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<http://www.fhrick.net/windhamwhirlers.html>

Newsletter for June 2007

John Kolega

John Kolega passed away on Friday, May 18 just a few hours before our dance that evening. John was one of the most active members of our club. Along with Alice Kolega, John was usually the first to show up at our dances, helping to set up chairs and lending a hand to the caller and cuer; he and Alice were usually the last to leave, helping with clean-up and putting away those blasted chairs at the end of each dance.

John and Alice have served in almost every Executive Board post and had just been re-elected as club presidents for the third time at our recent annual meeting. Even when he didn't hold an official title John continued to serve the club in a variety of ways - volunteering to place posters on the Sweeney School when we had a last minute location change; stepping in as acting Programmer over the winter and other jobs large and small and too numerous to mention.

Although he was very active in the club John was not the kind of person to call attention to himself. When he was president he was happy to let others do announcements at the dances and rarely accepted accolades without a tinge of embarrassment. John was one of those people you just counted on to be there to get things done. And he always was, not just for the Windham Whirlers but also for every other organization and group he belonged to, keeping up a schedule that would tire a man half his age right up until the day he died.

John was amazingly busy. In addition to the Windham Whirlers, John was also a communicant of the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Storrs. Every Monday John would drive to the church and pick up and deliver donations for the Covenant Soup kitchen

in Willimantic. John was a volunteer American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program providing transportation for cancer patients to and from treatment centers.

John was a professor of Agricultural engineering at UConn until he retired in 1989. John served in the Emeritus AAUP (professor's union), and CSEA Retirees. Again, he was not just a name on the members list - he was an officer at various times in the AAUP and was actively involved in both organizations.

In addition to all of this John and Alice also square danced several times a week and were regulars at the Thursday afternoon dances at the Windsor Senior Center. John and Alice danced there the day before he died.

John rarely spoke about himself. From his gentle demeanor and quiet grace you would never know that John had been in the navy in WWII and fought in the South Pacific, or that he had been a well-respected and admired professor at UConn for many years. He was also the father of seven children and proud grandfather of ten. John was playing with his youngest grandchild when he took ill at his home on May 18.

It is not possible to talk of John without also mentioning Alice Kolega. John and Alice were a team -there for each other, their family and friends and whatever organization(s) they were involved with. Alice has been our de-facto "Artist in Residence" making quilts and paintings for raffles at club dances; coming up with a banner for a visiting club at virtually the last minute, and even finding the time to make a card for Liz Becker when Liz cued at Windham the last time before she retired. John and Alice have always been there for Windham and we are forever in their debt.

John was never one to seek the spotlight. He and Alice were content to take care of all the details and little jobs that make our club run. And they always did so with good cheer. After my first year as co-president I joked that I was angry with John and Alice because they made the job look so easy when they were the presidents. Their quiet grace and kind smiles never betrayed how hard they worked behind the scenes.

Our May dance was held a few hours after John died on May 18. We decided to go ahead with the dance because, first it was too late to cancel, and also because we knew that John would have wanted the dance to go on as scheduled. Those of us who arrived early helped to set up for the dance. As it turned out, there were more guests that night than we had anticipated and we hadn't put out enough chairs. The

guests started to complain and as we scrambled to put out more chairs someone said quietly what all of us were thinking - "this wouldn't have happened if John was here." John would have seen to it we had enough chairs and we will miss his attention to detail and eye on the little things the rest of us seem to overlook. But more than that we will miss a kind and gentle man who always had a smile for everyone he met and who graced our dance floor and our lives. Our hearts go out to Alice and the entire Kolega family - you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Michael Kandrov, Jr.

We are sad to report that Michael Kandrov, Jr., son of Windham Whirler Arline Kandrov and the late Michael Kandrov, passed away suddenly at the age of 47 due to complications from heart disease and diabetes. Donations may be made to his memory to the American Diabetes Association, 306 Industrial Park Road, Suite 105, Middletown, CT 06457 or to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Drive, Wallingford, CT 06492. Our sympathies to the Kandrov family, you are in our hearts and prayers.

Dues are Due

May marks the beginning of our new year so it's time to pay annual dues. You can give the money to Al Macke at tonight's dance. You can also mail the payment to Al Macke at 262 Clubhouse Road, Lebanon, CT 06249.

Annual Club Picnic Set for July 14

Zoe & Jerry Leibowitz will host our annual club picnic on Saturday, July 14 (rain or shine). Bring chairs, something to put on the grill for yourself and a dish to share with others. Call 429-0791 for directions and more information.

2007/08 Dance Schedule

The latest draft of next year's schedule is printed in the back of the newsletter distributed at the dance and available online at <http://fhrick.net/Dances2007-08.html>.

Travel Nights/Banner Raids for May/June

We don't have any official travel dates, but here are some dances of interest:

Saturday, June 9: Glastonbury Hawaiian Night Caller: Ed Ruddy, cuer: Steve Garrett; 7:30 Rounds; Plus.

Friday, 16: Central Valley Anniversary Dance. Caller: Red Bates, Cuer: Roy Williams. 7:30 Rounds, Plus.

Saturday, June 30: Hayloft Steppers. Caller: John Hendron, Cuer: David Goss; 7:30 Rounds, MS/Plus.

Saturday, July 7: Central Valley. Caller: Bill Mager, Cuer: Bev Mackay. 7:30 Rounds, Plus.

Friday, July 13: South Windsor Annual Hot Dog Roast Caller: Bob Smith, Cuer: Bev Mackay. At the South Windsor Community Center 7-9:45 (no early Rounds); MS/Plus.

Friday, July 27: South Windsor Caller: Charlie Trapp, Cuer: Birgit Maguire. At the South Windsor Community Center 7-9:45 (no early Rounds); MS/Plus.

Saturday, August 4: Hayloft Steppers: Caller: Ken Ritucci, Cuer: Birgit Maguire. 7:30 Rounds, MS/Plus.

Friday, August 10: South Windsor Caller: Steve Garrett, Cuer: Jo Yakimowski. At the South Windsor Community Center 7-9:45 (no early Rounds); MS/Plus.

Saturday, August 25: Hayloft Steppers: Caller: Bill Mager, Cuer: Bev Mackay. 7:30 Rounds, MS/Plus.

Friday, August 24: South Windsor End of Summer Bash Caller: Ken Ritucci, Cuer: Birgit Maguire. At the South Windsor Community Center 7-9:45 (no early Rounds); MS/Plus.

CASDC News

By Frank Lussier

The CT Callers Association will meet on Sunday, June 10, downstairs at the Masonic Hall in Meriden, the same location as the CASDC Board Meeting.

The callers are having a live band at this meeting, so that callers who have never worked with a live band will have a chance to get ready for the "Live Music" segment of the CT Mini Festival in October.

The Callers Association invites dancers to join us at 3:00 PM on Sunday, June 10, at the Masonic Hall. This is a FREE DANCE, casual dress, for approximately an hour and a half. Please join us. The CT Callers Association appreciates your support.

Remember, the Connecticut Mini Festival is Sunday October 7, 2007, from 1 - 6 PM at New Horizons Village in Farmington with live music from 3 - 6 PM.

New Web Site/E-mail for CASDC

The problems with the CASDC website have been solved, there is a new web page and new e-mail address. The CASDC website is located at <http://www.casdc.net>

The new CASDC e-mail address is casdc_ctsquare@yahoo.com.

Please pass this information along, if you have any questions on this speak to Fred.

Round Dance Lessons with Jo Yakimowski

Jo Yakimowski is teaching Round Dance at the North End Senior Center in East Hartford Thursday evenings from 7-9:30 p.m. Beginner phases from 7-8;

intermediate/advanced from 8-9:30. For more information and directions see <http://fhrick.net/SWSDC/SW-Rounds-2007.pdf> or speak to Fred Rick.

Round Dance Lessons with Bev Mackay in Farmington this Fall

Bev Mackay will be offering Round Dance lessons this fall at the Farmington Community Center in Unionville, CT. (where Central Valley dances). More information will be available in the fall.

Plus Workshop in East Hartford

After a two-year hiatus Bob Smith is back teaching his summer Plus workshop on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. beginning May 16, thru August 29. The workshops are being held at the North End Senior Center in East Hartford on Remington Road off Rte. 5. For more information and directions, see

<http://fhrick.net/SWSDC/PlusWorkshops2007.pdf> or speak to Fred Rick.

See You in September

Our September dance is scheduled for Friday, September 21 at the Sweeney School. Caller: Bill Mager; Cues: Steve Garrett. Refreshment assignments TBA - check the web page later this summer or contact Noreen Morgan.