



December 2009

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.

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The Western Star

DC Diamond Circulate: Square Dance Summit Promises Thrills, Excitement, Cherry Blossoms

By Lorenzo Taylor

(Former member of DC lambda Squares and DC Expert)



Next April 9-13 is DC Diamond Circulate (DCDC), the annual IAGSDC convention that will be held in Washington DC.

I have been to twelve conventions and there is nothing quite like a gay square dance convention experience. In addition to dancing with about a thousand people, and experiencing the very best callers in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Japan, there are dozens of "specialty tips" for everything you can imagine - people in leather, people on roller skates, people of color, drag queens, Redwoods (people over six feet), and Munchkins (dancers under four feet).

Aside from the round the clock dancing, you

make some wonderful lifelong friends from

all over the country and the world. There will also be country western and line dancing.

Plus, it will be in Washington and in springtime, with the cherry blossoms in bloom and the Obamas in the White House. You can dance around the historic sites of the city in the fun badge tour or stay later for the famous White House Easter egg roll.

Bring your partner or kids and make a vacation out of it. The regular registration fee is \$195 (until December 31, 2008) and new dancers only pay \$170, which includes all the dancing and some meals.

It is best to stay at the hotel and the Woodley Park Marriott is right on the major subway line, near "gay-central" Dupont Circle and lots of restaurants and shops. Double rooms are \$145 per night, plus tax. If you share a double room the cost would be only around \$500 plus airfare (which can be found for under \$300 if you book early and shop around).

There is no experience quite like an IAGSDC convention to dance, socialize and improve your dance skills. DCDC promises to be one that everyone will be talking about for years to come.

You can learn all about it on the convention website at <http://www.dcdc2009.org>.



Under the watchful eye of Archangel Michael Albert, the Yellow Mainstream class is scooting along. Pictured above are Norma Iwahashi, Kathy Tuccio, Louis Dorsey, John Dobson, Albert Sammons Jr., Andrew Wicker, Darcy Alder, Archangel Michael, Brandon Lee, Linda Turner, Cindy Shine, Marilynn Fowler, and Chris Fuhrman. Absent from the picture are Elise Everett, Wolf French, Mark Nida, Tomas Todd, and Tim Wilson.



Board of
Directors
2009

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Left Feet by Brenda Line

TOMÁS INDUCTED... into the Army... into *The Order of the Two Left Feet*

Each year, a WSD member is inducted into *The Order of the Two Left Feet* in recognition of the merriment they bring to the club. There are several people such as Daryl, or Todd and Joe who inspire us with fantastic costuming or decorations. However, we want to recognize someone who does not have an official function, but still creates moments of whimsy.

At special ceremonies during the Oktoberfest celebration, the 2007 inductee, Steve Scott, announced the surprise 2008 recipient by proclaiming, "For providing embarrassing self-revelations to the newsletter, for blossoming during this past year as a hula boy and bar maid, for his Oscar-deserving portrayal of Christian Hoffman, and for providing his signature dead-pan humor to club night events, I am delighted to bestow *The 2008 Order of the 2 Left Feet* on my friend, Tomás."

New WSD members would not be aware of the self-revelations mentioned by Steve, so they are reprinted in the sidebar on this page. Tomás is also famous for his paper cut-out art that sometimes decorates Saturday dances. He is a member of The Western Starlets, and serves on the Club Night Committee as Hospitality Director. All are encouraged to join Tomás on May 20 when he hosts the *Fiesta de Mayo* Club Night.

- Simulated and Stimulated - Brenda Line Interviews Tomás

Brenda: Tell us about army life.

Tomás: I was in the U.S. Army, stationed in El Paso, Texas. I was at Biggs Field to study Vietnamese with the Defense Language Institute.

I'm sure that comes in handy for reading memos.

What did you do for fun in those days?

Once I went to a bar across the boarder in Juarez, Mexico. A woman sitting next to me had a cough, so I offered a lozenge.

And what did she offer you?

It turned out that she was a performer in the simulated sex show there, so she got me naked to join her in the show. In order to control my stimulation, the Master of Ceremonies kept inserting cocktail straws into my butt.

How picturesque...



Tomás during the Army days

We had better go back to discussing how you helped make the world a safer place for Democracy.

I went to Vietnam during the war to serve as an interrogator. I was supposed to be interrogating POWs from the North Vietnamese Army; but when my colleague arrived, he discovered me learning folk dancing from the POWs.

War is hell.



Hula Boy Tomás (with Davida) helped to host *Blue Hawaii*. When Christian returned to Germany, a masked Tomás substituted for him during the Oktoberfest skit.



Yellow Class Bar Maid Tomás displayed his O2LF Certificate. Pirate Tomás made the cut-out art for the Pirates and Sailors Dance. Tomás also made the 25th Anniversary decorations (below left).



Co-Administrator Kathy

Kathy Tuccio is the club's new Co-Administrator, as of September. As an introduction to club members everywhere, Kathy tested herself using a *Vanity Fair* questionnaire. It was a short answer test, not an essay exam!

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

A delicious meal after a day spent doing only what occurs to me as the day progresses.

What is your greatest fear?

Losing a child/grandchild before I die.

What historical figure do you most identify with?

She is fictional, but I'd have to say Jo from "Little Women"

Which living person do you most admire?

Barack Obama

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

Procrastination

What trait do you most deplore in others?

Indifference/intolerance

What is your greatest extravagance?

Citron jackets

On what occasion do you lie?

Only when the truth hurts someone I love. Still bad.

What do you most dislike about your appearance?

My mid-section

What is your favorite journey?

Highway 1 between Pescadero and Santa Barbara

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Chastity (if it is still considered a virtue)

Which living person do you most despise?

Dick Cheney

What is your greatest regret?

I did not get enough education but there is still time...

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

Devon, my 4-year old grandson

When and where were you happiest?

There are so many times but I have to say I remember a dinner I had with my best friend Lois in, of all places, Las Vegas in August about 5 years ago on the way back from closing my grandmother's house in Colorado, after she'd died. It was 110 or so and we were having an early dinner outside in front of the water show at the Bellagio and everything was perfect, the food, the company and the peace I felt within.

Which talent would you most like to have?

I'd love to have any of Marilyn's many talents - singing, dancing, fencing, you name it!

What is your current state of mind?

Active, thank God.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

More patience; I am working on it.

If you could change one thing about your family, what would it be?

I would change a lot of things about them but if I did, they wouldn't be my family.

If you were to die and come back as a person or thing, what would it be?

A fat duck in a beautiful pond in a protected park.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

29 years of marriage to the same person.

What is your most treasured possession?

I don't have one. I have a lot of sentimental items but have learned the hard way not to value anything too much as it will surely be taken from you.

What is your most marked characteristic?

Joie de Vivre

What is the quality you most like in a man? in a woman?

Intelligence; Understanding



Kathy squares up with Ken Katen at Blue Hawaii Club Night

What do you most value in your friends?

Tolerance

Who are your favorite writers?

Michael Chaboud at the moment, Barbara Kingsolver in the past

Who is your favorite hero of fiction?

Loyd Peregrina from "Animal Dreams" by Barbara Kingsolver

Who are your heroes in real life?

My husband - he is courageous and steadfast

What are your favorite names?

Ria and Dominic, my children's names

What is it that you most dislike?

Rudeness and selfishness

How would you like to die?

Suddenly

What is your motto?

Practice pays off

I did this in 6th grade. How hard can it be?

by dan smith

D: What's your name?

C: Cindy Shine.

D: Where were you born?

C: In New Brunswick, NJ. My mother and father live in Wayne NJ, the town where I went to high school. They are in their 70's and 80's and have huge amounts of energy. They travel a lot and like to socialize. Father does watercolor and sculpture. The first thing he does is take you down to the basement, "Come see the next project I'm working on." Mom plays Bridge and does a lot of hiking with the Amblers Club. Right now she's preparing for my brother's wedding. He lives in a California surf town: *He's a little boy from New Jersey who learned to surf.* My other brother is married and has two kids who are the grandchildren of the family now. My sister is a graphic designer living in Hoboken. I like my family; we spend a lot of time together. It's nice to have that relationship.

D: Tell me something interesting about high school.

C: We had a tight group of 8 girls who were friends. One of us dated a guy from the neighboring high school so we got to be friends with his friends and it was: "Who are the Valley Girls from Wayne Valley who are friends with the Hill's guys from Wayne Hills?" Almost all of us are still in touch. I saw them last year at our high school reunion.

D: So after high school did you do college?

C: I did. I went to Trenton State College in New Jersey. I majored in Business, minored in Journalism and Art Design. I was also editor of the newspaper, *The Signal*. In my 3rd year there I got elected to be the editor which was cool. It was one of the best things that I did while I was in college. We'd produce the paper using these old Photostat machines with chemicals. Everything was done very manually. Also we (the newspaper staff), took a couple of trips to student journalism conferences in Washington DC, New Orleans and LA.

D: And after college...?

C: I got a job as editorial assistant in the human resources department for a company in New Jersey; I was in the HR department. I'd interview people and do feature stories on them. After 6 months

there was a company merger and my position was eliminated so I moved over to marketing which was more what my background was anyway and I've been in a marketing job ever since.

D: How about vacations?

C: My boyfriend Stan's mom, Marylou, had never traveled internationally. So we've just taken a trip to Italy to give her an international experience; they're Italian and it's been something she's always wanted to do. His brother also went. The boys definitely planned the whole trip. We landed in Rome, spent a couple of days there and then rented a car, went up through Tuscany and stayed a night in one of the little walled medieval towns up on the hills. Then we went to Florence and stayed there a couple of days. It was beautiful.

D: How did you happen to end up in California?

C: I flew here for an interview and although it was sleeting rain back in New York, it

was 72 degrees here. I set outside waiting for the cab to bring me back to the airport; the birds were singing and the flowers were blooming and it smelled pretty and it was really nice and I said; "I could live here."

D: Been involved in any San Francisco cultural scenes?

C: I'm Production Manager for the San Francisco Free Community Theater. Elise Everett is the Stage Manager. Glen Havlan is the founding member. The 3 of us have basically run the company since 2001 when it was founded.

D: How did you hear about square dancing?

C: From Elise. Our theater group booked a play for a Monday at Eureka Valley Red Center, but nobody had told the square dance group. Joe and Todd came in to see what was happening and they ran

into Elise, who Joe knew. Elise said..."Oh my god, what are you doing here? Oh, you're doing square dancing." Then Joe said, "Oh you should come sometime!" And then we ran into Joe and Todd again maybe 6 months later and Elise was like, "Yah, you know I should do square dancing. Cindy you should come with me." I figured, "It's square dancing, I did this in 6th grade. How hard can this be?" Actually it's a lot more involved than I thought and it's fun. So I came with Elise and I got Edna to come too. And that's how the three of us ended up in the group.

D: Tell me about walking in the door and



what happened that first night?

C: It was very funny. Rich said, "OK, 1st you choose your gender."...I thought "Oh, this is different." I like the fact that I walk in there and my brain has to work on something so very different than what I do on a day to day basis. It's a complete focus.

D: Why did you choose to be a girl the 1st time?

C: Just history. I would potentially do the boy part next year. The only thing I'm worried about is getting somebody under my arm. It's just interesting, you know; a lot of line crossing. Now, the 1st night Edna came was Halloween! That was just hysterical.

D: Well Cindy that interview was fun.

C: Yes it was.



Clarence Albert-Franks makes his calling debut

November 3



Wedding Waltz

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 September 15, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Administrator Daryl Daniels with Bob Brundage absent. Daniels praised the club for the success of the Labor Day Picnic at McLaren Park. And Tuccio reported that the leftovers will be used at the Octoberfest Club Night. Plans for the Castro Street Fair and Yellow Class '09 recruiting were discussed as were plans for the Leather and Lace Dance: 25 Years of the Folsom Street Fair. Daniels said he is planning a "State of the Club" address for the annual meeting/Board elections to take place on 9/17. The next Board meeting will be scheduled after the new Board is elected. Both the secretary's and the treasurer's reports were accepted. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Jim Dewsnap, Secretary

Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting September 17, 2008

- I **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM. by Administrator Daryl Daniels.
- A. **State of the Club Report** – Daryl Daniels thanked the current Board for leading another successful year which included the following:
- B. **Leather & Lace** - Pirates & Sailors with Michael Kellogg calling
- C. **Castro Street Fair** – over 400 leaflets distributed
- D. **Potluck Welcome at Mimi's house**
- E. **Holiday Party** – Steve Scott "officiating"
- F. **Anniversary Dance** – PJ Party with Scot Byers calling
- G. **Rebirth of Club night** – 2-4 squares attending themed club nights
- H. **25th Annual IAGSDC Convention in Cleveland** – WSD, FCD, MS, O8, ECR & DD submitted bid for 2013 Convention
- I. **Pride Dance** – Disco with Darren Gallina calling
- J. **Circulate SF 2008- 2nd annual** – Music Concourse, AIDS Memorial Grove, Children's Carousel, Baker Beach, Inspiration Park and Palace of the Legion of Honor
- K. **Labor Day Picnic at McLaren Park In Gratitude** – Daryl thanked the following for their contributions:
- A. **Rich Reel** – for leadership and great calling/teaching
- B. **Retiring Board Members Jim Dewsnap & Paul Gonyea** – Jim, for his service to the club as Secretary/host of Board meetings and Paul for organizing Circulate SF
- C. **Kathy Tuccio** – voice of sanity on the Board
- D. **Bob Brundage** – reliable and trustworthy Treasurer

- E. **Joe Casserly and Todd Young** – inspired dance themes and decorations
- F. **Gary Cohn** – for contributions to the newsletter and being the "party meister"
- G. **Dan Smith** – for interesting interviews in the newsletter
- H. **Tomas Todd** – for his beautiful cut paper decorations at dances
- I. **Russ King**- providing historical background
- J. **Everyone who opted to receive the newsletter electronically, cutting the expense of mailing**
- K. **Generous donors**
- III **Issues & Policy**
- A. **Policy Statement- Defined the role of the Archangel**
- B. **Foggy City Dancers** – no merger considered; WSD welcomes all FCDancers at WSD functions and looks forward to a FCD recovery
- C. **New Logo** – an addition, not a replacement and for use on club attire and in the media. Badges will not change
- D. **IAGSDC Rep/ Convention Rep** – WSD is looking for someone to replace Matt Thompson, who has served for 3 years as IAGSDC rep and for a new Convention rep
- E. **Co-Administrator** – Daryl announced Kathy Tuccio will serve with him as Co-Administrator for the new year
- F. **Plus Workshop** – Kathy Tuccio announced new Plus Workshop starting in October on the last Wednesday of every month
- IV **2008-09 Election of Officers** – The following members were elected to the Board for the 2008-09 year:
1. Daryl Daniels
 2. Kathy Tuccio
 3. Bob Brundage
 4. Michael Albert
 5. Clarence Albert Franks
 6. Gary Cohn
 7. Mark Nida

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Tuccio, Co-Administrator

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors October 12, 2008

Members Present:: Michael Albert Clarence Albert-Franks Bob Brundage Gary Cohn Daryl Daniels Mark Nida Kathy Tuccio

- V **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 12:53 PM.
- VI **Review of the Minutes of September 15, 2008** – The minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.
- VII **Old Business**
- A. **Leather and Lace Dance & Castro Street Fair** – Board discussed both events. L&L dance was a

social success even though it was not a financial success. Over 400 leaflets were distributed at the fair and all the participants had a good time.

B. **Scholarship Policy** – Daryl Daniels announced the policy has been withdrawn due to privacy issues it would raise within the membership. Due to the non-profit status of the club, we cannot charge fees but can accept donations. The Board decided that they would consider individual hardship issues on a case-by case basis and only at the request of the affected member.

VIII **New Business**

A. **Decoration Guru Guidelines** – The Board reviewed guidelines of service provided by Todd Young and Joe Casserly outlining how they would like to serve the membership going forward. It was agreed that the guidelines were generous and clarified the working relationship with Todd and Joe.

B. **Yellow Mainstream Class** – It was reported that 7 new members attended the class intro on October 6 and more new people were expected to attend the first class on October 20.

C. **WSD T-shirts** – The Board discussed an order sheet distributed by Daryl to promote the sale of items with the latest logo. The shirts ball caps would sell for \$10, other attire at cost plus \$1. It was decided to make the order sheets available at class night and club night.

D. **2009 Club Insurance** – The Board discussed the liability insurance renewal and directed Kathy Tuccio to prepare the renewal information for Treasurer Bob Brundage so he can submit it with payment. The premium cost for 2009 with United Square Dancers of America is \$5 per dancer.

E. **Division of Duties 2008-09** – The Board divided the duties as follows:

Secretary – Kathy Tuccio
Treasurer – Bob Brundage
Class Coordinator – Michael Albert
Dance Coordinator – Clarence Albert Franks
Club Night Coordinator – Gary Cohn
Membership Coordinator, Badge Master &

Newsletter – Daryl Daniels
Outreach Coordinator – Mark Nida
Webmaster – Joe Casserly

F. **Inventory** – The Board discussed its property and how it was dispersed among the membership for storage and accessibility. They decided that an inventory was necessary and accepted Gary Cohn's offer to chair the process.

G. **Survey** – The Board discussed and approved a committee to oversee a survey whose purpose would be clarify and highlight the membership's input and priorities on WSD issues. Mark Nida offered to chair the committee.

IX **Reports**

A. **Treasurer** – The Board reviewed the report presented by Bob Brundage and approved it. Total assets as of October 12 are \$5,000.46.

B. **Class & Dance Coordinator** – No reports this meeting.

X **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Tuccio, Co-Com & Secretary



Dance Calendar

- December 6 **PACE** Caller Appreciation. Saturday 11 am & 2:30 pm C1. Diablo Light Opera Co. 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill
- December 6 **Diablo Dancers** *Relay the Reindeer* Jet Roberts caller. MS/P/A \$8/\$10 Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek 7:30-10:30 pm
- December 17 **Holiday Party** Rich Reel caller. EVRC 7:30-9:30 pm
- December 29 **3rd Annual Inter-Club Holiday Square Dance Social** GCA Caller Appreciation Class Level MS/P/A/C Pay as you can. EVRC 7-9:30 pm
- January 9-11 **PACE** Mike Jacobs 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
- January 19 **Martin Luther King Day Potluck** No Class EVRC Closed Details to be announced.
- January 21 **Club Night! Dancing! Prizes! Guest Caller** EVRC 7:30-9:30 pm

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



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



www.foggycity.org
See Website for info
Sanchez School
325 Sanchez Street
San Francisco



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



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

Other Bay Area
Square Dance Clubs



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dani Lawler December 4	Jerry Michaelson December 15	Nick Carlson December 31	Clarence Albert-Franks January 8	Eloise Twining January 17
Linda Turner December 4	Steve Miller December 19			Angelo Prospero January 23
Fabian Alvarado December 7	Gigi Troga December 19			
Randy Laroche December 10	Chris Fuhrman December 22	Scott Cunningham January 3	Carol Cook January 8	Louis Dorsey January 24
Rich Reel December 12	Craig Olson December 27	David Laudon January 15		Warren Crawford January 31
Gary Cohn December 15	Todd Young December 27	Bert Swerer January 4	Robert Cavanaugh January 17	



Holiday Party

Winter Wonderland

December 17, 2008
7:30-9:30 PM

White Elephant Gift
Exchange

Bring a gift cheap, useful, funny, rustic,
tacky or otherwise
Join in our raucous gift exchange

Eureka Valley
Recreation Center

Rich Reel
caller

Friends, Family,
Attractive Strangers
Welcome

Please bring
holiday goodies
to share



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