers with the type of act, amount of time needed for set-up and the length of performance. Although preference will be given to entries received prior to Convention, entry requests received during the Convention weekend will be considered. Note: It is our aim to have the Talent Show arranged prior to the Convention weekend.

### "AGT, eh?" Talent Show Organizers/Scouts

It is the organizers' responsibility to decide which acts are part of the show, how many, in what order, and to ensure that the show is running on time. Contact one or both of these organizers to submit an entry:

Marlene Symington: [dmsymington@shaw.ca](mailto:dmsymington@shaw.ca) OR Claudia Littlefair: [claudia.littlefair@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.littlefair@gmail.com)

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**Woohoo!! We're over the halfway mark to our break-even point!**

**Thanks to pre-registrations, this Convention is a GO!!!**

**56<sup>th</sup> Alberta Dance Convention, September 5-7, 2026**

**Early bird registration - \$75 per person.**

After June 30 - \$85 per person.

Click here to register or to find out more:

<https://www.squaredancecalgary.com/convention-2026/>

## AL'S CONVENTION INSIGHTS

*Long-time dancer Al Moody has participated in, volunteered at and served on a number of Convention Committees. In this regularly featured column, Al shares some of his knowledge and experiences gathered over a number of years.*



### Who Goes to Conventions?

**Every dancer, new or experienced, should go to a Convention.** The Planning Committee tries to incorporate all programs and levels of skill. In addition to dancing, there are square dance workshops where moves are worked from different positions, sessions that introduce moves from the next program, round dance teaches and introductions to different dance rhythms and clogging from easy to harder levels.

**The reasons people go to Conventions are to have fun, meet new and old friends, improve their dance skills, and possibly learn a new move or two.** Dancers who go usually fit into one or more of these classifications: the “recreational dancer”, the “club dancer” and the “highly skilled dancer”.

**The “recreational dancer”** has no real commitment to the activity, may be a member of or attends one or more clubs, and may have a varied skill level. This class of dancer would have a lot of fun, meet new and old friends at a Convention, would improve their skills, and would learn a new move or two.

**The “club dancer”** usually only belongs to one club and dances to only one caller or cuer. Often this is the newer dancer by default, but can also be an experienced dancer at any program. They are comfortable with their level of dancing and time commitment to the activity. Here again, this class of dancer would have a lot of fun during a weekend of dance, they'd meet others who are like-minded, would improve their dancing skills, and possibly learn a new move or two.

**The “highly skilled dancer”** may dance with only one club but mostly would dance with several clubs, likes to learn new moves, dances to more than one caller or cuer, travels to other areas of the country, continually wants to improve their skills, able to dance at any pace or position, looks forward to the next Convention, dances one, two or more programs.

**Where do you fit in?** The bottom line is that no matter which class of dancer you feel that best suits you, having fun, meeting new and old friends, improving your dance skills, and maybe learning a new move is the common denominator at all Conventions.

**The volunteers who form the Planning Committee will go to any length to ensure that you will have a good time. Make their jobs easier - register today so they can plan with you and your skill set in mind.**

### MEMORIAL SERVICE @ CONVENTION



**A special Convention tradition is to honor members of our square dance family who are no longer with us.** This is done in conjunction with Sunday's non-denominational church service.

**Names must be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup>** in order to be included in the Memorial Book at the September Convention. Information can be submitted online by filling out the submission form on the Alberta Square & Round Dance Federation website: <https://squaredance.ab.ca/memorials/>.

**Alternatively, the submission form can be downloaded** and then mailed to Reuben & Mary Coleman, RR #1, Boyle, AB T0A-0M0. Ph: 780-689-2593; or by email to: [marycoleman@mcsnet.ca](mailto:marycoleman@mcsnet.ca) . Provide the name of deceased, date of death, name of club, name of district or zone, and submitted by (name and phone number).

### SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

**We are excited to be holding a Silent Auction at Convention.** Proceeds from the auction help to offset convention costs.

Everything and anything brings in a bid – appliances, baby blankets, Christmas objects, drills, egg timers, food baskets, gardening tools, handcrafted items, ice buckets, jewelry, knitted articles, lotions, music, novels, outdoorsy stuff, puzzles & games, quilts, reading lights, serving dishes, tools, unicycles, vases, wine glasses, xylophones, yard decor and z-o-o-o much more!



NOTE: New items are preferred, or items that are in “next to new” condition. The Silent Auction Organizers reserve the right to refuse or discard items that are not in suitable condition. Questions? Contact Bonnie McCauley: [bonnie.mccauley@auarts.ca](mailto:bonnie.mccauley@auarts.ca)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENTION PROGRAM CHAIRS

- Clogging Program Chair Ida Murray
- Cued Ballroom Program Chair Mary & Bruce Nelson, Asst. Chair Debra & Raymond Schmidt
- Square Dance Program Co-Chairs Dave Littlefair & David Symington

### THE CONVENTION LEADER LINE-UP

We are excited to present the list of leaders who have volunteered to teach, call and cue at Convention!

#### Clogging Instructors (3)

Brenda Lee Cherry, Sylvan Lake, AB  
Ida Murray, Red Deer, AB  
Lyle Boswell, Coaldale, AB

#### Cued Ballroom Cuers (6)

Brenda Lee Cherry, Sylvan Lake, AB  
Claudia Littlefair, Strathmore, AB  
Connie Ritchie, Nanaimo, BC  
Denise MacKenzie, Strathmore, AB  
Dolores Young, Vanderhoof, BC  
Patricia Mahoney, Calgary, AB

#### Cued Ballroom Instructor/Cuers (6 Pairs)

Arlene McLafferty, Edmonton, AB &  
Wayne Best, Edmonton, AB  
Cliff Dunn, Lacombe, AB & Leslie Hall, Calgary, AB  
Debra & Raymond Schmidt, Castlegar, BC  
Gary Dean, Prince George, BC &  
Julie Skead, Prince George, BC  
Mary & Bruce Nelson, Sherwood Park, AB  
Pat Zeeman & Garry Dodds, Victoria, BC



#### Square Dance Callers (21)

Brenda Lee Cherry, Sylvan Lake, AB  
Dan Lemoine, Edmonton, AB  
Dave Littlefair, Strathmore, AB  
David Symington, Calgary, AB  
Debra Schmidt, Castlegar, BC  
Dolores Young, Vanderhoof, BC  
Eldon Neudorf, Aberdeen, SK  
Garry Dodds, Victoria, BC  
Gary Smith, Edmonton, AB  
Gary Winter, Sherwood Park, AB  
Jim Decelle, Strathmore, AB  
John Fawcett, Vernon, BC  
Ken Sipe, Edmonton, AB  
Lorne Smith, Calgary, AB  
Murray Few, Edmonton, AB  
Phil Sedgwick, Plamondon, AB  
Raymond Schmidt, Castlegar, BC  
Ron Morgan, Lacombe, AB  
Sam Elliot, Plamondon, AB  
Trish Farrow, Calgary, AB  
Zane Nicholson, Red Deer, AB



**Kudos!! to these Leaders for stepping up to make this weekend a fantastic dance party!**

## NEW LISTS? OLD LISTS?? WHICH LISTS AT CONVENTION?

**NOTE: Even though the effective date for the new Mainstream List and Plus Lists is September 1, 2026, for the purpose of the 2026 Convention the callers will be using the OLD Lists.**

**You may be wondering WHO changed the lists and WHY were they changed?** The answer to “who?” is CALLERLAB, the International Association of Callers established in 1974. One of their tasks is to standardize the programs, deciding which calls go in which programs. Most years the program lists have changed by one or a few calls in one or more of the programs. This year the Basic, Mainstream and Plus lists have undergone a major reorganization.

The answer to “Why” is more complex. The following Q&As come from CALLERLAB’S Transitional Implementation Phase of the Program Policy (TIPPP). For a more indepth answer read the TIPPP document at:

<https://callerlab.org/tipp/>

**Q: Can we really start a new dancer program more than once a year?**

A: Yes. One of the key benefits of the “New” Mainstream entry program is flexibility. Clubs can start classes when it makes sense locally, whether that’s once, twice, or multiple times a year, based on interest and opportunity.

**Q: Will new dancers be able to dance right away with experienced dancers?**

A: Yes. Mainstream will be a universal entry program worldwide, and new dancers will **learn the most widely used and important core calls**. This shortened program allows them to invite friends, dance with experienced dancers sooner, and feel connected right away.

**Q: Why will the Plus program no longer be used as the entry program?** (Editor's Note: Unlike in Alberta, many areas in the U.S. have Plus club only, so dancers are taught both programs in one season.)

A: The Plus Program was never meant to be an entry program and is now being expanded to grow in complexity. Plus, will become the program it was always meant to be, a dance program for those who dance more frequently and want greater complexity in their dancing.

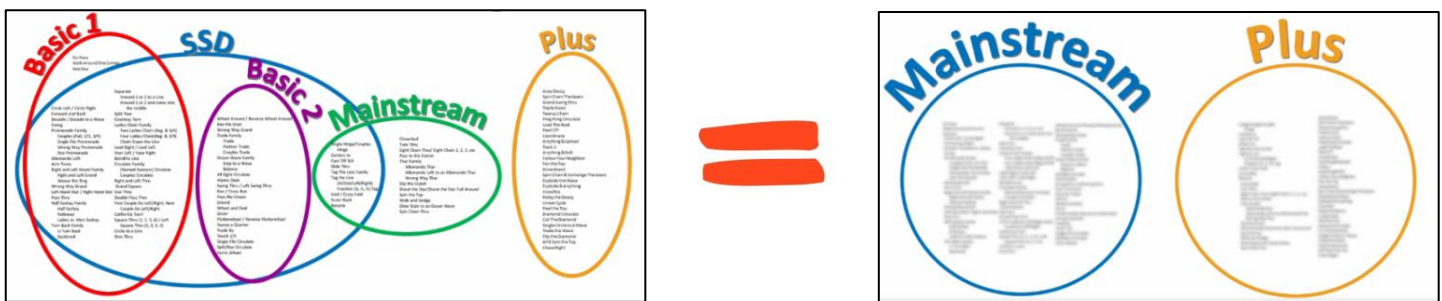
## Calls That Were Exchanged To Make Mainstream and Plus 50 Calls Each

**Calls added to MAINSTREAM from the Plus program:** Single Circle to a Line.

**Calls dropped from MAINSTREAM:** Allemande Thars, Shoot the Star, Slip the Clutch, Circle to a Line, Cloverleaf, Dixie Style to a Wave, Do Paso, Eight Chain Thru, Pass to the Center, Spin Chain Thru, Turn Thru, Walk and Dodge, Walk Around / See Saw.

**Calls added to PLUS from the Mainstream Program:** Circle to a Line, Cloverleaf, Dixie Style to an Ocean Wave, Do Paso, Eight Chain Thru/Eight Chain 1,2,3 etc., Pass to the Center, See Saw, Shoot the Star/Shoot the Star Full Around, Slip the Clutch, Spin Chain Thru, Thar Family, Turn Thru, Walk and Dodge, Walk Around.

**Calls added to PLUS from the Advanced Program:** Clover and (Anything), Pair Off, Partner Hinge, Partner Tag, Pass the Sea, Quarter Thru/Three-Quarters Thru/Grand Quarter Thru/Grand Three-Quarter Thru, Scoot & Dodge, Triple Trade.



## SELECTING OUR LEADERS

by BC Caller, Jean Wood, Co-Chair, BC Festival 2019

**Editor's Note:** Although the information in this article is about selecting leaders and programming the BC Festival 2019, the process is the same for every convention. This article gives a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes work that goes into programming.

Recently, I was asked how we select our callers and cuers for BC Festival 2019. We don't. We are very privileged to have them choose to call for us. They pay their registration fees the same as anyone else, as well as covering their own travel expenses and accommodations.

I feel that the biggest and least rewarded job is that of the dance coordinator. This person must schedule callers and cuers to make the most of the talent, the time and the desires of both the leaders and the dancers; must constantly monitor the dances and workshops to make sure that the leaders are there for the dancers. If someone takes sick or can't make their scheduled time, the coordinator must scramble to fill that spot or do it himself. This person is responsible for ensuring that the proper equipment, including turntables, is available and in good working condition.

Our coordinator feels that a tip, including a patter, singing call and a round, would take approximately 18 minutes. If you split a tip, there might be an additional minute or two for the switch. By my calculation, an evening dance is eight tips, give or take. That's at least 8 callers and 8 cuers; multiply that by two to cover the mainstream hall and the plus hall and that would mean 32 people are needed. Just for evening dancing! The sooner that the callers and cuers register, the sooner the coordinator can start planning the workshops and dances; \*hint, hint\*

Registered callers, cuers and leaders are given equal opportunity to appear at the festival, whether it be workshops or on panels for the evening dances. There are so many different levels in each dance category that we'll be able to have a great variety of entertainment, not to mention the many workshops to keep you on your toes.

When our Leaders register for BC Festival 2019, they are asked to complete a short questionnaire. Knowing their preference also helps us schedule the workshops and dances. Callers and Cuers, if you haven't already completed this it can be found on <http://bcfestival2019.com/callers-cuers/>.

Some callers and cuers may want to do only one or two workshops and/or dances whereas others may want as much stage time as possible. We've been told by some that they want to dance more than call or cue and don't want to register for a festival until they know that there will be enough callers and cuers to allow for this.

There are also those who combine their tips to perform as a duo or a group (such as Merv & Sandy Meyer or the BC Boys and Heather Reynolds). We welcome this as it adds variety and spices things up a bit.

We must not forget the new callers and cuers who, for whatever reason, may be hesitant about being part of a large festival. We will do our best to give them a chance to showcase their talents at a comfortable level.

**No matter what, a festival would not be complete without the many callers and cuers who freely give of their time, talent and effort to provide us with the best dancing to be had!**



### TRAVELODGE ALERT!

If you booked your room early at the Travelodge in Lacombe, phone them to confirm your reservation! Apparently, the list was lost. Call Reservations: **800-578-7878**.

### PRE-CONVENTION EVENTS - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

★ **MAINSTREAM CAMPOUT WEEKEND Friday to Sunday, August 28-30**

Tees Hall (30 km. from Lacombe). Hosted by Wandering Squares Club. Caller is David Symington from Calgary, AB and ALL Callers and Cuers in attendance. Camping is free! No pre-registration required.

★ **PLUS WEEKEND AT THE RANCH Friday to Sunday, August 28-30**

Holiday Ranch, Innisfail (80 km. from Lacombe). Caller is Gary Winter from Sherwood Park, AB. Cost: \$35/person (\$42.50 at door). Contact Ida: 403-347-8098 or email [holidayranch@live.ca](mailto:holidayranch@live.ca).



★ **ADVANCED POST WEEKEND AT THE RANCH Sunday to Tuesday, August 30-September 1**

Holiday Ranch, Innisfail (80 km. from Lacombe). Caller is Murray Few from Edmonton, AB. Cost: \$35/person (\$42.50 at door). Contact Ida: 403-347-8098 or email [holidayranch@live.ca](mailto:holidayranch@live.ca).

★ **MAINSTREAM DANCE, LACOMBE, Thursday, September 3**

7pm – PreRounds; Squares 7:30-9:30pm, Kozy Korner, Lacombe, hosted by Alberta's callers & cuers association, SRDIAA. No charge and no pre-registration.



**CONVENTION 2026 TRAIL-IN DANCE, Friday, September 4**

Lacombe Memorial Centre. Pre-Rounds 7pm, Mainstream Squares 7:30-9:30 pm.

Caller GARY WINTER, Sherwood Park and Cuer CLAUDIA LITTLEFAIR, Strathmore, AB.

Pay at Door, \$10/person. This dance is hosted by the Convention sponsor Calgary & District Square & Round Dancers Association.

For more information or flyers, click here: <https://www.squaredancecalgary.com/convention-2026/>.

**THIS IS WHY WE LOVE CHILDREN (con'td on page 9)**

- **KETCHUP** A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. 'Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle.'
- **SCHOOL** A little girl had just finished her first week of school. 'I'm just wasting my time,' she said to her mother. 'I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!'

## WHAT IS CLOGGING?

Clogging began in the Appalachian Mountains brought to America by Irish, Scottish, English and Dutch Germans who settled there in the mid 1700s. Native and African Americans, as well as today's Canadian step, tap and jazz dance have all influenced clogging.

The word "clog" means "time" in Gaelic. Clogging is danced keeping time to the downbeat. Many people think clogging is a dance performed in wooden shoes, which is not the case at all. Cloggers wear double taps on leather soled oxfords or running shoes. Tap shoes have a single tap attached to the toe and heel. Clogging taps have another piece riveted to that piece, and these "double taps" make more of a jingle sound.



Clogging differs from tap dancing in one basic way - in clogging, the heel keeps the downbeat. It also differs greatly from Irish Step dancing. In clogging, feet are placed side by side, and in Irish Step the feet are placed one in front of the other, toes turned out as in 5<sup>th</sup> position (ballet). Clogging is one of the few dances considered a sport, forming teams and competing in area, state and national events.

**NOTE: At Convention, cloggers will be dancing at St. Andrew's United Church auditorium, right next door to the Lacombe Memorial Centre (opposite end of the Centre's parking lot). Spectators are always welcome and there will be a free "Try-It" session so you can see if it's something you want to do more of.**

## SQUARE DANCE PARTY DANCES

Source: CALLERLAB Direction Newsletter, April, 2026. Article by Caller Mike Seastrom. Originally published in American Dance Magazine



**Across our square dance community, club leaders are asking thoughtful questions about the future.**

Attendance patterns are shifting. Recruitment requires more intention. Communities are busier and more digitally connected, yet socially disconnected. That's where Square Dance Party Dances shine.

When approached strategically, Party Dances are not just "beginner nights." They are powerful tools for club growth and social connection. They bring people face to face, hand to hand, and laughter to laughter. They create first impressions, build relationships, and boost public visibility, all while reminding us why we fell in love with square dancing in the first place.

### Lowering the Barrier to Belonging

For someone who has never square danced, the idea of joining a structured lesson program can feel intimidating. They may worry about keeping up, committing to something unfamiliar, or about the time it takes to learn. Party Dances remove those fears.



A Party Dances is a single dance event geared to those who have seldom or never danced. It is a single fun dance with simple squares, circles, line dancing, contras, or any type of group dancing that the caller or callers feel comfortable presenting.

Party Dances emphasize immediate success rather than progression. Teaching is brief. Figures are simple and repetitive. The tone is relaxed and celebratory. Guests step onto the floor and begin moving within minutes. They laugh. They succeed. They leave feeling included. That first positive experience transforms square dancing from "something I might not be able to do" into "that was fun, I could do that again."

### From Guests to Friends

Clubs that experience steady growth rarely depend on just one annual open house. Instead, they host three to four Party Dances each year with a clear goal: fostering relationships.

Each Party Dance contributes to a growing "Friends of the (name of your club) List." This is a key element to success because these are individuals who:

- Have attended at least one event.
- Have danced and socialized with your members.

- Have begun forming personal connections with them.
- Feel recognized and welcomed by your group.

For liability and insurance purposes, guests should sign in at each event. This also provides an opportunity to collect names, email addresses, and phone numbers for your “List.” Over time, this contact list becomes a living network of social connections that belong to your club. You can also incentivize gathering this information by running a raffle for a simple gift card or present.

These friends should continue receiving invitations to future Party Dances, New Dancer Programs, and open social activities of the club, such as potlucks, group dinners, theater outings, or museum visits.

People rarely commit to an activity solely because of advertising. They commit because they feel connected. Party Dances cultivate that connection long before any formal commitment is required.

## Expanding Connection Through Community Partnerships

Social connection deepens when clubs look beyond their own membership. Party Dances become even more effective when held in collaboration with community organizations, such as:

- Service groups (Elks, Masons, and similar organizations)
- Church congregations
- Scout groups
- Civic or charitable associations

These partnerships extend the reach of your club’s social connections and make your club more visible in your community. They introduce square dancing to individuals who may never have considered it. They position clubs as active contributors to community life.

These dance events may even support fundraising efforts for partner organizations. When square dance clubs are visible in community celebrations and service efforts, they become recognized as vibrant and welcoming. In a world where many activities are increasingly solitary, this matters.

## Designing an Environment That Invites Conversation

Connection does not happen accidentally. It is facilitated by thoughtful planning. A large snack table with space on both sides encourages guests to gather naturally. Circular tables, when available, provide comfortable seating during breaks and allow small groups to converse easily. These round tables are especially effective because everyone can see one another.



Clearly printed name tags remove social hesitation. Providing “Hello, My Name Is” type stickers and bold markers ensures names are visible from across a circular table, making introductions effortless. These details convey a subtle yet powerful message: you belong here.

Your members act as “ambassadors of connection” for any social event your club is involved in. The greatest influence on a guest’s experience is not the music, dancing, or choreography; it is the people. Your members set the tone through their behavior and can treat your guests as if they were guests in their own homes.

Members should:

- Greet newcomers warmly.
- Introduce guests to others.
- Invite different guests into their squares.
- Avoid clustering only with experienced dancers.
- Engage in genuine conversation during breaks.



Guests should feel as if they have entered a circle of friends, not an exclusive club. Leaders may want to remind members before each event that hospitality and inclusion are the main goals. Connection builds relationships, and our dance inherently requires cooperation. That fosters a spirit of fun and connection. Be careful with hugging your new dancers, as we often do with those close, longtime club friends. New dancers’ “comfortable personal space” is usually bigger than ours.

## The Caller as Catalyst

The caller plays a crucial role in sustaining energy and inclusion. Teaching should be short, upbeat, and encouraging. Complex choreography or lengthy explanations can unintentionally create barriers. Instead, the emphasis should be on simplicity and repetition.

Dances may include easy squares, mixers that may rotate partners or not, line dances, and simple contras. It's important for the caller to present dances he or she is comfortable with teaching. Music should be lively and recognizable. Even during breaks, soft background music helps maintain warmth and continuity.

Callers and their partners can further strengthen their connection by mingling during social time and greeting guests personally. The caller is not just a leading figure; they are shaping the atmosphere.

## A Simple Structure for Social Success

Begin with a simple circle or line dance. Add mixers to encourage interaction. Use basic square formations with clear calls. Keep a steady tempo without over-explaining. Maintain energy throughout the evening and end with an upbeat, celebratory finale. Early successes build confidence, which leads to laughter, and laughter strengthens connections.

## The Long-Term Impact of Social Investment

When clubs host Party Dances regularly and intentionally, the results extend beyond membership numbers. They often see:

- Increased lesson enrollment.
- Expanded social networks.
- Stronger member morale.
- Greater community awareness.
- Enhanced public perception.



More importantly, they strengthen the social fabric of their communities. Square dancing is uniquely positioned to offer something many people crave: real-time human interaction. It brings people together physically, emotionally, and socially. Party Dances showcase that strength in its most accessible form, and they open a much wider door to our dance. If clubs commit to hosting three to four Party Dances each year, focusing on hospitality, follow-up, and community partnership, the impact can be profound. Square dancing becomes visible. It becomes welcoming. It becomes socially relevant. Most importantly, it becomes a place where people form genuine connections.

### The invitation is simple:

- Make it welcoming.
- Make it intentional.
- Make it joyful.
- Make it about connection.

**When we focus on social connection first, growth follows naturally.**



## PODCAST HELPS PEOPLE BRING SQUARE DANCING BACK TO LIFE

Real stories, Real people: Revive Square & Round Dance!

**'Square Dance Revival! The Podcast' is about the people bringing square dancing back to life — one club, one new dancer, and one organization at a time.**

We talk with callers, cuers, dancers, club leaders, marketing experts, researchers, and newcomers about what's working, what's not, and what it actually takes to grow square dancing in today's world. No sugarcoating. No nostalgia goggles. Just honest conversations about how to keep this tradition alive and thriving. **This podcast is for:**

- Curious newcomers who want to understand what modern square dancing really is
- Dancers who care about the future of their clubs and communities
- Callers, Cuers and Club/Organization Leaders who are trying new ideas (and learning from what fails)
- Anyone who loves square dancing and wants to see it grow again.

# CALIFORNIA HERITAGE DANCERS TO PERFORM AT B.C. NATIONAL FESTIVAL!

Source: Website - <http://www.heritage.sdsda.org/>

*Editor's Note: If you're headed to Penticton in July for the Festival, make sure to take in the energetic colourful performances brought to you by the Heritage Dancers! See schedule on next page for performance times.*

## Mission Statement

The purpose of the California Heritage Dancers is to promote awareness in the public of the historic and artistic value of square dancing, the folk dance which is truly American in origin. Further, to demonstrate through educational exhibitions and entertainment the unique place which square dancing holds in our national culture.



## Background

The American public is generally aware and quite well-informed of the variations in ethnic folk arts throughout the world. This is due in part to abundant travel opportunities, education and the "melting pot" nature of our culture. However, the majority of our citizens are regrettably unaware of the richness of the art forms which have originated here and are unique to our nation.



American Square Dancing is a case in point. This, like the people who have contributed to its' development, is a product of the cultural melting pot which makes our country great. Contributions have been made by English, French, Scottish and Irish settlers; then later on by the Spanish, Western pioneers, cowboys, miners and ranchers. More recent times have seen significant contributions by Henry Ford and Lloyd Shaw, to say nothing of the many innovative callers.

Heritage Dancers would like not only to preserve these dance traditions of the past, but to educate the American public as well, young and old alike. We Americans have a unique contribution to make to the world-wide cultural scene, but need first to be informed and proud of that contribution. Toward that end, Heritage Dancers was organized in 1986 by its' founder and director, Ruth Walker, to bring this cultural heritage to the attention of the American public by whatever means possible. Extensive research has resulted in a series of dances performed in authentic period costuming. The ever-expanding repertoire currently includes ten different dances dating from the Colonial period up to modern times.



## THIS IS WHY WE LOVE CHILDREN - Cont'd from page 5

- **NUDITY** I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, 'Mom, that lady isn't wearing a seat belt!'
- **MORE NUDITY** A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, 'What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?'
- **DEATH** While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton wool, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Faather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he goooes.' (I want this line used at my funeral!)

- **BIBLE** A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. 'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'

**GENERAL SCHEDULE @ THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL**

<https://festival2026.squaredance.bc.ca/>

- Lunch break daily 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Dinner break daily 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Concession open 9:30 – 5:30 p.m.
- Pre-ordered dinner pickup daily 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. The Penticton Convention Centre Caterers are offering a pre-order dinner menu at \$21.95 per plate - tax included. This is a plated meal that will be prepared by the catering service with a seating area to enjoy your meal. **Must pre-order by July 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15th**

2:00 p.m. Registration table open  
 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Solo participants Meet & Greet  
 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Trail In Dance Salon A

**THURSDAY, JULY 16th**

10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Scheduled festival sessions (Registration table opens 9:30 a.m.)  
 11:00 a.m. BC Federation members meeting  
 4:45 – 5:00 p.m. **Heritage Dancers performance**  
 6:30 p.m. Assemble for the Grand March  
 6:45 p.m. Opening Ceremonies, followed by dancing till 10:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JULY 17th**

10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Scheduled festival sessions (Registration table opens 9:30 a.m.)  
 11:00 a.m. Canadian Society Annual General Meeting—all invited  
 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. **“Dangle Dance” Square Dance at Kings Park**  
 Dancing till 10:00 p.m.  
 4:45 – 5:00 p.m. **Heritage Dancers performance**

**SATURDAY, JULY 18th**

(Early start of 9:00 a.m. for Showcase of Rounds; Registration table opens 9:30 a.m.)  
 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Scheduled festival sessions  
 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. "Dancing With The Stars", a guided tour of the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory.  
 Sign-up sheet in the North Lobby. Limit of 20 participants.  
 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. **“AquaDucks Dangle Dance” Square Dance in Okanagan Lake**  
 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Try It! sessions for the public in Ballroom 2  
 6:30 p.m. Closing Ceremony, **Heritage Dancers** 6:45 to 7:00 p.m. followed by dancing till 10:00 p.m.  
 9:00 to 10:00 p.m. All Dancers and Leaders come to the Plus hall to dance the last hour at Mainstream level together in Salon A. (All other halls will shut down at 9:00 p.m.)

**SUNDAY, JULY 19<sup>th</sup> - Trail-Out Dances**

- Come to Aldergrove BC for the Fraser Valley Trail Out Dance—Sunday, July 19 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- Come to Castlegar BC for the Southeast BC Trail out Dance - Sunday, July 19 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

**Note: Square Dance Attire is admired but not required.**