

Georgiana and Richard Flandera



What happens when an eighth-grade boy moves to a new town and starts in a new school? Well, young Richard Flandera went to dance class and met a lovely eighth-grade girl whom he invited onto the floor. Thus began the long romance between Rich and Georgiana in the town of Hawthorne following Rich's move from Paterson. Their first official date was to attend a barn dance! They married in 1962.

Georgi earned her certification from Katharine Gibbs School and retired last year following a long career as a legal secretary and paralegal. Rich works for a belting company. Many years ago, while serving as presidents of St. Anthony's Church Couples Club, a square dance couple invited the Flanderas to an open house. They became hooked, took lessons from Mike Foley at Hix & Chix, and joined the club upon graduation in 1977. They also belong to Western Wheelers and the Garden State Square Dance Campers Association.

Georgi and Rich's generous record of leadership includes serving as Hix & Chix's secretaries, vice presidents, and presidents; serving as the GSSDCA's treasurers and presidents, and working on the group's International Square Dance Campers Camporees as registrars in 1987 and tour coordinators in 1997; serving as secretaries and chairmen of the Square Dance Council of New Jersey; and serving as recording secretaries, assistant treasurers, first vice presidents, and currently the presidents of the Northern New Jersey Square Dancers Association.

In addition to the many hours the Flanderas devote to square dancing, they have been round dancing since taking lessons from Doc and Peg Tirrell in 1978. They enjoy camping as well as cruising and traveling throughout the United States, Europe, South America, and Africa. Georgi has a passion for new recipes and reading (especially mysteries), and she has been known to sew special items for special people. Rich loved fishing with his father-in-law before he passed away.

The highlights of the Flanderas' active lives are their three children and seven grandchildren. The highlights of their square dancing lives are the 1986 celebration for the Statue of Liberty and serving as registrars for the "Docking Dance" sponsored by the Square Dance Council of New Jersey in 2000, which enabled the Council to present a \$5,000 check to the 49th National Convention Committee in Baltimore. They were also hospitality chaperones for the convention's Exhibition Committee.

Our Association presidents, Rich and Georgi Flandera, have contributed selflessly and immeasurably to the happiness of countless dancers throughout New Jersey and elsewhere. In keeping with their outward-looking nature, their deepest wish is not for themselves, but for peace throughout the world.

Lise Greene