

# SWING TIMES

A Publication of the San Diego Swing Dance Club



## From the President's Corner



Dear San Diego Swing Dance Family,

What an exciting month we have ahead of us! May is a time for celebration, reflection, and renewal at the San Diego Swing Dance Club. This year marks an incredible milestone — our **55th Anniversary!**

We are honored to celebrate more than five decades of dance, friendship, and community with you. I warmly invite you to join us on **Saturday, May 10th** for our **55th Anniversary Dinner Dance** (advance ticket purchase required). It promises to be a memorable evening filled with great food, wonderful music, and of course, plenty of dancing. Let's come together to honor our history and create even more memories for the future!

In addition to celebrating our past, we are also looking ahead. On **Sunday, May 11th**, we will be holding our **Annual Election** for the new Executive Board. This is your opportunity to shape the direction of our club for the coming year. Your participation is vital — we encourage all members to cast their votes and support the candidates who will help continue the legacy of excellence at SDSDC.

### We Need You!

Our club thrives because of the generous spirit and energy of our volunteers. Whether it's helping set up for dances, greeting guests at the door, assisting with special events, or supporting our Board, there are so many ways you can make a difference. Volunteering is a wonderful way to connect deeper with our community, and I encourage you to consider lending a hand. If you're

interested, please reach out to any Board member — we would love to welcome you aboard!

Finally, I want to personally thank every one of you for being part of this journey. Our club's heart beats strong because of your passion, your laughter, and your love for this amazing dance we share. Let's make May a month to remember!

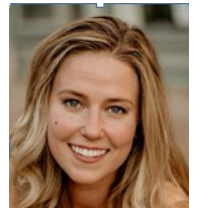
See you on the dance floor,

**Vinh Mines**

President, San Diego Swing Dance Club

SDSDC,

I hope this update finds you well and flourishing this spring! I'm thrilled to remind you of our exciting lineup of upcoming events and activities:



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

**May 10** – 55th Anniversary Celebration! The theme this year is Garden Party: a celebration of this beautiful, blooming season! Embrace the spirit with cheerful bright colors, floral/festive prints, and flowing ensembles. Tickets are on sale now—don't miss out on this special event!

**May 11** – Mother's Day

I'm still healing from a back and knee injury, so I'll keep cheering you on from the sidelines for now. Looking forward to being back on the dance floor with you all soon!

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

May 4	Large Ballroom	Russ Bradchulis & Souraya Lorenz — Country Waltz	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS
May 11	Large Ballroom	Mark Pablo & Margie Adams — WCS	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS
May 18	NO LESSON OR DANCE — STUDIO CLOSED		
May 25	Large Ballroom	Demetre "Meech" Souliotis — Advanced WCS	Small Ballroom: No class

## From Our Dance Director Geoff Burns

**May 4 — Russ Brandchulis and  
Souraya Lorenz  
Country Waltz Workshop**



Russ Bradchulis and Souraya Lorienz each started out dancing in their hometown bars around 2010 and began competing in the UCWDC in 2016 with different partners. They met a couple of years later at Paradise Country Dance Festival when Russ famously missed a restart on a line dance during warmups — a story they still enjoy telling today.

Russ and Souraya teamed up to compete together in 2022 and quickly moved up to Division 2 in the UCWDC, where they continue to compete in Couples and Line Dance. Souraya has also partnered with Russ in teaching workshops at various regional and local events.

They will be teaching Country Waltz for us on Sunday, May 4, and it promises to be both informative and entertaining. Come learn from two of the best and take your Country Waltz to the next level!

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

Martha Schwartz  
Beth Rosenthal

Deborah Donoghue  
Ken Riha

**May 24 — Demetre “Meech” Souliotis  
Advanced WCS Workshop**



**Demetre Souliotes'** love of dance first manifested itself at a young age in the form of Hip-Hop and Break Dancing. By age 13, he was competing, battling and winning in three different styles of Hip Hop. Demetre found West

Coast Swing, a dance that introduced him to the unique joys of partner dancing while still allowing the same freedoms of individual creativity, self-expression and musicality that he enjoys with Hip Hop. Dance, West Coast Swing in particular, quickly became an all-encompassing passion,

Within 2 years on the competition circuit, he was asked to partner with one of the top champion dancers of the day, Beata Howe. Demetre and Beata traveled the USA full time on the WCS professional circuit competing, performing, teaching and then capping the year with a 6th place finish at the US Open Swing Dance Championships.

Following that explosive start as a WCS Dance Professional, Demetre traveled the world competing, performing, teaching, judging and choreographing. He spent 4 years teaching all over Asia and started the WCS community in China.

When he isn't busy traveling, Demetre teaches and hosts classes and dances all over Southern California. In 2014, Demetre and his new partner, Kristen Humphrey, placed top 12 in the Classic Division at the US Open Swing Dance Championships. When asked, Demetre describes his style of WCS as focused on a base of micro connection, clear lead and silent conversation to create the framework in which free body movement and expression can take place — along with a touch of Hip Hop for good measure.

Through the last decade, his style has evolved from the inspiration of his Hip Hop roots, his friends in Lindy Hop, his amazing peers in the WCS community and the natural evolution of this amazing street dance called West Coast Swing.



Meredith and Vinh working the Potluck Bar on Apr 20



# Getting to Know Each Other Better

## Interviews with Meredith Anderson

### Meet Mark Siprut A Lifelong Lover of Dance and the Arts

Mark Siprut's lifelong passion for dance began at an early age. Born in Los Angeles and raised in the LA South Bay area, Mark's parents enrolled him in tap classes when he was ten years old. By age twelve, he was also learning social dance and square dancing at a local park, setting the stage for a life filled with rhythm and movement.

During his teenage years in the late 1960s, Mark found himself drawn to the Motown and soul music that dominated local dances in his community.



His love of dance only deepened during college at Humboldt State University, where he discovered international folk dancing, with a special emphasis on Balkan styles. His enthusiasm led him to join several performance groups, and after graduating, he moved to Hawaii, where he picked up the hand drum, the dumbek, and performed



Balkan music with a small ensemble.

Mark's commitment to both the arts and education continued to grow. He taught Art and Photography at Iolani High School in Honolulu before earning his MFA in Art at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

While in Santa Barbara, he continued playing Balkan music but, more importantly for his dance journey, he discovered Lindy Hop swing dancing. He took classes from notable instructors Jonathan Bixby and Sylvia Sykes, cementing his lifelong love of dance.

In 1987, Mark moved to San Diego and began teaching multimedia design at San Diego State University (SDSU), where he remains on the faculty today as an Associate Professor. In 1996, he spent a year teaching in Turkey on a prestigious Fulbright grant, further enriching his intercultural experiences.

Upon arriving in San Diego, Mark searched for Lindy Hop dances but instead found a vibrant West Coast Swing community. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, he danced regularly

with the San Diego Swing Dance Club downtown, where live bands played every Sunday night. After the dances,



he and a group of fellow enthusiasts would often head to the Belly Up Tavern to continue dancing to blues bands.

Today, dancing at the San Diego Swing Dance Club remains one of the highlights of Mark's week. His enduring passion for dance, especially swing, is a vital part of his life and continues to bring him joy and community connection.

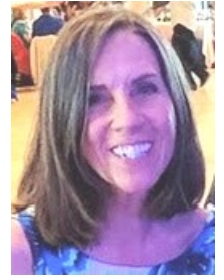
In addition to dancing, Mark is a multimedia artist, designer, and educator. His creative work spans photography, printmaking, digital media, and interactive art. His art explores the intersection of natural landscapes and human-made environments, capturing the tension and beauty of cultural and environmental change. Mark's work has been exhibited locally and internationally, and he is the author of *The Adobe Photoshop Handbook v3*, published by Random House.

Currently, Mark continues to immerse himself in his innovative art and his spirited dancing.

You can explore his portfolio here:

<https://msiprut.myportfolio.com/siprut-projects>

Be sure to explore the menu of projects!



**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            4th    12:00 pm  
June            8th    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

## May Birthdays

01 Joe Jennings	19 Therezza Rathman
02 Michael Wise	19 Yumi
07 Beverley Muth	20 Lynne Rendon
07 Robin Fena	21 Sher Sheldon
07 Tina Moore	21 Sue Lathe
08 Ken Riha	22 Allone Twomey
09 Kim Brown	22 Michael Belluso
10 Tisha Trinh	23 Anne Callies
11 Bob Pomeroy	23 Karen Brothers
12 Florence Curry	23 Leah Hurwitz
12 Tracey Dalton	23 Renee Steel
13 Martha Pelleti	23 Suzie Avila
13 Tim Waldowski	27 Vinh Mines
14 Harold Jefferies	28 Claudia Bayr
14 James Morton	28 Ida Greene
15 Janeen Bralla	30 Tom Cravey
16 Brandy Proppe	31 Danyeung Wong
18 Cathy Meyn	

## 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 May 4th.



### Margaret Says!

If you see someone sitting alone or not getting asked to dance, **GO ASK THEM!** This is a friendly club, so be **FRIENDLY!**"

## 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**