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Notes from Angie

Happy Happy Thanksgiving!! Wow, we certainly have had a quick jolt into a cold fall. My neighbor put his Christmas lights up this week! Hmmm, yea - apparently his jolt was bigger than mine??? However, it sure helps us to get into the Christmas spirit! 2014 has been the year of "Let's try different things" If you have a moment, please let us know what you particularly liked or disliked. In January, the board will be working on planning ahead through June / July. We'd love to hear your comments in order to include "**the best of the best**" for the first part of 2015. You are welcome to send emails to me at: angieclark0324@yahoo.com, send me a note through the mail at 1774 Christy Ct., West Linn, OR 97068 or write it and give it to me at a dance (or even roll it up and attach it to a carrier pigeon and send him on his way - but that may require a special talent). As always, any ideas you'd like to try or dance themes that come to you in the middle of the night as brilliant epiphanies -- we want to hear about them!

Thank you so much for all you give to the club.

-- Angie

December Calendar

Editor's note: Bonnie and Eugene Ivy's Anniversary was October 30. Feel free to send them good wishes on the 30th of November for their "Anniversary plus one month".

- Dec. 2, Tues - **Linda Stief's** Birthday
- Dec. 4, Thur - **Waltz Lesson** (7:30 - 9:30 pm)
- Dec. 6, Sat - **1st Saturday Dance**

Gospel Christmas Dance with Silent Auction

Door Greeters: Angie Clark and Bonnie Ivy

Kitchen Sprites: Linda Stief and Rob Dunlap

Mike's "Annual" After Party -- All are invited to Shari's Restaurant in Oregon City after the dance.

- Dec. 11, Thur - **Waltz Lesson** (7:30 - 9:30 pm)
- Dec. 13, Sat - **Christmas Party** (6:00-9:00 pm)
Prince of Life Lutheran Church, 13896 S. Meyers Road,
Oregon City



Dec. 14, Sun - **POC Christmas Tree Sale - Fundraiser**

Dec. 18, Thurs - **Waltz Lesson (7:30 - 9:30 pm)**

Dec. 20, Sat - **Eugene Ivy's Birthday**

3rd Saturday Dance

Salute to Santa Dance

Door Greeters: Kelly Dunn and Ken Barker

Kitchen Sprites: Gail Booth, Sharon Boucher, the Foxmans

Dec. 21, Sun - **Diane Ledoux's Birthday**

Dec. 21, Sun - **Benefit Dance for Jim Hattrick (2:00-5:00 pm) Milwaukie Community Center**

Dec. 22, Mon - **Krissy Dieter's Birthday**

Dec. 26, Fri - **Mary Schneider's Birthday**

Dec. 28, Sun - **Susie Wood's Birthday**

Theme Dances of the Month

What: **Christmas Gospel Dance with Silent Auction**

When: Saturday December 6, 2014

Where: Our Oak Grove Community Hall

What to Bring: Potluck. Items for the Silent Auction (baked goods, tree and table decorations, stocking stuffers, something to share from your Christmas traditions and any of your creative ideas. The price range is \$2-10.)

Dress: Square Dance Attire

What: **Salute to Santa**

When: Saturday December 20, 2014

Where: Our Oak Grove Community Hall

What to Bring: Potluck and your playfulness!

Dress: Square Dance Attire and bring your reindeer!

Special Benefit

As many of us now know, Jim Hattrick is experiencing significant health challenges and will likely be laid up for several weeks. Calling is his livelihood. It is how he pays his monthly bills. We can easily imagine that 6-8 weeks without income could be devastating.

Many callers and cuers have organized a benefit dance for Jim and his wife, Judy, on the 21st of December. It is from 2pm until 5 pm on a Sunday to facilitate attendance by as many of us as possible. Please mark your calendars and join Daryl Clendenin and numerous others to raise funds.

The dance will be held at the Milwaukie Community Center, 10666 SE 42nd Ave (SE 42nd & Jackson) . \$7 at the door.

Christmas Party Sat. Dec 13

We gather at this wondrous time of year to celebrate together - Christmas! A warm thank you to Angie, Connie, John and Sue, Susie and Larry for preparing the space at the Prince of Life Lutheran Church. The evening will begin at 6pm and end at 9 pm. There will be a gift exchange but Angie mysteriously indicated it would unfold in a slightly different manner this year. The only clue she would give me was that it should be something under \$5 that you REALLY like. Do bring along a potluck dish. An invitation will be sent out early next week with a reminder of the time, address and which dish - side, main or dessert - you are responsible for.

Christmas Tree Sale (Portland Optimists) Sun. Dec 14

Last year as I drove up to Lombard for my first tree shift - ever - I wondered if I was going to regret it. I certainly had enough clothes on (probably enough for 2 of me!). I was pleasantly surprised to find a warm and cosy shack to warm up in, hot apple cider and Christmas carols playing. I signed in and was given the task of hanging wreathes and swags. Once that was finished I cut strings to unwrap trees. The wonderful smell of Noble, and Douglas Fir and Grand Fir! Then the sound of footsteps and little voices searching for that 'just right' tree. Their first! Shining eyes filled with wonder. I immediately signed up for another shift!

This fundraiser is similar to the fireworks sale last June. It is a very fun way to help out the Optimists, do a little fundraising for the Oaky Doaks and be completely immersed in the holiday spirit. Unable to help out on the 14th? 2 hour time slots during the week are also an option. Watch for a sign-up sheet at waltz lessons or December's 1st Saturday Dance or contact Bonnie with a preferred time between 9 am and 6 pm on the 14th or a mid-week slot. See below for a list of other organizations the Optimists support.

-- Elysa

Abby's Closet	Astor School	Boy Scouts
Children's Relief Nursery	De LaSalle High School	Girl Scouts
Good Samaritan Food Bank	Holy Cross School	James John School
PAC Swimming Club	Roosevelt Youth Football Program	Bridge Town Baseball
Roosevelt programs, AP English, All Night Grad Party, Arts, Athletics, Drama	St. John's Basketball Shoot Out	Sunshine Division
North Portland Soccer Club	Roosevelt Booster Club	Aspire Theater
Shirlee Ann McDonald Fund	Roosevelt Sun School	Women's Scholarship Fund

Entertainment Books are still Here!

Enjoy your favorite restaurant, store, car care . . . or explore a new possibility . . . at a reduced price. Contact Bonnie to purchase an Entertainment Book (and give a hand to the Club. Part of the proceeds benefit the Oaky Doaks.).

Where, OH Where are Mike and Helen now . . .

. . . staying close to home teaching the waltz lessons and calling and cueing for the Oaky Doaks!!! and gearing up the Square Dance lessons in January.

. . . January and the New Year are coming . . .

Sat. Jan 3 - **Poor Man's Dance: Annie Ross House Benefit**

Annie Ross House is the only emergency family shelter in Clackamas County serving those currently experiencing homelessness. When asked if their food pantry could use assistance, the reply was: "Absolutely, the food pantry is pretty bare right now and we would really appreciate you folks helping us out. Besides (nutritious) food, we always can use diapers, baby wipes, and toilet paper." Need some food ideas? Shelf stable milk, canned protein (salmon, tuna, chicken, beans), brown rice, whole grain cereal, whole-wheat pasta, soups, chilies and stews. Note: they are unable to accept opened or used items.

Thur. Jan 8 - **Square Dance Lessons BEGIN!!!**

It's not too early to start inviting people to join our square dance lessons. Don't be shy about asking You just never can tell who is another square dancer waiting to be born! Be sure to ask Keith for our flyers with all the necessary information to give to possible new students. (See interview excerpts from Oaky Doaks' Radio KOD with Mike Halley on Angels!)

Oaky Doaks' Radio KOD "How to be a Great Angel"

excerpts from an on-air interview with Mike Halley

Elysa: Thanks for dropping by the studio, Mike. We're coming up to your favorite time of year - the beginning of Square dance lessons!

Mike: Thanks, Elysa. Yeah! (big smile!) It really is a favorite for me. There's something about launching a whole new group of people into square dancing. And, this year we're trying something a little different. If we can get a committed square (8 people) then we'll be offering Plus lessons from 7:00 until 7:30pm. We're hoping the Plus students will then stay on and support the new Main Stream students as Angels.

OAKY DOAKS OFFICERS for 2014-15

Pres: Angie Clark	503-830-4527
1st VP: Keith Miles	503-310-5672
Sec: Rosalee Salsbery	503-729-4902
Treas: Chris & Karen Suran	503-658-5011
Members@Large: Debra & Kelly Dunn	503-253-0570
Newsletter: Elysa Foxman	newslettereditor@oakydoaks.com

No Board Meeting in December.

Angels? Do you want to say something about that for our listeners at home who don't know how square dance lessons work.

Yeah! We've found over the years that lessons are more effective for the new student when there are a lot of experienced dancers in the same square accompanying the new dancers through the series of lessons.

What makes a good angel?

Good question, Elysa. It's often the small things like wearing your name badge and giving a greeting when the students arrive. Consistency when possible. It's great when angels can come through the whole process (as much as possible) with the new students. Having familiar faces each week is a big help to them. I feel all of our Oaky Doaks members are good angels. They have good hearts and are interested in bringing new people along. What I'm hoping for this year is to help them become Great Angels.

And what takes us to that next level?

You won't believe this but for starters - smile! It's as though the whole atmosphere changes in the Hall and the new dancers are more interested in having fun and forget they might be feeling nervous or awkward. Be gentle with your attitude and words. I'd say lean toward encouraging the students and reminding them that it takes time. Remember back when you were in lessons (laughter) and it took 'floor time'? Encourage them to 'just get out there' and try.

And what about when we're actually on the floor during lessons?

I know you guys are enthusiastic (laughs) and want to help. But it is best not to talk during the tip. The students need to be able to hear me clearly and without any distraction. Try and contain yourself - I know that is hard for you to do, Elysa (giggles) - but try to save your comments for after the tip.

Well, that's great to hear, Mike. It seems pretty doable. That's all the time we have this month. Let's get together at the end of December and continue this Angel Schooling so we'll be set for the lessons starting January 8th. And, thanks to our audience for listening in. Doesn't it just make your feet itch to get onto the floor and start lessons? As a student or an Angel!

Round of the Quarter Feedback

A big thank you to all the dancers that voted on choreography, music, & tempo for several dances on November 15. The votes I submit to the Roundalab committee are in the form of points for the top 5 dances. Based on a number of criteria, including but not limited to your votes, I submitted the following:

5 points for Do You Wanna Dance?

4 points for A Tender Heart

3 points for So What's Nu?

2 points for If You Love Me

1 point for Song for a Carpenter

I'll let you know the final 1st Qtr 2015 Round of the Quarter along with the 1st and 2nd runners up as soon as I know what they are. You can be proud that you had some input!

-- Helen

Oaky Doaks Newsletter
c/o Elysa Foxman
4332 SE Logus Road
Milwaukie, OR 97222

**Be sure to read the on-air
interview with Mike Halley on Page 4**