



# HOT TIPS



SEPTEMBER 2016

## Sneak Preview: New COL and HS Home

By Edmond Campbell

On Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, Clara Welch and I were privileged to get a tour of the construction progress at City of Light's new home on Presidential Parkway. Reverend Doctor T. Paul Graetz, or "Reverend Paul" as he is affectionately known, was gracious enough to give us a full tour of the new facility, including the area that will be the new home of Hotlanta Squares for classes and dances starting in October.

First, let's review a little of the history between City of Light and Hotlanta Squares. City of Light, formerly First Metropolitan Community Church (FMCC), has been around for many years but in their current location on Tullie Road since 1993. When Hotlanta Squares first organized in August of 2001 (just a few weeks before 9/11) our members met in each others' homes for the first few months. We then partnered with FMCC and have been in their facility ever since. Our partnership is approaching 15 years.

Recently FMCC decided to change its name to City of Light which, they feel, better encapsulates their outreach into the community. They are still an MCC congregation, but the church is only a part of the broader scope of the City of Light community. And their new headquarters on Presidential Parkway will reflect that broader scope, resembling more of a community center than a traditional church.

As we all no doubt know by now, Children's Hospital of Atlanta has been buying up land around Tullie Road, I-85 and North Druid Hills Road for the past couple of years, with plans to greatly expand their operations in the area. The offer was too good to refuse for City of Light and they began looking for a new home. The first deal fell through but they soon found a suitable building which they subsequently purchased, but corporate investors were also interested and made yet another offer that couldn't be passed up. Well, third time's a charm and the new Presidential Parkway location is truly awesome. First of all, it's about three times the size of the Tullie Road location, so there is plenty of room for the church and the partner organizations with plenty of elbow room to spare.

The structure is a large three story red-brick office building near I-85 and Chamblee Tucker Road in the shadow of "Spaghetti Junction". The parking lot is more than double the size of the existing location's and is not shared with other businesses. It has a gate and can be fitted with security cameras. The church will occupy most of the first floor and this is where our dance space will also be located. COL's offices will be on the second floor and the third floor will have office space that can be used by other partner organizations. **-Continued on next page-**



**Sneak Preview: New COL and HS Home  
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There will be a few steps down from the parking lot to the main entrance but it will also be handicap accessible. The entrance will open into a reception hall with an information desk on the right. At the rear of the hallway, double doors will open into the church sanctuary. On the left side of the hallway will be the Friendship Room (or as many churches call it a “fellowship” hall). This large open space will have restrooms, a water fountain and a snack bar directly off of it and will also be adjacent to the main kitchen. This space should be large enough to accommodate eight or more squares and should be sufficient for our Monday and Tuesday classes and all but the largest of our dance events.

Across the hall from the Friendship Room will be Troy Perry Hall, which will be an even larger space designed for banquets and wedding receptions. This space could possibly hold twelve or more squares and could accommodate our largest dance events, and possibly even our annual fly-in. The planned flooring for both rooms will be a high-quality vinyl plank which will not only be attractive and durable, it will be perfect for dancing and much easier on the ankles and knees than the slate tile we are dancing on now.

The church is planning to begin Sunday services in the new facility on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and Hotlanta Squares’ first regular classes in the new location will begin on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. As you can see from these photos, there is much work still to be done, so keep your fingers crossed that all goes according to plan and we are able to stick to this schedule.

I hope you are all as excited as I am to begin this new chapter in our club’s history. These last few weeks in the Tullie Road facility will be bittersweet as 15 years of memories come flooding back, but as we forge ahead we have a lot of new experiences to look forward to and new memories to make in our beautiful new home.

**Pets Are Loving Support**  
Help a friend keep a friend

# Disco Bingo

**September 14, 2016**

**Jungle Club**  
2115 Faulkner Rd.  
Atlanta, GA 30324

**Doors open at 6:30**  
**Program starts at 7:30**

**Reserve your table or purchase tickets**  
**online at [www.palsatlanta.org](http://www.palsatlanta.org)**

**Emcees:**  
**Bubba D. Licious**  
**Edie Cheezburger**  
**Jaye Lish**

**Special Guest:**  
**Erica Lee**

**Hotlanta Squares Co-Sponsoring  
PALS Bingo September 14<sup>th</sup>**

Hotlanta Squares will once again be co-hosting PALS Bingo at the Jungle on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$20 each and half of the proceeds from tickets we sell will go to Hotlanta Squares to help fund our fly-in, Promenade Down Peachtree. Contact Saralyn Levine or Clara Welch for tickets. If you cannot attend, you can still purchase tickets to support our club. One of the other club members will play your cards for you and if you win, half of the winnings will go to the club. It’s a win-win situation. PALS, which stands for Pets Are Loving Support was created in the 1990’s and helps to provide food and medical care for the pets of those living with HIV-AIDS and other debilitating diseases and the elderly. The organization has helped many people and their pets over the years and has enjoyed great support from the LGBTQ community in Atlanta.

## Caller's Corner: Angels or Devils

By Mike Shagina



### Angels (or Devils?)

There's a tradition in square dancing where experienced dancers come to classes to dance with new students and help them learn by keeping things moving and keeping the squares functioning so it's easier to see how a call works and what their final position should be. These dancers are called "angels". If you ask any caller how they feel about dancers "angeling" their classes you're likely to get completely different opinions ranging from "love them" to "hate them." For some, the angels are just there to fill squares and are forbidden from explaining calls, or even pushing/guiding dancers to the correct position. For others, angels are a part of teaching new dancers how to dance. Callers are just standing up front with a mic and can only verbally explain how things are done. The angels are hands on and can help with many of the little things, like hand holds and styling, the more physical aspects of dancing.

As a new caller, I can't keep eyes on every square, I can hardly keep track of the one right in front of me, so I'm relying on having some good angels in the squares. Also, our club is unique in that we don't have a weekly "club night" for dancers to come and dance a level they've completed. If we want practice, we have to come to class and dance with the new students each week. Clubs who have weekly dance nights get regular practice, but also have a terrible time recruiting angels to help with classes. We have an overabundance of angels, which is good... and sometimes bad.

Let me (IMHO [for those who speak IM]) explain what makes a good angel and what makes a bad angel (or devil!).

- A good angel executes a call in the manner being taught (save the shortcuts for dances) with the proper styling and finishes in the correct position even if a student is slow to respond or makes a mistake.

It's important to do the call correctly and finish in the correct position, leaving an empty dance slot, if necessary, that the student can see and move to. It's nearly impossible to learn calls if the square isn't functioning. So if the angels are not paying attention, going overboard with extraneous dance moves or conversation, distracting the other dancers, then you are clearly not helping and need to keep it in check. It's OK to have fun, but if new dancers are in your square just make sure you're not being a distraction.



Also, if you're still missing calls at that level, then you are still a student of that level and not an angel. We expect the new dancers to make mistakes, not the experienced ones.

A good angel can help explain a call and can demonstrate how something is done (preferably between tips).

I think a lot of callers do not want dancers teaching calls in the square. I don't have a problem with it, as long as you are explaining the correct moves and definitions. Sometimes getting a different explanation can really help someone, and demonstrating a call can also make things much clearer. But there is probably no worse sin than giving someone the wrong information. If there's any doubt, whatsoever, how to do a call, then the best thing to do is defer to the caller or someone who definitely knows what's correct.

In summary, this being my first time teaching these classes, I need the help that good angels can provide to the new dancers. And since we are a club who primarily gets their floor time in by attending weekly classes, we are going to have all levels of experience in the squares each week. Let's keep in mind that there are dancers, in each class, taking it for the first time, and they need support and help from the experienced dancers. Use judgment and discretion if there are new dancers in your square and if you can't be an angel, that's fine, at least don't be a devil.

## How To Grow Our Club

By Clara Welch



At the IAGSDC convention meeting there were 5 clubs who grew by more than 15%. Bloomin Squares grew 38%. (They are in the L. A. area, and like us, they have Pride in October. They are planning Mainstream classes for January and a big advertising blitz in November and December), South Florida Mustangs also grew by 38% (they work in conjunction with a gay church's fundraiser offering free "entertainment" kind of like our open houses where anyone can dance), Cuesta Squares in San Luis Obispo grew 25 % by attracting new dancers through advertising in regional publications. Spin City squares grew by 21% and The Wilde Bunch grew by 16%.

In addition to these fastest growing clubs, there were 3 clubs who have more than 100 members. They are Chi Town Squares, Puddletown Squares and Rocky Mountain Rainbows. These clubs will likely continue to grow.

### ***How do we grow? Recruitment!***

First of all we have five or six new dancers who are taking the mainstream class. We need to focus on giving them the encouragement, attention and the amount of floor time they need to progress.

### ***How do we grow? Retention!***

We currently have 82 members. How do we retain them? By keeping them "hooked" into the social aspects of our club and giving them opportunities to "dance their level." Non-dancing social events such as PALS Bingo and Bowling and Game nights are a good way to do this. We need to remind our members that we miss them when they are absent from a weekly class or dance. For many of us, this club is our main group of friends, and for some of us this club is our family. If your family member missed a family gathering, wouldn't you want to know why?

### ***How do we grow? Reinstatement!***

For various reasons through the years, people have drifted away. Sometimes it is because of differences in club direction or leadership or even the caller. Sometimes it is because of a temporary

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health condition or that of a spouse or other family member. Now is the time to reach out to those in our community to see if conditions have changed to make it possible for them to come back and dance with us and renew their membership.

Our club reported 70 members to the IAGSDC in April as our official membership. Since then we have grown to 82 members, so we are definitely headed in the right direction. Through Recruitment, Retention and Reinstatement, we can increase our membership.

How does 10% sound as a very achievable goal for growth? If we could get eight new or returning members by April 2017, that will give us a membership count of 90, reflecting a club growth of 28% since April 2016. This would put us in the group of fastest growing clubs in the IAGSDC by our 2017 convention in Palm Springs. Let's do this!

### **Hot Tips**

#### **Tip Of The Month: Boat Packing Advice**

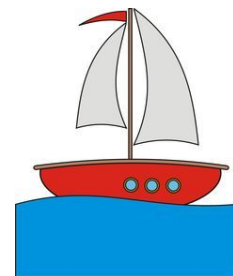


#### **Remember the 4 P's**

One of the most popular calls in the Plus level of dancing is "Load The Boat". It's one of the most fun calls in all of square dancing and one of the more complicated. I remember when I was first learning Plus, I struggled with this call, particularly the "inside" part. Then, someone taught me the trick of the 4 P's and I haven't had a lick of trouble with the call since. The rule of the 4 P's applies to both the inside and the outside parts.

*For the inside part it is:*

**Pass Through**  
**Pivot** away from your partner  
**Partner Trade**  
**Pass Through**



*For the outside part it is:*

**Promenade** individually around the outside  
**Pass one**  
**Pass two** and then three  
**Pivot in** (Quarter in)

I hope this helps.



September 6 – Danny Miller  
September 16 – Edmond Campbell  
September 24 – Kent Tolleson  
September 25 – Eric Glauner  
September 25 – Rodney Tweedy



R.I.P.  
Tim Marriner  
All of us at Hotlanta Squares  
will miss you. Thanks for all  
the  
joy you brought to us.



# Sweet September Dance

With Pam Courts From Cincinnati, Ohio



**Saturday, September 24, 2016**

**7:00pm to 10:00pm**

**City of Light**

**1379 Tullie Road NE,  
Atlanta, GA 30329**

*last dance at this location*

**Members: \$8.00**

**Non-members: \$10.00**

**Non-dancing guests: Free**

**HOTLANTA  
SQUARES**

[www.hotlantasquares.org](http://www.hotlantasquares.org)

**HOTLANTA  
SQUARES**

**Presents**

With



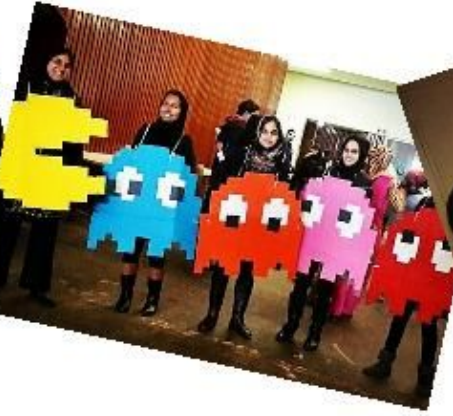
Darren  
Gallina  
Lompoc, CA



# Goonie Groupies

**Get your group on**

**GROUP COSTUMES ENCOURAGED**



Saturday, October 29, 2016  
7:00pm – 10:00pm

Members - \$8.00  
Non-Members - \$10.00  
Non-Dancers - Free

City of Light **in the new location**  
3125 Presidential Parkway  
Doraville, GA 30340  
*Near Spaghetti Junction*





GSSDA 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
September 16-17, 2016



# Dancing Is Our Passion

**Saturday**  
Early Bird Dancing ~ 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
Fashion Show ~ 11:00 am  
Continuous Dancing ~ 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
**Grand March:**  
Line Up 6:45 pm ~ March 7:00 pm  
Dancing ~ 7:00 - 10:30 pm



The  
Classic Center  
Athens, GA



Trail End ~ Callera  
Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 - 5:00 pm  
Early Rounds ~ Round Dance Hall

Casual Attire (No shorts or Tee Tops)  
\*\*GSSDA Member FREE  
\*\*\$5.00 Non-Members

Friday Night ~ 50's Theme  
"Come Dance Like a Teen in 2016"  
7:00 pm ~ 10:30 pm

Youth Encouraged to Attend  
FREE Admission Age 17 & Under

For Advance Weekend Ribbons @ \$25.00 each.  
Mail check payable to GSSDA prior to Sept. 1, 2016 to:  
Joyce Mosely  
3390 S. Lizella Road, Lizella, GA 31052  
Phone 478-737-1565  
joyce.mosely@cox.net

130 Foundry Street • Athens, GA 30601



Surfer dude Golden Locks with his buddies the three Biker Bears from our 2010 Halloween Dance. Can you guess who they are?

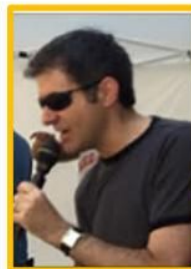


**Promenade Down Peachtree**  
Atlanta, Georgia January 13-15, 2017

Where:  
Decatur Recreation Center  
231 Sycamore Street  
Decatur GA 30030

Host Hotel:  
Is yet to be determined at this printing.  
Please check our website for updated  
hotel information.  
<http://iagsdc.com/hotlanta/events.html>

Dayle Hodge  
Columbia, Maryland



Michael Maltenfort  
Chicago, Illinois

John Marshall  
Sterling, Virginia



Register on line  
<http://iagsdc.com/hotlanta/PDP/PDP2017.html>

