

# Footloose



## Newsletter of the Chicago Jitterbug Club

Hi Everybody,

As I look at our club heading into holidays and 2024, I smile at the great year we've had. We have developed a wonderful group of dancers, both members and regular guests and we have an outstanding relationship with the Elks. I have to confess that though our finances were okay, the Covid pandemic took forever to end even though our board our still met with jobs to do. The good side to this is that when running into members, they said how much they missed dancing and couldn't wait to be back with their friends at club. And here we are. People are still getting Covid immunizations and we put hand sanitizer on the tables but we have people, old and new coming out to dance and have a good evening.

Last month we invited you to bring small personal care items in support of the Elks Brotherhood drive for needy veterans. And boy did you do that! Thank you for your generosity and kindness. Inside is a "Thank You" letter from the Chicago South Elks Lodge #1596 expressing their appreciation. Another highlight of the evening was when the CJC got to proudly acknowledge our own vets in a thank you by recognizing each of the armed forces in s.

This month, we held a free holiday dinner for over 90 people who prepaid to attend the December dance party. It was a lovely catered buffet with really enthusiastic dancers attending. If you're wondering how we did that, the dinner cost the club about \$1200, which was covered by our treasury, not to be confused with income from our dance parties. As a not-for-profit dance club in Illinois, it's not legal to have a sizable income. It's pretty much expected that the dance parties support themselves, not losing money but not making a big profit either. They are priced accordingly Membership dues cover our many other expenses like multiple insurances, special treats, office supplies, licensing, postage, the newsletters, fees, and equipment as needed. This was a good year so the CJC Board wanted to say thank you by offering something special. I hope you got to come break bread with your dance friends and then dance off the calories to DJ Party Doll. Kudos to our Social Committee Chair Arlene Maynard for leading us into this special event.

Inside is a copy of our 2024 Calendar to help you mark your calendar for the year. In talking to a few members about it, there was some disappointment about having only one dance in January, February, and March. When I explained that weather, membership, and snowbirds all play a part in calendar planning. If the board has to cancel an event on short notice, we would have to contact well over a hundred potential dancers with the news. Not everyone has a computer or even a smart phone. Those dancers would have to be called and then there are the guests, who could just show up to a locked hall. That has happened. So when our board members make these hard choices, it's based on thought, discussion, and past history. I hope this explains things a little.


I close with the best wishes for a healthy, happy, and blessed 2024 for all of you. Thank you so much for joining us when you can and for supporting our club even if you can't. I hope you have a happy holiday season!

President Mary Lou

**Reminder**

**Date**

**2024 CJC & CWCJC Dance Party Schedule**

	<b>January 27</b>	<b>CJC Dance Party, Elks, Crestwood</b>
	February 3	CWCJC Dance Party, American Legion, Franklin Park
	February 17	CWCJC Dance Party, American Legion, Franklin Park
	<b>February 24</b>	<b>CJC Dance Party, Elks, Crestwood</b>

**CJC Board of Directors 2024**

**President/Newsletter Editor**

Mary Lou Poremba

**Vice President/Membership**

Carol Green

**Secretary/50-50 Sales**

Arlene VanHouten-Maynard

**Treasurer/Tee Shirts**

Tony Zawacki

**Board Members/Workers**

Judie Collins

Jean Engelbrecht

Slim Waschke

**Web Master/Taxes**

Dave Chess



- Angela Miller Jan 1
- Catherine LiSoleil Jan 2
- Becky Panfil Jan 10
- Andrew Morales Jan 11
- Marilyn Kozin Jan 14
- Art Morgan Jan 17
- Fran Merar Jan 21
- Bernie Swiszc Jan 21
- Barbara Egbert Jan 25
- Pat Lauer Jan 31
- Bruce Hopkins Feb 2
- Glenn Johnson Feb 11
- Connie Logan Feb 4
- Dorothy Noto Feb 5
- Cyndy Dougherty Feb 10
- Glenn Johnson Feb 11
- Ted Lumbarko Feb 14
- Liam O'Donnell Feb 17
- Celeste Panici Feb 20
- Phyllis Piazza Feb 20
- Eloise Sramek Feb 23
- Mary Ann Tigner Feb 23
- Whitey Ludwig Feb 25
- Mike Surufka Feb 28
- Jeff Tichelar Feb 28

**2023 Dance Party Revenue Report**

Date	Door	50/50	Total
January 21	\$607	\$165	\$772
February 25	\$504	\$165	\$669
March 25	\$602	\$155	\$757
April 22	\$648	\$200	\$848
May 13	\$496	\$152	\$648
May 27	\$635	\$127	\$762
June 10	\$353	\$110	\$463
June 24	\$611	\$177	\$788
July 8	\$343	\$155	\$498
July 22	\$515	\$150	\$665
August 12	\$525	\$140	\$665
August 26	\$620	\$182	\$802
September 9	\$0	\$227	\$227
September 23	\$638	\$200	\$838
October 9	\$478	\$183	\$661
October 28	\$428	\$155	\$583
November 11	\$381	\$167	\$548
November	\$495	\$137	\$632
December 9	\$720	\$235	\$955

Dance expenses = \$540, excluding snacks, pizzas, etc

**Club Rules and Snacks Policy**

To bring or not to bring is the question, but is it really? We have repeatedly asked and told members not to bring in outside food, snacks, cakes, and such since the beginning of CoVid. This request still stands today. CJC already provides candy and snack food at the dance parties and has since our beginning. The treats are not mandatory and are unopened till chosen from the bowl. But we can't say the same thing about outside eats brought in and randomly shared at a table. People see your goodies on the table and feel left out when not offered some. Dancers then come and ask why the treats. Often, we don't know. For harmony and safety's sake, please leave the goodies in the car or bring in enough treats, plates, forks, and napkins for everyone.

**New: Member Get a (New) Member and Get a Free Dance**

Any member bringing in a friend who joins that night receives a Free Admission card for one of our dance parties. Of course, you know new members get their money back the night they join.

This membership program runs January / April 2024

**American Bop Association**

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Dancin' on the High Seas

**Enchanted Princess**

January 27 – February 6, 2024

**SOLD OUT**

## Meet People in the Know – You Should Know



**DJ Party Doll Arlene** has been one of our DJs since 2000. Even though she was in the club since its inception in 93, we had no idea Arlene had the skills or desire to manage a dancefloor. That came on New Year's Eve when she helped with an emergency problem the hired DJ had working the turntable. The DJ had brought only 45s to play and our New Year's Eve diners wound up without music.

Luckily, Arlene happened to have a huge collection of jitterbug music tapes in her and husband Slim's (Ron) car. She offered them up to try. We thought, it couldn't hurt. Our guests were at first relieved at having the evening saved and then happily realized just how good Arlene's mix tapes were. Anyone who had attended a party or picnic at the Waschkes' knew Arlene always had great music.

After that New Year's Eve, we got requests for Arlene to DJ more dance parties. The CJC is lucky we've had 20+ years of her service and are so proud of Party Doll we highlighted her at our biggest weekend dance convention.



**DJ Gay**

**DJ Gay** has a long career as a DJ starting in 1977 at a Disco in Lyons Illinois. She went on to play for many different dance clubs and in 1984 started her own Mobile DH service called Her Sound. She played for weddings, corporate parties and her reputation led to playing for Oprah Winfrey's 5-year Anniversary party! Gay continued Her Sound in business for over 25 years and played in dance clubs till 2012.

As well as playing for us for a few years, DJ Gay regularly plays for the CWCJC. She still loves her job. A great dancer herself, DJ Gay has played for all three swing dance clubs and never tires of presenting music for dancers.



**DJ Doug** has a background in radio, having worked for the NPR radio station WBFO in Buffalo, NY, while in college. He engineered aired programs and interviewed speakers who came to campus, and edited the interviews. He had the opportunity to meet several well-known personalities of the era, including "baby doctor" Dr. Benjamin Spock and campus radicals.

Doug has been DJing since 2017, having done weddings, banquets and club dances. He especially enjoyed the annual church dinner/dances, which for 7 years each had at least 100 people. It was a great time, with a different musical theme for every year's dinner. It was interesting finding songs that appealed to 4 generations of dancers and non-dancers. Themes were "Moon River", "Stardust", "Evening in Paris", "A Taste of Italy", "Broadway Rhythms", "I Left My Heart In San Francisco", to name a few. It was all complemented by a dinner prepared by one of our parishioners who happened to be a gourmet chef!

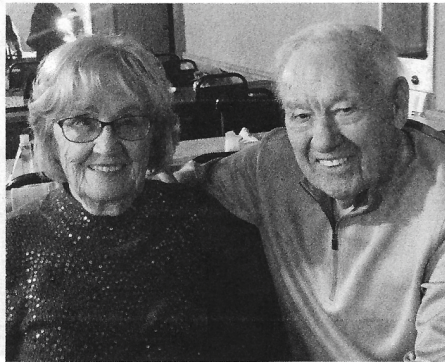
Doug began co-DJing with Don Mindach and Rhonda Bennett of the Indy Dancers dance club in 2021. It's an established ABA club in Indianapolis that does swing, ballroom and bop "just for the fun of it" as they say. The last Sunday of the month, he hosts their podcast with his friend Janice Reynolds from 6 to 8 PM, promoting CJC on the air. Tune them in at [indydancers.com](http://indydancers.com). Jan and Doug are all about Chicago and strive to play the music the "Southside Club" likes! Hope to see you on the dancefloor soon.

### **Brain Booster: What's on Your Playlist?**

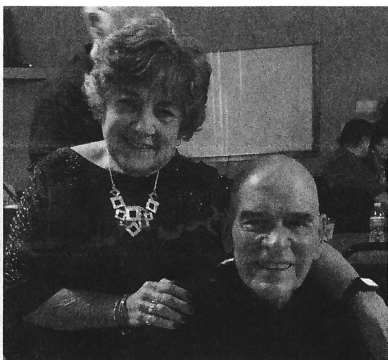
Playing songs with a fall feel such as "September" instantly sets a seasonal mood. Plus, it's a proven memory booster. The same for Christmas tunes. In a Northeastern University study, subjects who listened to their favorite tunes for 1 hour a day experienced a significant improvement in memory within 8 weeks. Hearing much-loved music fortifies pathways within the brain, improving recall. Maybe that's what does it for all of us, since we're STILL WITH IT!



**Chicago Jitterbug Club**

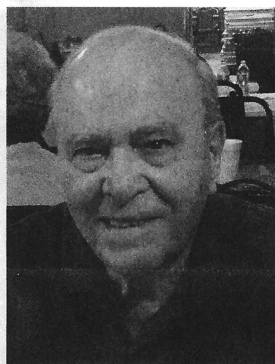
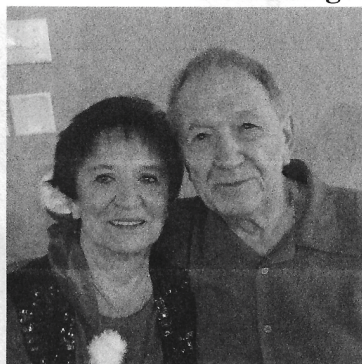


**Holiday Dinner Dance**

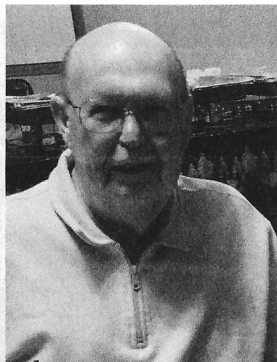
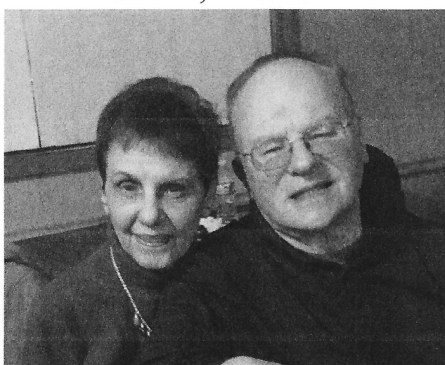




**Elks Lodge Hall #1596**



**December 9, 2023**





**Chicago Jitterbug Club**

**11857 S Lawler**

**Alsip, IL 60803**

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

Proud Member:

American Bop Association

First Premier Cruise Club–2006

Premier ABA Cruise Club–2010

Premier ABA Cruise Club–2013

Premier ABA Cruise Club–2014

Premier ABA Cruise Club–2015

Retired

**End of Year Updates:**

**2024 Dance Party Calendar**

**New Member Program Starts**

**Holiday Dinner Party Guest Album**

*Merry Holidays to All*

