



Be iN ouR Squares

Gashland United Methodist Church

7715 N Oak Trafficway - Kansas City, MO

Caller: Lynn Nelson Co-Caller Dan Robinson

2nd Fridays 7:30-10:00PM

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NEWSLETTER

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January 2026

I hope you all had wonderful holidays full of love and fun. We did, and had a great trip south. Less traffic than in recent years so that was lots less stressful.

From all reports, our January dance was quite the success. The snowflake decorations were cute and 46 dancers in the hall, including 9 youth. How exciting is that!?! I'm told that Dan did a great job his first time back and DJ even got some additional experience. His tip was not perfect, but few new callers can call a perfect tip, and each time they call, they find there's another ball to keep in the air whenever they have a mic in their hand. Uncertainty increases our nerves and makes us more prone to error. It's a vicious cycle. The only thing that helps is experience and the support of our friends. Trust me. DJ will get better with experience and he will always be grateful to those who support his efforts. There are a few things you can do to help DJ. Whenever he is calling, either at our club or visiting, it would be helpful if you squared up in front of him so he has dancers he can count on and recognize. It makes it easier to resolve the square. Also, if he needs dancers to work with at his practice sessions, volunteer to help if at all possible. I know if it weren't for my "caller's angels", I would never be where I am today.

We still don't have a lesson venue locked down yet, but since our pot luck we have had a couple of possibilities develop. I hope to get something locked down before I return. I want to thank those of you who have made the effort to provide a place for us. It's something I feel strongly about, as you all know, and feel like it's one of the most important things we can do for the life of the club.

I would like to know who is interested in ordering a club shirt. Since there is a 6 shirt minimum, we may have to wait a bit to get them ordered. **If you would like to have a new club shirt, please let me know** so I can start to compile a list. I won't know the cost of the shirts until I know how many we will order, but it will more than likely be between \$30 and \$32. We voted not to include names on any future shirts. We did discover the men's shirts run pretty true to size and the women's shirts run small if you are well endowed at all. I have the ladies shirt in 3 different sizes and I'm sure we could find others if you want to try one on before ordering.

We asked for members to volunteer to host a dance and we still have the April dance available. **Please contact Leann to sign up.** April is our Poor Man dance. Lots of time to plan that, but we need someone to step up. We had talked about serving beans and cornbread. Possibly relish or fruit trays.

At our last pot luck, we chose the date for our next one. Since Memorial day is a little early, we chose May 31st. I hope since we have given you lots of notice, you'll all be able to join us. This is where we choose the themes for our dances and discuss any changes we might want to make. Also, where we make plans for additional club functions. I have really missed our annual club trips. I hope we can return to those some time soon.

No one has shared any news about any of our members being under the weather and that's great news. It was so good to know that Dan was going to be able to call again. And it's good to know that so far, this winter has been kind to our membership healthwise. Let's hope it continues. I understand there's a lot of flu going around. Here's hoping that you all avoid it this year.

I mentioned club trips above. We used to take an annual trip together, sometimes involving a dance and sometimes not. Sometimes I was calling, sometimes not. The thing I miss is the camaraderie involved. It was always a good time to spend time together with more opportunity to visit than those busy times at dances. We've done things like attend a local country music show, visit Warm Springs Ranch where they raise the Clydesdales, travel to Hutchison, KS and go to the Cosmosphere or salt mine prior to a dance. At the salt mine, we danced a tip 650 feet underground. I'd love to get those trips started again. If you have any ideas, please do a little bit of research and bring your ideas to the pot luck.

At our last pot luck, we agreed to add 1 plus tip just before the end of the dance. Many of you were convinced that it would be a way to keep dancers from leaving before the dance was over. I didn't notice any difference before I left and from what I've heard, it didn't seem to make a difference at the January dance either. It seems that no matter what time we start or end our dances, visitors will start to leave 30 minutes before the dance ends. It happened when dances ended at 11 - so they changed to 10:30. Then they started leaving at 10. Now everyone wants to end at 9:30. Maybe before we attempt to make changes in the way we do things, we should talk to dancers who have been around a long time. History tends to repeat itself.

Be iN ouR Squares
8510 Sandusky Ave
Kansas City, KS 66112

TO:

Next Dance:
Snow Flake Dance

*Happy Birthday and
Happy Anniversary
From your friends at
BNR Squares*

You do such a great job of making sure our visitors all feel welcome and making sure they all get to dance. Believe me, people notice. If we each go around the room and thank everyone for coming, then even if we each don't thank everyone, everyone will be thanked by someone. That's important. It's also important that we be sure someone is thanking everyone as they leave—even those who leave early.

Please be sure to reply to Leann's reminders regarding the scheduled visitations. It's important that we know we have enough to make it count so that if we don't, we can let those who were planning to go, know that they can go where ever they want. If you go out on your own, or with others to an unscheduled visit, be sure to let me know so I can make a note of it.

Past Visitations

11/21 Ramblers 10
St Joe Squares 3
11/22 Harmony Dancers 4
11/23 Savannah Sashayers 6
11/29 New Caller Showcase 5
11/30 KC Plus 8
12/05 St Joe Squares 7
12/13 Shooting Stars 12
12/21 KC Plus 4
1/06 Heartland Squares 6

Future Visitations

01/16 St Joe Squares
01/25 Savannah Sashayers-Mike Hogan
02/03 Heartland Squares (retrieve banner)
02/07 Pistols 'n Petticoats (Mainstream)
02/13 Our dance
02/20 Ramblers (50s/60s)
02/28 Harmony Dancers (wear pink)

Future Themes

Feb 13 PJ Dance
Mar 13 Hat Dance
Apr 10 Poor Man Dance
May 8 Hawaiian Dance
Sept 11 Celebrate Lynn (30 years of calling)

Special Dances

(those in blue sponsored by us)

02/21 NW MO Blast
04/17-18 HOA Festival (new hall)
06/13 Benefit for Gashland UMC
07/10 Mike Hogan
07/10-11 HAASDA
07/12 MINK Ladies (HAASDA trail-out)
07/25 NW District
07/31 Lanny Weaklend

Our next dance will be our PJ dance. You wanted to do something other than a sweetheart dance and this will let everyone stay comfy and cozy. I'm sure your regular finger foods will be just fine.

Thank you all for keeping the club and visitation program running smoothly, and making our visitors feel welcome. Special thanks to Leann and Dan, without whom I would never be able to take my arthritis to warmer climes for the winter. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all of you.

Lynn