

December 2007

Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!

SAN FRANCISCO

WESTERN STAR DANCERS

1982-2007

25th Anniversary

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 534 Castro Street #480
San Francisco, CA 94114

The Western Star



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Back Row: Kristel Kranz, Johnnie Green, Michael Albert, Victor Holliger
2nd Row: Richard Leadbetter, Gigi Troga, Teresa Miller, Austin Stack
3rd Row: Kathy Tuccio, Clarence Albert-Franks, Linda Turner, Edna Rivera, Scott Cunningham, Marilyn Fowler, David Holloway
Front: Archangel Michael Sui, Elise Everett, Cindy Shine, Donald Robertson
Absent: Ken Katen, Richard Stanton, Vicki Sung, Eloise Twining, Mark Yee

Oranger by the dozen

An awesome group of dancers signed up for the Orange Mainstream Class 2008. This class, with 23 members, is the largest class in recent WSD memory. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to recruit these fine people, and thank you to the students for joining us.

See an important notice about *The Western Star* delivery in on Page 6
WSD By-Laws and Policy Statements are now online: www.westernstardancers.org

Bob Brundage 826-0879 bernalbobl@cs.com
Daryl Daniels 586-2599 daryldaniels@sbcglobal.net
Jim Dewsnap 864-5447 dewsnap@sbcglobal.net
Paul Gonyea 722-3096 pgonyea@earthlink.net
Kathy Tuccio ktuccio@hotmail.com

Board of Directors



Left Feet by Brenda Line

EYE ON THE PRIZE

For our end-of-year contest, you need to build a composite dancer from head to toe. Win a prize valued at approximately \$25 by matching up the photo bits on this page with the correct WSD dancers. For example, if Item-7 is an epaulette, and you think it belongs to Dancer E (Dan), your answer would be 7-E. Some of the images are from past WSD newsletters, and can be found in the archived newsletter section on the WSD website. Nearly all have been observed frequently at classes or were obviously displayed at recent dances or special events.

TO ENTER THE CONTEST: Match up as many photo items (body parts and garments) with dancers as you can. The contestant with the most correct answers will win. In the case of a tie, a winner will be randomly drawn from the high-score contestants. Bring your answer list (one entry per contestant) to any Monday class on or before December 17 and give it to the Archangel or Holiday Elf, or e-mail your answer list (such as 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, etc.) by that date to: brendaline@2die4.com Partial lists are OK. The winner will be announced at the WSD Holiday Party on December 19. Contestants need not be present to win. Only current WSD members and students are eligible to win the prize. Current Board members and the Elf are ineligible to win, but may play the game.



A The Archangel



B The Elf



7 left shoulder



15 petit pants



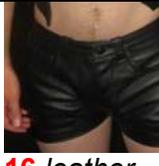
E Dan



M Grey



8 right tatt



16 leather shorts



F Dani



N James



1 rhinestone cowboy hat



9 left tatt



17 apron



G Daniel



O Kevin



2 blonde tresses



10 T-shirt



18 pantaloons



H Daryl



P Marilyn



3 eyelashes



11 rhinestone club badge



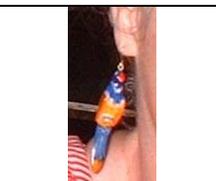
19 right foot



I Davida



Q Mimi



4 right ear



12 rugby shirt



20 left foot



J Donald



R Ron



5 left earbob



13 bare midriff



C Ammon



K Eloise



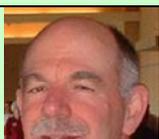
S Todd



6 right shoulder



14 foundation garment



D Bob



L Freeman



T Willie



Earthquake. Fire A Burning Man

by dan smith

D: What's your name?

M: Mark Yee, I was born about 25 miles south of here. My brother Dave is about three years older. We had a very normal suburban existence; Roosevelt Elementary, John F. Kennedy Junior and Woodside High School, all in Redwood City. Father was born in Santa Rosa and Mother in San Francisco. Both sides of my family where part of the Chinese influx in the 1920's, 1930's. There was a Chinese Exclusion Act at that time which prevented any Chinese other than merchants from coming over. However the emigration records had burned up in the 1906 earthquake so a Chinese with legal status could claim to have a child back in China who they wanted to bring over. Those unrelated children were called 'paper sons' and 'paper daughters'. That is how my maternal grandfather came over and I believe at least one of my grandmothers. Many Chinese that have roots in San Francisco came over that way.

D: What's an interesting thing that happened in school?

M: The high school band I was in performed at a Giants doubleheader and I got to see my name up on the scoreboard at Candlestick Park. Also while I was a member of the Cal Marching Band at Berkeley we played at the huge Olympic Stadium in LA. It holds 60,000 people and we were visitors so it was extremely hostile. I lost my *shako* (the fuzzy hat) on the playing field. I played tenor sax all those years. Today I have soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxes.

D: Do you play any other instruments?

M: Oh sure. We had a piano at home and gosh I started taking piano lessons probably in kindergarten or first grade. We hated music lessons and mom stopped forcing us to take them after a few years. I did enjoy saxophone lessons and took them up through high school. Piano lessons definitely gave me a grounding in all things music. And it made it easier to play other instruments.

Most of my outside interests revolve around music. I am currently in three and a half bands; [Slippery People](#), [Dark](#)

[Wave](#) and the [Gomer Hendrix Band](#). I drum for Gomer. The half a band is virtual (on the internet). The musicians live in Nevada and California and are laying down tracks for a parody rock opera based on The Who's [Tommy](#). The subject is the politics of Burning Man. I also drum for that recording endeavor. We have not yet actually played together and thus it's a half.

D: After you left Berkeley what did you do?

M: I probably had 20 different temp jobs; everything from restaurant delivery to data entry, on top of being a



Haight Street Hippy. That wasn't exactly a job but it did occupy most of my time. I'm currently a licensed Customs Broker and have a job in Export Compliance.

D: Tell me something about living in San Francisco.

M: When my brother graduated from college and moved here to start graduate school at UCSF, he invited me to be his roommate. In 1993 we experienced the Loma Prieta earthquake. He was at home with his cat and I was in the corner grocery store. What they say about, well--a grocery store being one of the scariest places to be in a major earthquake--breaking glass, things falling off the shelf. I remember it was an enormous din. It was hard to think there was so much noise. I hid underneath the vegetable bins and rode out the earthquake.

D: Tell me how you came to meet Marilyn.

M: We had mutual friends looking for people to share ski season rent in Tahoe. Luckily, because we were both interested in learning to snowboard, we met at a party and by the end of the season we were a couple.

D: I understand you go to Burning Man tell me about that.

M: I first attended in 1997. This year was my 10th. Burning Man is far removed from one's existence in the analogue world, so different that it defies description. It's a Rorschach test; it's what an individual makes of it. As a musician I've made playing music part of my main experience. My camp is [Hair of the Dog Lounge](#). We stage live music.

D: How did you find your way to Western Star?

M: Marilyn would go watch Joe and Todd square dance or meet them when the class was getting out and was invited to join. She joined the year before I did. I had pretty much the same experience. I would pick up Marilyn after class and every one was so friendly and welcoming; particularly Steve Scott who asked me, "So! When are you joining the class?" So come October a year ago I said, "Why not?"

D: You performed at the Club La Star. Can you tell me about that and why you choose the particular song you did?

M: Although I do play guitar it's usually the last instrument I choose. The one exception is on camping trips when I bust out my trusty guitar and play campfire songs. It was from that repertoire that I chose [Ghost Riders in the Sky](#), one of my favorite songs to sing. I can't remember when I first learned some of these old songs but like square dancing it just seems natural, I don't feel like it's a struggle.

Now I've met many gay friends through Marilyn, Todd and Joe. Of course part of that is living in the neighborhood. I really think of Western Star Dancers as being my neighborhood square dance club where square dancing happens to be gay.

D: Thank you Mark.

M: Thank you Dan.



Welcome
Potluck

Orange
2008

Mainstream
Class

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MEMBERSHIP CENTER
1983-2007
25th Anniversary

Newsletter Delivery Changes

Effective February 2008, only one copy of the Western Star will be sent to each household. Also, you are encouraged to access the newsletter online. It is in PDF Format which is easy to print, if you wish a hard copy.

Newsletter production consumes an ever larger bite out of the budget--each one costs almost \$5 (printing, postage & labels). Form 2 Membership Renewal for 2008 will ask if you will volunteer to forego the paper edition for the online version. This is entirely voluntary. Everyone who wishes a regular newsletter delivered by the post office to your mailbox will continue to be satisfied. It is nice to get things in the mail, after all.

If you wish the online edition, please make sure you are on the WSD-Members Yahoo! Group so you can receive notice when the latest edition is posted on our website:

www.westernstardancers.org

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.

Membership Meeting, September 19, 2007

The Annual Membership Meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. by Administrator Daryl Daniels. In his "State of the Club" report Daniels thanked the current Board for leading the club through a successful year which included the following:

The 25th Anniversary celebration (with special thanks to Russ King).
The 2nd Annual Yard Sale.
The Pride Dance
The Angel Island Picnic.
The first Circulate San Francisco with tips at the Palace of Fine Arts, Fort Point, the Palace of the Legion of Honor, Baker Beach, Sutro Park, and the Golden Gate Park North Windmill.

Daniels also mentioned the passing of Freddie Papapietro. A 'Memorial Tip' to Freddie was danced following the meeting. Two proposals were presented to the membership: (1) shall Western Star Dancers increase the annual dues from \$36 to \$40, and (2) shall Western Star Dancers join with Foggy City and Midnight Squares in planning to submit a bid to host the 2013 IAGSDC convention in San Francisco. Both proposals passed. The following members

were elected to the 2007-2008 Board: Bob Brundage, Daryl Daniels, Jim Dewsnap, Paul Gonyea, and Kathy Tuccio.

Minutes of the Board, September 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 by Administrator Daryl Daniels with all Board members present. Present also was Kathie Tuccio, presumptive 2008 Board member. Plans for the Annual Meeting and Board election scheduled for 9/19 were discussed, as were plans for the upcoming Leather & Lace/Pirates & Sailors dance (9/27). Daniels laid out plans for Orange Class recruiting, with emphasis on our booth at the Castro Street Fair (10/7). The first Orange Class 'Free Night' will be held at Magnet on 18th Street because EVRC will be closed for Columbus Day (10/8). Daniels announced that Michael Sui will be the Orange Class Archangel. The Dance Coordinator reported that he had all 2008 caller contracts in hand. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

Minutes of the Board, October 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Administrator Daryl Daniels at 6:08 p.m.

with all Board members present. Also, present was former Board member Russ King. The minutes of the September Board meeting were approved. Daniels praised the club for the successful Leather & Lace dance and for the Orange class recruiting efforts. Due to the significant costs for publishing the WSD Newsletter, Daniels proposed that when members renew their memberships for 2008 they can opt to receive the newsletter online rather than get a hard copy in the mail. Every member who chooses the online option will save the club about \$27.00 a year. The Board approved the proposal for a one-year trial. The Board decided to do away with the \$450 wage cap for callers. The Treasurer's report was approved. Russ King outlined the duties for the Dance Coordinator. In other business, plans for the Orange Class Welcome Potluck at Mimi Mueller's on November 12 were discussed. Kathy Tuccio will coordinate the event. The Board will issue an invitation to Arch Angel Michael Sui to attend Board meetings. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Dewsnap, Secretary



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
 SAN FRANCISCO
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

December 8	PACE Caller Appreciation Saturday: 11:00 am - C1 2:30 pm - C1 Diablo Light Opera Co 1948 Oak Park Blvd. Pleasant Hill
December 19 7:30-9:30 pm	Holiday Party - Rich Reel caller. EVRC. Friends, families, partners welcome!
December 26 7:00 - 9:30 pm	Midnight Squares, Western Star Dancers, Foggy City Dancers, Redwood Rainbows, Oaktown 8's (and Others) GCA Caller Appreciation "Exchange The Boxes" Inter-Club Holiday Square Dance Social—MS, Plus, A2 & "High C" * tip—Pay As You Can EVRC
January 11-13	PACE Mike Jacobs 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
January 16 7:30-9:30 pm	Club Night – Surprise Guest caller. EVRC
February 2 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.	Capital City Squares, New Year's Ball MS/Plus/A1i*, Sacramento E-mail Capital City Squares for details.

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

There will be no classes on December 24 and December 31
Orange Mainstream Class will resume on January 7



So, have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Kwazy Kwanza, a Tip-Top Tet, and a solemn, dignified Ramadan.

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December 19, 2007
7:30-9:30 PM

Western Star Dancers Holiday Party

Eureka Valley
Rec Center

Rich Peel 2007
Please bring your favorite holiday foods to share

Partners, family, friends invited to join the fun

White Elephant Gift Exchange

Bring a gift to exchange:

- Something useful or
- Something tacky or
- Something beautiful or
- Something you don't want anymore or
- Something funny or
- Something homemade or
- Something that might make someone happy

Aren't we forgetting the true meaning of Christmas? You know, the birth of Santa!

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584 Castro Street #480
San Francisco, CA 94114

Happy Holidays!
May your New Year
be filled with
squares, stars, thars, &
ocean waves!