

April 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
8A 534 Castro Street #400
San Francisco, CA 94114

The



Western Star

*The Western Star Dancers
Board of Directors wish to
acknowledge and thank the donors
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Orange Mainstream Class Completing

The 2008 Western Star Dancers Orange Mainstream Class is rushing toward its completion, the last class night being May 19. Rich Reel has toiled to teach this large, enthusiastic class. There will be 22 dancers who will receive Certificates of Completion on June 2.

We try to avoid using the word *graduate*, because that implies finishing or the end, but Mainstream is just a start. Many dancers decide to continue on to the Plus Class. Many decide to learn to dance the other gender. So, we say Class Completion meaning: *Celebrate!*

Partners, friends, family, colleagues are invited to join us. Bring party foods to share.

We hope to get as many club members as possible to attend so we can take a club photo. The majority of the club will not be able to attend the IAGSDC Convention in Cleveland July 4th weekend, so this would be an ideal time to get a more inclusive club photo to augment the convention club photo.

Free Introduction to Plus Dancing will be on June 9 (7:30-9:30 pm, EVRC). Plus Class will commence on June 16, and will continue 13 weeks. Cost for the class is \$70 for first time takers, and \$35 for retakers. Club members who wish to repeat the class as the same gender should register, but do not have to pay.

In addition, between now and the IAGSDC Convention, Rich will endeavor to provide more Plus tips to help sharpen skills before the big show.



Friends of Dorothy Filmography

"I have always depended on the kindness of strangers." That was Vivien Leigh as Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. But you probably already knew that—and perhaps even noticed how Blanche's signature line reflects her reliance on the attentions of men to rescue her. The previous newsletter included a parody of *All About Eve*. Responses indicated that many of the readers were unaware of the film. The collective subconscious of pop culture within our sub-culture assumes a common knowledge in regard to the sacred icons, familiar quotations and inside jokes of the standard repertoire of films that influence a still-vibrant "camp" community. Various dancers were asked to nominate those films that it is assumed everyone should have seen and embraced. This list is not meant to include the cinematically important or "best" films such as *Citizen Kane* or *Casablanca* (although some—such as "Eve" and "Streetcar"—would also appear on a best films list). Most of the nominated titles have been influenced by diva cults and by the way the star delivers her lines.

We welcome you to Munchkin Land. *The Top Ten*.

The first three titles below were on everyone's list. The majority mentioned the fourth through the sixth. Numbers 7 through 10 had the least nominations. They appear in alphabetical order.

- 1) *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) Judy Garland
- 2) *The Women* (1939) Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell
- 3) *All About Eve* (1950) Bette Davis, Anne Baxter
- 4) *Auntie Mame* (1958) Rosalind Russell
- 5) *Gone With the Wind* (1939) Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable [and Butterfly McQueen].
- 6) *Some Like It Hot* (1959) Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon
- 7) *Gypsy* (1962) Rosalind Russell, Natalie Wood
- 8) *She Done Him Wrong* (1933) Mae West, Cary Grant
- 9) *Sunset Boulevard* (1950) Gloria Swanson, William Holden
- 10) *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* (1962) Bette Davis, Joan Crawford



The "All About Michael" column motivated Christian to watch *Eve*. He discovered an appreciation for Bette Davis, and has developed an interest in exploring her other films.

Don't dream it, be it.

Other titles were submitted after the nomination deadline: *Mommie Dearest*, *Now Voyager*, *Pink Flamingos*, *Rocky Horror*, *Stage Door*, *Stella Dallas*, and *Tootsie*. It is interesting that three of the Top 10 titles are from 1939, two from 1950, two star Bette Davis, two star Joan Crawford; and surprisingly, three star Roz Russell.

A misguided Willie nominated *Deep Throat*.



The calla lilies are in bloom again.

And now, here are the lines. Play the game and see if you can match the famous quote to the top ten films.

A) Sing out, Louise! B) But ya are, Blanche. C) Come up and see me. D) I'm ready for my close-up. E) I'm a man/Well, nobody's perfect. F) I don't think we're in Kansas anymore. G) I don't know nuthin' 'bout birthin' babies. H) Fasten your seat belts; it's going to be a bumpy night. I) Life is a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death. J) Mama, I'm pretty. K) Not in front of the B-O-Y. L) I *am* big—it's the pictures that got small. M) Eat your din-din. N) I always get the fuzzy end of the lollipop. O) I'll show you worlds you never even dreamed existed. P) Just hold on and suck in. Q) Are you a good witch, or a bad witch? R) You tore my front. S) The best thing about divorce is you get to sleep with your mother. T) Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain. U) On the train to Reno. V) You can put that award where your heart should be. W) It's really top drawer. X) Jungle Red! Y) Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn. Z) There's no place like home!

ANSWERS: 1=F, Q, T, Z; 2=S, U, X; 3=H, V; 4=I, K, O, W; 5=G, P, Y; 6=E, N, R; 7=A, J; 8=C; 9=D, L; 10=B, M.

This is Mrs. Norman Maine

If you are still in a playful mood, try to match the character with the film.

- A) Norma Desmond. B) Dorothy Gale. C) Rose Hovick. D) Crystal Allen.
 E) Sugar Kane. F) Prissy. G) Mrs. Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside.
 H) Margo Channing. I) Blanche Hudson. J) Diamond Lil.

ANSWERS: 1=B; 2=D; 3=H; 4=G; 5=F; 6=E; 7=C; 8=J; 9=A; 10=I.



2008
First Class
U.S. Postage

Bette Davis in her signature role.

The Quirky Nature of Things

by dan smith

D: What's your name?

T: Teresa Miller. I was born in Oakland and have lived my whole life in the Bay area. My Mother is Spanish New Mexican. Her family came here pre-War World Two. Father's family is second generation German from Minnesota. He moved here when He was nineteen. They met at a dance hall in 1950. I'm the oldest of four. I have one brother and two sisters. My brother lives up in the Sierra foothills. My sisters live in Western Marin and Santa Rosa.



D: Tell me an interesting story about grade school.

T: The most interesting thing was my transition from Catholic to public school during eighth grade. Apparently before that I had been quit cloistered because I was really surprised how sexually curious the kids were in public school. It was a shock to find that the kids were more mature then I. I also remember playing board games; monopoly for example, all the time for days on end. We'd congregate in my bedroom and that board would always slide underneath my bed to be taken out the next day for continued play. To this day I enjoy playing board games.

D: Tell me about college.

T: I went two years at Santa Rosa Junior College, then two years at C.S.U., Sacramento. I studied Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources Management. I was a practical kid and comfortable with Human Resources because I knew I was sociable, amiable. After college I enjoyed working for 13 years at Hewlett Packard in Human Resources.

D: Did you travel anywhere after college?

T: As soon as I began working for HP I started traveling at least once or twice a year. My first trip was to Europe (Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France) for five weeks all by myself in 1986. I remember an interesting place was Mainau Island in the middle of Germany's Lake Constance. It had gardens with plants from all over the world. I couldn't figure why there were so many people standing around this one tree: I wondered; "What's with this tree". Well it was a Sequoia which to us is no biggy but to them...(Teresa laughs)

D: Did you do any kind of dancing before Western Star?

T: I started belly dancing in about 2000. I think it was because I saw a porn film and belly dancing seemed really cool and really fun; I also like the outfits. It requires patience because there are a lot of isolated movements. It's very

mental, you have to focus on what you're doing and how you're doing it and then tell the body what to do. My troupe performed at the huge West Coast belly dancing event in Richmond. It's just like square dancing's big yearly event.

At the same time I was also taking swing. I started salsa lessons in 2003 and I was also taking Balinka. Salsa dancing was fun but there was eventually the question of a partner; there were never enough men who were willing to come to class...which is why I'm here because there's never an issue with my having a partner.

Now I got a boyfriend and he's taking up my time. We met on Match.com. It

seems that _____ that's the way most of us are meeting. I think he's a good dancer because when my sister got married he was compelled to dance with me and I realized, "What the heck he's a good dancer. He's been hiding this from me all along!"

D: Maybe you can get him to take a class.

T: This is the first dance class I've taken in our relationship and I'm hoping that as he sees me taking these classes and hears me talking about how much fun it is and sees me dancing he'll realize that maybe it's something that he'd like to jump in on.

D: How did you hear about Western Star?

T: Kathy Tuccio was one of my clients and during a couple of really nice lunches she told me how much fun she was having doing this dance form. The last time she talked to me it turned out to be just that window of opportunity where I felt like I needed to jump back into the dance world and do something that was going to be real fun.

My first square dancing experience was in 1990 at a Dude Ranch vacation in Colorado. One night they brought in a Caller and we square danced. Most of us were working professionals and it was fun because nobody knew what they were doing. I haven't forgotten that hysterically hard laughing experience. I remember deciding "Sometime I'm going to take lessons because this is so fun." That first night I was at Western Star's class all those memories just came back and I was having a good time. I remember thinking, "Oh, I remember this stuff and I remember that stuff!" And it was all coming back. I feel I've always been an explorer and as I've been maturing and growing into my own I've always been opened to new experiences and it never ceases to amaze me the offers I get, the things that come in front of me. People sometimes laugh at the quirky nature of the things I end up doing but I need to have a lot of non-traditional things going on.

D: There needs to be a belly dance in your life.

T: Yeah, yeah. There has to be something.

D: Thank you Teresa.

T: And thank you.



ADIOS CARP
SAN FRANCISCO

DON'T WORRY

WESTERN STAR DANCERS
26TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE

MARCH 22, 2008

San Francisco

DON'T WORRY

PROUD TO SHOW OFF MY FRIENDS

by dan smith

D: What's your name?

C: Kristal Kranz. I was born in Yonkers, New York and was there about a year. Dad was in the army so we moved around quite a bit. I also lived in Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Colorado, Kentucky, Tennessee and ended up in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Usually I say I'm from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

D: Tell me about your Mother and Father?

C: Mom was head of Occupational Therapy at a hospital in New York and



Dad was a nursing assistant there; that's how they met. She was born in Baguio in the Philippines. Dad was born in Toledo, Ohio. I have an older sister by two years named April. She's finishing her Medical Residency down in Riverside, California at Loma Linda. I also have a brother two years younger who lives just south of Atlanta Georgia. He's named Mark and is an Electricians Apprentice.

D: Tell me about grade school.

C: I skipped first grade because I knew how to read so I was with the big kids and I think that played a role in my being really shy. I didn't really come into my own until I'd say, eighth grade. I liked music and got passionate about singing and playing piano. I wanted to start a band with my best friends Sasha

and Adrian. We were all about Grunge music at the time. (Kristal laughs). That fueled our teenage angst and kind of coming into ourselves.

D: Tell me about college.

C: I went to the University of Wyoming in Laramie. I started out as a Business Major 'cause I thought my mom wanted me to do that. I promptly changed to music and I was a music major for close to two years, studying piano and composition. I joined the Asian-American and Pacific Islanders Student Association and that really kind of helped me branch out with myself a little bit. I switched to anthropology, I love Cultural Anthropology and I also did pre-med. but that never actually panned out. However I did well in science classes and I enjoy science quite a bit. I've been thinking about going back to school and getting a graduate degree. I feel like I didn't really have time when I was in college to set down and explore who I am. After I graduated I moved to Northampton, Massachusetts. Adrian was going to Hampshire College and I visited her. I fell in love with it. It's a little college town, very progressive, like a mini San Francisco in a way but very East Coast; like with maple trees and bricks. I got a job as a nursing assistant and also a job as a salon receptionist. It was a Beauty School/Salon and it was an interesting job. Then I got a job at Smith College working in the Admission Office and now I'm doing Admissions here but for an elementary school.

D: During those years did you go on vacations?

C: I've been to Hawaii a couple of times. I've also been to Amsterdam, Paris and Munich. I love seeing how different cultures do very mundane things like transportation and the way the trash is collected and electricity. I feel like it's cool to see a different way of doing things, even if it's subtle.

D: You said that you were interested in music. Have you kept with any groups or anything?

C: When I first moved to the city I went to a few Open Mikes and I did a couple

of my pieces which were on voice and piano, and that was a thrill. I write music. One day I wrote a song about making a sandman on the beach. I had gone running on the beach and decided to stop and make a sandman out of some sand. I sculpted a little face and everything. In my song I imagined it opened its eyes and it looked up at me. It kind of freaked me out a little bit because I have a really vivid imagination. Now I work at a Jewish day school, private kindergarten through eight grade, and I play piano for the choir there. So I'm the choir pianist, which is funny because I was in choirs going to school and growing up and I remember the pianist who played. She was probably in her 60's, curly red hair, very rotund and I never imagined that I'd be her someday. I am her, I'm the school pianist.

D: How did you come to know about square dancing?

C: I'm in it now because I was invited by Kathy Tuccio. She's the Human Resources Coordinator where I work. She talked about it a couple of times when a few of us ate lunch together. I went to the recruiting nights at Magnet. The first night I got there early and there were a couple of people congregated outside. Paul Gonyea was there and welcomed me. He said; "Oh yah, you know it's a friendly group, don't be nervous." Then Kathy came along and she'd brought a friend so, introductions all around, and it was fine. I didn't know how much physical work I was going to be doing. I got a really good work out that first night. Now that I know what to expect it seems easier in terms of the cardio-vascular part of it. I remember getting sweaty that first night. I was so embarrassed. After that I knew what to expect. I also enjoyed the Gift Exchange. It was hilarious. Joe and Todd were such hambones.(Kristal chuckles). They add so much life to whatever is going on. I brought my sister so she could see. I was so proud to show off my friends to her.

D: Well thank you Kristal.

C: You're welcome.

From the Editor



With this edition of *The Western Star*, your humble editor has completed five years at the helm. As a student in the 2002 Yellow Class, there was nothing resembling a newsletter—the club was in shambles, Steve Scott and Jim Dewsnap were working to wrest some order out of the chaos into which the club had drifted. I offered to put together a newsletter. If you don't remember the June 2002 issue, it was, well, rustic is a nice term.

In high school I was bitten by the journalism bug. I was editor of my school's paper (mimeographed) and worked with the local hometown weekly (*The Ivanhoe* (MN) *Times*). I wrote an editorial that stirred up the VFW Auxiliary enough to be labeled a Communist. I laughed. The Navy sent me to journalism school, then let me work for the base newspaper at Sasebo, Japan. On board the USS Long Beach I started a couple newsletters (including a Sunday

paper with comics drawn by shipmates). Through the years I drifted away from journalism, with a little bit here or there. There was always an authority figure watching over my shoulder reining me in (and I probably needed it). *The Western Star* offered something different. At last, I could do a newsletter the way I wanted to.

Dan Smith has been a major contributor from nearly the beginning. His interviews not only have entertained, but have presented unprecedented profiles of square dancers and their lives. Everybody has a story, but only Dan collects the stories of the square dancers. He is a wonderful asset to the newsletter and the club.

Brenda Line popped her pretty little head up almost three years ago with her dishy reporting on the Gotta Boys, Manboobs, and assorted kitchy gossip.

What a marvelous addition her *Left Feet* has been to the newsletter.

Color was not available for me to use in any of my earlier journalism work. After paying a huge amount to have some club materials commercially printed, I decided to get my own laser printer for printing the club materials. I had colors, millions of colors. Yes, I probably went a bit overboard at times, but overall the effects have been good. I can produce the sort of newsletter I had always wanted.

Publishing *The Western Star* is something I hope to continue to do for some time. Sometimes putting everything together seems like a big pain in the neck, but there is a joy in seeing the assembled product. I hope you share a little of that joy, too.

Respectfully,
Daryl Daniels
Editor

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 January 14, 2008 [emended]

The January meeting of the Board was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Administrator Daryl Daniels. Administrator Daniels reported that the Orange Class is doing well. He gave some information about the planned MLK Day potluck and the February Class Night which will celebrate the Chinese New Year. He also said that the caller for the March Anniversary Dance (themed as a pajama party) will be given a list of calls the Orange Class has learned so that they will feel more comfortable participating in the dance. The Treasurer's report was approved. The Board approved a \$125 decorations budget for all future dances. The Events/Dance Coordinators discussed plans for the annual Angel Island picnic and Circulate San Francisco. Dates will be set at the February Board meeting. We are also going forward with the plan to have club members 'adopt' a Club Night. The Administrator once again reminded the Board that we still need a space for storing club memorabilia. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes of the Board February 14, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Administrator Daryl Daniels. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as emended. The Administrator reported that Newsletter costs are down with many members opting to receive it online. Plans for the Anniversary Dance/Pajama Party were discussed. Class Level calls will be included. Mainstream class members will be encouraged to attend. The annual Yard Sale has been tentatively set for May 3rd. The feasibility of having a Western Star Dancers Pride Parade float was discussed and will be examined further. The annual Angel Island Picnic and a new Circulate San Francisco will be discussed at the next meeting. The Membership Renewal period has closed. We now have 80 club members! We received a check for \$756.26 from the Petersen Fund to defray expenses for the Street Fair and other recruiting activities. Sponsored Club Nights were discussed. The person sponsoring the event will choose a theme and, with the caller, will discuss class level calls and music. The Board approved a \$25 decorating budget for each event. The Treasurer's report was accepted. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Dewsnap, Secretary



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

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

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

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

Other Bay Area Square Dance Clubs

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

April 4-6 **Cooks Barn** Mike Jacobs caller. Friday 7 pm C3A 8 pm C2, Saturday 10:30 am & 2:30 pm, 8 pm C1, Sunday 10:30 am & 2:30 pm C3A/C3B*. 9054 Oaks Avenue, Orangevale

April 16
7:30-9:30 pm **Club Night! Fen Tamanaha caller. EVRC**

April 25-27 **Capital City Squares & Prime 8s** Stumptown Stomp, Andy Shore & Time Crawford callers. Guerneville

April 26 **El Camino Reelers** Walk & Dodge into Spring. St. Andrews Methodist Church, 4111 Alma Street, Palo Alto

May 2-4 **PACE** Barry Clasper caller. Friday 7:30 pm A2, Saturday 11 am & 2:30 pm C2 7:30 pm C4, Sunday 11 am C3A, 2:30 pm C3. Diablo Light Opera Co. 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill

May 3
 7:30-10:30 pm **Midnight Squares** Advanced Graduation Barry Clasper caller. A2/C1/C2/C3A Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco

May 21
7:30-9:30 pm **Club Night! John Kenny caller. EVRC**

June 1
Performance, AEF Fundraiser, County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park. Ron Masker caller. Details TBA

June 2
7:30-9:30 pm **Orange Mainstream Class Completion. Rich Reel caller. EVRC**

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

MICHAEL SUI
 APRIL 13

MATT THOMSON
 APRIL 15

VICTOR HOLLINGER
 APRIL 15

SCOTT JOHNSON
 APRIL 16

MARIO TORRIGINO
 APRIL 25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEN TAMANAHA
 MAY 5

JAMIE KRAVITZ
 MAY 14

KATHY TUCCO
 MAY 16

RICHARD LEADBETTER
 MAY 26

Orange Mainstream Class Completion

Rich Reel
Caller/Instructor

2008

Partners, spouses,
friends, colleagues
WELCOME

Club
Members
are
expected
to bring
food

June 2, 2008
7:30-9:30 pm
Eureka Valley Rec
100 Collingwood Street



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

Weaving Rings
In San Francisco
For 26 Years