



*Dan Schweitzer (from April '08)*

Remember back when you were in high school? Way back, before global warming, when glacial ice covered parts of New York, Wisconsin, and Maui? Remember the vocabulary exercises?

OK, in confessing this, I'm going out on a limb: I enjoyed vocabulary. Some words, single-handedly, say so much. Some just sound cool. (Perhaps I should point out that I attended an all male high school – a less than entertainment-rich milieu.)

So, we'll return here to the thrilling days of yesteryear, and take some of my favorite words square dancing.

**di•aph•a•nous** (*dī'ăf·ə·nəs*) *adj.*

1. Of such fine texture as to be transparent or translucent.
2. Vague or insubstantial.

Ladies, us guys really like *diaphanous* outfits – on you.

**hal•cy•on** (*hăl'sē·ən*) *adj.* Calm and peaceful; tranquil.

I slipped into my own private *halcyon* world for just a moment, and, KAPOW, I took the square down like a torpedoed row boat.

**ser•en•dip•i•ty** (*ser'ən·dip'ə·tē*)

- n.* **1.** The faculty of making fortunate discoveries by accident.

- 2.** The occurrence of such discoveries.

All hands scramble valiantly to save the torpedoed square, they finally get in sync, and come Allemande Left; whoa, my corner! That's serendipity.

**ox•y•mo•ron** (*ōk'sē·môr·ōn*) *n.*

A figure of speech in which incongruous or contradictory terms are combined, as in jumbo shrimp.

The secret to the Timberline Toppers' lesson-recruiting success is an *oxymoron*: hot chilli.

**tur•gid** (*tûr'jīd*) *adj.*

1. Excessively ornate or complex in style or language.
2. Swollen or distended; bloated.

I digress here, but why is *turgid* such a short word?

**er•u•dite** (*ēr'yə·dīt*) *adj.* Very learned; scholarly.

*Erudite* callers find really weird formations and movements.

**sa•ga•cious** (*sə·gā'shəs*) *adj.*

Having or showing keen discernment, sound judgement, and farsightedness.

*Sagacious* callers find really fun formations and movements.

In a *halcyon* moment with the Council Bulletin, you read this *erudite*, *turgid* sentence, and experience *serendipity*, finding (and you thought this was an *oxymoron*) a *sagacious* man – your tears of joy turn this very page *diaphanous*. Ya, right.

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*Definitions from American Heritage Dictionary, 4th Edition.*