

# SWING TIMES

A Publication of the San Diego Swing Dance Club



## Happy New Year, SDSDC Family!



As we welcome 2025, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for being part of our incredible swing dance community. This past year has been filled with so many memorable moments – from our vibrant weekly dances to the

special workshops and events that brought us all together. Your energy, passion, and love for swing dancing truly make this club something special.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting year planned! January is packed with opportunities to dust off your dancing shoes and step back onto the floor. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting your journey in West Coast Swing, there's something for everyone. Keep an eye on the calendar for upcoming lessons, social dances, and special events to keep you inspired and improving.

This month, we're also introducing some new initiatives to strengthen our community:

- **Member Spotlights:** A chance to celebrate the amazing people who make our club thrive.
- **Guest Instructors:** We're thrilled to welcome talented professionals to share their knowledge and elevate our dancing.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Your contributions help our events run smoothly, and volunteering is a great way to meet fellow dancers and give back to the club.

As we step into the new year, let's continue to support each other, share the joy of dance, and build connections that go beyond the dance floor. Together, we'll make 2024 an unforgettable year for the San Diego Swing Dance Club!

See you on the dance floor,

Vinh Mines

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## From Taylor Frederking, Your Activities Director



Happy Holidays and CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR!

It's safe to say that 2024 was truly one for the books at SDSDC. From record-breaking attendance to cherished events and countless new memories, the magic of this year was made possible by each and every one of you and the energy you bring to the dance floor. I can't wait to step into the new year with all of you and hear about your dance goals for 2025. Here's a quick snapshot

of our upcoming events and activities:

- February 9 – Super Bowl Potluck AND Valentines Party. Start thinking about your sporty attire and a dish to share... Super Bowl LIX is right around the corner!
- March 16 – St. Patrick's Day Dance. Green attire encouraged!

See you on the dance floor soon!

Taylor, Your Activities Director

## Upcoming Lessons at the San Diego Swing Dance Club

Join us every Sunday afternoon. Lesson(s) promptly at 1:30, Dance at 2:30

|        |                |                                    |
|--------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Jan 5  | Large Ballroom | John Nagel — Cha Cha               |
| Jan 12 | Large Ballroom | Maria Tee and Lary Clendenin — WCS |
| Jan 19 | Large Ballroom | Maria Tee and Lary Clendenin — WCS |
| Jan 26 | Large Ballroom | Joel Toergeson — Advanced WCS      |

|                              |
|------------------------------|
| Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS |
| Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS |
| Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS |
| Small Ballroom: No class     |

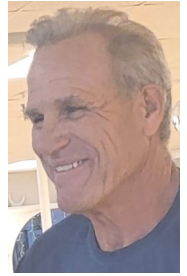
## From Our Dance Director Geoff Burns

**John Nagel — Cha Cha — January 5**

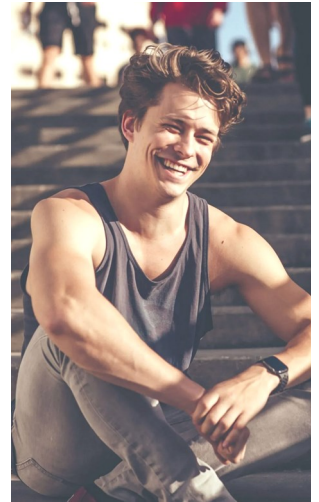


John Nagel is concurrently teaching dance and fitness classes for SDSU, The City of San Diego "Aging Well", The Balboa Park Ballroom Dance Club and the YMCA. He has been teaching partner dances for decades. Everything from Cumbia to Country Western Two Step. Despite this very busy schedule the San Diego Swing Club has been able to procure this talent for an afternoon of Cha Cha. So come on out and put a little Cha Cha into your life. It will make you a better person.

**Joel Torgeson  
Advanced West Coast Swing  
January 26**



Joel is a dancer, writer, and creator who wanders the world. He has competed in The Open Dance Championships numerous times at the champion level. He embodies the full spectrum of teaching from the latest and greatest to the spectacular styles of yesteryear. Joel was born in Minnesota and learned ballroom at an early age. It wasn't until he moved to San Diego in 2017 that West Coast Swing captured his heart and became his primary mode of dance expression. His teaching style is extremely entertaining and engaging and is guaranteed to bring your dance to the next level. Be there or be square



RESERVED FOR A  
PICTURE

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### **We Welcome Our New Members:**

Jun De La Cruz  
Virginia Miller  
Jeffery Zimmerman  
Rita Heller  
Julie Lombardi

Chris Lory  
Sue Lory  
Jason Chen  
Alice Chen

## Getting to Know Each Other Better Interviews with Meredith Anderson

This month, my interview is with one of our newer members. You've probably seen Don Kuhli around the club, in Parker's classes, or maybe even at one of his gigs around town!



*Please tell us about your history and how you got to San Diego.*

My life can be generalized as one of music. I was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, but did most of my growing up in Illinois.

I spent three years in Berkeley, CA, for high school (man, was that an education). I was always in the school band and even served as drum major for the marching band at Berkeley High School.



Then, it was back to Illinois for my senior year of high school. I thought I'd like to become a public school band director one day. I went to college at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI (look it up on a map—it's right on Lake Superior). It's gorgeous up there.

I dropped out of college to play rock and roll and moved to Ann Arbor by coincidence—no family ties. I lived and played music there for over 20 years.

My family eventually recruited me to move to San Diego to help my father in his golden years.

I went back to college at SDSU, earned a BA in music education, and got a teaching credential. I taught music at Clairemont High School until retiring in 2017. I'm proud to say I realized my childhood dream.

All this time, I was still playing drums in various groups and ensembles. Lately, I've moved into musical theater, playing drums in orchestra pits. I think I'm up to about 20 different musicals over the years.

*What got you into the world of social dance?*

When I wasn't playing somewhere myself, I liked to go

out and support fellow musicians by attending their events.

And there I would sit—watching couples dance—feeling like a wallflower.



It was at one of Mercedes Moore's gigs that she told me she teaches beginning East Coast Swing. I attended her classes for about three months and loved it.



Then I saw a notification on Facebook for San Diego West Coast Swing on Sundays. It turned out to be the San Diego Swing Dance Club.

I'm hooked. I love it, and it's really good for me.

I get to meet people, stay active, and learn something new. Win, win, win.

Thank you to everyone involved with the SDSDC and at the Dance Headquarters.

*Look for Don at the club and ask him for a dance—or just stop by and say hi.*



**SAN DIEGO SWING DANCE CLUB, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2024-2025  
Executive Board**

President.....Vinh Mines  
Vice President ..... Meredith Anderson  
Membership ..... Cristian Flores  
Treasurer..... Garry Bowman  
Secretary..... Wendy Knight  
Newsletter Editor..... Jody Kravitz  
Activity Director..... Taylor Frederking  
Dance Director..... Geoff Burns  
Hospitality Director..... Larry Clendenin  
Publicity Director..... Maria Tee  
Past President.....Craig Helm

**Appointed by the Board**

Webmaster ..... Jody Kravitz  
Member At Large ..... Larry Armstrong  
Member At Large - New!..... Lisa Simmons

Due to endless SPAM attacks, a single email address is now offered for contacting board members. This email box is checked regularly and forwarded to the correct member if it is not SPAM. You may address the entire board also using this address:

[SDSDCBoard@sandiegoswingdance.com](mailto:SDSDCBoard@sandiegoswingdance.com)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**  
Generally on the 2nd Sunday of the  
Month at 12 pm at Dance HQ.

**OUR NEXT MEETINGS ARE:**

January 12th 12:00 pm  
February 2nd 12:00 pm

**Location: Dance Headquarters**  
5035 Shawline St  
San Diego, CA 92111

**All members welcome.**

If you wish to address the Board you must be on the agenda one week prior to the meeting. Members may approach any of the Executive Board members to be placed on the agenda.

**About SDSDC:**

The San Diego Swing Dance Club is a private, non-profit organization. Its specific and primary purposes are to enjoy, promote, preserve, encourage, and teach West Coast Swing. Members receive discounts to weekly dances and special events and each issue of *Swing Times* newsletter. If you haven't been to the Club dances in a while, stop by soon so you can continue to enjoy the dancing, fun, and friendliness that makes SDSDC so special.

Virtual  
Suggestion  
Box



PO Box 1954  
Bonita, CA  
91908-1954

## January Birthdays

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 03 Eldon H. Gloor         | 14 Mary West        |
| 03 Rebecca Lane           | 15 Rhonda James     |
| 04 Karen Oyanguren        | 17 Mark Christenson |
| 05 Alan Wright            | 17 Richmond Meyer   |
| 06 Liz Deilke             | 21 Jody Kravitz     |
| 07 Katherine (Kathy) Hord | 21 Ron Dunsmore     |
| 07 Maggie Shin            | 22 Lauren Nowack    |
| 08 John Croff             | 22 Lisa Lecko       |
| 08 Olga Aleshin           | 23 Peggy Shoal      |
| 10 Kim Fogg               | 23 Pranee Biggane   |
| 11 Dan Harrison           | 24 Denise Wilhite   |
| 11 Eva Meier              | 26 Linda Schaeffer  |
| 11 Olga Lopez             | 27 Maridale Orpilla |

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

The club will provide a cake and supplies to celebrate birthdays, usually on the 1st Sunday of the month. In January, it will be on January 5th.

## The San Diego Swing Dance Club Inc.

The SDSDC meets on Sunday afternoon and is open to the general public. No Partner Needed! Admission is \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Except on the 4th Sunday, lessons are free with paid admission to the dance. On the 4th Sunday, we have a special workshop before the dance for an additional charge. Mid-month Sundays have both Intro and Intermediate WCS lessons that are free with paid admission to the dance. Schedule is subject to change. Lesson is always prior to regular dance.)

(See Flyers posted and/or the website for further information)

**Classes: Sunday - . . . . . 1:30 - 2:30 P.M.**

**Dances: Sunday . . . . . 2:30 - 5:00 P.M.**

**Dance Headquarters**  
5035 Shawline St.  
San Diego, CA 92111

**SEE WEBSITE FOR  
MAP & DIRECTIONS**  
[www.sandiegoswingdance.com](http://www.sandiegoswingdance.com)

**HOTLINE Voice or Text — (619) 333-6603**

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