



HITTING THE STAGE

Glenview native to star in Katrina-based show, Page 25



CROSSING BORDERS Northbrook's Mexican grill steps away from traditional cuisine, Page 26

THE GLENVIEW LANTERN | September 3, 2015 | glenviewlantern.com

LIFE & ARTS



Judy Kleiman and Omar Khesghi dance at the head of the square at a Glenview Squares event Sunday, Aug. 30, at Park Center. DAVE KRAUS/22ND-CENTURY MEDIA

SQUARE ROOTS

Glenview Squares maintains original charm while welcoming new members, Page 23

I & A COVER STORY

65-year-old square dancing club made young again

JESSICA BOURQUE, Staff Writer

In 1949, a group of Glenview residents with a passion for square dancing formed the Village's first official square dancing club: the Glenview Squares.

Today, 65 years later, the Squares have kept the square dancing tradition alive within the Glenview community, a remarkable accomplishment that not many Chicago groups have achieved.

Although it's doing the same do-si-dos and promenades as it was six decades ago, the group has certainly adapted to changing times. They've ditched the traditional dress code, and it's not uncommon to catch the group dancing to pop songs such as "Call Me Maybe," "Blurred Lines" and "What Does the Fox Say."

"To keep square dancing alive and vital, you need to keep what's good from the past but embrace the new, as well," Glenview Squares caller Arlene Kaspick said.

Glenview Squares board member Janice Cha said she remembers when there were more than 100 square dancing clubs thriving in the area. Today, only 20 of those clubs remain, a testament to the dwindling interest in what was once a popular American pastime.

Among those 20 clubs, Glenview Squares is a bit of an anomaly. While other clubs fade away, Glenview Squares is experiencing a noticeable resurgence in interest and membership. The group ushered in its 65-year anniversary with 62 members and counting; Two weeks ago, they welcomed 90 dancers to a square dancing introduction party.

The group's renaissance began when Cha, club Presi-



Participants square dance at the Park Center.

dent Carolyn Lopez and other core members revamped the club's processes and traditions.

Aside from incorporating newer music, the group hired younger callers, created more opportunities for beginners and organized more public outings.

"We've done flash mobs. We have danced at the Brookfield Zoo and the Lincoln Park Zoo. In September, we'll be dancing for Sears corporate forklift rodeo," Cha said.

The group also introduced benefit nights, where it offers low-cost lessons to anyone interested and gives 100 percent of the proceeds to a local charity.

All of the changes have paid off, as new members keep flocking to Glenview Squares lessons.

"It seems to be working. We're bringing in pretty good numbers of new members," Lopez said.

Hannah Arbizzani reluctantly attended her first Glenview Squares lesson a few years ago at the behest of a friend. She quickly fell in love with the group and now drives from Evanston every week to attend club meet-ups.

"I thought this would be

the geekiest thing I would do and that I would just go to pacify my friend," Arbizzani said. "But the reality is that the people here are the nicest people you'll ever be with."

Dancers do not need a partner to join, and friendliness is built into the fabric of square dancing to make everyone feel welcome. Every dance begins with a bow, a smile and a greeting.

"It's fun and crazy, and you will meet people from all walks of life," Cha said. "It's just a really great activity and can be a great form of exercise."

In its 65th year, the group hopes to grow even larger. Residents can attend one of the club's free introduction parties where they will learn the basics, or they can register for nine-week lessons, where they will become proficient in all 100-plus dance calls.

You can sign up for the next round of lessons opens on Sept. 8, but Lopez said they will continue taking new dancers until Sept. 22.

Those interested should visit www.glenviewsquares.org for more information or check out www.square-dancechicago.com for other square dancing events in the area.



Sandra Busse (left), of Glenview, and Wade Bartlett, take each other's hands at a Glenview Squares event Sunday, Aug. 30 at Park Center. PHOTOS BY DAVE KRAUS/22ND CENTURY MEDIA



LABOR DAY WEEKEND SPECTACULAR

Friday, Sept. 4 Thru Monday, Sept. 7 ... Served all day!
(AND, the madness continues EVERY MONDAY thru September 28!)

It's Back!

<p>LOBSTER TAIL (6 oz.) & FILET MIGNON (4 oz.)</p> <p>\$24.95</p>	<p>TWIN FILET MIGNON (4 oz. each)</p> <p>\$19.95</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------

Both specials include salad & choice of potato.
Available Labor Day Weekend & Every Monday in September!

6 Great Wines  \$20/
All Day-Every Day! Bottle

1740 Milwaukee Avenue, (at Lake Ave.) Glenview • 847-699-9999