

“Cupertino”, “Line Dance”, and “two sister-like Chinese ladies” together has uniquely identify the two very popular North County community residence, **Sue and Kathy** and their program **Sue & Kathy Line Dance**.



Not knowing each other and without any previous experience of any sort of dance, Sue and Kathy started to learn line dance four years ago. They promptly experienced the amazing joyfulness of line dance and quickly become so proficient that they decided to share the joys and exciting experiences with friends. Two years ago, Sue & Kathy Line Dance program was established offering bilingual line dance classes (*). Since then, the program has had inspired around 1500 community members from different racial, ethnic, education and professional background to explore line dance. Gathering together to dance along beautiful music has become a popular routine for lots of residence in Bay Ares. This routine has made it possible to make new friends, unexpectedly meet old friends, build self-esteem, boost self-confidence, and discover their hidden talents. Widening the personal network has significantly improved the life style of the crowd who is directly (students of the programs) or indirectly (web page viewers) connected to this program.

The program offers several levels of classes with varieties of schedule to meet the needs for different groups of population in the community. Currently, there are 13 classes among Cupertino (10 classes), Milpitas (2 classes) and Almaden (1 class) locations. By doing so, Sue and Kathy are hoping to provide the opportunity for residence in the wider area of North County community. Other than providing classes from their program, Sue and Kathy also join the teaching force of local organizations, Silicon Valley Chinese School (2 classes) and North West YMCA (2 classes), to enrich their programs by teaching line dances to their members.

Sue and Kathy started the idea of globally sharing their videos (**) on YouTube about a year ago. These videos were recorded in the classes and therefore are very helpful for viewers to either review or even learn new dances. The videos are so popular that one can reach 5000 hits (count of “Mission to Please” dance noted on 09/22/08) within couple weeks and 60,000 (count of “Crazy Foot Mambo” dance noted on 09/22/08) in about six months. They have already posted 275+ videos, and the total hits have reached three million in a year. In average, Sue and Kathy post 5 videos weekly. Subscribers of their videos are from different countries/continents like UK, Netherlands, Singapore, Canada, Sweden, Germany, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, France, Taiwan, China, Vietnam, etc.

Sue and Kathy also connected to International Line Dance organizations by attending their workshops whenever possible. On March 31 and April 6 of 2008, Sue attended two workshops hosted by International Line Dance Association of Taipei. This association has 4,000 members. During the workshops, Sue conducted seminars to about 50 line dance instructors.

Sue and Kathy spent tremendous amount of efforts selecting a new dance for each class every week to ensure a sustainable model that keeps inspiring current students as well as inviting new comers. Several International line dance instructors have adopted the results of this dedicated and time-consuming decision-making process. As a result, Sue and

Kathy may have been the global leader in line dance and grown their influence exponentially.

It did not take long for San Jose Mercury to notice Sue and Kathy and their program. An article “**Stepping across cultures**”, was posted on October 24, 2007, around the first anniversary of Sue and Kath Line Dance program. A noticeable size of picture taken during one of the regular classes and with title “Chinese-American women create a line-dancing craze” says a lot about this dancing twin. KTSF and a radio station followed the step and interviewed Sue and Kathy shortly after Mercury News posted the article.

To express their appreciation to the community where Sue and Kathy have successfully reached a significant milestone of their original goal, they have been proactively seeking opportunities to reach out people who are less fortunate. Sue & Kathy Line Dance program offered a charity classes held at Peterson Middle School in Sunnyvale from November 2007 to June 2008. A sizable amount that is 100% of the profit from that particular class had been donated to 5 local organizations including Monta Vista High School Music Department, Silicon Valley Chinese School, Peterson Middle School, WestHope Church In Saratoga to help another local line dance program, and Operation Dawn (Drug Rehab Center). Sue and Kathy also responded to the unexpected disaster like China earthquake and others like Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN). Sue & Kathy Line Dance will also continue to provide performance to support the activities sponsored local non-profit organizations.

Sue and Kathy’s passion and talent about line dance is not limited to teaching, they have choreographed 9 line dances. One of their dance, “It Hurts”, has been selected by a reputable UK based magazine, LineDancer, and will be announced in the November issue.

With the constantly advancing Internet technology, it will not be long that Sue and Kathy and their **Cupertino based** program, **Sue & Kathy Line Dance** will be increasingly inspiring line dance “sector” World Wide.

Passion, courage, talent and generosity have made these entrepreneurs, **Sue and Kathy**, well-deserved candidates of Asian-American Hero Award.

*: www.suenkathy.com

***: <http://suenkathy.com/ScriptF.aspx>