

*Grand Square 50.2 – January 2008*

### **The Koft Family: Bernie, Betty, Dan, Kathy, and Julie**



**NNJSDA Dance Fall 2007**

Photo by Ken Robinson

The family that dances together... dances together! And in the case of the Kofts, they also call and cue together.

Dan Koft started dancing with the Pi R Squares at East Brunswick High School under the direction of caller/instructor Dick Jones, completing his lessons in 1977. He joined Rutgers Promenaders during college and held several leadership roles with the club. Dan's enthusiasm was so contagious that his parents, Bernie and Betty, caught the dance bug. They graduated from the Merri-Eights class in 1979.

In the meantime, square dancing wasn't enough for Dan. He attended

caller school in 1979 on a scholarship provided by Y Squares and honed his skills by working with Betsy Gotta. He also tried contra dancing, where he met Kathy in 1987.

Kathy then caught the square dance bug from Dan and took lessons at Rutgers Promenaders, while Dan taught at Y Squares. They married in 1989, and Dan continued calling and teaching. Realizing that if she wanted to spend time with Dan she would be well served by becoming a round dance cuer, Kathy learned the craft from Roy Gotta.

Now the two could work at dances together, with Dan calling and Kathy cuing and sometimes both of them harmonizing on singing calls. Bernie and Betty often attended the dances where Dan and Kathy were working. The four of them had a great time together, and they figured "the more the merrier." Baby Julie joined the family in 1995, and her proud parents took her to dances with them.

When he's not calling, Dan works as a consulting user services support specialist in the computing area at Rutgers, where he is also pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration. When she's not cuing, Kathy can be found at L'Oreal Paris Consumer Products, where she serves as a senior forecast analyst and assistant manager of forecasting systems.

Julie is busy with school activities such as singing in the chorus, playing viola in the orchestra, and performing in musicals.

Naturally, Julie learned to dance at a tender age. It should be no surprise that she, too, sometimes takes the microphone for duets with her dad. We can predict what will happen in a decade or so ...

*Lise Greene*



**Julie & Dan 2005**