



TWINKLES



Central Texas Stardust Ballroom Dance Club

January 9, 2010

<http://www.geocities.com/centextardust@sbcglobal.net>

Stardust Ballroom

Presents

Jesse Ybarbo Combo

Saturday

January 9, 2010

Dancing 8 to 11 p.m.

*Cultural Activities Center
Strasburger Hall
3011 North Third St.
Temple, Texas*

Dress: After 5

\$15 per person

Registration

Gail Peek, Dean Chandler

Greeters:

Pam and Richard Crowe

Decorations

*Sidney and Marlene Vanloh
Ed and Jo Ann Peeler*

Jesse Ybarbo Combo “Debuts” at Stardust

Tonight we have the first installment of the Jesse Ybarbo Combo entertaining us. This group has not played for us before, but Jesse and his musicians have a long association with Stardust and the Temple musical scene. Combo members have played together for over 20 years:

- Jesse Ybarbo, Vocals / drums / percussion
- Jimmy Duran, Keyboards
- Carl Cooper, Bass / vocals
- Sparky Thomason, Trumpet

- Gary Smith, Trombone
- Tom Jones, Saxophone/guitar/ vocals

All these talented musicians are members of the Temple Symphony, and all teach music in one way or another. Under their alternate name, Jazz Works, they frequently play at fundraising and social events (CAC, “Taste Of The Town”, Lions Club), and for Temple Civic Theatre productions. Jesse is a founding member of the Central Texas Jazz Society. The band aims to please, so please let them know if you have any requests.

“Debuts” is in quotes because Jesse remembers playing for Stardust at least 20 years ago—back in the pass-the-hat days at Wendland Hall.

CAC / Stardust Dance Lessons Start Jan. 7

Ed and Jo Ann Peeler will start this year’s dance lessons with Foxtrot, Thursday, Jan. 7. The Peelers and others involved in this project have three basic aims:

- To introduce people to basic social ballroom dancing.
- To teach enough steps and patterns in the mainstream dances so even beginners can get out and get dancing quickly.
- To share their enthusiasm and love for social dancing, especially with new dancers.

Lessons are on Thursday nights, 6:30-8 PM, at Strasburger Hall. Each set of 5 lessons covers one specific dance, gives students 6-8 steps and combinations, and costs \$25 per

person. Following Foxtrot will be East Coast Swing on Feb. 11, then Bolero starting March 18. All instructors make an effort to make each set of classes unique, so even if you’ve taken a class before, you’ll get a refresher on the basics, plus some new steps and patterns. Call the Peelers (254-593-3101) for info.

The entire 2010 class schedule is attached to the e-mail version of *Twinkles*, and will also be available at the Jan. 9 dance.

Introducing Harold and Nil Whittington

We *Twinkles* editors use our (super) powers to introduce interesting folks to other members of the club. Harold and Nil Whittington have been around Stardust for a long time, and for many years were newsletter editors, writers and producers. But, it’s bad manners to write about yourselves, so they’ve never been written up in *Twinkles*. This month we’re correcting that gap.

Harold was raised in Sweetwater, and Nil grew up in Coolidge, TX. They met at North Texas State University, where Harold was studying journalism after helping the Navy win the War in the Pacific, and Nil was a theatre/speech major. They both were involved in a student theatre production (Harold acting, Nil on the crew),

fell in love, and got hitched.

Harold had been writing for newspapers since high school, and after college graduation, moved through several newspaper editor jobs in Iowa, Norfolk VA (back in the Navy), Midland, Jacksonville TX, then to Temple as managing editor of the Temple Daily Telegram in 1957.

The Whittingtons are perfect examples of Lifelong Learners, and both of them started work on advanced degrees once they settled in Central Texas. In amongst parenting and more than full time jobs, Nil earned a Masters degree in Oral Communication from Baylor, and a PhD in Communication from UT-Austin. Harold earned a Masters degree in Journalism from UT, a Masters in Political Science from Baylor, and a PhD in Sociology from UT. Harold and Nil were both long-term faculty members at Temple College--Harold for 25 years. Nil left Temple College and worked with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Austin) and the Kansas Board of Regents (Topeka).

Then comes the Dancing Part. After both had retired, Nil and Harold took a Temple College continuing education class in ballroom dance, and caught the bug, bad. For the next few years they took lessons "pretty much any place we could," and found out about where dancing was going on in Central Texas. They found Stardust in the early 1990's, when the club was at the Elks Lodge.

Nil says they decided to start teaching introductory ballroom and Latin dances themselves about 1993, #1, to introduce new people to dancing and the Stardust Club, and #2, so they would have a place to practice their own dancing.

They approached the Cultural Activities Center, which liked the idea.

H&N have always made it clear they are not professional dance instructors, but once they started, their teaching instincts kicked in, and they have taught hundreds of people how to dance. Speaking from personal experience, some of these folks had limited potential when they started out. Parts of the Whittingtons' written, step-by-step instructions are still used by the current generation of CAC/Stardust dance teachers.

Nil says that they were always volunteers, and any class fees went into the CAC building fund for Strasburger Hall. Nil says that what they really got from the opportunity to teach dance classes through the years was the chance to meet so many people who have become good friends (with the Whittingtons and each other), and the opportunity to sharpen their own skills: "Students learn about 10% of what the teacher teaches, but the teacher learns 90%."

Another of Nil and Harold's contributions to Stardust was to get the *Twinkles* newsletter off and running in the later 1980's. N&H have been life-long writers, networkers, communicators, and it's like they couldn't stop themselves. They (and us current folks) hope the newsletter serves the Stardust Community by providing news and information, and introducing people to each other. The current editors had big shoes to fill when N&H turned their *Twinkles* baby over to us.

Thank you, Harold and Nil, for all you've done for our club!

Wait! There Could Be More...

Here are some further tidbits. Ask Nil and Harold for the whole story.

--Nil and Harold have been doing free lance writing for decades.

Ask them about their productions. --Nil has been helping Stardust's newest science fiction writer edit his works.

--Nil taught in a one-room school in Iowa, was speechwriter for Texas Governor Price Daniel, and sold the first 1960 Ford auto in Texas.

--Harold learned Celestial Navigation in the Navy, thinks that "Teaching is another way of Loving," and can sing the "Hokey Pokey" song in Australian.

--The Whittingtons manage the largest pecan orchard on Old Waco Road.

Correction to Board Duties

Last month we reported that Richard and Beverly Sawyer joined the Stardust Board in Oct. 2009, and have taken on a "Hospitality" role. This much is true. However, Betty and George Fowler have the specific task of recruiting people to be decorators for each dance. The bottom line for the story is still the same. If a Board member asks you to help out with decorating, in the kitchen, as greeter, or whatever, the correct answer is "Yes". Thank you.

"Dancing is moving to the music without stepping on anyone's toes, pretty much the same as Life"

—Robert Brault.

"There are short-cuts to happiness, and dancing is one of them."

—Vicki Baum

"We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance."

—Japanese Proverb