

In Memory of Abe ... our friend and colleague.

From the Gay Caller's Association Members



As you may know, Abe Feldman from the DC Lambda Squares was in a serious car accident Monday night when he was hit, as a pedestrian, by a car. It is with a heavy heart that I tell you that Abe has passed on overnight. The only saving grace is he probably never saw it coming and was never conscious afterwards. He lived a good life. He was a beacon of hope and decency for us all, and he will be sorely missed in our square dance family. Let us all dance and call our dances in his memory. We will remember him at the Memorial Quilt in Denver IAGSDC convention in July. As you may know, Abe Feldman from the DC Lambda Squares was in a serious car accident Monday night when he was hit, as a pedestrian, by a car. It is with a heavy heart that I tell you that Abe has passed on overnight. The only saving grace is he probably never saw it coming and was never conscious afterwards. He lived a good life. He was a beacon of hope and decency for us all, and he will be sorely missed in our square dance family. Let us all dance and call our dances in his memory. We will remember him at the Memorial Quilt in Denver IAGSDC convention in July.

[Mike Neiheisel](#) He will be greatly missed.

[Todd Fellegy](#) Abe was a great guy. He will be missed.

[Chip Prince](#) I will never play "Sunrise, Sunset" again without recalling his beautiful harmonizing. Godspeed, Abe.

[Doren McBroom](#) Abe was such a kind and gentle man. I am heartbroken.

[Geo Jedlicka](#) I hate this.

[Pam Clasper](#) One of the sweetest and gentlest people I know. This terrible news will be felt by our whole square dance family.

[Paul van Houten](#) This is so sad. Abe was such a nice guy. We first met in Denver in 2007 at beginning caller school. Teachers included [Anne Uebelacker](#), [Bill Eyler](#), [Deborah Carroll-Jones](#). [Pam Clasper](#) was our "den mother."

[Blaine Knupp](#) This is such sad news. Abe lived in Pittsburgh before moving to DC. I first met him there almost 25 years ago through my my ex partner. I reconnected with him later through square dancing and he became a great friend and colleague. I was also in that beginning callers class in Denver in 2007 with Abe and just last month we both called at a Mainstream GCA session at Harvest Festival Hoedown. We had lots of great times in between. Eternal Yellow Rocks, my friend!

Chris Phillips What a devastating loss, my sincere condolences to Abe's family and friends, Abe was one of the kindest soul in our Square Dance community. He will be truly missed

Bill Eyer What a horrible, horrible loss. In all my life, he was the nicest person I've ever known.

MEMORIES of ABE from the IAGSDC members around the country

Drew Allen: Abe and I met our freshman year at Carnegie Mellon University. He was active in Scotch and Soda (the amateur theatrical group). I remember one year he played Bung (the court jester) in a play based on the comic strip "The Wizard of ID".

Abe and I lost touch when I moved to Columbus, OH for grad school. I came out in Columbus and was very active in the Stonewall Union (gay political activism). When I moved back to Pittsburgh, I would occasionally run into Abe around town. On one such occasion, I was on my way to a meeting of Cry Out! and mentioned that to Abe. My being so open about being gay helped give Abe the courage to come out to me.

That is when our friendship really blossomed. We did a lot of stuff together. He talked me into going to the Pittsburgh Men's Collective, which we both became very active in. We were also both active in Bet Tikvah (the gay synagogue).

We would go to movies together, and we would always have to sit in first three rows in order for Abe to see. To this day, I continue to sit way up front in movie theaters. There was one time that we went to the Pittsburgh Gay/Lesbian film festival and we showed up late, so most of the seats were already taken. We ended up sitting about 2/3rds of the way back, and the movie was being shown on a large TV rather than being projected on a movie screen. On top of that, the movie was in French with English subtitles. I ended up reading the subtitles to him for the entire movie.

One of my favorite Christmases was when Abe and I went to a kosher Chinese restaurant to listen to Klesmer music.

We met several people at the Pittsburgh Men's Collective and became very tight with two in particular. The four of us traveled to Atlanta for a national men's conference and stayed at my parents' house. They were a little shocked about how my mother wasn't at all flustered about us talking about men.

There was also one time that the four of us decided to go to a straight contra dance. I was very active with the contra dance community and Abe had done some contra dancing, so the other two thought it might be fun to try it. Keith was a little hesitant to dance with a stranger, so I offered to dance follow with him. That was the first time that I ever danced follow. Some of the women were a little confused by that, but the organizer of the dance said, "They're gay. Get over it." Much different reaction than the first time that I danced follow at a straight square dance event.

In 1990, both Abe and I moved away from Pittsburgh. I moved to Philadelphia and Abe moved to Washington, DC. In Philadelphia, some of my friends tried to get me to try gay square dancing, but I had negative impressions of square dancing from my contra dance friends. I did finally give it a chance and loved it.

It took me a couple of years, but I was finally able to convince Abe to give it a try. I told him that he would find a husband. He kept kidding me that he never did find a husband through square dancing.

Abe and I had a bit of a square dance rivalry. When I taught myself C2, Abe said he had to learn it as well in order to keep up. Then when I taught myself C3A, he also had to learn C3A. Both of us were talking about learning C3B.

Once I started dancing C2 and C3A, I quickly realized that I wasn't getting much floor time. I knew that the best way to get more floor time was to start going to straight square dance weekends, but, of course, that meant that I needed a dance partner. The first person I thought of was Abe. The two of

us ended going to many straight square dances together. The last time that I saw Abe was at the Harvest Moon Classic where the two of us danced C2 (and some C1) together all weekend.

R.I.P. [Abe](#)

[Tom Miller](#) Drew, thank you for sharing your story. Abe was a great guy. It was for me an honor when he made a point to come and dance with me. I know at Harvest Moon Classic, yourself and Abe made your way in to my C1 hall where I was calling. Always a smile and kind words about my calling. He'll for ever hold a place in my heart. Hugs my friend!

[Linda Bourdet](#) Beautiful tribute to a good man.

[Rich Jentzen](#) Thank you, Drew. I'm glad you have such wonderful memories. I'm also grateful you shared the glorious details.

At times I "don't have time" or trust "we can do it another time". The days of drifting apart slip into months, seasons and years. Your story of loving committed friendship demonstrate the beauty of investing the time in our logical family. The joy of 'showing up'. And the winsome moments of pain when life takes us away from the dear ones whom we dearly cherish.

Thank you. And, thank you, Abe. May you Rest In Peace.


[Bo O'Dell](#) What a lovely, touching story of friendship. May his memory be a blessing.

Jeff Cranford: I'm sharing this to my page just in case there might be some of my Facebook friends who knew [Abe Feldman](#).

This is so incredibly tragic! I had the pleasure of knowing Abe through square dancing with the D.C Lambda Squares and country dancing at Remingtons. He was such a sweet, kind, gentle soul of a man. My deepest condolences to the Feldman family and to all of us who knew Abe. Please pass this on if you knew Abe.

Thank you.

Brian Heike: Everything has changed. Life won't be the same. There is a void that won't be filled. I am thankful that I have Doug and many friends to help me through this heartache. Thank you all for your words of support and your condolences. You have all touched my heart and made a difference.

I am blessed beyond measure. 

[Abe Feldman](#), I will miss you for the rest of my days. With Abe Feldman in 2014. Rest in peace, my dear friend. I can't believe that I will never see you or hear you again. You will always have a place in my heart.

After the Atlanta International Square Dance Convention Abe came home to Florida with me and we spent a few days in New Orleans together. Just the other day we were talking about him coming for a visit again and revisiting New Orleans. We had such a good time there. We always had a good time together. Abe was so easy to be with.

Debra Barrows Abe, always kind and upbeat. No person ever felt unwelcome in his presence. Just what every person should strive for. He will be missed!

Dixon Martin: So sad to learn that my friend [Abe Feldman](#) died from the injuries he sustained when a car hit him as he walked to a square dance earlier this week.

I have great memories of Abe. He warmly welcomed me when I was a nervous new square dancer, helping to put me at ease.

Abe was inspiring. He was legally blind, but was a very active member of and contributor to the [IAGSDC](#) square dance community.

I will miss seeing him

RE Spencer: I grieve and mourn the loss of square dance aficionado sweet Abe Feldman. I dreamt he was well only to learn today he succumbed to his injuries from being hit by a car as a pedestrian just days ago. Abe was the consummate DC Lambda Squares champion, a cheerful teacher and caller with his clear radio-quality voice. He is a true "dance angel" now in heavenly bliss, and it will be so hard to start missing him.

Moe Prado: There are those who won't see the Christmas lights or the opening of gifts this year. In just 2 days I've received news of 3 whose lights were extinguished from this earth. My heart aches for those who are left behind as they try to cope with the loss of their loved one during the holidays of 2019. I put up my tree yesterday and hung a wreath at my door earlier this week in hopes that 2020 will bring a fresh sweep over me and others who are dealing with loss. Remember to be kind.....,you never know what someone is dealing with or going through in their lives. Remember to be kind....., I'm trying everyday...some days you try really hard but you don't always succeed. Just remember and try to be kind.

Jo Jo Valenzuela: Another sweet angel joined our creator. Rest in peace, my friend, and fellow cocktail lover, [Abe Feldman](#).