

Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!

SAN FRANCISCO

WESTERN STAR DANCERS

1982-2007

25th Anniversary

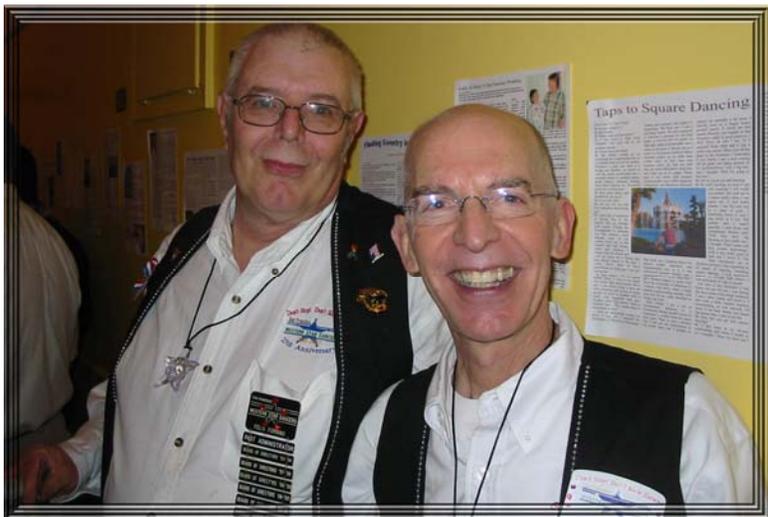
The Western Star

April 2007

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
OP: 524 Castro Street #7480
San Francisco, CA 94114

Congratulations 2007 Red MS Class

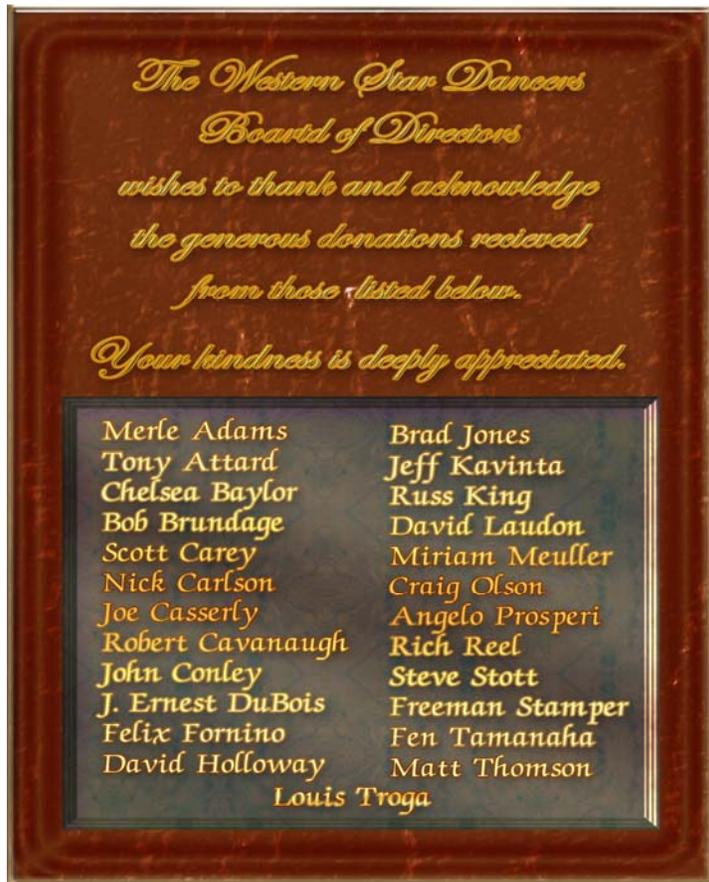


Felix Fornino & Steve Scott named Lifetime Members

In an emotional ceremony at the 25th Anniversary Dance on March 24, Felix Fornino and Steve Scott were presented with Lifetime Memberships, the highest honor WSD can bestow onto a member. Felix earned his award with his relentless drive that kept the club alive during the sparse times of the 1990s. Steve's organizational and people skills and his initiative helped the club become the vigorous active club we are today.

Other lifetime members are Scott Carey, John Conley, Anna Damiani, Russ King, and Freeman Stamper.

WSD recognize non-club members who made significant contributions to the group by awarding Honorary Memberships. Our Honorary Members are Peggy Shumway and Bert & Rhonda Swerer.



Thanks to everyone who worked to make our anniversary celebrations such a success. Russ King, Joe Casserly, Todd Young, Dan Smith, and Tomás Todd performed incredibly in organizing and decorating for the celebration. Russ's connections and persistence provided us with a huge turnout of WSD members old and new. It was an honor and a privilege for me to represent your club as Administrator. At one point in the evening, we had 12 squares dancing on the floor. Thank you for your support, your enthusiasm, and your energy.

And so we stride confidently forward into the next 25 years.

Yellowrock,
Daryl Daniels
WSD Administrator

Bob Brundage 826-0879 bernalbob1@cs.com

Joe Casserly 436-9161 joe@hirejoenow.com

Daryl Daniels 586-2599 daryldaniels94132@sbcglobal.net

Jim Dewsnap 864-5447 dewsnap@sbcglobal.net

Russ King 863-0990 rkingsf@aol.com

Todd Young 436-9161 Earths.Laughter@yahoo.com

Board of Directors



TWO LEFT FEET **Celebrating 25 Years of**
 By Brenda Line **Western Star Dancers**

April Foolery

**WSD'S FAVORITE
 FENSTERMACHER
 DAN SMITH
 INTERVIEWS
 BRENDA LINE**

*Pictured:
 Dan Smith
 at age 25*



Dan Smith: Your name is?

Brenda Line: Brenda Line.

Dan Smith: Parents?

Brenda: 2.

Dan: Born where?

Brenda: I was born in a trunk—in the Princess Theater in Pocatello, Idaho.

Dan: That sounds familiar.

Brenda: I do a lot of channeling.

Dan: Have you ever wrestled with Bob?

Brenda: No, but I have given Tomás a soda straw thrill.

Dan: You are very statuesque.

Brenda: Nearly as tall as Caleb in heels.

Dan Smith: Are all the women in your family as glamorous as you?

*Brenda Line: Oh, yes. My sister Dewa was once one the cover of **Crack Whore Magazine**.*



LEFT—
 No, not Country/
 Western.

See
 interview
 article
 above.

CW 'ZINE
 \$3 US
 \$27 CANADA

DOWN MEMORY LANE

WSD during the administration of FELIX

FELIX FORNINO

*aka Miss Camp Caz for All Time,
 Sophie Whinestein*

Bucks & Does, Columbus, OH, 1977

WSD, Orange Class, 1990

MNS, dance level: A2

1st Convention, Miami 1991

Medallion Dancer, Baltimore 2000

Current home: Manassas, VA

WSD Service: Member at Large, 1993-94

Administrator; Newsletter Editor, 1997-2001



In 1997, Western Star had very little money and few students. To make up for this shortfall, Felix contributed from his own pocket for printing flyers, mailings and such. "Part of what I did during those years was concentrated our recruitment efforts at the Folsom and Castro Street Fairs. We didn't have enough money for the flyers and the entrance fees for those events—then I remembered the Petersen Fund. Through that, I managed to get enough money to pay for the flyers, the entrance fees and the money for any equipment we needed. I also wrote the contract for the Leather and Lace Dance requiring the caller to call on Sunday at the Folsom Street Fair. During those years, it looked as if I was getting nowhere. Many people told me that maybe it was time to let it die. But I guess I was a little stubborn, and I persisted. I refused to let it die, and look where we are now. I guess my proudest achievement would have to be that Western Star is now celebrating its 25th Anniversary!"

TRIBUTE

FRED—Our late friend of fond memory.



ABOVE—In 1982, Fred accepted the Oscar on behalf of Meryl Streep.

My Mother Danced Before Me

By Virginia & Dan Smith

One night while visiting my Mother she drove me to the queer square dance club, the Tucson T-Squares. She wanted to see what gay square dancing was like. At the dance she whispered into my ear, "That guy's making a play for you." I told her I would let him down easy. We chuckled on each other's shoulders. On the way home I asked her if she'd ever square danced. She said she'd danced in the 1930's in Thomas County which is in the northwest corner of Kansas. I asked her to write a wee bit about that. Below are her words.

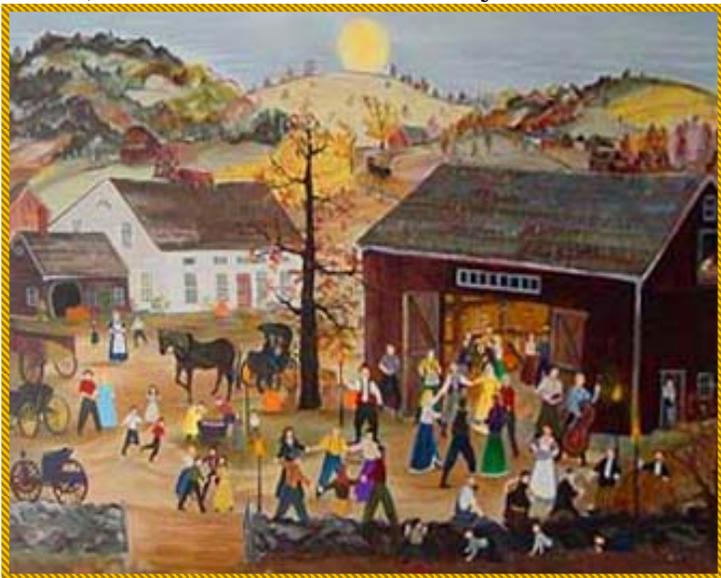
My memories of Square Dancing

Saturday nights in the nineteen thirties, were a big night out for my parents, Cecil and Ethel Littell. Dad would take out his violin and lovingly rub the surface with a soft cloth and apply rosin to the bow. Mom would dress in her best print dress and tie up oxfords, dust her face with talcum powder and put just a dab of Vaseline on her lips.

They lived in Colby, but would travel to Levant, a very small town just to the north, where the dance was held in the loft of a barn. People came from all around, seeing old friends only on these nights. The men dressed in suits, shiny with age, string ties around white collars and work shoes shined just for the occasion. Most of the women wore print dresses, but now and then there was a butterfly in the crowd with a silk or chiffon gown. While it was a square dance basically, they waltzed, did the foxtrot, and the two-step. However, there was no Charleston, which was too modern.

The barn was an actual working barn with bundles of hay and gear in corners. Just for the dance they would place an assortment of chairs around, and put a layer of sand on the floor. It was supposed to make the dancing easier. There were no refreshments as such, but the men would slip out now and then to take a sip from a secret bottle of 'bootleg whiskey'; Kansas was a dry state at that time.

I was around ten when they took me with them a few times. I don't remember seeing any other children my age, so I really don't know why I was allowed to go. But, of course, I loved it. When Dad stepped up on the stage and raised his violin (which became a 'fiddle') to his chin and begin to play, I was so proud. There were other musicians, but I don't recall what they played. My Grandfather, Charles, taught music and had taught Dad how to play. He could play the 'hoe-down' type of music for a barn dance, but at home he could really make the instrument wail enough to make you cry. Lucky man.



When the music began, people crowded the floor. There were no wallflowers, every one danced. I didn't know any of the square dances, but they included me any way. The caller, who could be anyone of several men, chanted the moves and everyone guided me around. My favorite was when the men created a circle, lifted the women off the ground and swung around and around.

As the depression gained ground and every one was struggling just to stay alive, the barn dances ceased. I think they were sorely missed by my parents.

For ten year old me it was a bit of magic I will always remember.





Can you handle the FIRE?

CROSSFIRE

THE NEXT GENERATION

Passion!
Lust!
Murder!
Greed!
HEAT!
Square Dancing!

As the flames of desire rage, will the square break down?

Produced & Directed by Russ King

Featuring The Western Star Players





SAN FRANCISCO
WESTERN STAR DANCERS
1982-2007

25th Anniversary

Thanks to Merle Adams, Daryl Daniels, Steve Scott, and Mark Yee for providing the photos.



HARTFORD STREET AT 18TH STREET
 SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007
 9-ISH TO LATE AFTERNOON

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

GIVE US YOUR USED AND
 YOUR TARNISHED
 YOUR OUT OF STYLE AND
 YOUR MUCH TOO SMALL
 THE KITCH, THE
 CLUTTER, THE BAD TASTE
 DONATE THEM ALL TO US!



IF YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR PICK-UP, CONTACT
 A BOARD MEMBER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

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 22, 2007

Board members present:
 Casserly, Daniels, Dewsnap,
 King, Young.
 The meeting was called to order
 at 6:45 p.m. by Administrator
 Daryl Daniels.
 The minutes of the December
 meeting were approved.

The Administrator reported
 that Mark Nida's proposal to
 Sundance Stampede about a
 possible co-event with Western
 Star (see November '06 minutes)
 came to naught. He also
 reported that star shaped
 danglers have been ordered for
 the 25th Anniversary Dance.
 The Treasurer's report was
 accepted. One of our CD's will

mature in early
 February and there was
 some discussion
 regarding how to re-
 invest the money.
 The Anniversary Dance
 coordinator reported
 that he was been in
 contact with more than
 70 former Western Star
 members. The dance is
 shaping up to be a real
 family reunion.
 Casserly and Young
 unveiled a model of
 their plan for
 decorations for the
 Anniversary Dance.
 The date for the Spring
 Yard Sale was set for

Sunday, May 5th, to capitalize
 on all the Cinco de Mayo foot
 traffic.

The meeting was adjourned at
 7:20 p.m.

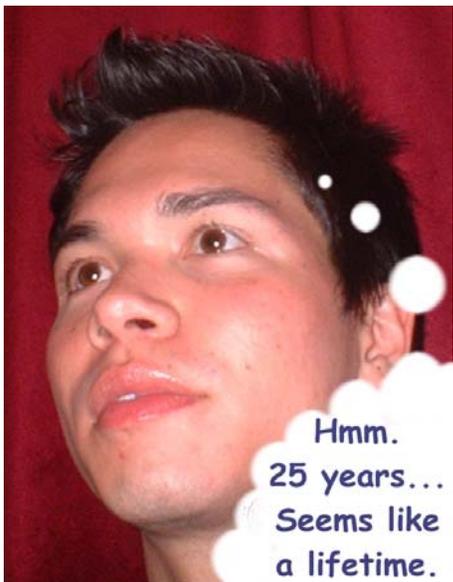
Respectfully submitted,
 Jim Dewsnap, Secretary

Minutes of the Board February 21, 2007

Board members present:
 Brundage, Casserly, Daniels,
 Dewsnap, King.
 The meeting was called to order
 at 6:40 p.m. by Administrator
 Daryl Daniels.

The minutes for the January
 meeting were approved.
 The Administrator reported
 that printing fees are increasing
 to \$0.50 a page and
 recommended that annual club
 dues be raised to \$40. This
 raise will be voted on by the
 club members at the Annual
 Meeting in September.
 In other business, the Board
 approved a \$50 donation to the
 organ fund at
 St. Agnes Church in memory of
 Freddie Papapietro. Also, a

sympathy card has been sent to
 former club secretary Tom
 Ophardt whose mother was
 killed recently in a car accident.
 So far, 29 folks have renewed
 their club membership. Letters
 will be sent to those who have
 not renewed by February 28.
 March 5th (a class night) will be
 the actual 25th Anniversary of
 the club and to celebrate the
 event a club photo will be taken
 and a cake will be ordered.
 Plans for the 25th Anniversary
 Dance & Celebration are on
 track. Volunteers who are not
 attending the dinner are
 needed for the decoration
 committee. A \$1000 budget for
 the Dance & Celebration was
 approved.
 The Treasurer's report was
 accepted.
 The next Board meeting will be
 March 12.
 The meeting was adjourned at
 7:15 p.m.
 Respectfully submitted,
 Jim Dewsnap, Secretary





DIABLO DANCERS
Class/Club Night--Tuesdays
 TGF Dance/Potluck
 3rd Friday
 1700 Oak Park Boulevard
 Pleasant Hill

FOGGY CITY DANCERS
 SAN FRANCISCO • CALIFORNIA

Class Night--Tuesdays
 Forest Hill Christian Church
 250 Laguna Honda Boulevard
 San Francisco

EL CAMINO REELERS
Class Night--Wednesday
 St. Andrew's Methodist
 4111 Alma Street
 Palo Alto

MIDNIGHT SQUARES
 SAN FRANCISCO

Class--Sunday Afternoons
 Jon Sim Center
 1519 Mission Street
 San Francisco

Other Bay Area Square Dance Clubs

Oaktown 8s
Class/Club Night--Wednesday
 Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club
 1650 Mountain Boulevard
 Oakland

- April 13-15** PACE, Linda Kendall 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
- April 14 7-10 pm** Foggy City Dancers Spring Dance. MS/Class Level Plus/Plus/A* \$8/\$10 Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive, San Francisco
- April 18 7:30-9:30 pm** **Club Night Gary Young caller. EVRC**
- April 21** El Camino Reelers Walk & Dodge Into Spring. St. Andrews Methodist Church, 4111 Alma Street, Palo Alto
- April 27-29** Capital City Squares Stumptown Stomp—A 25th Anniversary Celebration. Anne Uebelacker & Mike Jacobs callers. MS/Plus/A/C1+ Veteran's Hall, Guerneville
- May 5 10 am-3 pm** **Olé! Cinco de Mayo Yard Sale Hartford Street (near 18th Street)**
 Donate your stuff. Buy some wonderful things. Lend a hand.
- May 4-6** PACE, Barry Clasper caller. Friday 7:30 pm A2, Saturday 11 am & 2:30 pm C1 7:30 pm C4, Sunday 11 am C3A, 2:30 pm C3. Diablo Light Opera Co. 1948 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill
- May 16 7:30-9:30 pm** **Club Night Ron Masker caller. EVRC**
- May 21 7:30-9:30 pm** **2007 Red Mainstream Class Completion Celebration. EVRC**
- May 25-27** **IAGSDC Convention Red Rocks & Purple Mountains. MS-C4. Denver, CO**

WSD Angel Island Picnic – July 4, 2007 You don't want to miss it!

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

Happy Birthday

Michael Su
April 13

Matt Thomson
April 15

Scott Johnson
April 16

Mario Torrigino
April 25

Ken Tamara
May 5

Hathy Tuccio
May 16

Carl Wyhoff
May 28

Gary Young
May 30

2007

Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!
SAN FRANCISCO
WESTERN STAR DANCERS
1982-2007
25th Anniversary

Rich Reel
Caller/Instructor

Red Mainstream
Class Completion

Monday, May 21, 2007

7:30-9:30 pm

Eureka Valley Recreation Center

Guests, including partners,
spouses, friends & colleagues,
are welcome

Join us in welcoming this very
talented group of dancers
into the club.

Club members are
requested to bring
food to share

Don't Stop! Don't Slow Down!
SAN FRANCISCO
WESTERN STAR DANCERS
1982-2007
25th Anniversary

WESTERN STAR DANCERS
584 CASTRO STREET #480
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114