

Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!

SAN FRANCISCO

WESTERN STAR DANCERS

1982-2007

25th Anniversary

June 2007

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

OR 584 Castro Street #480

San Francisco, CA 94114

# The Western Star

JUNE 20  
CLUB NIGHT

JUNE 29  
PRIDE DANCE

JULY 4  
ANGEL ISLAND  
PICNIC

JULY 18  
CLUB NIGHT

AUGUST 15  
CLUB NIGHT

## H\*O\*T\* S\*U\*M\*M\*E\*R\* S\*O\*C\*I\*A\*L\* S\*C\*E\*N\*E\*

Usually, this time of year, we are scrambling to prepare for the IAGSDC convention. However, this year, the convention was Memorial Day, so we have several fun outings to keep your feet happy.

In addition to the three summer Club Nights, there are four special events. First is the annual Pride Dance. Bill Eyer from Albuquerque will call from 7:30-10:30 pm at Ebenezer Lutheran Church (678 Portola Drive).

We will observe the 4th of July with the Angel Island Picnic. We will depart from the Ferry Building at 8:45 am. See elsewhere in this issue for full details and registration forms.

August 18th will be the first Circulate San Francisco, a sort of Fun Badge Tour without the badges. After meeting (and dancing) at the Palace of Fine Arts, we will carpool to five other scenic spots in the city, spending an hour at each. We'll have a picnic lunch at Baker Beach. More details to follow.

Finally, on Saturday, September 1, Labor Day weekend, Kip Mackey will host a pool party at his home in San Rafael. More details to follow.

San Francisco summers are known for their chill. Get ready for a summer of fun with the Western Star Dancers as we heat things up!

AUGUST 18 CIRCULATE SAN FRANCISCO

SEPTEMBER 1 KIP MACKEY'S POOL PARTY

## Looking Ahead Board Elections in September

In September, Western Star Dancers will elect a new Board of Directors. Only half of the current members will be running for re-election (Brundage, Daniels, and Dewsnap). This means we need at least four candidates if the board is to operate at full strength.

Members, especially those of the recently complete Mainstream class, are encouraged to run—your energy and input is just as important to the club as that of the old hands.

If you have any questions, ask a current or former board member, and we'll tell you all about it.

**FREE**  
INTRO TO PLUS  
JUNE 4  
CLASS BEGINS  
JUNE 11

**2007**

**RICH REEL**

**NEW STUDENTS \$65**  
**REPEAT STUDENTS\* \$40**  
\*WITHIN THE LAST 3 YEARS

**EUREKA VALLEY RECREATION CENTER**  
1200 CALLENDOR STREET  
7:30 - 9:30 PM

## CLUB NIGHT



## SIGN UP & DANCE

The club is using sign-up sheets for the next few Club Nights to ensure that we get at least a full square for our callers. If we don't have at least eight committed dancers by the end of class on the Monday immediately before Club Night, then it will be cancelled for that month (and the club won't have to pay the caller). If you are unable to sign up in person, but you plan to attend Club Night, please let Russ King know by the Monday before Club Night.

An email will be sent after that Monday's class to let everyone know whether Club night will take place. Of course, you may attend Club Night without signing up; the list will help us better coordinate events.

The Board wants to hear your ideas about Club Nights, and ways to make them more interesting and fun. What would YOU do to make Club Night more relevant?

Bob Brundage 826-0879 bernalbob1@cs.com

Joe Casserly 436-9161 joe@hirejoenow.com

Daryl Daniels 586-2599 daryldaniels94132@sbcglobal.net

Jim Dewsnap 864-5447 dewsnap@sbcglobal.net

Russ King 863-0990 rkingsf@aol.com

Todd Young 436-9161 Earths\_Laughter@yahoo.com

## Board of Directors





## FIRST CLASS MALE We Get Letters

Dear Brenda Line,

I LOVE the old photos and racy interviews of our members in the WSD Newsletter! Bravo! Reading the newsletter was like picking up a vintage copy of *Honcho* and recognizing the guys in the centerfolds.

— Paul Gonvea

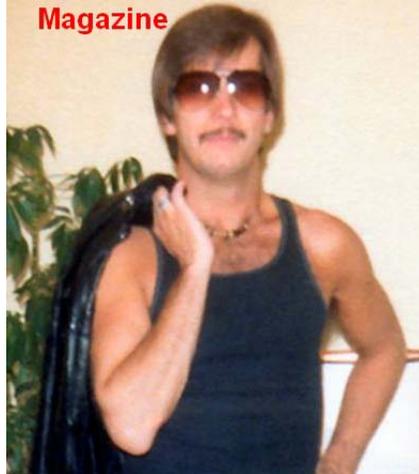


Gentle Dancer~

It warms my heart to read your thoughtful note. I have searched among the archive issues of *Honcho*, but did not discover any centerfolds that looked like you; however, I did come across another old magazine from 1982 with you on the cover.

~B.L.

## HAUNCHES Magazine

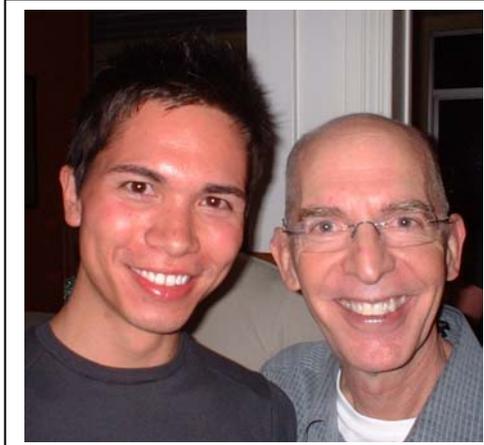


AT LEFT—Aspiring playwright Dan Smith had drafted a play for Club LaStar. See TONY TIME article.

## SEED ME—A *Crossfire* Reunion

Michael had not yet been born when the first Western Star dancers took to the floor to trip The Light Fantastic. It was necessary for us to appeal to the kindly (and now quite elderly) Dr. Stanley Seed to provide us with an image of Michael from those halcyon days.

Michael (left) and Dr. Seed finally met a quarter century after their first encounter.



“I loved all my wards,” Dr. Seed explained. “Even those evil twins. But Michael was always my favorite. I still call him *My Little Tadpole.*”

AT RIGHT—Michael (showing a lot of potential) photographed in the early '80s.



From the private files of Dr. Seed. Wallet-size prints and enlargements are no longer available.



## TONY TIME

When June is bustin' out, some people think of weddings, school graduations, Daddy's Day, or parades. Then there are those who get excited because the start of June means that it is Tony

The Tony Award for The Best Un-Produced Off-Off-Way-Off-Broadway Show should go to **“Voices on the Floor”** by Dan Smith. Inspired casting included a pair of talking floorboards. Although the performances of Board1 and Board2 may have been considered wooden, audiences certainly would have related to a pivotal scene where one of the boards delivers the line: **Oh, feel Ammon jumping in the air. He comes back down, alighting on us like a kiss to the lips.**

### Disclaimers, Corrections and Acknowledgements

Although the “Tony Time” article above is 100% true, Dan Smith did not actually conduct or write the interview with Brenda Line in the April issue. The April Foolery article depicted Steve Scott as “Dewa Line.” Steve is not now, nor has he ever been, a crack whore; however, he does like to dress up as Carmen Miranda. “Dr. Seed” is based on a character created by Russ King for *Crossfire*. Idea for Pre-Michael image was “conceived” by Daniel

# my own self into a context

interview by dan smith

**D:** What's your name?

**M:** Michael Sui [pronounced "Sue"]. I was born in Silver Springs, a suburb of D.C. That's where my Mom grew up. I have one brother, two years younger. I was the first born on the Chinese side of the family. My Dad's Chinese and Mother is like German-English. Our Grandfather gave us Chinese names, mine is Wei Gong, which means bright.

**D:** Who was your first gay "friend?"

**M:** . I remember as early as kindergarten making a good

beginning.

**D:** Are there any interesting stories about high school?

**M:** Freshman year I had a really good English teacher and got into writing. She took me under her wing and encouraged me. It was the first time I used a computer to do design. We had a really old one that was like DOS. I used it to design the title page of my autobiography. That's when I got into Design which was what I went to college for, Graphic Design.

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

I choose Saint Mary's because it was far away from home. The campus

was secluded, right on the river. I learned to sail and I joined the crew team. I had never done athletics but when college came I decided I could reinvent myself and do things that I really wanted to do like sports. So I joined the Tartans and had straight guy friends, like for the first time. It was that kind of comradery; we even shot a calendar of the team. I loved that time because I lived by myself. I'd wake up at

4:30, drive to campus, go out on the river for practice and then the team would eat breakfast together.

My house was by the water. Sometimes, before sunset, I'd take a kayak out, scoop crabs off the fish traps, come home, steam them for dinner and eat on the dock. It felt kind of like a Walden Pond, a Thoreau...in the country by myself...lots of solitude...and then having these friends. kind of like an incubation time for me.

One of my best friends from high school went to Carnegie Mellon. She

was studying Graphic Design, which they call Communication Design now that you have Internet, web sites, Multi-Media...I saw what she was doing and I thought, "Oh my God that is what I want to do. I'm in love with that." So I transferred to Carnegie Mellon and got a BFA in Communication Design in May of 2006. Now I work For Pottery Barn in the Visual Merchandising Department.

**D:** How did you happen to come to WSD?

**M:** I'm Daniel and Jeff's roommate and Daniel said to me, "We're starting our Mainstream class come check it out." I said, "OK. When I was in elementary school Mom and me took Country Line Dancing. Everybody in the class was retired and in their 60's and then there was 10 year old me. I picked it up and danced well.

**D:** So you weren't totally unprepared for square dancing?

**M:** No. Also Mon, Dad, little brother and I took a dance class and learned the kind of dances that everybody knows; but you don't actually know them, somebody has to teach them to you. Mr. Kim taught the Hustle, Disco...the Electric Slide and line dances. I remember learning *Achy Breaky Heart*.

**D:** OK, Daniel brought you to class. Tell me about the first night?

**M:** The first class I came to was during Halloween. People were dressed up in Sumo outfits and Steve Scott was wearing a country kind of frilly Fresca dress. I thought, "This is FANTASTIC. This is so cool." I thought every week was going to be like that. Luckily I didn't have a costume or I'd probably have worn it the next week. (Michael laughs) That would have been awkward. I was,



friend. I still don't know if he's gay or straight, **BUT**, I do know as kids we really bonded. We both had SHE-RA Dolls but could always tell them apart because he had cut and colored his doll's hair. (Michael laughs) I didn't think anything about it at the time but now I think, "Umm." That was a good friendship, just kind of *Kinder* from the

go out on the river for practice and then the team would eat breakfast together.

My house was by the water. Sometimes, before sunset, I'd take a kayak out, scoop crabs off the fish traps, come home, steam them for dinner and eat on the dock. It felt kind of like a Walden Pond, a Thoreau...in the country by myself...lots of solitude...and then having these friends. kind of like an incubation time for me.

One of my best friends from high school went to Carnegie Mellon. She

"Oh, it's gay, you dress up. Isn't this fun, a very spirited group?" Everybody was so warm and friendly and it was just such a nice time. It reminded me of the dance classes with my Mom, like the Community Center thing, you know? I'm sold on the dancing thing.

**D:** Tell me about another square dancing experience.

**M:** I loved going out of town to see Crossfire because I got to take a little road trip with Daniel, Grey, Gary and Ammon. Then going into that house and seeing people that I recognized from square dancing and then seeing people that I completely didn't recognize. I realized there's this huge network of people, this community that have been doing this together since 83. It just felt like Pride tapped into this whole community. It put the club into context, the people into context and I felt like it put my own self into a context. It's a community that keeps going on and on and there are still people who have been there from the beginning and there are new people and some people appear in photographs and they're not there anymore. But it felt really cool to be part of something.

**D:** Thank you Michael. Is there anything else you'd like to say?

**M:** I'm excited for Plus.





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

RED MAINSTREAM  
CLASS COMPLETION

MAY 21, 2007

Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!  
WESTERN STAR  
25th Anniversary

2007  
RED  
SS



## Meeting Minutes

The Board of Directors meeting minutes are published in order to keep club members informed of the affairs of the club.. Oral or written comments may be directed to any board member. Members are welcome to attend board meetings.

### March 12, 2007

Board members present: Brundage, Casserly, Daniels, Dewsnap, King. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Administrator Daryl Daniels. The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Regarding our 25th Anniversary Class Night Birthday Bash (March 5th), the Administrator stated: "Well done with the Birthday Bash. The decorations were festive, the panels were most impressive, the cake was well selected. All of your efforts are appreciated." Russ King submitted a complete Anniversary Week schedule, and reported that all preparations for the 25th Anniversary week celebrations are on track.

The Treasurers report was accepted. The next Board meeting will be April 16. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Dewsnap, Secretary

### April 16, 2007

Members present: Brundage, Daniels, Dewsnap, King, Young. Administrator Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. The minutes of the March Board meeting were approved.

The Administrator praised the 'fantastic' anniversary celebration: "Bravo to all involved. It exceeded expectations!" Daniels reported that he has met with the director of EVRC about conflicts and scheduling problems. Our lockers have been moved to a locked room near the auditorium (from backstage). Various summer activities were discussed: picnics at Angel Island or Mt. Tamalpais and a dancing tour of The City.

Daniels put out a call for storage space for club memorabilia. Both he and Russ King are storing things now but a good, more permanent space with easy access is needed.

The Treasurer's report of was accepted. Payment to callers was discussed. In the future, we will pay \$250 or half the proceeds 'up to \$450.'

The next Board meeting will be May 14. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Jim Dewsnap, Secretary



[www.diablo-dancers.org](http://www.diablo-dancers.org)

Class Night—Tuesdays  
1700 Oak Park Boulevard  
Pleasant Hill



[www.foggycity.org](http://www.foggycity.org)

Class Night—Tuesdays  
Studio 204  
3435 Cesar Chavez  
San Francisco



[www.reelers.org](http://www.reelers.org)

Class Night—Wednesday  
St. Andrew's Methodist  
4111 Alma Street  
Palo Alto



[www.iagsdc.org/midnightsquares/](http://www.iagsdc.org/midnightsquares/)

A & C Programs  
See website for  
classes & locations  
San Francisco

**Other Bay Area  
Square Dance Clubs**



[www.oaktown8s.org](http://www.oaktown8s.org)

Class Night—Wednesday  
Montclair Women's  
Cultural Arts Club  
1650 Mountain Boulevard  
Oakland

June 8-10	<b>PACE</b> Clark Baker caller. Friday 7:30 pm A2, Saturday 11 am & 2:30 pm C2 7:30 C4, Sunday 11 am C3A, 2:30 pm C3. Diablo Light Opera Co. 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill
June 9 7:30-10:30 pm	<b>Diablo Dancers</b> 15th Anniversary Dance. Gina Darcy caller. MS/P/A \$8/\$10 Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek
June 17 3-6 pm	<b>Midnight Squares</b> <i>Press Right Into Summer</i> . C.J. Smith & Rob French callers. A2-C2/C3A* \$8/\$10 Studio 204, 3425 Cesar Chavez, San Francisco
June 20 7:30-9:30 pm	<b>CLUB NIGHT</b> Fen Tamanaha caller. EVRC
June 23 7:30-10:30 pm	<b>Pride Dance</b> — Bill Eyler caller. MS/P/A* \$8/\$10 Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco
July 4 9:20 am-4 or 5 pm	<b>ANGEL ISLAND PICNIC</b> Meet at The Ferry Building, in the back, by Gandhi. See next page for details.
July 18 7:30-9:30 pm	<b>CLUB NIGHT</b> Gary Young caller. EVRC
July 13-15	<b>PACE</b> , Betsy Gotta caller. Friday 7:30 pm A2, Saturday 11 am & 2:30 pm C1, Sunday 11 am C3A, 2:30 pm C3. Diablo Light Opera Co. 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill

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*

**August 18—Circulate San Francisco**  
A different kind of Square Dance Adventure Watch for Details

**James Thompson** June 6

**Freeman Stamper** July 7

**Grey Todd** June 24

**Daryl Daniels** July 7

**Scott Carey** June 27

**Tony Attard** July 20

**Jon Wessel** June 27

**Anna Damiani** July 11

**Ron Masker** July 17

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

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SAN FRANCISCO  
WESTERN STAR DANCERS  
1982-2007  
25th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4  
PLEASE BRING PICNIC ITEMS TO SHARE

\$20  
INCLUDES  
FERRY



# 2007 ANGEL ISLAND PICNIC

RON MASKER  
CALLER  
EARN A DANGLE!

PARTNERS & FRIENDS  
INVITED!

BLUE & GOLD FLEET  
DEPARTS FERRY BUILDING AT  
9:20 AM  
MEET BY THE GHANDI STATUE IN BACK  
OF THE BUILDING AT 8:45 AM

Advanced purchase preferred  
Ferry tickets probably will be available the morning of the picnic  
A later ferry departs at 11 am

Make checks payable to:  
WESTERN STAR DANCERS

Mail to:  
Western Star Dancers  
584 Castro Street #480  
San Francisco, CA 94114

Or give your check and coupon to  
Todd Young



Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Reservations @ \$20  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your reservation form by  
June 25

**2007**

**Dance**

**Pride**

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SAN FRANCISCO  
WESTERN STAR DANCERS  
1982-2007  
25th Anniversary

PINK SATURDAY  
JUNE 23, 2007  
7:30 - 9:30 PM

EBENEZER LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
678 PORTOLA DRIVE  
SAN FRANCISCO

BILL  
KILLER  
CALLER

MIS  
PLUS  
A

\$8/\$10

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