



# Hot Tips

December  
2017



# \$10 off

**Renew your club membership by December 31st and save \$10. Here's how**

**RENEW YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018 BY DECEMBER 31ST FOR ONLY \$30.**

**ON JANUARY 1ST THE RATE GOES UP TO \$40.**

- Pay by cash or personal check at the registration table for weekly Monday and Tuesday classes or at our Holiday Dance on December 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Pay using Paypal or a credit card at [hotlantasquares.org](http://hotlantasquares.org) and click on the "Store" link. It only takes a few seconds.

# THE YEAR IN SUMMARY

By Doug Miller, Hotlanta Squares Club President



At this time of year, we make time for family and friends and often reflect on the past year's events. It has been a very busy, often hectic year for Hotlanta Squares and I wanted to take the time to review events and activities.

The year started with over 100 participants attending our 2017 Promenade Down Peachtree - IT TAKES A VILLAGE featuring John Marshall, Dayle Hodge and Michael Maltenfort. Many thanks to Mike Shagina for his role as PDP chairperson for this very successful fly-in.

Our first regularly scheduled dance of the year was our St Patrick's Day Dance in March with caller Jimmy Roberson, quickly followed up with our April "Swing, Slip & Slither Into Spring" dance with Lenny Newberry. Since we are more than a dance club, in May the club held a bowling event at Funtime Bowl followed by dinner at El Potro Mexican restaurant. As Atlanta's summer heated up, we held our June dance "Tidal Wave Beach Party" with Justin Russell which served as a warm up for the IAGSDC convention "Swing & Mix" in Palm Springs. Over 30 members of Hotlanta Squares braved the heat without the humidity in this truly fascinating desert city.

Although the month of July is normally a period of rest for Hotlanta Squares, not so this year as each Monday was designated as a dance night with themes of Hula Luau, Laugh & Dance, Nice Pear/Disco Inferno and Karaoke Squares. Thank you Edmond for your creativity and coordinating with Mike and Saralyn for holding these weekly themed dances. The month ended with another dinner social at Tortugas Cuban Grill.

The months of August and September featured road trips when members of Hotlanta Squares traveled to Gatlinburg for the Tennessee State Square Dance Convention, to Athens for the Georgia State Square Dance Convention and to Oxford for the Alabama State Square Dance Convention. August was also our first and perhaps annual Pool Party at Neil and Mark's fabulous Buckhead home. In September our club once again participated in the Pets Are Loving Support (PALS) Bingo Party where several members of our club were game winners. The fall season began with our "Back to School" dance with Pam Courts.

October was especially busy for Hotlanta Squares as Don Weston's "go big or go home" motto had our club participating in Atlanta's Pride Weekend in a big way. For only the second time in the club's history we had a booth both Saturday and Sunday in Piedmont Park and of course a big presence in the parade down Peachtree Street on Sunday. With a theme of "Hug, Dance, Repeat" and a bear as our mascot, we gave out close to a thousand stuffed bears over the two day event and helped spread the word that Hotlanta Squares is the only gay-oriented and always inclusive square dance club in Georgia. But no rest after Pride as the following Sunday Team Hotlanta Squares participated in the annual AIDS Walk. The month ended with our "Reincarnation" Halloween dance with Robert Townsend.

Practice, practice, practice is what we tell our Mainstream students and we put that mantra into effect holding our first Mainstream Blast in November benefitting members of our current class but also enabling contacts made during the Pride Weekend to catch up and join the ongoing class. A special thanks to Mike and all the club members that came out to support this 5-hour Saturday Mainstream workshop. A demonstration dance was also held in November at the downtown Westin Peachtree Plaza where we danced for the Association of Social Work Board. We even commandeered members from the audience and taught them some basic square dance moves.

But the highlight of November had to be our "We Are Family Dance" with Dayle Hodge. Thanks to the generosity of a club member, this dance was free to Hotlanta Squares members and friends but we took this opportunity to collect toys and money for AID Atlanta's Christmas Party for local children impacted by HIV. And our year-end "Whoville Holiday Hoopla Dance" will be held Friday, December 29, featuring Travis Cook from Kentucky, his first time calling for Hotlanta Squares.

So yes, it has been a busy and fun year for Hotlanta Squares. I want to thank all members of Hotlanta Squares because your participation has helped make these activities possible. It is no secret that we rely upon membership dues to help finance club events. Due to our overhead expenses, we typically lose money on class nights and hope to break even at dance events. Our PDP is often a financial success; thanks to attendance from club members and out of town guests this event pays for itself.

Yellow Rocks,

Doug Miller - President



# THE YEAR IN PICTURES



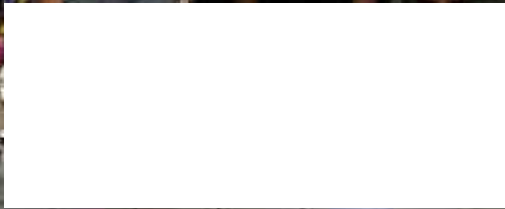




2017









ABBY TURKEL – DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

HANN BURNHAM – DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

CLARA CHESEBRO – DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

MICHAEL PALMER – DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

SARALYN LEVINE – DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

SUSAN LITTON – DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

NORMA MEEK – DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

NAMATH GASKIN – DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>

JOE MCGOUGH – DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>





## HOTLANTA SQUARES TO OFFICIALLY BECOME A TWO-CALLER CLUB

The Hotlanta Squares Board is pleased to announce that effective with our January 22, 2018, Open House Clara Welch will teach both Mainstream and Plus levels on Mondays and Mike Shagina will teach Advanced and C1 on Tuesdays. The Board thanks both Clara and Mike for making this recommendation to the Board as it has been our goal for several years to have Hotlanta Squares become a two caller club. This move achieves that goal as each caller will be a back-up to the other in the case of an absence.

We are extremely grateful to Mike who stepped up to assume the position of club caller after the unexpected departure of our previous caller. His dedication and commitment to teach Mainstream, Plus, Advanced and C1 on Mondays and Tuesdays has been invaluable to the club but Mike never intended that this be a permanent situation. Fortunately, Clara has been developing her skills as a caller and has attended several caller workshops over the years and has for the past year been conducting reviews for Mainstream and Advanced students. She is ready to assume her role as co-club caller.

In a time when a lot of clubs have difficulty finding callers and some clubs are having to dance to recorded music, Hotlanta Squares is indeed fortunate to have two qualified callers. We are excited to have both Mike and Clara as our club callers and what a great way to start the new year.

Hotlanta Squares Board



Clara Welch  
Official Club Caller  
Instructor for Beginner/Mainstream and Plus



Mike Shagina  
Official Club Caller  
Instructor for Advanced and Challenge

# HOTLANTA SQUARES HOLIDAY DINNER AND GAME NIGHT

Susan Litton was gracious enough to host a wonderful holiday dinner for our club members and new dance students at her beautiful home on December 9<sup>th</sup>. There was a bounty of delicious food including turkey, ham, dressing and a variety of side dishes provided by Susan and the guests. Many of our club members and students braved the snow to attend and a great time was had by all. Although the games never really kicked off, the evening was filled with spirited conversation. Thanks so much to Susan who really went all out cooking and decking the halls to make this a very special event for all who attended.









# MEET OUR NEWEST DANCERS

By Edmond Campbell

I recently asked some of our current dance students to complete a brief survey so that we could get to know them better. Here are a few of the responses.

Q: What is your name?

A: **Janet**

Q: How long have you lived in the Atlanta area?

A: 22 years

Q: Where are you from originally?

A: East Tennessee, near Knoxville



Q: What brought you to square dancing and what do you like best about it so far?

A: I like to dance and try new things. Everyone is so welcoming and helpful...and encouraging.

Q: Other than square dancing, what hobbies or special interests do you have?

A: West African drumming. I perform in a group called "Conundrums", give lessons and take classes. Also, taking care of kids and a dog.

Q: Do you have a spouse, significant other, kids, grandkids, or pets that you would like to share information about?

A: I have three boys (Finn, Dylan and Liam) and a dog, (Smittie).

Q: What is your favorite square dance call, so far?

A: Star through, and swing through.

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Q: What is your name?

A: **Michael Stanley**

Q: How long have you lived in the Atlanta area?

A: This is my second time living here. This time, I have lived here since 2013.



Q: Where are you from originally and where else have you lived?

A: I was born in Charlotte but did not grow up there. Moving back to Atlanta was my 17<sup>th</sup> cross-country move.

Q: What brought you to square dancing, and what do you like best about it so far?

A: Friends invited me to join and I like dancing with all the great friendly people.

Q: Other than square dancing, what hobbies or special interests do you have?

A: I am an artist in pastels and I am a "mid-century" fanatic

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Q: What is your name?

A: **Carol Levitt**

Q: How long have you lived in the Atlanta area?

A: 40 years

Q: Where are you from originally and where else have you lived?

A: New York

Carol didn't want her picture included but did provide this photo of her beautiful boxer, Tilly, shown here on the left with Rusty, who belongs to J.C. and Ruth.





Q: What brought you to square dancing and what do you like best about it so far?

A: JC & Jeanette. Comraderie.

Q: Other than square dancing, what hobbies or special interests do you have?

A: Gardening and dog rescue

Q: Do you have a spouse, significant other, kids, grandkids or pets that you would like to share information about?

A: Boxer rescue named Tilly.

Q: What is your favorite square dance call so far?

A: Any call I can do without tripping over my feet.

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Q: What is your name?

A: **Catherine (Kitty)**



Q: How long have you lived in the Atlanta area?

A: All of my life but moved west for many years until I took the midnight train to Georgia back home.

Q: What brought you to square dancing and what do you like best about it so far?

A: I was looking for active groups to get involved with and I really like best the kindness and welcoming spirit from the members.

Q: Other than square dancing, what hobbies or special interests do you have?

A: Walking the beltline, swimming and being with friends and family.

Q: Do you have a spouse, significant other, kids, grandkids or pets that you would like to share information about?

A: I have a lot of family here in the Atlanta area that I am close to.

Q: What is your favorite square dance call so far?

A: Allemande Left

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Q: What is your name?

A: **Betsey Tate**



Q: How long have you lived in the Atlanta area?

A: 22 years

Q: Where are you from originally and where else have you lived?

A: I was born and raised in Louisville, KY. I have also lived in Chicago and Detroit.

Q: What brought you to square dancing and what do you like best about it so far?

A: I first square danced in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and have wanted to try it again ever since. A neighbor invited me to this group.

Q: Other than square dancing, what hobbies or special interests do you have?

A: I like to travel.

Q: Do you have a spouse, significant other, kids, grandkids or pets that you would like to share information about?

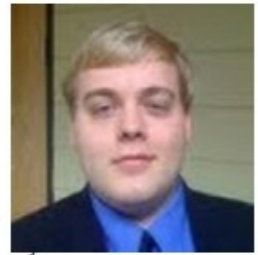
A: I have a son, Samuel (23 years old) who currently lives in Spain, and I have a dog (15 years old) named Sugar.

Q: What is your favorite square dance call so far?

A: Spin The Top



**Hotlanta Squares**  
*Presents*



# Whoville Holiday Hoopla



**Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**7:00pm – 10:00pm**  
*Alternating Mainstream through C1 tips*

With guest caller  
Travis Cook  
Goshen, KY



**HS Members: \$8**

**Non-Member Dancers: \$10**

**Non-Dancing guests and new students: Free**

**City of Light Spiritual Center**

*3125 Presidential Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30340*





**HOTLANTA  
SQUARES**

**Promenade  
Down Peachtree  
Atlanta • Georgia**

**January 12–14, 2018**

# **Carnival**



**Register On-Line Now!**

**Visit our website for details**

**[www.hotlantasquares.org](http://www.hotlantasquares.org)**



*You're  
invited to a*

**FREE  
HOTLANTA  
SQUARES  
OPEN  
HOUSE**



Monday, January 22, 2017, 7:00pm – 8:30pm  
City of Light Spiritual Center  
3125 Presidential Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30340

Come meet our club members and caller and try some basic square dance calls for yourself. If you like it you may want to attend our Monday night classes this Spring. Tuition is \$50 for the first 10 classes due at the first class on January 29th. On the 11<sup>th</sup> class an additional \$30 will be due which will cover the remaining classes and a weekend workshop to be scheduled at a later date.

