



October 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



Sunny Days for WSD

What an extraordinary year this has been for Western Star Dancers!

Membership is up to 84, and club assets (as of September 8) totaled \$6,004.17 (compared to September 2007--\$4706.78). Beyond the numbers, WSD has experienced a resurgence of Club Night with exciting themes, as well as in increase in other social activities.

There are so many people to thank: Rich Reel for his energy, enthusiasm, drive, and abilities—He is one of the prime reasons WSD is doing so well. Jim Dewsnap who is retiring after four years on the Board of Directors. Paul Gonyea, who is also leaving the board but will continue to assist the club, and Kathy Tuccio were the dynamos in charging up Club Nights. Bob Brundage has been dependable, one of the best things one can say about a Treasurer. Joe Casserly and Todd Young for setting the themes for some of the liveliest square dances west of the

Hudson River. Joe has also done spectacular work maintaining the website. Gary Cohn has sparkled as party organizer and newsletter contributor. Dan Smith for his always interesting interviews. Tomas Todd for his beautiful paper designs at our dances. Russ King for being so helpful in so many ways. Especially, thank you to all of the generous donors who have supported the club, including all of you who have chosen to receive the newsletter online.

Over the past year, the Board of Directors reviewed and revised the club's Policy Statements. This is no glamorous achievement; still these are important documents provide guidance in critical matters related to the club. Most questions concerning club operation or coping with a problem are answered in the Policy Statements (available on our website). This year the board came up with a definition of the role of Archangel and added it to the statements.

The club also has a new logo (see above). This is a supplemental logo that will be used in print and with club attire. There won't be new badges. This logo is a simpler, cleaner design to promote the club.

Kathy Tuccio will be the Co-Administrator for the coming year. This will likely be my last year to have the privilege of serving as your High Commander. Kathy is starting Plus Final Wednesdays. The last Wednesdays of the month will now be reserved for full Plus dancing. Harlan Kerr will be the caller. Starting on October 29, from 7:30-9:30 pm at EVRC you can come and dance Plus all evening. Only Plus. We will ask for a \$5 donation from each dancer.

The Yellow 2009 class holds promise of more better Western Star Dancers.

Yellowrock,
Daryl Daniels
High Commander



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Mark Nida
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Kathy Tuccio
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2008

2009

Board of Directors

Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!

San Francisco WESTERN STAR DANCERS

Blue Class of '05 Still in Step

Class Reunion Celebration

Some dancers drop out a few weeks into Basic/Mainstream lessons, and others go on forever. On average, they last for a few years. **Freeman Stamper's** research determined that the dance-life expectancy within the square dance community is 3 years. So, it is only fitting that we pause and acknowledge those who make it over that 3-year hump. This summer, the Blue Class Reunion was held to recognize the contributions and legacy of the Blue Class of 2005, and the impact it continues to have on the culture of Western Star Dancers.



Left to right: Daniel, Ammon, Paul, Davida, Todd and Joe pose at the 2005 Blue Class Mainstream Completion ceremony.

Along with Blue Class Archangel **Ammon**, **Daniel** helped to infuse a youthful vitality into the club. **Joe** and **Todd** served on the WSD Board, and they continue to produce and decorate the Saturday dances, and also the class graduations. Todd became the Archangel for the Red Class of 2007. **Davida** has performed in the WSD *Club Night La Star*, served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the *Blue Hawaii* mini-dance, and hosted the San Francisco premiere of "Crossfire—The Next Generation." Daniel, Joe, Todd, and Davida all appeared in "Crossfire," and enjoyed a national audience when the movie was presented to a large group of conventioners in Denver. **Paul** served on the WSD Board of Directors, helped to restructure club nights, organized *Circulate San Francisco 2008*, and gained lasting fame as producer of *Adventures in Square Dancing* when he placed dancers on a mosaic staircase. Todd and Joe appeared in the *Adventures in Square Dancing* series. The Blue Class must also be thanked for their recruitment efforts and for bringing their wonderful friends into subsequent WSD classes.



LEFT— Daniel, Joe, Todd and Davida celebrate their 2008 Class Reunion at the *Blue Hawaii* WSD Club Night mini-dance.

RIGHT— *Fan the Top; He's no fan. Shut up bitch!* Todd creates a breeze on the occasion of his 2005 graduation.



Western Star Dancers Yellow Class Calendar

2008

2009

Class Nights are shaded Yellow
 Club Nights are shaded Green
 Dance Nights are shaded Pink
 Dark Nights (No Class) are Grey

OCTOBER						
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March 21 27th Anniversary



October 5 Castro Street Fair
 October 6 Free Intro Nights
 October 20 Yellow MS Starts
 November 12 Welcome Potluck
 December 17 Holiday Party

April 9-12 IAGSDC Convention
 April 20 MS Class Completion
 April 27 Plus Class Intro
 May 4 Yellow Plus Class Starts
 June 27 Pride Dance
 August 15 Circulate SF
 August 24 Plus Class Completion
 Sept 26 Leather & Lace
 August 31, September 14, 21, 28
 APD/DPD



WSD 2008 Homecoming Queen Todd Young rides aboard his regal float, towed by Joe Casserly. Todd captured the crown at the August Club Night contending with glamorous contestants from the other Bay Area gay clubs.

Butterflies and Windmills

by dan smith

D: Your name is?

T: Tony Attard. I was born and raised in San Francisco, the Excelsior district. I went to Balboa High school. I've lived here my entire life. Both my parents emigrated from the island of Malta. I'm Maltese. My Mother was a housewife and raised three kids and my Father, basically, was a longshoreman. I have 2 younger sisters. Susan, in Sacramento is 9 years younger and has 2 daughters. My other sister, Debbie, lives in San Carlos, is 14 years younger and has 1 son.

D: Tell me about early schooling.

T: I went to Hillcrest Elementary School

partner to learn to square dance at *Pairs & Spares* in San Bruno. We took class for a year---to Plus. But the day we graduated I vowed, "I'll never square dance again."

D: So what did you do after you finished high school?

T: A neighbor who worked at Roos Atkins got me a part time job in the credit office during my senior year. I was there for 21 years.

D: Any interesting vacations?

T: I went to Europe about 9 times. The 1st time (1961) I went with Mother, Father and my sisters to Malta. But the 2nd time, at 19, I went on my own and it was great. I took the luxury liner Queen Elisabeth. On board I got these messages under the door to go to these parties, you know what I mean. I went to one and it was definitely a gay party and someone definitely tried to seduce me but I wasn't quite ready yet.

On another trip I went to East Germany and got to

see the Berlin Wall as it was in those times. It was very strange to see. They had the city divided and there was this lake and they had the wall going right through the lake, it was unbelievable. They had the guards with machine guns. I got to see all that. Two years later the wall came down.

D: Tell me about your 1st love.

T: At 23 I moved in with my 1st partner, David. We were together almost 20 years and are still good friends. He's an Environmentalist into photography and very artistic. His goal in life was to save San Bruno Mountain; they wanted to build a city of 30,000 on it. For 30 years he fought...and I was involved with that. We needed to get people on city councils in Brisbane, Colma and Daly City who were willing to support saving the mountain. I ran for City Council of the City of Brisbane; I was elected.

We found pockets of the Mission Blue butterfly on the Mountain so the federal government got involved because the butterfly was endangered. Now this huge mountain is preserved as a State and County park. There's a documentary being made for PBS, called *Bulldozers and Butterflies* about the battle to save San Bruno Mountain.

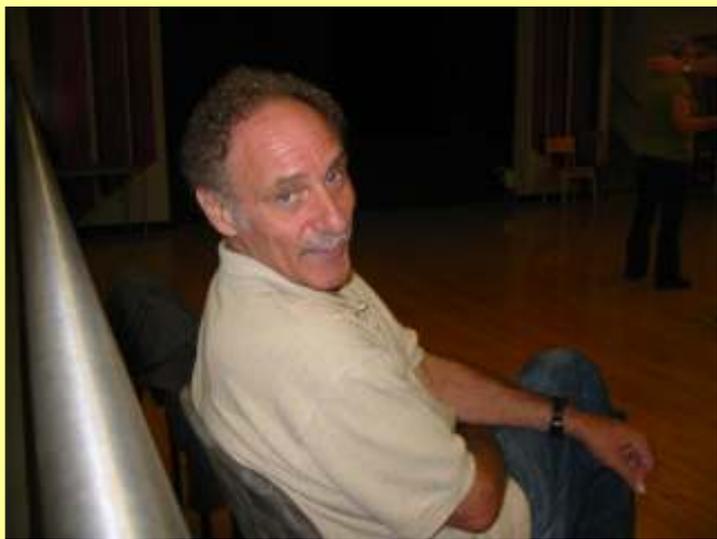
Now my passion is clean renewable energy. In Brisbane I formed the Committee for Renewable Energy. There's 550 acres in front of Brisbane that's called the Baylands; it was San Francisco's garbage dump. They want to build on it. I said, "OK. let them build on the Baylands, however let's do something about renewable energy." Because of me and my organization's efforts Brisbane erected a 60 ft tower to measure the wind data for one year on the Baylands. The winds need to be 12 and 14 miles per hour for a windmill farm to be feasible. My passion is promoting clean renewable energy.

D: Tell me about Rich Reel and you.

T: After my 2nd partner died, I stayed home for 2 years. One day I was watching TV and I thought, "God, if I watch anymore TV I'm going to shoot myself. I'm feeling like a zombie here." So I went to Sundance, the country and western place 'cause I was told it's not a pick up place but a great place just to have fun and feel good. Rich spotted me... *leaning against the wall making sure there were 4 rows of people in front of me so I could just watch.* He went right through everybody and asked me to dance. I told him I didn't feel like it. Rich is kind of persistent and so I ended up dancing. It was cordial and Rich was also very nice. And Rich was truly dancing with everybody. Rich just loves dancing, you know. Then one time we went out from Sundance and had dinner nearby. We were walking and had dinner, just to talk. So it was a gradual thing. Rich and I...people are going to be shocked by this...Rich and I do not have a lot in common. What we have in common is respect for each other and deep affection for each other.

D: Thank you Tony.

T: You're welcome Dan.



in the Excelsior, and then Portola Junior High and Balboa High School. In junior high I was overweight and not very popular, but in my junior year of high school things changed dramatically. I lost weight and all of the sudden---I'll never forget it as long as I live---one day I was in homeroom class and the girl who always sat across from me said, "Boy you turned out nice looking." That was the first I ever heard that. I took advantage of my metamorphosis and joined the drama club. I was an actor in *Charlie's Aunt* and *Ladies of the Jury*.

In school I learned swing and stuff and always liked dance and music. I was in SF during the Height/Ashbury movement; Jefferson Airplane, Janis Joplin, Santana---I saw them every week. They were part of the San Francisco scene and I got to live it. Way back then a woman I knew needed a





Celebrating 25 Years of
Folsom Street Fair



Leather & Lace 2008

Due to circumstances beyond our control, only Gary Cohn's photos are available at press time. Other Leather & Lace 2008 photos will be posted online as they become available.

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 July 21, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by High Commander Daryl Daniels. Board members present: Brundage, Daniels, Dewsnap, Tuccio.

The minutes of the June meeting and the Treasurer's report were accepted. The Board unanimously passed a resolution commending Gary Cohn for the highly successful Hawaiian Club Night. "Gary deserves high accolades for a tremendous party. Everyone had a wonderful time. *Bravo/Brava* to all involved," said

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

FOG CITY DANCERS
www.foggycity.org
See Website for info
Studio 204
3435 Cesar Chavez
San Francisco

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

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

Other Bay Area Square Dance Clubs

Daniels, who also gave a Well Done for the Pride Dance. Looking forward to the Yellow Class schedule, it was decided to have only one free night (10/6). The EVRC will be closed on 10/13 for Columbus Day, so we will begin the official Yellow Class on 10/21. Plans for Circulate San Francisco (8/9) and the annual picnic (Labor Day) were

discussed. We will ask a \$5 voluntary fee for Circulate SF so that we can give drivers something toward gas. The theme for this year's Leather and Lace will be "Celebrating 25 years of the Folsom Street Fair." Steve Scott and Russ King will constitute the nominating committee for the Board elections to be held at the Annual Meeting scheduled for September Club Night (9/17). Anyone interested in serving on the Board should contact either Steve or Russ. Kathy Tuccio proposed that we begin a Plus Workshop to be held once a month beginning in October on the 'dark' Wednesday at EVRC. She has already approached Harlan Kerr to lead the workshop. The Board authorized Russ King to book our 2009 dances. The High Commander is working on a redesign of the WSD logo for print and attire use to be unveiled at the Annual Meeting. Badges will not be changed. The next Board meeting will be August 11. We adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes of the Board August 11, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by High Commander Daryl Daniels with all Board members present. The minutes of the July meeting were approved as amended. Daniels praised the club for a successful Circulate San Francisco: "It was a fabulous time!" Plans for the Labor Day Picnic were discussed. Tuccio will coordinate the food purchases. We will invite other clubs to join us. To accommodate a scheduling request from Midnight Square, our November Club Night will be shifted to Wednesday 11/12. The theme will be "Club Night 101": the first Club Night for our new Yellow class. Other Club Night plans include a Homecoming Theme for the August Club Night and Gary Cohn's Oktoberfest in October. Plans for the Castro Street Fair and recruitment for the Yellow Class were discussed. Because of space limitations we will limit the class to 20 students. The theme for our Leather and Lace Dance will be "Celebrating 25 years of the Folsom Street Fair." The Annual Membership Meeting and Board elections were discussed.

The Dance Coordinator announced that the new Plus Workshop will be held the last Wednesday of each month; the initial meeting of the workshop will be October 29. Harlan will be the caller. Also, we agreed to co-host John Kenny's Year End Dance on December 29 at EVRC. The Treasurer's report was accepted. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Dewsnap, Secretary

Welcome Potluck

for the

WSD SF

Yellow 2009 Mainstream Class

Wednesday
November 12
7:30 - 9:30 PM
Eureka Valley
Rec Center

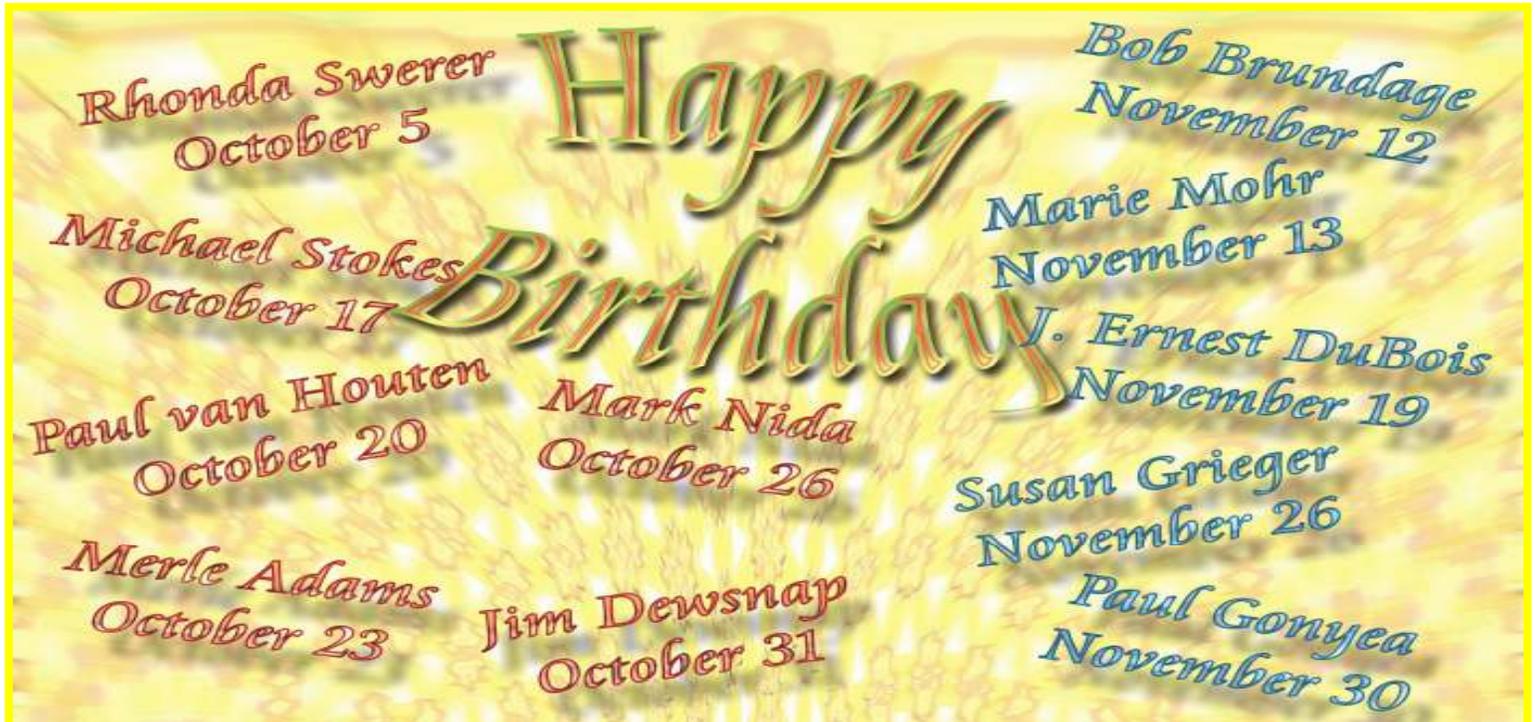
Special Guest Caller

Members should bring **FOOD**

Dance Calendar

October 3-5	PACE Ross Howell 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
October 5-10 am - 5 pm	Castro Street Fair Come and dance at our booth. Rich Reel caller
October 6-7:30-9:30 pm	Free Intro Night Yellow Mainstream Class A chance for your friends to try out square dancing. EVRC
October 10-12	SCVDA 52nd Annual Jubilee Mike Callahan, Mike Jacobs, Mike Kellogg callers. Plus/A/C/Rounds/Clogging/Youth. Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
October 15-7:30-9:30 pm	Octoberfest Club Night Harlan Kerr caller. EVRC
October 18-7-10 pm	Daktown 8s Pass the Pumpkin 4th Anniversary Dance & Silent Auction Darrin Gallina caller. MS/P/A* \$8/\$10 Humanist Hall, 390 27 th Street, Oakland <i>Costumes Encouraged!</i>
October 20-7:30-9:30 pm	2009 Yellow Mainstream Class Begins. Rich Reel caller/instructor EVRC
October 25-7-10 pm	Foggy City Dancers 25th Anniversary Dance Mike DeSisto & Sandie Bryant callers. MS/P/A* \$8/\$10 First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco
October 29-7:30-9:30 pm	+PLUS+ Wednesday Full Plus All Night Harlan Kerr caller. \$5
November 7-9	PACE Todd Fellegly caller. Friday 7:30 pm A1, 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
November 8-7:30-10:30 pm	El Camino Reelers Trade By Fall Todd Fellegly caller. Plus/A2 \$8/\$10 St. Andrew's Methodist Church, 4111 Alma Street, Palo Alto
November 12-7:30-9:30 pm	Welcome Potluck for the Yellow 2009 Mainstream Class. Special guest caller. EVRC
November 15	Prime 8s & Capital City Squares Afternoon Dancing & Anniversary Dance Bronc Wise caller. 2-5 pm A/C* 7-10 pm MS/P/A1* Central United Methodist Church, 5265 H Street, Sacramento
November 26-7:30-9:30 pm	+PLUS+ Wednesday Full Plus All Night. Harlan Kerr caller. \$5 <i>Build up your appetite!</i>
November 27	Happy Thanksgiving! <i>Gobble gobble!</i>

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



WESTERN STAR DANCERS

THIS IS WHAT WE DO



LGBT MODERN WESTERN SQUARE DANCE

FREE INTRO CLASS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
7:30 - 9:30 PM

CLASS BEGINS MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

CLASSROOM BUILDING

EUREKA VALLEY REC CENTER
100 COLLMANWOOD STREET



WWW.WESTERNSTARDANCERS.ORG



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