

# SWING TIMES

A Publication of the San Diego Swing Dance Club



## From the President's Corner



### Hello SDSDC Family!

Spring is in full swing, and there's a lot to be excited about at the San Diego Swing Dance Club! I hope you've all been enjoying our Sunday dances, connecting with old friends, and making new ones on the dance floor.

As we roll into April, I want to take a moment to spotlight a very special milestone on the horizon — **our 55th Anniversary Celebration on May 10th!** For over five decades, our club has been a place where dancers come together to share music, movement, and lifelong friendships. We're pulling out all the stops for this celebration — fantastic music, special performances, and surprises you won't want to miss. **Tickets are on sale now** and we expect this event to sell out - so be sure to grab yours early and spread the word! Let's make this celebration one for the history books!

We're also entering an important time in the life of our club — **We are now accepting nominations for all board positions.** This is your opportunity to help shape the future of SDSDC! Whether you've served before or are brand new, your voice and energy matter. If you've ever thought about giving back, growing your leadership skills, or just getting more involved in our dance community, now is the perfect time to step forward.

**Volunteering is one of the best ways to connect, make friends, and feel the true heart of this club.** Many of our current board members started simply by raising a hand to help — and it led to some of the most rewarding experiences of their dance journey.

Let's continue building a club we're all proud to be part of — together.

Wishing you all a joyful April full of connection, community, and, of course, dancing!

With gratitude,

**Vinh Mines**

President, San Diego Swing Dance Club



### Margaret Says!

West coast swing is danced in a slot and the follower "owns" the slot. If you are leading the follower past you, **GET OFF THE SLOT!** We are not going to go around you so expect us to go through you. Follows, if they don't get out of your way walk right into them, they'll learn. Tell them Margaret sent you.

## We Welcome Our New Members:

Tom Cravey  
James Morton  
Vitus Ho  
Suzi Rubin

Marc Rubin  
Robin Fena  
Sistiana Chestnut  
Michal Belluso

## Upcoming Events

**May 4 – Cinco de Mayo Dance** featuring a Potluck Nacho Bar! Bring your favorites to share.

**May 10 – 55th Anniversary Celebration!** Tickets on sale.

**May 11 – Club Board Election**

**May 18 – No Dance – Studio Closed!**

## Upcoming Lessons at the San Diego Swing Dance Club

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

Apr	6	Large Ballroom	Jerry Morrison — Country Two-Step
Apr	13	Large Ballroom	Maria Tee and Larry Clendenin — WCS
Apr	20	Large Ballroom	Maria Tee and Larry Clendenin — WCS
Apr	27	Large Ballroom	Tara Trafzer — 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

### April 6 — Jerry Morrison Country Two Step Workshop



While living in Alaska for 30 years, Jerry became hooked on DANCING and teaching dance. His next adventure took him to Central Florida, where he taught dance for 10 years, at the Melbourne Ballroom and the Melbourne Moose Lodge, plus several other places.

Since arriving in San Diego, Jerry has become a regular at the San Diego Swing Dance Club, including teaching the beginner class. With

Jody's encouragement, Jerry has started running a twice-a-month Country & WCS dance at the Kearny Mesa Moose Lodge on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays where he often teaches Country Two-Step. Jerry is known for his friendly and easy to follow teaching style. Please welcome him to teaching in our big ballroom. You are certain to have a good time.

### April 27 — Tara Trafser Advanced WCS Workshop



Tara has been dancing for almost 20 years. She has been trained in classical Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, Tap, Latin, Hip Hop, and West Coast Swing with the Schwimmers. Tara is known for teaching that focuses on swing technique as well as

incorporating musicality into the dance for all levels. Her extensive training in a multitude of dances contributes to her ability to reach dancers from all backgrounds. Tara has competed in the young adult divisions since she was 13 and has competed in the Showcase Routine Division since she was 18. Tara teaches in the states and internationally in places including: France, England, & Russia.



It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our beloved club member, Queenbea Estrada.

Queenbea was more than just a familiar face on the dance floor—she was a radiant spirit whose warmth, generosity, and love for West Coast Swing touched all who knew her. Her energy was infectious, her laughter unforgettable, and her presence brought joy and light to every event she attended.



She was a loyal supporter of the San Diego Swing Dance Club and a cherished member of our community. Whether she was dancing, encouraging new members, or simply lighting up the room with her smile, Queenbea embodied the heart and soul of what this club stands for: friendship, fun, and the love of dance.

We will miss her deeply, but her spirit will always remain with us—in the music, in the movement, and in the memories we shared together.

Our deepest condolences go out to her family and loved ones during this difficult time. Queenbea, thank you for dancing through life with such grace and love. You will never be forgotten.

With love,

Vinh Mines

President, San Diego Swing Dance Club





# Getting to Know Each Other Better Interviews with Meredith Anderson

This month I had the pleasure of interviewing Kate Friedman.

My husband and I loved to travel, exploring new places nearly every year of our 47-year marriage. Our first big adventure was in 1973, when we backpacked through Europe



for three months. We visited Germany, France, and Italy—where I met his parents in Venice—climbed the Eiffel Tower, and explored the Greek Islands and Yugoslavia (now Croatia). One of the most memorable stops was Sardinia, where my in-laws and their business partners treated us to a

stay at the luxurious Pitrizzi Resort on the “Costa Smeralda.” The suites were hidden inside a mountain of boulders—an unforgettable experience.

For work, we moved from California to Illinois, spending twenty years there. The weather was a big change, so we often escaped to warmer destinations during winter. We loved spending time at beach resorts in Miami with his parents and taking trips to Club Med in Mexico or the Dominican Republic. Club



Med offered all kinds of activities, but my favorite was the trapeze—I loved it! Our four-year-old son even skipped kids' camp to stay back and film my aerial feats.

When we first arrived in Chicago, we searched for a home and found a beautiful place in Evanston, on Park Place. When I told my mother the address, she surprised me by saying, “Your dad grew up on that street!” That was just the beginning of a series of coincidences. The real estate agent turned out to be my dad’s cousin, Carol, and she was selling the very house that had belonged to my dad’s family. Inside the attic were historical documents spanning generations, including family ties to English royalty, the Pilgrims, and political figures. This unexpected discovery brought my siblings and me closer together, and in the process, we learned more about our father’s remarkable history. He had been a celebrated WWII bomber pilot in the 9th Bomber Squadron and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by none other than legendary WWI fighter pilot Eddie Rickenbacker.



My sister later gave me a draft of our father’s military memoirs, which I edited and had published.

Before we had children, I wanted to become a dental hygienist, and

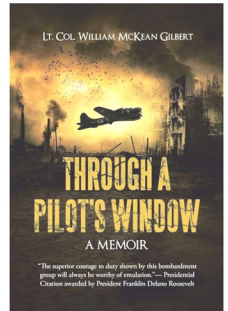
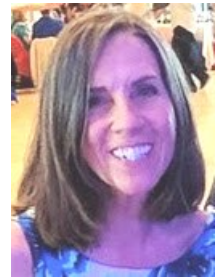
an Army recruiter convinced me to enlist, promising free training. However, he said I would need to start as a cook until a spot opened in the program. I was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, home to the Army’s paratrooper training. Unfortunately, during that time, a serial killer was targeting female cooks on the base. My husband, alarmed for my safety, threatened to go to the media, and soon after, I was granted an honorable discharge.

Six years ago, my husband passed away. Not long after, I met Richard, who has brought joy and laughter back into my life. My husband would have liked him. My kids, family, and neighbors do as well. Richard has a generous heart—he does yard work for the widow next door, takes in trash cans for neighbors with mobility issues, and even helped a stranded motorist start their car.

Dancing has always been a big part of my life. My husband and I took dance classes whenever we could, and our favorite was the Viennese Waltz. One of our favorite songs was “In the Mood” by Glenn Miller. Fittingly, I met Richard on the dance floor, and we’ve been dancing through life ever since.



Dancers having fun in Lisa’s St. Patrick’s Day decorations.



**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 ..... 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:**

April        13th 12:00 pm  
May         4th 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

## April Birthdays

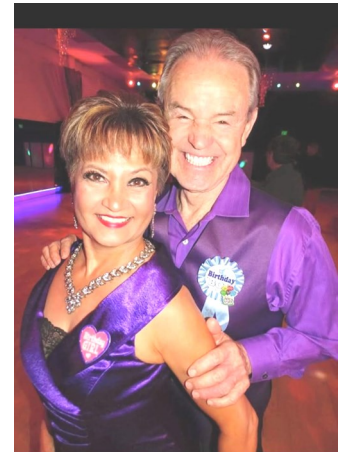
01 Frank Sowin	11 Jerry Morrison
01 Rich Ernst	12 Joan Wapner
01 Rosanne Lashgari	13 George Ludwig
02 Larry Clendenin	15 Andrea Sousa
02 Maria Tee	17 Lloyd Lickert
03 Michael Biggane	18 Rita Heller
03 Mike Lock	20 Christine Dupont
05 Kathy Fennell	21 Deborah Fountain
06 Tina Keester	21 Lon Clement
08 Clifford Tabadisto	21 Reenie Assa
08 Parviz Kamiab	27 Etta McQueary
09 Debbie Lieber	29 Don Kuhli
09 Gail Fuller	29 Mark Eskandar
10 Barbara Crist	30 Rosie Bird
11 Bernie Fendrick	

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

The club will provide a cake and supplies to celebrate birthdays, usually on the 1st Sunday of the month. This time it will be on April 6th.

Board members and birthday twins (April 02) Larry and Maria won't be able to celebrate with on April 6th. They will be celebrating in Hawaii!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



## 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**