



South Shore Dancers

May, 2023



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Martha Cobb Kelly
Mary Coutts-Tobin
June Joyce
Kevin O'Brien
Marie Osterland
Tom Osterland
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Martha Cobb Kelly

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Joan Paquette

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Webmaster

Martha Cobb-Kelly

'MAY I Have This Dance': Sat. May 13

We have had it all as we bid farewell to April; sun, rain, warm days and cold ones. We need a steady diet of nice days to get started gardening and summer time stuff. We have some dancing on the slate. **Steve Cavanaugh** will get our pulse up with a **Texas Two Step** lesson at 7:00pm.

Then, after what seems like a long hiatus, **Tom Osterland** will be back behind the mike at 7:30. He will bring his popular playlist handouts. Most of our dancers don't realize that the printed playlist was not his original objective. It was a by-product of the effort to make certain he had the right number of Waltzes, ChaChas and everything else with spacing and tempo variations throughout the evening. Only then he decided to clean up the notes and print it. The program will also include an assortment of line dances, mixers and ladies' choices to give chances for all to dance.

The South Shore Dancers will provide water, coffee and tea and more. Again, we invite our guests to add their favorite snacks and/or sweets to enhance our table. We would like to thank the Members and guests who contributed to the enjoyment of last month's dance. It's getting to look like the good old days.

Reservations are required to get the discounted price of \$12 for SSD Members and USA Dance Members. For all others, admission will be \$14. Email us at Tickets@SouthShoreDancers.org or call Tom at 781-659-4703. Please DO NOT REPLY to this email with your reservation.

South Shore Dancers Annual Members Meeting – June 10 at 6:45 pm

The annual meeting will take place at the Cushing Hall before the dance. The meeting agenda includes officers' reports and the election of Directors for the 2023-24 season. After the formal meeting, the schedule of dances for the coming year will be presented. You do not need a ticket to the dance to attend the meeting. Only Members may vote for Directors.

Last month: "Swing Into Swing" We Did It

Our evening began with a Swing lesson from **Jim McMahon** who gave us interesting twists and turns. Jim has always come in with great choreography. He was assisted in the demonstration by **Marie Osterland**.

DJ John Peters took over from there. He provided an excellent variety of music including most of our favorite rhythms along with line dances, mixers and ladies choice dances.

Other Upcoming Dances:

Norwood Sunday Dances May 7th and 21th at the Norwood Knights of Columbus Hall, 572 Nichols St. in Norwood. Dance music from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. Snacks and beverages are available. Admission is \$15 per person. For information and schedule updates, call 617-759-1568 or go to www.norwoodsundaydance.com.

Roseland Dances Sundays, May 14th and 28th

Ballroom Terminology

[Texas] **Two Step:** A Country & Western dance in 4/4 time, traveling very swiftly around the line of dance. See more description in the article below.

Line Dancing: A type of non-partner dancing, primarily associated with the Country & Western genre, where a group of people will dance through a pre-choreographed sequence of movements in unison. The choreography is generally simple, as it is intended for mass-consumption. Examples of Line Dances are the Electric Slide, the Tush-Push, and the Slappin' Leather.

Texas (or Country) Two-step

The dance is a couple's travelling dance that progresses around the dance floor like Foxtrot. The first thing you will notice is that the tempo is typically double that of Foxtrot, typically 45 to 60 measures per minute. The basic cadence is **quick-quick-slow-slow**. The partners typically start facing each other with their right foot pointing between their partner's feet. While some alternative styles may differ, the classic basic has four steps of roughly equal size. The steps are natural walking steps, heel-leads for the partner travelling forward. No surprises here, right.

Variations include turns, mostly for the follower. If the dancers are in a closed hold position, the lead is similar to Foxtrot. If the dancers are any alternative position, such as promenade, the lead for a turn often requires a **prep step** due to the speed of the music. The prep step usually consists of a small, early movement of the leader's connection (hands and/or body) in the direction opposite the coming turn as a way of creating enough tension (a wind-up) to initiate the turn smoothly.

