

Bruce Holmes



Bruce, Joy and daughter Sara. Bruce also has two wonderful sons who live locally.

Bruce first Square Danced in seventh grade in California. He loved it. Then the family moved to New Jersey, and the Square Dancing ended. By the time he was thirty he'd forgotten he'd ever Square Danced. And had absorbed the common notion that Square Dancing was for hicks. He was teaching folk dancing at the time and met his future wife one night at the dance he taught. That summer she wanted to attend the Kentucky Dance Institute. He was game, thinking she could pick up some new dances to teach his crowd. At KDI, one hour a day was devoted to Square Dancing. Bruce would have passed, but the girlfriend insisted. And he again fell in love with Square Dancing. Back in Illinois they took lessons. And that became their social life. Eventually they became part of a Challenge level group that met at an estate in Lincolnshire. When the kids happened they'd dance with a child cradled in an arm. When they got to three kids, it stopped being workable and they stopped attending.

Bruce ran a software company in those days. He also taught Aikido at Northwestern and chess at the local grade school (the team won a variety of state and national championships). He's always stayed active with long distance running and triathlons.

He's also written several Science Fiction novels. And then there were a couple of Singer/Songwriter albums and the touring that goes with it. To this day Bruce and his daughter, Sara, play electric guitar together.

By his early fifties he was divorced. He met Joy one night at an English Country Dance. (Do you see a trend here? Dance has been very good to Bruce.) At some point Joy wondered if they ought to try Square Dancing. He laughed and said he'd love to. A couple of years later Bruce was acting as the class coordinator for the Glenview Plus class. One night the caller didn't show. So Bruce did his best to drill them in the calls. But he didn't know how to resolve and had to repeatedly announce, "OK, square your set." The caller kept not making it to class. Bruce kept trying to figure it out. More to the point, he got hooked on calling. It was annoying that you couldn't just buy a book that would explain it all. So in the years that followed he wrote "Becoming A Square Dance Caller" now in its 5th Edition.

In 2016 Bruce began teaching Square Dance classes in Wilmette, Kenilworth and Evanston. The following year he founded (with the help of some wonderfully talented students) North Shore Squares and for a couple of years he served as President of the club. (A number of the callers active today got their start at North Shore Squares.) Since then he has been teaching classes for Glenview. He and Joy currently serve as Presidents of Glenview Squares.