



Glenview Squares COVID Memory Project

April 2020 ~ April 2021

An account of Glenview Squares' activities during the 2020 Pandemic, interspersed with memories from Glenview Squares members. Submitted to the Glenview Public Library on April 28, 2021.

On March 16, 2020, everything changed.

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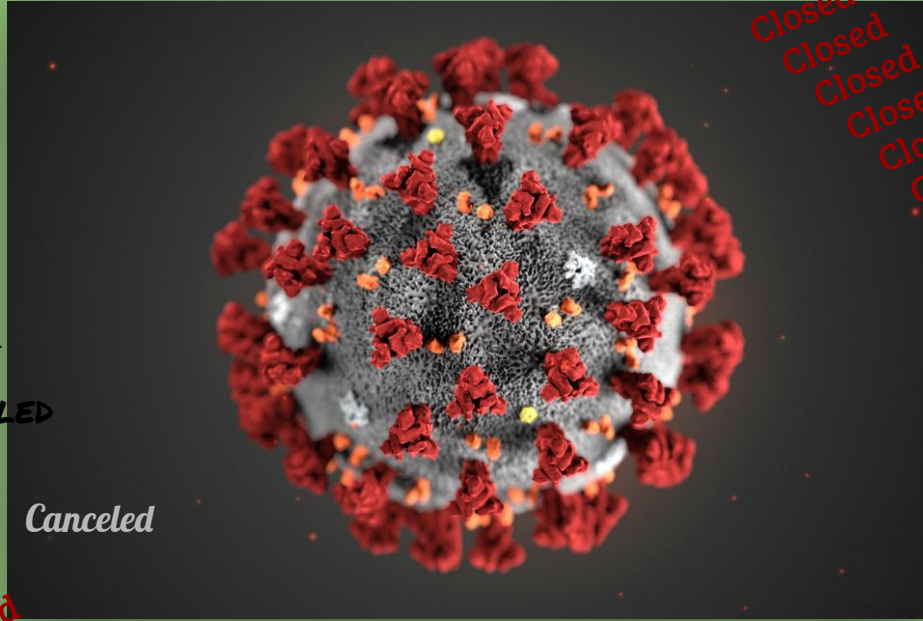
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Janice & James Cha, Morton Grove, Illinois



Glenview Squares' calendar for spring and summer of 2020 was crammed. We had planned dances, workshops, meetings and the club's 70th anniversary blowout party, slated for May 2020. When the pandemic brought everything to a halt, the silence reverberated. As presidents of the nearly 100-member club, we knew that if we wanted the club to still be vital when the pandemic subsided, we would have to keep members active and connected in as many ways as possible.

Zoom showed us the way forward. Soon we had figured out ways to dance remotely. Many club members went along with virtual lessons and dances. This led to the most social of dances being reduced to singles or couples, in living rooms and basements, dancing with two or three imaginary other dancers while a caller guided them from their computer screen. Somehow we made it work.

From online dance lessons and meetings, our club activities expanded to online theater outings and lecture sessions, Zoom-based games and play-readings, and even full-scale virtual dances. We held socially distant square dances in a local church parking lot, with my husband James [left] as caller. And our team made a point of phoning members to see how they were doing.

Fast forward to May 2021. Glenview Squares is making plans to offer lessons and club dances, hopefully for Fall 2021 (CDC guidelines permitting). [We are still here.](#) We are ready. Let's dance.

Zoom & Glenview Squares

Zoom has linked Glenview Squares members.



Barb & Keith Clayton, Wilmette, Illinois

I think that the biggest thing Glenview Squares did for us was give us hope that there would eventually be an end to our isolation and we'd still have relationships with people "out there" once it is safe to "come out and play" with others.

We most missed the intimacy of the weekly in-person classes and the fun form of mental and physical exercise that they provided. It was so nice to see the same group of faces week after week in the in-person classes and experience the joy of learning together. The continual trading of partners and cooperation of the full square to achieve the end results gave us the chance to meet, interact, and cooperate with others. It was so much fun!

Attempting virtual square dancing on the other hand was only a lesson in frustration for us. It reminded us how much we missed the energy of the full room of dancers and informed us about how much we depended on the feedback of others in our square to keep us on track.

It was so nice to witness and share the energy and enthusiasm that others, in particular [club presidents] Janice & James Cha, put forth to make sure that GVS stayed alive during our hiatus from in-person dancing.

The phone calls, emails, and ZOOM meetings all helped us to feel more connected and get to know others a little better. It is possible to make new friends remotely.

As the song says, "You don't know what you got till it's gone." The isolation made us really appreciate what we enjoyed about in-person dancing. We can't wait to get back to safely dancing in person once again!

If it's Tuesday it must be Square Dance

One week after the shutdown, GVS hosted its first Tuesday Zoom SD class on March 24, 2020, with Caller James Cha.



Jo Byers, Glenview, Illinois

GVS has played a part in our continued survival...

- ❖ Parking lot dancing
- ❖ Online zoom virtual square dancing
- ❖ Zoom calls with get-to-know each of us
- ❖ Personal phone calls from members
- ❖ Texting & emails from members.

We miss the following...

- ❖ 'Exercising' thru dance
- ❖ Mental stimulation of call definitions & successfully executing them
- ❖ Laughing when I can't remember what to do & other dancers helping me.
- ❖ Social chats with club dancers face-to-face.
- ❖ Having an activity on my calendar....something to anticipate.
- ❖ Meeting new people.....new students & members from other clubs.
- ❖ Smiling.

Parking Lot Dances

Glenview Squares held **five** 2-couple square dances led by Caller James Cha between **June 2020** and **October 2020**, in a Morton Grove church parking lot. We held the first parking lot dance of '21 last Saturday. More to come as weather permits.



Linda Warren, Deerfield, Illinois

- ❖ I enjoyed the ability to participate in virtual square dancing to try and help me remember the calls
- ❖ I was able to get together with other members of Glenview Squares for discussion group about all sorts of topics that have come up over the year and expanded into books, sharing of educational shows on Netflix, Prime, etc. and now will continue after the isolation has ended and will probably expand into actual in-person sessions.
- ❖ I belong to a GVS game night group that has kept us in touch with each other.
- ❖ The GVS “Taskmaster” night (via Zoom) is always a great time to enjoy each other’s company and do some laughing.
- ❖ Phil and Bruce’s nights of “inspiration” (lectures presented via Zoom) were especially enlightening and educational.
- ❖ It was great to learn about each other in the sessions that Bruce led for us to hear stories about our lives.
- ❖ Most of all, I missed being able to be together in person and actually physically dance together and share meals, hugs, and laughter, without the aid of a computer!

SO MUCH Zooming

Club Dances on Zoom: With Callers Ken Burke, Jack Pladdys, Tom Miller

VSD 101 Sessions: with Caller James Cha

GVS Callers: Christine Steffy & Candice Hansen

VSD Plus Sessions: with Callers James Cha & Bruce Holmes



Karyn Ordower, Glenview, Illinois

Glenview Squares played a key role in providing connection and joy during the pandemic. Connecting with members over Zoom was invaluable for injecting some lightness and fun into a tough year. When it comes to Square Dancing, there is nothing like it in my opinion. It has a wonderful social aspect. It is good for the brain. And it is so much fun. I miss all of that.

Carol & Phil Moulden, Glenview, Illinois

We were stuck at home during the pandemic, but at least we had each other! But to break from the monotony we were thrilled to also be able to stay in touch (remotely) with our friends from our Glenview Squares (GVS) Dance Club. We used Zoom to “dance” the best we could in our living room one evening a week! We also met other times with smaller groups of GVS friends on Zoom for topic discussions, general conversations and games! Those regular opportunities to connect virtually to talk and laugh and dance with friends made the quarantine so much more bearable and less lonely.

GVS Fun & Games

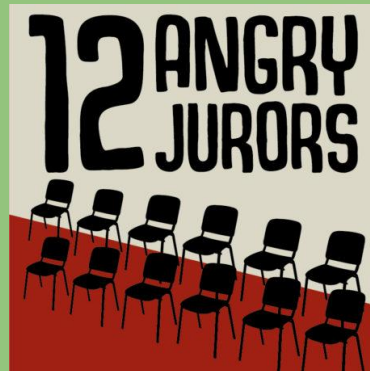
Taskmaster Challenge -
Tuesdays with Joy Nachtrab



Theater Online via
Oil Lamp Theater, Glenview

Game Night - Sundays with
Sherry Jost

Dramatic reading of 'Twelve
Angry Jurors' - March 2021
Led by Michelle McKenzie-Voigt



Lecture Evenings -
Presented by
Phil Moulden,
Bruce Holmes



Getting to Know You -
with Bruce Holmes

Sherry Jost, Glenview, Illinois

During the pandemic, I realized how much my pre-pandemic activities meant to me. Square Dancing was a joy to me for the past four years and I longed for the Friday nights when the Glenview Squares could be square dancing again. One evening in particular was the ultimate square dance - the caller played rock music from the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s and the venue was rocking with people with huge smiles enjoying the music and the hobby of square dancing. The dance floor was packed with 8-person squares all singing along and dancing many of the 100 square dance patterns. That was the most fun I have ever seen at a square dance. During the pandemic, in-person square dancing just was not possible. Some day it will be possible again and that's what I long for.



GVS Special Dances of 2020 & early '21

PRESENTED BY GLENVIEW SQUARES

BOO BASH

SATURDAY, 10/31
DOORS OPEN 7:30 PM
EVENT STARTS 8 PM

An Online Evening of SPOOKtacular Square Dancing and Mysterious Entertainment, via Zoom.



Pre-registration requested via SignUp Genius:
<https://bit.ly/3chRyH6>



Presented by Glenview Squares ~ Glenview, Illinois

SNOWFLAKE FOLLIES

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

VIRTUAL DOORS OPEN: 7 PM (CT)
DANCE STARTS: 7:30 PM (CT)

An online extravaganza of square dancing & entertainment, via Zoom.

CALLERS
James Cha
Candice Hansen
Christine Steffy,



REGISTER THRU SIGNUP GENIUS:
[SHORTURL.AT/HFPRY](https://shorturl.at/HFPRY)

GlenviewSquares.org

Sealed with a kiss by **Glenview Squares**



HEARTS A-FLUTTER VIRTUAL SQUARE DANCE

A confectionery of online square dancing, featuring Chicago Callers James Cha, Candice Hansen & Christine Steffy.

Saturday 7 pm CT 'Doors' open
Feb. 13, 2021 7:15 pm CT - Dance starts

GlenviewSquares.org

Marlene Singer, Skokie, Illinois

What Glenview Squares' various programming, events and dancing has meant to me has been an easily accessible outlet for [online] socializing and exercise. The club's Zoom meet-ups have regularly been an entertaining diversion. Kudos to Joy, the "best" "Taskmaster"! Glenview Squares added a sense of normalcy to Tuesday nights and the special events, if not for in-person dancing, lessons (or angel-ing), but at least for keeping up basic square dance skills. One more added benefit was having square dancing to talk about to non-participating friends and family. Their genuine amazement at how successfully [GVS presidents] Janice & James were able to entertain, teach and use a great deal of creativity to keep members connected and interested is admirable and much appreciated. This is a really good group of great people; an honor to share not only Club membership, but deeply satisfying friendships!

GVS Member Milestones

May 2020:

Carol Shaffer & Dick Hosteny move to Maryland



November 2020:

Tina & Pete get married



Friend of GVS, Closed

The Book Market, Glenview, closed its doors abruptly in **February 2021**. The Book Market hosted countless intro parties, dancer workshops and caller workshops at no charge to the club. In return, we bought LOTS of books.



WELCOME to our newest GVS members



Pete & Carolyn Holtermann



Dolores Koenig



Charlie & Becky Cate

“GVS Maryland”

Glenview square dance club takes activities online

By MYRNA PETLICKI
PIONEER PRESS | MAY 14, 2020 AT 1:44 PM



Socializing was an important aspect of dancing with the Glenview Squares before the organization had to host virtual events. (Glenview Squares)

May 15 was supposed to be a big day for Glenview Squares. Members were looking forward to attending a dinner dance celebrating the square dance club's 70th anniversary.

They celebrated instead via Zoom. That's how the club has been conducting lessons and regular dance sessions since the stay-at-home order went into effect because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Glenview Squares IN THE NEWS ...even during the pandemic



Oct. 2020 -- A Glenview Lantern article about moving our Halloween dance online



May 2020 -- A Chicago Tribune article about our 70th anniversary

Glenview Squares posts regular updates on Facebook




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Let's Dance!

Stay Involved

GVS Parking Lot Dances

GVS Board Meetings

GVS Taskmaster

& more!

