



The 5th Wednesday Letter

From Sandi & Dan Finch

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Are We Having Fun Yet?

Our philosophy is that dancing is the closest contact team sport you will participate in, and to get it right, you may need to work at it a little. The goal should be: Two people—partners—both moving in close proximity, attempting to execute moves in the most efficient and graceful way—AND HAVING FUN DOING IT.

You may not be able to smile while you are learning new figure combinations or rhythms. During the learning process, you may be frustrated or just concentrating. It's hard to smile when your mind is working so hard!

The beauty of round dancing is that once you have learned a dance, it is yours to play with as you wish. Once you learn it, there will be an inner sensation of accomplishment.

The character of some dances does not call for smiles—for instance, tango or paso. And, for some individuals, it might be out of character to smile.

This became an issue after the National Square Dance Convention

this summer, when a dancer in an internet discussion group, who had wandered into the advanced hall at the convention, questioned why anyone would want to do advanced level round dancing because "no one ever smiles."

The consensus of responses was that dancing well to great music and excellent choreography at the higher levels can produce an inner ecstasy that is not necessarily reflected on one's face.

One pundit suggested that at the advanced level, pleasure is no longer expressed with grins and chuckles. If grins and chuckles are what you want, stay in the phase 3 hall, she said.

Someone might ask you this question someday. We hope you can say you ARE having fun, and maybe with a smile too.

As the modern dancer George Balanchine once said, "Dancers work just as hard as policemen, always alert, sometimes tense, but policemen don't have to be beautiful at the same time."



Days of Our Lives

Birthdays:

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Lu Perdue | 11/1 |
| Richard Wu | 11/10 |
| Penny Sherwin | 11/12 |
| Jean de la Torre | 11/12 |
| Ed Gaines | 11/15 |
| Elaine Viescas | 11/17 |
| Mas Nabata | 11/29 |
| Bud Hanson | 12/27 |

Anniversaries:

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Brian & Alice | 11/6 |
| Ken & Marion | 11/12 |
| Pat & Anne | 12/11 |
| Paul & Betty | 12/23 |
| Russ & Stella | 12/26 |

New Year's Eve Party

Dan & Sandi are co-hosting this year's Long Beach New Year's Eve round dance party with Fred & Keiko Migliorini.

New Year's Eve falls on a Wednesday this year.

The format will be the same as in previous years. We will provide a dinner buffet (no, it's not a potluck). We will cue your favorite round dances throughout the evening. There will be prize drawings, and we may even have some other surprises for you.

The party starts at 7 p.m. and closes right after we ring in the start of year 2004.

Space is limited to 35 couples, so reservations are necessary.

New 3rd Sunday All-Level Dances

Don't get enough dancing? Mark your calendar for the third Sundays of each month for our new all-level round dance.

Dan & Sandi, along with Eileen & Bob Silvia, are hosting an afternoon of dancing at the Cypress Senior Center, each third Sunday of the month.

It starts with pre-rounds (requests) at 1:30 p.m. and goes to 4:30 p.m. For

you die-hards, this allows you time to get to the Valley for John Michaelson's dance starting at 6:15 p.m. that night.

We cue all levels. Between each set of six dances, we also take requests—Eileen will do one request at phase 2,3 or 4, and Dan will do one from phase 5 or 6.

November 16 will be the next dance. Hope you can make it!

