

Don't Stop!  
San Francisco  
WESTERN STAR DANCERS  
Don't Slow Down!

# December 2006 Star

# The Western

Newsletter of Western Star Dancers,  
a contemporary American square dance club  
primarily serving the San Francisco LGBT community.  
International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs member.  
Contact us at:  
[www.westernstardancers.org](http://www.westernstardancers.org) OR 584 Castro Street #480  
San Francisco, CA 94114



## 2007 RED MS CLASS GOT THE MOJO!

**BRIGHT NEW FACES, HIGH ENERGY,  
FOUR SQUARES OF DANCERS**

Electricity was zinging through the air during the first night of the 2007 Red Mainstream Class at Eureka Valley Rec. There are 14

students in the class, as well as three angels returning to active duty. Archangel Todd Young is absolutely ebullient when speaking about the class. "These are really good dancers. Many of them have previous dance experience, and that helps." Instructor Rich Reel was pleasantly astounded when four squares formed on the floor. He has never seen that before while teaching for WSD.

Registered for the Red MS Class are:

Marilynn Fowler (retaking)  
Connie Champagne  
Scott Cunningham  
Steve Huggins

Janet Jacobs  
Dani Lawler  
Steven Miller  
David Ramirez  
Donald Robertson  
Michael Sui  
Kathy Tuccio  
Eloise Twining  
Jon Wessel  
Mark Yee

The returning angels are:

Mimi Mueller  
Mike Kleemann  
Greg Gomez (from Cap City Squares)

Angels are always great to have around. Come down and join us on Monday nights!

### 2007 Dance Callers

25th Anniversary Celebration

**Eric Henerlau**

2007 Pride Dance

**Bill Eyler**

2007 Leather & Lace Dance

**Mike Kellogg**

**Bob Brundage** 826-0879 [bernalbob1@cs.com](mailto:bernalbob1@cs.com)

**Joe Casserly** 436-9161 [joe@hirejoenow.com](mailto:joe@hirejoenow.com)

**Daryl Daniels** 586-2598 [daryldaniels94132@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daryldaniels94132@sbcglobal.net)

**Jim Dewsnap** 864-5447 [dewsnap@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dewsnap@sbcglobal.net)

**Russ King** 863-0990 [rkingsf@aol.com](mailto:rkingsf@aol.com)

**Todd Young** 436-9161 [Earths\\_Laughter@yahoo.com](mailto:Earths_Laughter@yahoo.com)

Board  
of  
Directors

Don't Stop!  
San Francisco  
WESTERN STAR DANCERS  
Don't Slow Down!

New class members may not realize that WSD will soon be celebrating a milestone anniversary. Acknowledging our quarter-century theme, for the past few issues of the newsletter, several dancers have volunteered to share a moment in time and let us know where they were and what they were up to 25 years ago—or when they were age 25 themselves and celebrating their own quarter-century.

**- Simulated and Stimulated -  
Brenda Line Interviews Tomás**

*Brenda:* So far, Merle is in the lead in the national "I Would Have Done Him" Poll. The line of former young bucks continues to step up to the plate. Tomás, where were you as you approached age 25?

*Tomás:* I was in the U.S. Army, stationed in El Paso, Texas. I was at Biggs Field to study Vietnamese with the Defense Language Institute.

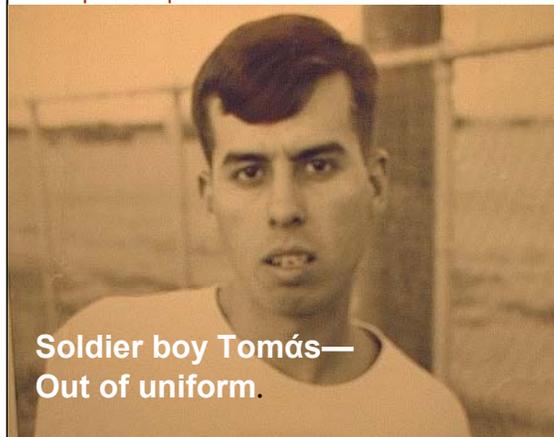
*I'm sure that comes in handy for reading menus. What did you do for fun in those days?*

Once I went to a bar across the boarder in Juarez, Mexico. A woman sitting next to me had a cough, so I offered a lozenge.

*And what did she offer you?*

It turned out that she was a performer in the simulated sex show there; so she got me naked to join her in the show. In order to control my stimulation, the Master of Ceremonies kept inserting cocktail straws into my butt.

*How picturesque...*



**Soldier boy Tomás—  
Out of uniform.**

*We had better go back to discussing how you helped make the world a safer place for Democracy.*

I went to Vietnam during the war to serve as an interrogator. I was supposed to be interrogating POWs from the North Vietnamese Army; but when my colleague arrived, he discovered me learning folk dancing from the POWs.

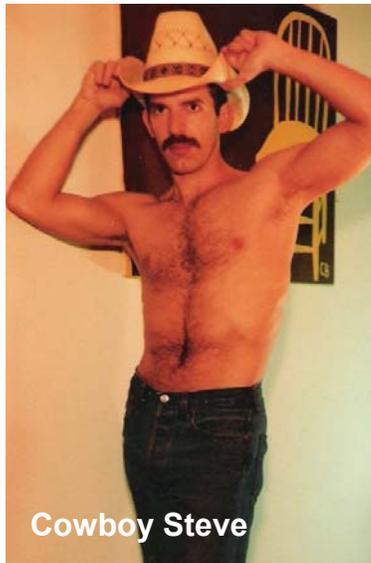
*War is hell.*

**Sexagenarian Tomás  
with his  
faux-Gal Pal,  
the ageless  
Davida Ashton**

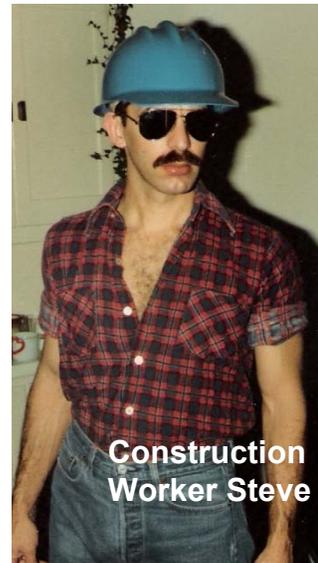


**Steve Trips Down Memory Lane**

Twenty-five years ago, I had just moved in with the man who would be my lover for 18 years. We lived in a top corner apartment in Presidio Heights with a great view of the Golden Gate Bridge and Russian Hill area of San Francisco. We were both into going to the gym. We had two cats that lived until age 20. The cats were both male, and we called them "Fred" and "Ethel"...one was a swish, so it worked.



**Cowboy Steve**



**Construction Worker Steve**

**THE DILEMMA OF THE EARLY '80s:**

**Trying to decide which of The Village People to emulate.**

I had a Master's in Social Work; but I had been working as a bar back in a gay bar, also in retail, as a waiter in a cafe, and doing data processing. I was on the verge of making the connections that would lead to a social work career working with the developmentally disabled.

The SF Gay Freedom Day Marching Band had several offshoot groups, including the SF Tap Troupe. I performed with this group for several years in such venues as Davies Hall, The Closet Ball, Men Behind Bars, and even the Hollywood Bowl.

Dancing (disco, tap, or square) has always been a part of what I do for fun.

**Contemporary Steve**

He'll never guess where that cocktail straw might have been





Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!  
SAN FRANCISCO  
WESTERN STAR DANCERS  
1982-2007  
25th Anniversary

2007 RED  
Mainstream  
CLASS

October  
30,  
2006

# Jim Dewsnap – Self-Interview

My favorite color used to be Red, but now that I'm in my '70's, it has mellowed to Yellow.

My favorite food is Roast Lamb with mint sauce.

If I could be any animal, I'd be a giraffe.

I have no lucky number.

My favorite movie is Robert Altman's *Nashville*.

One of my heroes is Bill Clinton.

Other than square dancing, I guess reading is my favorite hobby (non-fiction rather than fiction). I write some, too.

My worst subject in high school was physics (I should have taken chemistry!) Had it not been for Sylvia Waters, my lab partner who rigged all the experiments, I never would have passed.

I went to Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, for my B.A. Then on to Navy Officer Candidate School and three years aboard the USS Jonas Ingram (DD-938), a brand new Destroyer. Got to go through the Panama Canal and down to Peru. Got to go on a State Department cruise to 14 countries in Africa (from Dakar on the west coast to Dar es Salaam on the east coast. Spent six months in the Mediterranean. Got out of the Navy in Charleston, SC, and landed a job as a City Reporter for *The Charleston Evening Post*. Met my wife when we were cast

opposite each other in a play at Charleston's Dock Street Theatre. Thence to Penn State for an M.A. in Theatre Arts. And finally, years later, I got my Ph.D. in English Literature at The University of Georgia. Have been Chairman of the Drama Department at Brenau College in Gainesville, GA; an Associate Professor of English at Georgia College in Milledgeville, GA; and ended my teaching career as Professor and Chairman of the English Department at Francis Marion College (now University) in Florence, SC.

My marriage lasted 10 years. I have two daughters: Winter Frennier, who lives in Mt. Juliet, TN, (outside of Nashville) and Amanda Redding, who lives in Mt. Pleasant, SC (across the Cooper River from Charleston). I have three grandchildren: Josh, Jami, and Anne Kathryn.

I moved to San Francisco in 1980 (twenty years in the Deep South was enough!) and started clawing my way up the corporate ladder. Worked for Shaklee Corporation as a writer and manager of a Sales Communication department for five years. Was laid off in '86 and subsequently decided that working for morons was no longer an option for me. I got certified as a massage therapist and became a registered Jin Shin Do acupressurist and worked at home until I retired last year.

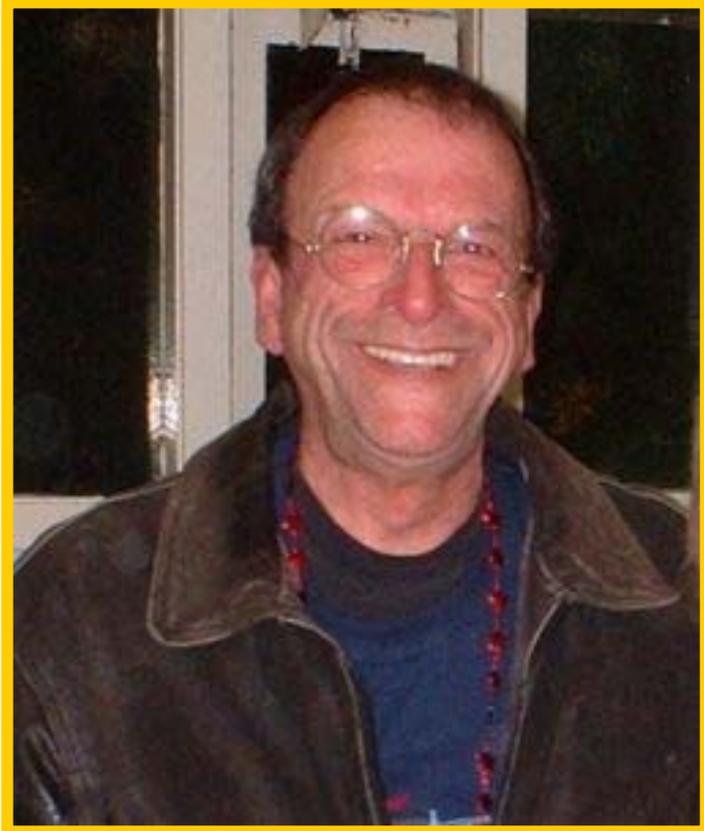
To supplement my income, I wrote gay erotic fiction and published 30 stories between 1987 and 2000 when the internet put most of the sexy pulp magazines out of business. I still write occasionally for an internet site (Masculine Gay Men Stories) out of Knoxville, TN, run by a guy named Hawkman.

In San Francisco, I've had two partners: the first was Bob Dreher, a former RC priest whom I met at The 21<sup>st</sup> Street Baths in '81. We were together for eight years until he died of AIDS in '89. I met Jim Turnipseed on my massage table in late '90. We became a couple in '94, dividing our time between Fair Oaks, CA, and SF. He died of a heart attack in '96 at the age of 42. I've opted since to live alone.

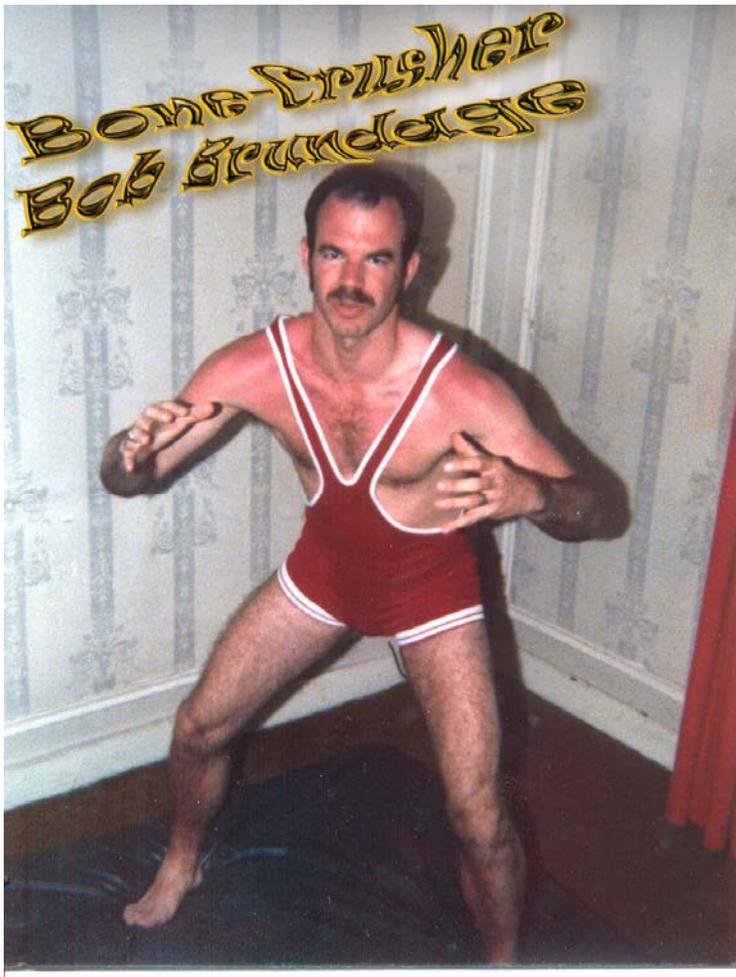
I started square dancing in 2001 when a bowling buddy, Gordon Levitt, told me he'd started a beginner's class. "I got more hugs last night than I have in the past three months!" he said, and that sold me. I gave up bowling and joined the Orange Mainstream class. I began dancing just in time to join the festivities of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fly-in. And I've been dancing ever since.

I was treasurer of the club for two years (2002-03) and am now back on the Board as secretary.

I think joining Western Star Dancers was the best decision I've made in the past 6 years. I'd say that 90% of my friends now are square dancers since most of the friends I'd made in the '80's are no longer here,



I was born and raised in northern New Jersey (about 25 miles west of NYC). Born in Bloomfield, NJ, and reared in Cedar Grove, NJ. I went through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Cedar Grove, but had to go back to Bloomfield for high school as Cedar Grove was too small and rural to have its own high school in those days.



### An interview by Dan Smith

**D:** What is your name?

**B:** Bob Brundage.

**D:** Where were you born?

**B:** Orange, New Jersey; in the Northern part.

**D:** Mother and Father?

**B:** My Mother was a waitress, then a secretary. She's 84 and is still in New Jersey. Father's passed away. He was a truck driver for a small company.

**D:** Where did you go to school?

**B:** I went to West Essex's High School in New Jersey. I attend Muhlenberg College in Allentown Penn.; a Lutheran school. I majored in Mathematics. I graduated in 1968.

**D:** After you left school what did you do?

**B:** I worked for AT&T. That was before it broke up. Sometimes they had transfers available. I got one and moved to California. I loved it here and haven't been back in 30 years, except to visit. I moved to the San Jose area first; it was nice. I mean it was California, something different. I lived in a singles complex and was young. I sat around the pool. It was kind of fun to be warm in the winter time. I was only there for about two years. That was 1976,

I kind of realized I was gay and thought there was a better chance to be

happy in San Francisco. I got a computer job at a business that was very disorganized. For about 5 or 6 months I did nothing but push papers around. I finely got so bored that I quit. I'd always wanted to go to Europe so I spent about three weeks in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. I had a good time. When I came back I took a job at a small 95 room hotel and I've been there for almost 30 years. I do everything: answer questions, give directions, make reservations and help with bills. Lots of times our manager is not at the front desk so I become a site

manager. I direct the bell man, "Do this. It's got to be done." Often there's only one person on the desk so I'm security too. If I see someone coming in who I feel shouldn't be there I question them and shoo them out. I've had people kind of swear at me because I've pushed them out the door. So we're Jack-of-all-Trades.

**D:** When you came to San Francisco did you get any kind of social activities going on or were you a bar and bath person?

**B:** I did get into a wrestling club. We were a bunch of guys interested in wrestling who liked to get together. A guy over in Bernal Heights had a ring so we all fooled around there. He also had a pool, so we had parties. Some guys would go down and wrestle and some guys would set around the pool. Sometimes the man in Bernal Heights would say, "OK you guys are invited over and if you only want to wrestle fine but if you meet somebody and have a private match afterwards..." But a lot of times guys at the ring just wanted to wrestle. They were serious about it.

I also belonged to a New York wrestling group; I had my name on a list of guys interested in wrestling and when guys passed through they'd call me up and see if we wanted to get together. One time I and a gay were at the Hyatt Regency down at Embarcadero and we put the bed up

against the wall and while we were wrestling the bed fell down on top of me but I wasn't hurt. Wrestling is fun.

**D:** How did you find out about square dancing?

**B:** I had a lover for 14 years and when we broke up, a friend Gary Linders, who was President of Foggy City Dancers at the time, suggested it to me. He tried to push me. It took me about a year before I'd actually do it. I was sort of resistant at first. Finally I said, "OK, I'll try it." I wanted to meet guys so that's why I went into square dancing. I enjoyed square dancing at Foggy City, one night I heard that Western Star had their club night and I started going there. Steve Scott asked me if I wanted to join and I said, "Yes, why not? The price is right; it's not that expensive."

**D:** What's your favorite level to dance at?

**B:** I just finished A2 at Midnight Squares last April and I still want to perfect it more. For now Plus is my favorite level. I've also danced at Diablo, El Camino. I went to PACE a couple of times with Don Queen—the Queen brothers. A lot of straight people are there. I danced Girl there but I don't feel real comfortable doing that. Being from New Jersey I danced at the Times Squares in New York when I went back last

Christmas. I saw Ammon there, Betsy Gotta was calling.

**D:** What's been your favorite experience in square dancing; something you really enjoyed?

**B:** It's my feeling is that it's a way to meet guys and sometimes guys you wouldn't normally meet or fit into your...you know like bear type guys, people who are different then your own classification. I enjoy just the interaction of being with a whole bunch of guys.

**D:** When did you become interested in becoming an officer (Treasurer) for Western Star?

**B:** Joe Iser was the one who sort of pushed me to do it. He told me, "Why don't you get on?" So I said, "OK I'll try it." I've been on the Board for a year and a half. I like controlling money. I've always been a finance person.

**D:** Has the club set aside any money for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary?

**B:** We have some CD's [Certificates of Deposit] and one of them will be put in our checking account and it'll be used as we need money for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**D:** So there wouldn't be a financial problem with the event as long as the club is sensible?

**B:** Right exactly.

**D:** Thank you Bob.

**B:** You're welcome.

# MEETING MINUTES

In order to keep members informed of the affairs of the club, the Board of Directors decided to publish our minutes. Any comments may be directed to any board member. Members are welcome to attend board meetings.

## Annual Meeting – September 20, 2006

The Western Star Dancers Annual Meeting was called to order at the Eureka Valley Rec. Center by Administrator Daryl Daniels at 8 p.m.

Daniels announced that all six club members running for the 2006-07 Board had been elected: Bob Brundage, Joe Casserly, Daryl Daniels, Jim Dewsnap, Russ King, and Todd Young.

Daniels reviewed the past year of club activities. He also mentioned the fact that two Board members had resigned mid-term. A discussion followed regarding the resignations having to do with a push to merge another club with ours.

Our September 9<sup>th</sup> garage sale netted \$444.05, and we received a \$200 'credit' from Community Thrift with the proceeds going to the Aids Emergency Fund.

The next item of business was a discussion of plans for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in March 2007. The consensus was that this would not be a full weekend Fly-In. Plans are for a gala party/dance on Saturday evening, with other activities taking place in and around the weekend. Russ King voiced his wish that an emphasis for the celebration should be the inclusion of former members of Western Star. The Anniversary Celebration committee will meet again in November.

Former Administrator Steve Scott voiced his appreciation for the outgoing Board for having provided us a very 'vital' year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## Board Meeting, September 30, 2006

Members present: Brundage, Daniels, Dewsnap, Young

Administrator Daryl Daniels called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The minutes of the Annual Meeting (September 30) were approved.

Daniels stated for the record: "As long as I am Administrator of Western Star Dancers we will not merge with another club."

He gave a "Well done!" for both the Yard Sale (9/9) and the Leather and Lace Dance (9/23), commenting on the "curious lack of WSD members at the dance – only 18."

Final plans were made for the start of the Red Mainstream Class (10/2) and the booth at the Castro Street Fair (10/1).

The Board decided to raise Rich Reel's remuneration for teaching/calling the class from \$250 to \$300 with an added bonus if we have more than 14 students.

Discussions of roles for the new Board and of a possible 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic were tabled until the next Board meeting (scheduled for 10/21).

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Daniels reported that callers are already booked for next year's dances and that Russ King is working on scheduling callers for class nights.

A discussion followed on how best to encourage more member participation in organizing and attending club functions. Various incentives were suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

## Board Meeting, October 21, 2006

All Board members were present.

Administrator Daryl Daniels called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. The minutes of the September Board meeting were approved.

The Administrator gave a 'well done' for the Castro Street Fair but added there was not as much member participation as one would hope.

Rich Reel has been given his contract for the 2006-2007 Mainstream [\$300] and Plus [\$300] classes. He will return it when signed. Our agreement with Rich is if there are more than 15 students, the pay increases to \$350, and if there are more than 20 students, the pay will increase to \$400.

Roles for the new Board have been defined as follows:

Administrator: Daryl Daniels

Treasurer: Bob Brundage

Secretary: Jim Dewsnap

Dance Coordinator: Russ King

Class Coordinator/Archangel: Todd Young

Special Events/Anniversary Coordinator: Joe Casserly

[Webmaster: Joe and Todd will take this over until a new Webmaster is found.]

Because the 2007 IAGSDC convention will be held over Memorial Day weekend, we will plan a Fourth of July picnic on Angel Island instead of an August picnic.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

The Class Coordinator reported there are 14 prospects for the new Mainstream class. Todd will contact all of them before the first class on September 23. It was agreed that there would be no limit to the number of new students.

The Dance Coordinator reported that we have booked all three of our 2007 dances at Ebenezer Lutheran Church. They have raised their rental rate to \$300 plus \$75 for the janitor (up from \$200/\$50). All callers for our major dances have been secured. No Club Night callers have been booked as yet.

The Special Events/Anniversary Coordinator reported on tentative plans for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The proposals include events on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon.

There was a brief discussion as to how to get more member participation at our events. It was strongly suggested that we involve new members.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on November 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

# Dance Calendar

**DIABLO DANCERS**  
*Class/Club Night--Tuesdays*  
 TGIF Dance/Potluck  
 3rd Friday  
 1700 Oak Park Boulevard  
 Pleasant Hill

**El Camino Reelers**  
*Class Night--Wednesday*  
 St. Andrew's Methodist  
 4111 Alma Street  
 Palo Alto

**ROCKY CITY DANCERS**  
 SAN FRANCISCO • CALIFORNIA

**MIDNIGHT SQUARES**  
 SAN FRANCISCO

**Oaktown 8s**

*Class Night--Tuesdays*  
 Forest Hill Christian Church  
 250 Laguna Honda Boulevard  
 San Francisco

*Class--Sunday Afternoons*  
 Jon Sim Center  
 1519 Mission Street  
 San Francisco

*Class/Club Night--Wednesday*  
 Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club  
 1650 Mountain Boulevard  
 Oakland

Other Bay Area Square Dance Clubs

December 2  
7:30-10:30 pm

December 9

December 16  
7-10 pm

December 20  
7:30-9:30 pm

December 25  
January 1

January 7  
2-5 pm

January 12-14

January 17  
7:30-9:30 pm

January 22

**Diablo Dancers:** *Relay the Reindeer* Mike Kellogg caller. MS/Plus/A\* Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek

**PACE:** *Caller Appreciation.* 11 am C1, 2:30 pm C1 Diablo Light Opera Company, 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill

**Celebration of the Life of Tommy Valdez** Fen Tamanaha & Richard Tuck callers. MS/Plus/Floor FREE Bring food to share. Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco

**Holiday Party with White Elephant Gift Exchange** Rich Reel caller. EVRC

**Happy Holidays!** No dancing. Celebrate responsibly.

**Midnight Squares:** *Winter Dance* Kris Jensen caller. A2-C3A (tentative) Other Details TBA

**PACE,** Mike Jacobs caller. Friday 7:30 pm A2, Saturday 11 am & 2:30 pm C2, Sunday 11 am C3A, 2:30 pm C3. Diablo Light Opera Co. 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill

**Club Night** Surprise Guest Caller! EVRC

**Free at Last! M.L. King Day** No dancing. Shop responsibly.

For the latest dance information, check [www.bayareadancecalendar.org](http://www.bayareadancecalendar.org)  
 National & International events can be found at [www.iagsdc.com](http://www.iagsdc.com) Click on **Events**



## CLUB LA STAR — THE NEXT GENERATION

*MARCH 21, 2007, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION*

*PERFORMERS (TALENTED OR OTHERWISE) NEEDED!*

*CONTACT RUSS KING OR JOE CASSERLY TO SIGN UP*

WELCOME TO THE PARTY

Dani Lawler December 4	Randy Baroche December 10	Rich Reel December 12	Bert Swerer January 4
Gary Cohn December 15	Jerry Michaelson December 15	eloise Twining January 17	
Steven Miller December 19	lou "Gigi" Troga December 19	scott Cunningham January 3	Angelo Prospero January 23
Todd Young December 27	Craig Olson December 27	Nick Carlson December 31	Leon DuBois January 25

Howdy Ho!  
Is that a carrot in your pocket, or are you happy to see me?

**Mr. Frosty**  
presents a  
**Holiday Extravaganza!**

**Rich Reel**  
caller

Perhaps a gift or gifts are things you have lying around.  
Perhaps something kitschy and/or tacky.  
Bring something & join the fun!

White Elephant gifts are things you have lying around.  
Perhaps a gift or gifts are things you have lying around.  
Perhaps something kitschy and/or tacky.  
Bring something & join the fun!

**December 20, 2006**  
7:30-9:00 pm  
Eureka Valley Rec Center

**1982-2007**  
25th Anniversary

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
WESTERN STAR DANCERS

**Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!**

Please bring holiday food to share

**WELCOME TO THE PARTY**

Yin Yang, Crescent Moon, Star, Wheel, Star, Om, T, T



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584 Castro Street #480  
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