

Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!

August 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

Western Star Dancers
 1982-2007
 25th Anniversary

The Western Star

WSD BOARD ELECTIONS

Western Star Dancers, like most square dance clubs, is a non-profit, member-run organization. It's that time of year, when we get ready to elect a new Board of Directors. The Board is a group of members who've decided to take their turn helping us all enjoy square dancing for another year, and it wouldn't happen without them. The Board doesn't do everything, but it has responsibility for making sure it gets all done, everything from setting up before class to hiring our callers, scheduling events, booking the dance spaces, you name it.

Some may see serving on the Board as an obligation. Some see it as a duty. Some find it challenging and empowering. Some may see it as a way to express their creativity. Some may do it as a community service. There are so many reasons for being on the Board, and not all of them are burdensome.

The Board consists of at least five and up to seven members; every Club member is eligible to run. Years of

experience are not a requirement; in fact, we like to include fresh perspectives, and we especially encourage newer members who have a little extra time and enthusiasm to throw their hats in the ring. This time, we're looking for at least four to six members willing to give it a try; nominations are now open, and will close in mid-August.

Three members of the current Board—Administrator Daryl Daniels, Treasurer Bob Brundage and Secretary Jim Dewsnap—will be running for re-election, so the new members will have plenty of guidance and support (and positions will be decided by the new board). And although stepping down, Todd Young and Joe Casserly will continue to help out with decorations, and Joe will stay on as Webmaster. So, you may ask, if I run for the Board, what exactly would I be getting myself into?

Probably the most important consideration is if you will be able to attend Western Star Dancers activities with

regularity throughout the coming year or two. Someone from the Board needs to be at EVRC before class starts to help open up, and someone needs to get everything put away at the end; ditto for Club Nights. This responsibility rotates among the Board, and you should be there often enough to do your fair share. From time to time, the Board needs to make immediate decisions regarding some problems on the floor, or with scheduling that cannot wait until the next Board meeting, so regular attendance is important. While you're on the Board, you should be here frequently enough to form your own independent opinion about whatever issues come up for discussion. Nuts and bolts issues will come up too—when there's a Club activity, the Board needs to figure out who will be in charge, how much help will be needed, who might be interested in volunteering, etc. We have a smooth running organization, so new board members will not be expected to reinvent any wheels. Board meetings are held once a month, on whatever day and time works best for everyone. Pizza is usually served.

This year, we've revived our tradition of a formal Election Committee; it consists of former WSD Board Member and Administrator Steve Scott, outgoing Board Member Joe Casserly, and Russ King. Any of them, or Daryl, Bob, or Jim will be glad to answer whatever additional questions you might have. You can nominate yourself or a friend, but please don't nominate anyone else without first getting their consent. Thanks!

CONGRATULATIONS
MERLE ADAMS & JED DAVIES



50 YEARS AND STILL IN LOVE!

Bob Brundage 826-0879 bernalbob1@cs.com

Joe Casserly 436-9161 wsd@hirejoenow.com

Daryl Daniels 586-2599 daryldaniels@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

THE RED AND THE GOLD
Red Rocks, Red Grads,
Golden Anniversary

It has been a busy season with Red Rocks in Denver, yellow rocks for the Red Class graduates, the WSD Silver Anniversary, and a golden moment for a special WSD member. The Red

Class was represented at the

by **Dupree du Coeur** and by **Steve Huggins** (photo at left).



RED SPIRIT

Babushka-headed trend-setter **Donald** exemplifies the spirit that the Red Class has infused into the WSD community.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Merle & Jed Celebrate 50-Year Relationship

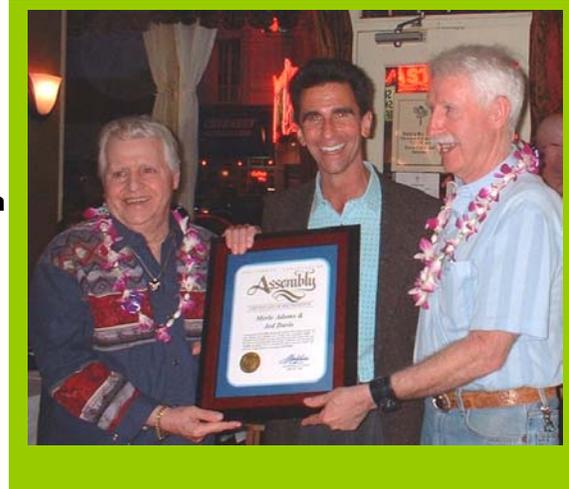
The first day of July marked a half-century milestone for Western Star member and benefactor **Merle** and his partner

Jed. The anniversary date was acknowledged by a presentation from **State Assemblyman Mark Leno**

PICTURED-- Merle, The Honorable Mr. Leno, Jed.

Merle & Jed Day included a photo slide

show at The Cove, and 1957 music to set the 50-year tone



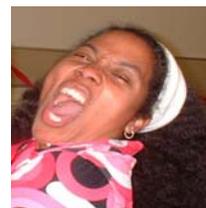
WELCOME

In addition to WSD graduates from the Red Mainstream Class, the Plus Class includes **Rob** (left) from FCD, and **Jamie**

(right) from ECR, who are refreshing their dancing skills. Both are welcome additions to our squares.



HALF-SASHAYED by Natty Box *"Dive-Through" Featuring Michael, Steve, Marilyn, and Ammon*



A different sort of square dance adventure!

First time Ever!

Outdoor dancing & fantastic vistas!

CIRCULATE SAN FRANCISCO

August 18, 2007

\$5 donations suggested

Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!

SAN FRANCISCO
WESTERN STAR DANCERS

1982-2007
25th Anniversary

Please bring picnic items to share.

CARPPOOL
Drivers needed! Volunteers will be rewarded.
Rides will be arranged at the first stop.
If you want to drive, please email
daryldaniels@sbcglobal.net



Palace of Fine Arts 10-11 am
Parking in the Exploratorium parking lot.
Muni #28, 30, 43
Grand Square under the big round dome.
Promenade around the lake.



Fort Point 11-12 noon
Pass the Ocean under the Golden Gate Bridge
Possibly dancing in the Civil War-era Fort

Baker Beach 12-1 pm
Communal picnic lunch
Thank your square!



Palace of the Legion of Honor 1-2 pm
Do-si-do around the Thinker



Dutch Windmill, Golden Gate Park 3-4 pm
Probably no tulips to tiptoe through.
Maybe we can allemande in the asters.

Dispersal point.
Muni #5, 13, 31



**Rich Reel
Caller**



Sutro Heights Park 2-3 pm
Let's have a teacup chain
on the parapet overlooking
Ocean Beach

Friends & Family WELCOME!

an interview by dan smith

D: So, what's your name?

M: Officially it's Miriam Muller but I've been Mimi for years.

D: Mimi where were you born?

M: In New York and I grew up in Queens. My Father was an Orthopedist. Mother started off as a school teacher and then worked in women's school organizations. I remember that when the family got together an aunt would sit at the piano and we would sing, dance and very often do a few squares. There was enough space for a conservative square. It was before the days of coffee tables so the middle was open. This is *old style* square dancing.

There was always square and folk dancing in the summer camps I went to in the late 40's. Once when I was twelve or thirteen our camp went into town which had square dancing; that was during a big Folk revival. It was interesting because we were used to Allemande-Left being turn by the left hand but as far as they were concerned Allemande-Left meant turn by the left hand turn your partner by the right, turn your corner by the left and then you did whatever; that was Allemande-Left. I also remember one summer evening at Jones Beach, Burl Ives of all people was calling.

D: Can you tell me about Old Style square dancing?

M: It was more like singing calls then Caller Lab. Some common calls were *Circle Four Half Way, Dip and Dive Across, Swing and Allemande Left*. The caller would usually call the same set of calls to each of the couples who would then, in turn, lead.

D: Did you do any dancing after growing out of camp?

M: Towards the end of my high school years and the first years of college (early 50's) there was folk dancing in Manhattan at the Ethical Cultural Society on Saturday mornings and I used to go to that. After dancing we'd go to somebody's place to sing and folk dance and often even square dance. Since we were experienced dancers by that time we were getting a little bit bored doing the standards all the time. So, some of the people who were familiar with a lot of the dances began varying the calls. We began to add styling to calls like Grand Right and Left. People began playing with turning the lady under with each Right.

It's interesting that when Russ talked me into Western Star the first time and I saw a lot of the styling it seemed like a continuation of what groups like ours were inventing. It just seemed like such a logical extension of, "OK, we really know square dancing. It's time to start playing with it. It's time to make it possible for the caller to challenge the dancers more."

D: Have you been dancing ever since that or was there a long time when you didn't dance?

M: When I moved out here I was busy and it took me quite a few years to find any dancing. There weren't listings. This was before the internet. I finally saw a notice for the Macedonian-Armenian Society and started going, I brought the kids along; it was a family sort of thing. From there I began to hear about other folk dance groups and did some of that for a while. I took an introductory Israeli folk dance class at Noe Valley Ministry. One day in '86 or '87 I saw a notice for Scottish Country Dancing, and I got hooked. Russ King and his friend were in the class and said, "Look it's our 25th Anniversary and we're offering half price to people who come back for review and I said, "You're on."

D: Tell me an experience you had while square dancing.

M: We were with Western Star the first time it went to the Golden State Roundup. I think I had fewer crinolines then anybody else in the room. I like skirts. You know when I started square dancing women wore skirts. You didn't have the stiff crinolines so you used your hips to make your skirt move. One of these days I'll wear a skirt and see if I can still do any of that. I remember the first time they had an introduction to contra dancing. You could spot the square dancers, cold, because they were trying to be right on the lines and finish one figure before going into the next one. They were trying to be very, very precise and contra dancing is not. You get roughly where you need to be and then you blend into the next figure.

At another Roundup I was very impressed by Western Star. The minute a caller called something unconventional we were the ones who could handle it, traditional groups tended to fall apart, especially if it was an unusual gender or orientation thing.

One year for the first time the State Square Dance Association agreed to let the gay groups come to their state wide dance weekend. One of the reasons that we went was because since we hadn't been allowed to go we thought we ought to show up. They are very much into...stick with your own gender, so much to that...and this was years ago but still...the women who were dancing as men had a big sign that said 'Male' on their hats.

D: Any last thoughts?

M: . When I first took the class years ago there was a social for the new class. It was nice to get a chance to talk to people.

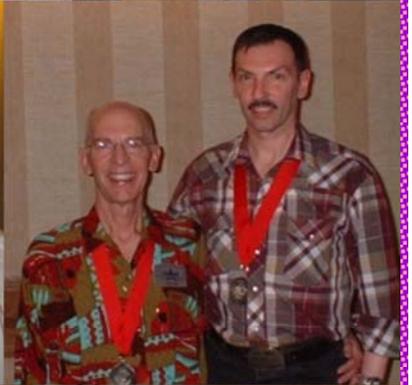
D: Russ has been talking about reviving that tradition. Thank you, Mimi.

M: You're welcome.

mimi









2007
ANGEL ISLAND
PICNIC

The Poo Patrol

Don't Stop!
Don't Slow Down!
WESTERN STATE LAWYERS
1982-2007
25th Anniversary

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Don't Slow Down!

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.

May 14, 2007

All Board members were present. Administrator Daryl Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. The minutes of the April Board meeting were approved.

The Administrator gave a 'thank you' for those who worked the yard sale and reported that we had taken in \$191. He added that next year we need to try to get more club members, especially new club members, involved in the sale. Plans were finalized for the Red Mainstream Class Completion Party on May 21. Plans were announced for the Angel Island picnic (July 4), Circulate San Francisco (August. 18), and the annual pool party at Kip Mackey's (September 1). We are still looking for storage space for club memorabilia. (Dan Smith is to check with the SF Gay Historical Society.)

The Treasurer's report was accepted. Brundage will get another CD with some of the money we have in our checking account.

The Dance Coordinator announced that he has lined up callers for the 2008 Pride Dance (Darren Gallina) and Leather & Lace (Eric Henerlau). The future of Club Night was discussed. No decision was reached. King will continue to use 'sign up' sheets to determine whether to hold Club Night on a month by month basis. Ways to get more members involved in Club activities were discussed. We also want club members to consider running for next year's Board.

The next Board meeting will be June 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!
NEW DANCEHALL
WESTERN SEALANCHERA
1982-2007
25th Anniversary

Saturday
September 1, 2007
1:00 - 3:00 PM

Kip Mackey's
POOL
party
2007

Labor Weekend Day

Finger Feed Potluck!
Bring Your Own Poisons!
Soda Beer Wine Etc

RSVP
kipmackey@aol.com
415-479-4759

1055 Las Gallinas Avenue
San Rafael, CA

June 11, 2007

Administrator Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with all Board members present. Minutes of the May meeting were approved. Pride Dance preparations were firmed up and Angel Island reservations are coming in. Drivers are needed for Circulate San Francisco on August 18.

Russ King suggested that we set up an election committee to seek out members who would be willing to serve on the Board. Russ was named head of the committee. November Club Night, since it is so close to Thanksgiving, will morph into an Orange

Class Welcome Potluck on a date yet to be determined.

Class pricing was discussed. The issue was tabled until the July Board meeting. Daniels asked the Board to review the WSD Policy Statements which haven't been revised since 1991.

The treasurer's report was accepted. In other business, the Castro Street Fair and our application to the Peterson Fund were discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. after scheduling the next Board meeting for July 16.



DIABLO DANCERS
www.diablo-dancers.org
 Class Night-Tuesdays
 1700 Oak Park Boulevard
 Pleasant Hill

FOGGY CITY DANCERS
www.foggycity.org
 Class Night-Tuesdays
 Studio 204
 3435 Cesar Chavez
 San Francisco

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

MIDNIGHT SQUARES
www.iagsdc.org/midnightsquares/
 A & C Programs
 See website for
 classes & locations
 San Francisco

Other Bay Area Square Dance Clubs

Oaktown 8s
www.oaktown8s.org
 Class Night-Wednesday
 Montclair Women's
 Cultural Arts Club
 1650 Mountain Boulevard
 Oakland

August 4	El Camino Reelers <i>Star Across Summer</i> Details TBA. St. Andrews Methodist Church, 4111 Alma Street, Palo Alto
August 10-12	PACE Sandra Bryant caller. Friday 7:30 pm A2, Saturday 11 am & 2:30 pm C3, Sunday 11 am C2, 2:30 pm C2. Diablo Light Opera Co. 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill
August 11 5-9 pm	Crossfire: The Next Generation Release Party & SF Premier Rich Reel caller. 3505 19th Street, Apartment 105, San Francisco
August 11 7:30-10:30 pm	Midnight Squares <i>Mid-Summer Madness</i> Sandra Bryant caller. A2-C3, C3A* \$8/\$10 Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco
August 15 7:30-9:30 pm	Club Night Neil Heather caller. EVRC
August 18	Circulate San Francisco Rich Reel caller. Meet at the Palace of Fine Arts at 10 am
August 18 3-7 pm	Oaktown 8s <i>Picnic & Promenade</i> Local callers MS/P/A \$8/\$10 Picnic Potluck Skyline Community Church, 12540 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland.
September 1 1-8 pm	Kip Mackey's Pool Party. Potluck. RSVP: kipmackey@aol.com or 415.479.4759
September 8 7-10 pm	Foggy City Dancers <i>Harvest Dance</i> Andy Shore caller. MS/P/A* \$8/\$10 Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco
September 14-16	PACE Anne Uebelacker caller. Friday 7:30 pm A2, Saturday 11 am & 2:30 pm C1 7:30 C4, Sunday 11 am C3A, 2:30 pm C3. Diablo Light Opera Co. 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill
September 15 7:30-10:30 pm	Diablo Dancers <i>Spin Chain & Exchange the Seasons</i> Anne Uebelacker caller. MS/P/A \$8/\$10 Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek
September 18 7:30-9:30 pm	Club Night and Annual Membership Meeting Ron Masker caller. EVRC
September 22 7:30-11:30 pm	Stanford Quads <i>Challenging Plus Hoedown</i> John Syblansky caller. APD Plus/A*/C* St. Andrews Methodist Church, 4111 Alma Street, Palo Alto
September 29 7:30-10:30 pm	Leather & Lace Michael Kellogg caller. MS/P/A* \$8/\$10 Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco

For the latest dance information, check www.bayareadancecalendar.org
 National & International events can be found at www.iagsdc.com Click on *Events*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tomas Todd August 1

John Conley August 5

Joshua Lacayo August 6

Josef Prochnow August 8

Felix Fornino August 27

Caleb Dupree du Ceour August 8

Ammon Corl August 29

Steve Scott August 29

Kevin Larson September 1

Chelsea Baylor September 4

Jeff Kavinta September 16

Kip Mackey September 29

Leather & Lace 2007

Michael Kellogg caller

What happens here Stays here

MS, Plus, A star

Suggested Donation
Members: Eight Smackers
Guests: Ten Big Ones

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WESTERN STAR DANCERS
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WESTERN STAR DANCERS
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Saturday
September 29, 2007
7:30 - 10:30 PM
Ebenezer Lutheran Church
678 Potrero Drive
San Francisco

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WESTERN STAR DANCERS
1982-2007
25th Anniversary

Western Star Dancers
584 Castro Street #480
San Francisco, CA 94132

A superabundance of
Western Star Dancers photos online:
www.flickr.com/photos/daryldaniels