

Jim and Carol Tucker Lincoln, Nebraska

Dorothy was caught up in the excitement of the moment, whirled around a few times, and subsequently landed in an unknown and somewhat befuddled world called OZ.

With a mere click of her heels, she was enlightened in the wondrous ways of her new world

Oh, if it were really that simple!!!

Thirty-four plus years of clicking our heels together, each others -not just our own, inspired us to take time out from the dance floor long enough to try our hand at creative writing. Here is a little bit about us and our dancing career.

Did we say career??? How about hobby turned insanity!!! We started out square dancing in 1976, learned to round dance in 1979, and wore out many pairs of dancing shoes and dance floors for about the next 10 years. We lessoned, workshopped, danced, home-studied, picked brains, and traveled unbelievable miles in search of our own little Oz. We started dancing ballroom in 1980, teaching ballroom classes in 1985, and have taught basic ballroom lessons to over 500 couples during the 12 years we taught through the Lincoln City Parks and Recreation program. In 1983 we were fortunate enough to be chosen as the 1st place winners of the ballroom waltz contest sponsored by Lincoln's Playmor Ballroom. Both of us are involved in teaching as a profession and found we liked doing class teaching so it wasn't long before the "cue" bug hit us in 1986. The Omaha dance community welcomed us and we soon found ourselves on the road back and forth for cueing engagements at several dance clubs around the Metro. We have taught many groups of beginner classes and enjoy watching the "light bulbs" come on as music, terms and footwork come together as they learn Phases I and II. We started Rainbow Rounds, phase 2 to 4, in Lincoln in October of 1989 and with the development of skills in Phases III thru V, the need for a higher level group was born. We were granted the charter, by national founders, Frank and Iris Gilbert, for National Carousel Club #250, Rainbow Carousel Lites, in 1993.

We feel honored to continue to be asked to be the full time round dance leaders for the Chix and Chasers Square and Round Dance Club in Lincoln, NE. It was also our pleasure to have cued, and to continue to cue, for other clubs in the area. We also are honored to have served as the featured round dance clinicians for the Western Nebraska Square and Round Dance Festival, the Council Bluffs, IA Square and Round Dance Festival, the Snowball Classic at Hayes, KS, and the Single Wheelers Memorial Day weekend at Norfolk, NE (many of these on more than one occasion). We have also served as the featured round dance clinicians for the 1st annual "Wheatland Classic" round dance festival in Junction City, KS. We have served as the featured clinicians for many organizations in the Mid-West. Some of these groups include the Northeast Nebraska Square and Round Dance Festival, the Omaha Square and Round Dance Festival, the Y2K Rounders 3rd Anniversary Festival and we were very honored to be asked to serve as the featured round dance leaders for the 2003 Kansas State Square and Round Dance Convention in Salina, Kansas. We have served as the round dance leaders at the Wichita Round Dance Festival and the Wichita Square and Round Dance Festival (both on multiple occasions). We were also especially honored to be asked to be the featured clinicians for the Lincoln, NE Square and Round Dance Festival. We have served as the round dance program Chaircouple for many Lincoln Festivals as well as many Nebraska State Conventions.

We are members of ROUNDALAB, where we have completed 2 terms as sitting members of ROUNDALAB'S Board of Directors and 2 terms as the Vice-Chairman of ROUNDALAB as well as Chairman of ROUNDALAB's By-laws and Procedures committee, all positions never held by a Nebraska round dance leader before. We are currently serving as the Chairman of ROUNDALAB's Phase 5 Standards Committee. We have also served as the Coordinators of ROUNDALAB'S Mini-Lab program. We also performed the duties, for six years, as ROUNDALAB'S Chaircouple of the phase 3 Round of the Quarter selection committee and as members of the phase 4 Round of the Quarter Selection Committee, the teaching progression manuals committee, the standardization of classic dance cues committee, and the unphased figures committee.

We are members of the Nebraska State Callers and Cuers Association, the Kansas Round Dance Association, the Kansas Square and Round Dance Association, past members of the International Choreographed Ballroom Dance Association (ICBDA formerly URDC), the organization of National Carousel Clubs, the Dixie Round Dance Council, and, through our own round dance club (Rainbow Rounds), we are members of the Lincoln Council of Square and Round Dance Clubs where we were given the Outstanding Service Award to Square and Round Dancing, and the Southeast Federation of Square and Round Dance clubs. We also have served as President, vice-president, Lincoln Council consultant, and past president of the Southeast Nebraska Callers Association (SENCA), an organization of callers and cuers in the Southeast Nebraska area.

We are very proud to have been the founders, and host clinicians of the Cornhusker Sweetheart Classic, a phase 2-4+ round dance weekend held over Valentine weekend that served the Round Dance community in Nebraska and the surrounding states for 15 consecutive years. We designed this weekend with the expressed purpose of introducing "skeptical" round dancers to the world of the round dance weekend and show them they could have a good time and did not have to be experts (even though they all are!). We tried to engage as clinicians the very best leaders in the round dance field to do the teaching at this weekend.

We are nationally recognized in the round dance field for the round dances we have choreographed, 31 over the past 19 years. Most of the dances we have written have been recognized as round of the month in various states. Four of these dances, "Quietly Foxtrot", "I'm Confessin'", "The Song From Moulin Rouge", "Won't You Be My Girl", most recently "Un P'Tit Foxtrot" and "When Shadows Are Deep" have been recognized as being among the Rounds of the Quarter as selected by members of ROUNDALAB and another, "Waltzing With Tammy" made the Australian National Classic List, while "I'm Sorry" spent 2 years on Japan's list of 20 "recommended" round dances. Two others, "Foxtrot Shereen" and "Flirting with the Moon", along with "I'm Confessin" and "Quietly Foxtrot" have been included by ROUNDALAB in that organizations teaching progression manuals as suggested dance to use. Our latest dance, a rumba titled "Uno Mas Tiempo", was taught at the Wichita Square and Round Dance Festival in 2009.

We continue to dance, workshop, home-study, pick brains, travel unbelievable miles and explore round dancing for ourselves in the hope we can share a little of our meager knowledge with those of you who have been most gracious in welcoming us into your