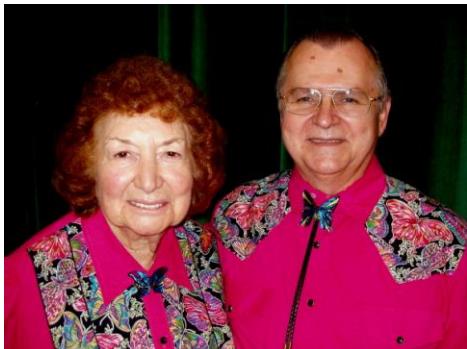


Ruth Edison and Ron Kapnick



Ruth and Ron in 2008

Ruth Edison is a Jersey girl who grew up in Verona with dancing feet. "Dancing has been an important part of my whole life," she said. After attending Professional School, an arts institution in Manhattan, she joined the Corps de Ballet in Radio City Music Hall. Ruth was selected from several hundred applicants to fill one of seven openings in a Broadway show that resulted in meeting her future husband. After many happy years, Ruth's husband died while their two children were in college.

Ruth taught dance in several local schools, and later worked in the pharmaceutical industry and in doctor's offices. She volunteered with the Shriners and the Jewish Community Center. In her spare time, she enjoyed playing tennis and platform tennis, reading, and traveling. Friends invited her to attend a Cross Trail Squares open house 1987. She took immediately to square dancing and signed up for lessons. One of the class angels was Ron Kapnick.

Ron had grown up in Michigan, where he enjoyed radio control model building and water sports. His parents were square dancers, and Ron had a choice – stay home and baby sit for his little sister or learn to dance. "Square dancing was much more fun," he acknowledged. In fact, he became a charter member of the Maple City Youth Dancers in 1959. Ron married and had a son, and he and his wife were members of several clubs. After divorcing and taking a position in New Jersey as an industrial computer software developer, he joined Cross Trail Squares.

Both Ron and Ruth have been active leaders in CTS as class coordinators, second and first vice presidents, presidents, and delegates. Ron also became a square dance caller, and has served as the club's class instructor since 1998. In addition to their club work, Ron and Ruth have been officers in the Callers Council of New Jersey. They have served as NNJSDA liaisons with the CCNJ for 11 years and were liaisons with the Northern New Jersey Round Dance Leaders Council for two years.

Square dancing has provided Ron with "too many fond memories to pick one." Ruth has good memories, too, but one shocking experience stands out as well. "Shortly after graduating from CTS," she said, "I was dancing in a square when one of the angel men dropped dead in the middle of the singing call."

Ron and Ruth have traveled to other continents and square danced throughout the United States and Canada. "Square dancing has provided more enjoyment and friends than I could ever have imagined when I started as a youth dancer," Ron said. Ruth added: "I'm happy to have made so many new friends while dancing, as well as at work and while traveling. I feel very lucky to have done so many things."

Questioned about a life-guiding motto, Ruth replied: "When my friends ask me to do something, I do my best to help in any way that I can." Ron observed: "There are good things about every place and every person, if only you try to find them. I have found things to enjoy about every place that I have lived, every job and type of work that I have done, and nearly all the people I have met around the world."

Lise Greene