

FEBRUARY 2008



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

Have you got the calling? WSD helps future callers get a head start

Square dance calling is not something just anyone can do. It is more than singing and throwing in some random calls. Calling entails more than meets the eye; watching a good caller control four or more squares is akin to admiring a conductor leading an orchestra. For some, calling starts as a hobby, but it has a way of becoming something of a career. Calling might not be a pathway to fame and fortune, but it is gratifying and rewarding nonetheless.

Western Star Dancers wants to help interested would-be callers get started by paying some of the bills. Club policy (see the WSD Policy Statements on our website—www.westernstardancers.org) states:

1. The Club will reimburse a maximum of two dues-paid members for the cost of apprentice caller membership fees in Callerlab.
2. The Board of Directors will select on an annual basis the two individuals to receive reimbursement. A particular individual will not be considered to be automatically renewed by fact of past repeated selection.
3. The individuals selected must be:
 - a. Active dues-paid members of WSD at the time Callerlab membership fees are paid.
 - b. Actively involved in the instruction/calling/dance activities of the Club.
4. The maximum reimbursement for Callerlab membership fees cannot exceed the minimum fees required by Callerlab to sustain apprentice caller membership. If an individual wishes to sustain a Callerlab membership at a higher level, the individual must pay the difference between the minimum fees for apprentice caller and the desired level.

The way to get the ball rolling is to speak with Rich Reel, our most excellent club caller. Rich will give you advice, pointers, and tips, as well as opportunities to practice in class when you feel confident.

WSD will also sponsor a Newer Caller Workshop later in the year. Rich has instructed several of these in the past. This is an excellent opportunity in a low stress environment to give calling a shot.

Watch for detail in the fall.

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Form 2 Membership Renewals must be received by February 15 to be included in the 2008 Club Directory.



Classic Moments from the Silver Screen

FIRST CLASS MALE We Get Letters

Dear Brenda Line,

Every time I have read your column for the past year, it seems like Michael has been featured. How is it that every issue is all about Michael?

Gentle Dancer~

All of my readers are given equal coverage. It must be your jealous imagination. This page is never all about Michael. ~B.L.

CASTING COUCH Featuring The Western Star Players in "ALL ABOUT MICHAEL"



Daniel

As Margo Channing
A fading star
(Bette Davis)



Michael

As Eve Harrington
A fresh face
masking ruthless
ambition
(Anne Baxter)



Ammon

As Karen Richards
A misguided friend
with good intentions
(Celeste Holm)



Russ

As Lloyd Richards
A playwright
contending with
temperamental divas
(Hugh Marlow)



Mario

As Bill Sampson
A man who knows
how to handle a
manly woman—and
vice versa
(Garv Merrill)



Fabian

As Max Fabian
A hulking producer
(Gregory Ratoff)



Mimi

As Birdie Coonan
A wise observer of
the human
comedy
(Thelma Ritter)



Davida

As Miss Casswell
An actress with
more figure than
talent
(Marilyn Monroe)



Johnnie

As Phoebe
Around for only a
moment, but still a
contender for the next
Sarah Siddons Award
(Barbara Bates)



And Jerry

As Addison DeWitt
An acid-tongued
critic
(George Sanders)

GAME ANSWERS to the December issue. 1-S; 2-P Marilyn's *LaStar* wig; 3-L; 4-F Dani's pirate parrot earring; 5-Q; 6-N; 7-H; 8-R; 9-M Grey's "Rosebud" from *Crossfire*; 10-G Daniel's *Conjunction Junction* shirt; 11-I Davida's Blue Class badge; 12-A Michael's big 8; 13-T; 14-D Bob's visible means of support; 15-B; 16-C Ammon's shorts from *Convention and Yearbook*; 17-K Eloise's graduation apron; 18-O; 19-E; 20-

Tai Qi in the Full Moonlight

or

BALANCING ON A YOGA BALL

by dan smith

D: What's your name?

E: Edna Rivera. I was born in Portsmouth, Virginia. Mom was a nurse, from the Philippines. Father was from Laguna Beach, Philippines and was navy. So I'm a Navy brat who grew up in the Bay Area. I have one brother four years older, Ferdinand and one six years younger, Edger Allan. They live in the Union City-Fremont area.

I'm one of the few people I know who started and ended public school education in the same school district (New Haven Unified). We square danced in middle school as part of physical education. I enjoyed it. If we didn't pay attention to Calls the PE teacher made us run laps or hold push-up position. I'm glad that's not part of WSD. (Edna laughs) I'm building more positive memories of square dancing now.

D: Did you have boyfriends, girlfriends in high school?

E: My high school sweet heart, Justin Aken, and I met during junior year at James Logan High school in Union City. We dated from years 17 through 24. I was backstage; in set building and prop management. The boyfriend was part of the tech crew. He spotted me in the theater...I not having had experiences with boys thought I had a stalker on my hands because he kept following me around. I later found out that one day he paid off the rest of the crew who could have given me a ride to the pizza place. He paid them to say they didn't have room for me; so I had to ride with him. It was cute.

D: After high school did you go to college?

E: I went to San Francisco State. I started off as a general biology major. I soon realized I was perhaps a bit too social to be locked away in a lab somewhere. I decided to switch to the Humanities and spoke about it with some Chemistry and Physics professors. They kind of laughed. Apparently they'd started a betting pool on me. They knew I was going to switch over and when I asked them why they thought that, they said that my lab books were a little too grammatically correct.

D: After you got out of college what happened?

E: I started work as a receptionist at Franklin Templeton Mutual Funds. I stayed there for about nine months and just realized this wasn't my gig. My department head at Franken thought that I was too social for that job so he referred me to an advertising agency. So I ended up working both jobs for approximately two years. I'm currently in Project Management.

D: Did you ever go vacationing to interesting places?

E: Iceland for a concert by Buena Vista Social club in Southern Reykjavik. We saw Rubén Gonzáles, the piano player, every morning at breakfast; that was fun. I had my first Cuban cigar and turned three shades of green. We went horse back riding at a mineral bath in the middle of a lava field, the Blue Lagoon. It's out doors and very cold but the springs were hot.

I also spent a week at Esalan, down in Big Sur, doing Tai Qi on the cliffs over looking the Pacific. Practicing Tai Qi in the full moonlight was beautiful. I've also been on a couple of cruises to the Bahamas and the Western Caribbean; a week in Tahiti as well as weekends here and there in Mexico.

D: So you do like to travel?

E: Oh yeah. I've got a mole on the bottom side of one of my feet and my Grandmother said it meant that I'd never stand still.

D: What's another interesting thing that you do?

E: I belong to the Bay Area Models Guild. I've been part of that group for twelve years. I think of modeling as being my artistic outlet; as providing an artist with something dynamic to draw, and it seems to work well. Models are pretty much on their own as to poses though the instructor can make requests. In Drawing and Sculpture

classes we're working in certain negative space or we're working on foreshortening, that sort of thing.

I had the really poor judgment of modeling on a yoga ball one time. I had to hold that pose on the yoga ball for twenty minutes. At the end of that I promptly picked up the ball and kicked it across the room saying, "Bad Ball." Because I was exhausted. Twenty minutes of trying to hold, stone still, on a freaking yoga ball.

D: How did you hear about Western Star?

E: Through my friend Cindy Shine who's with a theater group that was also using the Eureka Center. She asked me to come to the Western Star class



Cindy Shine and Gigi Troga celebrate with Edna at the Orange Class Welcome Potluck

but I'd had a very challenging week and I thought about backing out. She was like, "You know if you've had a bad weekend this is going to be the perfect fix for it." The first time we went was the Monday before Halloween. Yeah that was entertaining! It was great---it was great. My mouth was sore from smiling so much. People were in costume. I hadn't seen square dancing in 23 years much less the flamboyancy, if you will, of the Castro in costume. So Cindy was right on the money, it was certainly the fix I was looking for. Just the amazing energy. There was that pet peeve of dancing with men who look better as women than I do (Edna chuckles) you know the cute knees and everything. Lisa and I call Steve Scott the adorable one, actually.

D: Thank you Edna.

E: Thank you Dan.



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.

Minutes of the Board November 19, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Administrator Daryl Daniels at 6:10 p.m. with all Board members present. The minutes of the October meeting were approved. Daniels was ecstatic about the turnout for the Orange class and about the successful Welcome Orange Class Potluck at Mimi Mueller's. Since there are Monday holidays in January and February (when EVRC will be closed), the suggestion was made that we plan something social (if not another Potluck) for those evenings. The Board agreed to make donations to both EVRC and Magnet. Our annual Holiday Party is scheduled for December 19th. Steve Scott will again be the Holiday Elf. The Western Star Dancers Policy Statements were approved. The Treasurer's report was approved. Club Nights were discussed. The Events/Dance Coordinator is beginning to schedule callers for 2008. It was suggested that we strongly encourage Orange Class members to attend Club Nights to get more floor time. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes of the Board December 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Daryl Daniels, Administrator (soon to be named "High Commander"), with all Board members present. Daniels asked for suggestions on ways to get Orange Class members involved. Already underway is a plan to make January Club Night a "Class Level Club Night." Also suggested were (1) a 'check in' list for class members so we can more easily keep track of absences and (2) a survey at the mid-point of Mainstream to see how the class is doing/feeling. Also, an open invitation to the Arch Angel to attend board meetings will be given to Michael Sui. The 2007 Anniversary Dance will have a Pajama Party theme. The caller is Scot Byars. To encourage new callers, a "New Caller Apprentice Position" will be announced in the January Newsletter. The Treasurer's Report was approved. The Treasurer also reported that he has sent the required "Recruiting" receipts to the Petersen Fund. The Treasurer will also prepare a budget for 'expenses' for various functions. To encourage more people to attend, the Dance/Events coordinated suggested that each Club Night have a theme. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Dewsnap, Secretary

Dance Calendar

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

FOGGY CITY DANCERS
SAN FRANCISCO • CALIFORNIA
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

February 2
2:30-5:30 pm

Prime 8s *Cast a Shadow on Spring* Jet Roberts caller. A/C* \$9 Central United Methodist Church, 5265 'H' Street, Sacramento

February 2
7-10 pm

Capital City Squares *Cast a Shadow on Spring* Jet Roberts caller. MS/P/A* \$9 Central United Methodist Church, 5265 'H' Street, Sacramento

February 8-10

PACE Ben Rubright 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

February 16
2-5 pm

Midnight Squares *Afternoon Dance* Saundra Bryant caller. A1/A2/C1* \$8/\$10 Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco

February 16
7-10 pm

Foggy City Dancers *Valentine's Dance* Saundra Bryant caller. MS/P/A* \$8/\$10 Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco

February 18

Presidents Day. EVRC is closed. No Class.

February 20
7:30-9:30 pm

Chinese New Year Club Night Ron Masker caller. EVRC 新年快乐!

February 23

El Camino Reelers ¾ *Thru Winter* St. Andrews Methodist Church, 4111 Alma Street, Palo Alto

March 7-9

PACE Vic Ceder 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

March 15
7:30-10:30 pm

Diablo Dancers *Flip the Flowers* Michael Kellogg caller. MS/P/A* \$8/\$10 Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek

March 19
7:30-9:30 pm

Club Night Harlan Kerr caller. EVRC

March 22
7:30-10:30 pm

26th Anniversary Dance Pajama Party (Bedroom Attire Preferred) Scot Byars 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

MARILYNN FOWLER
FEBRUARY 2

DONALD ROBERTSON
FEBRUARY 4

DAVID HOLLOWAY
FEBRUARY 8

JOE CASSERLY
FEBRUARY 12

RUSS KING
MARCH 1

DAN SMITH
MARCH 7

MARK YEE
MARCH 3

STEVE HUGGINS
MARCH 16

MIKE KLEEMAN
MARCH 5

KATHY HEALY
MARCH 21

TOM OPHARDT
MARCH 21

VICKI SUNG
MARCH 25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

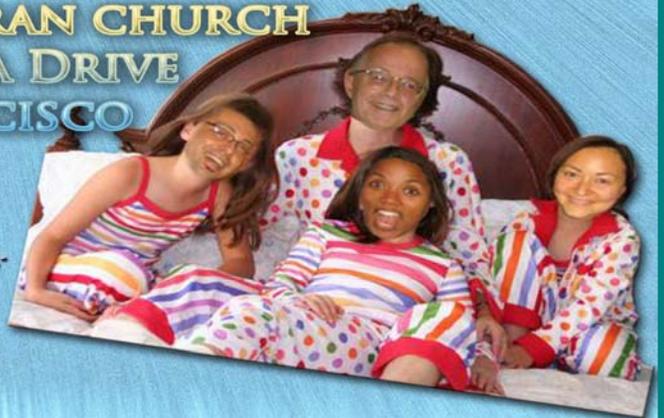
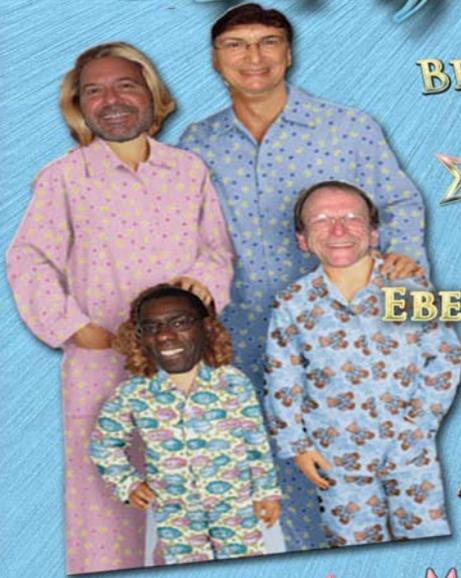
WESTERN STAR DANCERS 26TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE PAJAMA PARTY

BEDROOM ATTIRE
PREFERRED!

SCOTT
BYARS
CALLER

MARCH 22, 2008
7:30-10:30 PM

EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH
678 PORTOLA DRIVE
SAN FRANCISCO



\$8/\$10

MS
PLUS
A*



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