



## NEWSLETTER –February 2024

*February comes from the Latin word februa, which means “to cleanse.” The month was named after the Roman Februaia, which was a monthlong festival of purification and atonement. (2024 Farmer’s Almanac)*

Hi Everyone –



(Can anyone name Betty’s dog? Answer next month 😊)

I am sending this out a day early because we need a headcount for dinner on Feb. 3 (mentioned further into this newsletter)

Also for the March newsletter – I will be sending it out early as I leave for vacation (Dubai!) Feb. 27 and return March 8 – please all submissions to me by March 21 – latest!

Welcome to February –The season of love, chocolate, your love of chocolate, hearts, flowers and let’s not forget LEAP YEAR! Yeppers --- that’s 29 days this month of February 2024! Remember this is YOUR newsletter so let me know what else you’d like to see.

Let’s check out what else we can celebrate this month-

2 – National Groundhog Day (spring please!)

- 7 - National Fettucine Alfredo Day – (with chicken & broccoli please)
- 9 – National Bagel & Lox Day **AND** National Pizza Day! (double header – AOK!)
- 13 – National Tortellini Day (heck yeah)
- 18 – Not National but it's still Drink Wine Day ( one glass or two?)
- 19 - National President's Day (Lincoln/Washington for February)
- 20 – National Cherry Pie Day – (thank you George Washington)
- 22 – National Margarita Day – (what's your fave flavor?)
- 25 – National Clam Chowder Day – (white for me please)
- 27 – National Strawberry Day – ( with champagne always)
- 28 – National Chili Day – (my absolute favorite food)
- 29 – LEAP DAY

**Firstly - This beautiful tribute to Phil Rarick is submitted to us by Chris Murray who writes-**

It shows John Harden teaching Phil Rarick's final Plus class for Arlington Squares on Tuesday, January 23rd..Phil had passed the week before. The picture shows a memorial set up with empty boots, empty hat, and an unused microphone to represent Phil during the granting of certificates to students at the end of the class.

Lovely-thank you for sharing Chris.

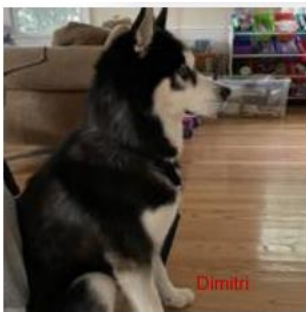


## **SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT -**



Hey everyone – remember this guy?

Dimitri belongs to Mike Altschuler and in the October Newsletter it was mentioned Dimitri started obedience classes on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Well guess who graduated on October 29<sup>th</sup> – that’s right good boy Dimitri! Well done Mike and Dimitri – continue being the good boys you are!



### **And...CHECK THIS OUT !!!**

In addition to their stellar square dance capabilities, at least two of our Glenview Squares members, Deb Oberst and Sheri Maremont, are volunteers with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide.

Tax-Aide provides tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 or have low to moderate income.

Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code.

Many locations in and around Cook County are partnering with AARP Foundation to offer free tax-aide preparation appointments. Generally, Tax-Aide service will run from February 1 to April 15, but check a location near you for dates and hours.

[https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide/locations.html?cmp=FDN-LOCATOR-BTN-LINK-2024](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations.html?cmp=FDN-LOCATOR-BTN-LINK-2024)

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers can help with most tax returns. Below is a link that specifies the types of returns that can and can't be filed by AARP Tax Aide:

[Tax-Aide: Types of returns we can prepare](#)

Friends – We are 90+ strong! Please send me your good news – this runs the risk of being eliminated every month. Are you travelling? Let's see some pics and tell us how you felt about the trip. New baby in the family? Who doesn't love seeing those sweet little faces....send it to me!



## PICK A CHAIR –

Our featured committee member for February is Webmaster Ed Friedman. It's Ed's turn in the spotlight as we are hoping to keep him busy these next few months updating our "Meet Our Members" tab on our website.(More on that later)

Ed joined Glenview Squares in August 2017 and currently dances at the Plus level and became webmaster when Richard Frankel left our club and nobody else knew how to be a webmaster – lucky for us Ed stepped up!

Ed currently takes care of everything computer related for the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Statistics at the University of Chicago. (Can you just come live at my house permanently 😊 – anyone else need a webmaster/computer wizard 24/7?) And how about this....did you know Ed has authored a book titled "The New Testosterone Treatment: How You and Your doctor can fight Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer and Alzheimer's" His bucket list item is to prove that his theory will stop Alzheimer's in its tracks. I'm rooting for you Ed!

When he is not playing Dungeons&Dragons with his friend of 40+ years Keith Kempton who is also the DungeonMaster, Ed can be found playing ping pong,

chess, bridge, coaching track or maybe just hanging out with his 2 sons and/or sweetheart (you know who she is - Myrnice) that he met thru square dancing . He also enjoys reading , listing Legacy of Secrets as his favorite book. Ed also enjoys Grey's Anatomy , 3 Musketeers and chocolate chip ice cream 😊

And guess what – you want to know a secret? Ed says his hidden talent is the ability to wiggle his ears both, singly, or alternating. BAM! That's what I'm talking about – who knew!! Thank you Ed – and man of many talents. 😊



## CALLER'S CORNER —

Our featured caller is the enigmatic Chris Murray. Another revelation 😊. Being a newbie to square dancing and this club I love learning about people.

Chris offers this as how he got started in square dancing.

“While going thru a divorce from my first marriage, I realized that I needed to get out more and meet people – then I spotted a yard sign for Arlington Squares outside Randhurst Mall and responded. I began lessons in the fall of 2016 and was in the last Arlington Squares class that learned through Plus in nine months, so I have been dancing SSD since January 2017 and Plus since late March 2017 when at a Glenview Squares Dance (at the bookstore), Carol Moulden pulled me into a plus square saying “You can do it!”

The first club that I joined was Glenview Squares since they were one of the few clubs that had made the change to include SSD tips in their dance program by 2017, allowing me to dance there regularly by January, 2017. Arlington Squares and most Chicago area clubs at that time were still either “Plus Clubs” or “Mainstream Clubs” meaning you could not dance there until you had learned one of those two programs.

Fortunately, Woodstock Squares (now known as Northwest Grand Squares) had also made the switch and danced on opposite Fridays from Glenview Squares, so in the spring of 2017, I could dance SSD every week while still taking plus lessons. That is why I will always be a strong advocate of the SSD program.”

Chris also mentions that he once saw a flyer for the Glenview Squares 2017 Dinner Dance and became doubly motivated to learn Plus since it was still a Plus only dance at that time, and a dinner dance seemed to Chris to be the perfect way to cap a dance season with elegance.

Chris has also danced at the Advanced level since fall of 2019 having learned it during the 2018-2019 season from Barry Johnson at Arlington Squares.

Becoming a Caller....

Chris learned 198 of the 200 calls he knows from Barry Johnson, formerly of Arlington Squares and currently of the CallerLab Board of Directors.

As a precocious student, Chris was always tracking down Barry between lessons asking him about the name of formations and other arcane details, thus establishing himself as someone who might willingly wander into the snare of calling square dances.

In the spring of 2017 while dancing in the “new dancer”

room at Squares, Pairs, and Spares in Park Ridge, Chris observed **Barry and Janice Cha** conspiratorially congregating in a corner of the room during a break.

Chris wandered over to see what they were up to and discovered the “Chicago Caller School” was about to be launched upon an unsuspecting public.

Chris attended the first Chicago Caller School in mid-march 2017. A 2-day affair taught by the great Tom Miller and 5 others. Four of those 5 are currently Callers – James Cha, Don Seaman, John Harden and Christine Steffy with whom Chris will have the privilege to share calling duties on March 1.

At this point, Chris was not yet a Plus dancer, so many

thought that he may have been a bit audacious to have attended, and as it turns out, they were undoubtedly correct, but as Chris puts it “I had stuck my toe in the water and caught the bug”. Afterwards, Chris attended many more sessions of the CCS, but primarily concentrated on his dancing, particularly learning and solidifying dancing advanced.

Then in the summer of 2021, Chris received an invitation from **Bruce Holmes** to learn calling from him. He generously offered once a week session for the better part of a year which Chris accepted

and in spite of a less than stellar effort on my part, I found myself possessing all the technical skills needed to confidently stand in front of a hall of dancers and present a full square dance program as well as the rudiments of square dance choreography and an understanding of the work required to prepare an entertaining singing call.

“Thank you Bruce, I wouldn’t be here without you.”

Picking a tune....

There are many sites where you can search for existing singing calls, and find songs that you love and sing in the shower or along with when you hear them on the radio in your car. Then when you attempt to sing them along with the music you have purchased for square dancing, you eliminate those you realize you no longer like when you hear yourself singing them.

Finally, you need a song that fits the level of square dancing you need. Many times you have a song that you like and can sing, but it comes from the source with mainstream calls in it, but you need an

SSD singing call. That's when you thank your lucky stars that an unselfish friend like **James Cha** has searched the internet for things like "Andy Shore's Singing Call Collection" with around 450 singing call figures that you can substitute for the figures you originally got with the song so that you have a song that you can use for the level that you want.

Seriously, James finds a lot of stuff and has even developed teaching aids on his own that he just sends on to other new callers to help them succeed. Thank you, James. Jeez...who knew?!

When asked if he is joyfully retired his response was –

"While I am retired, I never intended to cease being a curmudgeon." Well, ok, I had a load of fun dancing with Chris on Friday with his dancing right and I left – we totally confused the caller 😊 but I met no curmudgeon. Just sayin' - if I had I would have offered him some black cherry or mocha chip ice cream with a side of dark chocolate orange & almonds (his favorites) to soothe the curmudgeon right out of him 😊

Chris comes from a large family of 8 closely spaced together kids. His immediately older brother is just a year older and Chris was followed 11 months later by twin sisters. So, Chris claims, he grew up starved for attention and had to learn to draw attention to himself which is a valuable characteristic for anyone wanting to be an entertainer as callers are.

Chris also credits Cheryl Jean Murray, 6 years, whom he met at square dancing, as changing his understanding of what a friend could be and how to be truly available to others.

When not on the square dance floor Chris also enjoys pickleball, beer glass collecting, Roots music, Rock music and Celtic music and shows trying new cocktails or malty beers from a Microbrewery as his guilty pleasure. Here's a hidden talent I've never heard before -

Chris seems to be able to make instantaneous connections with dogs and has come close to being sued for alienation of canine affection more than once. (I hope this is tongue in cheek, would somebody really do that?) And speaking of pets he says robocalls for solicitation which plague him daily are his top pet peeve. I close this with one of Chris' favorite quotes –

“To know and love one other human being is the root of all wisdom.”

- Evelyn Waugh (from Brideshead Revisited)

Thank you Chris for writing your own interview - it is a real pleasure to know you.



#### **HOOK ME UP –**

Always check the website for the latest and greatest of what's happening in our club including the current calendar - conventions, events, samplers, classes and more. In case you want to re-read an issue - Webmaster Ed Friedman is filing all issues of this newsletter under the “Members” tab “Club Newsletters”. Thanks Ed !  
Website - [Glenview Squares](#) .

Here is a brief list of dance opportunities for February –

2/2 - Friday @ 7:30pm-10pm - Club dance - First Presb. Deerfield

2/16 - Friday @ 7:30pm-10pm - Club dance - First Presb. Deerfield





## Want to support our callers?

**James Cha**, as caller, offers this opportunity in February to dance and support our very own.

Saturday, Feb. 3 - 7:30-9:30pm – McHenry Township Hall, 3703 N Richmond Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051. According to the SD directory if Glenview Squares shows up 8 strong we win a free pass to a future NWGS dance! Let's go support James – for those going we are meeting for dinner first (optional) at 5:30pm @

The Village Squire in McHenry

<https://www.thevillagesquire.com/mchenry.html>

4512 W Elm Street

McHenry, IL 60050

[Get Map & Directions »](#)

Menu: <https://www.thevillagesquire.com/PDF/SquireMcH-CLMenu23.pdf>

We need a head count IMMEDIATELY if you're planning to dine – let Chistine Steffy know asap @ [sillydog56@icloud.com](mailto:sillydog56@icloud.com)

**Candice Hansen**, as caller, has this opportunity to come out and support our very own in March.

Friday, March 8 – 7:30-10:00pm – Arlington Squares, 1801 W Central, Arlington Heights, IL Come on troops let's go and show Candice some love! We're giving you plenty of notice to plan accordingly 😊

## SAMPLERS - With James Cha

Where: Morton Grove Civic Center, 6140 Dempster, Morton Grove, Illinois

Dates: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, Feb. 1 through April 18, 2024

Time: 11 am – 12 pm

Friends – we need your help. I am making it my personal mission to get our website updated to show how strong we are as a club. PLEASE send a picture and a short blurb about yourself to Ed Friedman, our webmaster, at [edfriedmangvs@gmail.com](mailto:edfriedmangvs@gmail.com) – he will upload to our site so EVERYONE can see we have a club full of strong and vibrant square dance lovers. Please make this a priority, I will not quit until we get a decent showing. At 90+ strong it will be amazing! Thank you all for your quick response to this plea. 😊



### TICKLE YOUR FUNNYBONE -

In keeping with the Valentine's Day theme I serve this-

Did you hear Cupid lost his id?.


Now we call him Cup. (sorry this one made me lol)

Why do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?



Because they are sentimental.

**Congrats to Phil and Carol Moulden (who responded on behalf of Phil), Joy Nachtrab, Michelle McKenzie-Voight, Andee Kaluzna, Bob Lopez, Kathi Sawyer and Linda Fischer for their correct response of Barbara Billingsley (1915-2010)**

A gold star awarded to Tom Lopresti  as the **first** correct response-clocking in at 3:31AM New Year's Day! Hmmmm...insomnia or party boy? (If you recall I sent out January's newsletter at 12:01am to see who sleeps in and who is an early riser) Click on this link if you'd like to learn more about Barbara Billingsley [Barbara Billingsley - Biography - IMDb](#)

Ok try this one – can't wait to see your guesses!!  
You may have to pick your brain and not be faint of heart to have the courage to send in your response.



**You are the best !**

Let me hear from ya – good/bad- but be nice 😊

[newsletter@glenviewsquares.org](mailto:newsletter@glenviewsquares.org)

Barb Vlcek – 847.207.6837