

Joyce and Jim Kelly

From high school through an active retirement, Jim and Joyce Kelly have shared their lives, love, and laughter. They were introduced at a party as teenagers when Jim lived in Guttenberg and Joyce in nearby Cliffside Park, marrying two years later.

While raising three children (James, Michael, and Karen) in Lyndhurst, Jim was a manager at Economics Laboratories and Joyce worked at ITT Corporation. After moving to Bridgewater, Jim was a production manager at Magruder Color and Joyce was a secretary for the president of Ortho Pharmaceuticals. She later became a travel manager at AT&T, a job that took her to a number of other states and countries.



Jim and Joyce were deeply involved with the children's activities, including their daughter's ice skating competitions and their sons' sports ("lots of fun and tears," said Joyce). When the children got older, the Kellys saw a square dance demo at a fair in Watchung and took lessons at Somerset Hills Squares in 1981. "Little did we realize that square dancing would change our lives," they noted.

Through dancing, Jim and Joyce met new friends. They visit many other clubs and have attended 24 national conventions to date, beginning with the Kentucky convention that drew 30,000 dancers. They've also danced in England, Hawaii, Canada, and Bermuda. "Our most memorable experience (although there were many) was in England," said Joyce. During the *tea* break, the English dancers learned that their visitors had taken the "underground" to the dance and insisted on driving them back to the hotel. On another occasion, they called a club in Washington, DC to confirm the dance location, and discovered the entire group was going to raid another club. The dancers invited the Kellys to join them for dinner and the raid. "We had a wonderful time with dancers we didn't know. This happens over and over again."

Jim and Joyce have tried to share that same good will in their own square dance work, which is considerable. They've been presidents, vice presidents, raid chairs, and class coordinators for Somerset Hills, Valley Squares, and Reelers. In the mid-1980s, they were vice presidents and presidents of the NNJSDA, initiating the honorary life member award and raids by the NNJSDA Board to member clubs. They have chaired four Mini-Festivals and have booked the hall for over 15 years.

The Kellys credit John and Mary Aquino with being their mentors. Still very active in the square dance world, Joyce and Jim also enjoy spending time with their children and seven grandchildren. "Having a wonderful family and great friends are the best things that have happened to us," said the Kellys. "See you in a square."

Lise Greene