

# SWING TIMES

A Publication of the San Diego Swing Dance Club



## A Farewell Note from the President – Passing the Torch



As we triple step into June, I find myself reflecting on an unforgettable milestone: our 55th Anniversary celebration. What a joy it was to see our community come together in such a powerful way—honoring the legacy of this club and dancing the night away

in true San Diego style.

With the election now complete, I'm both proud and excited to officially welcome our new President, Meredith Anderson. Many of you already know Meredith as a tireless leader, having served as our Vice President and a dedicated board member. But what's even more remarkable is her 30-year commitment to this club. Her love for West Coast Swing and her unwavering dedication to this community have helped shape the heart and soul of the SDSDC. I know she will lead with the same passion and integrity she's shown throughout her years of service.

As for me, serving as your President has been one of the most rewarding chapters of my life. I've grown not only as a leader but also as a person—thanks to the incredible people I've had the honor to meet, work with, and call friends. The bonds I've built here are truly special, and I'll always be grateful for the support, laughter, and late-night dances we've shared.

Although I'm stepping down as President, I'm not going far—I'll be continuing to serve on the Board as your Vice President and DJ. I'm excited to keep supporting our club and working alongside Meredith and the rest of the Board to help the SDSDC continue to thrive.

This club is more than just a place to dance—it's a family. And I'm so proud of where we've been and where we're headed. With Meredith at the helm, I know the future is bright.

See you on the dance floor,

Vinh Mines

Outgoing President, San Diego Swing Dance Club

Editor's note: A full list of the new board members is on the back page of this newsletter. —Jody

## From Meredith Anderson SDSDC's New President



I'm excited to step into the role of president of SDSDC. I know I have big shoes to fill, and I want to thank Vinh and the past board for all their hard work. With Vinh continuing as vice president and the new board supporting me, I'm confident we can continue offering the fun, inclusive dance experience we've all come to enjoy.

This new board brings fresh ideas, and I'm looking forward to working together as a team to make our club even more welcoming for everyone who wants to join us.

Remember, this is *your* dance club—so keep the suggestions coming and get involved! We'd love to hear your ideas for making the experience even better.

Thanks to all of the members. We wouldn't have a club without you!

## Upcoming Lessons at the San Diego Swing Dance Club

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

June 1	Large Ballroom	David Walkup & Trish Connery Walkup — Cha Cha	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS
June 8	Large Ballroom	Vinh Mines — WCS	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS
June 15	Large Ballroom	Vinh Mines — WCS	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS
June 22	Large Ballroom	Parker Dearbprn — Advanced WCS	Small Ballroom: No class
June 29	Large Ballroom	Mercedes Moore — East Coast Swing	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS

## From Our Dance Director Geoff Burns



### June 1 — David Walkup & Trish Connery Walkup

David Walkup and Trish Connery Walkup are trained dancers, teachers, choreographers, competitors, and judges specializing in partner dances. They are based in San Diego.

They began dancing in the mid-to-late 1990's — he in San Diego on the United Country Western Dance Council (UCWDC) circuit, she in Los Angeles on the West Coast Swing circuit. They joined forces in 2006 after meeting at a dance convention.

Both are award winning dancers — David holds four UCWDC worlds Championships and a US Open Swing Dance Championship. Trish holds five UCWDC Worlds

Championships, is a California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Rising Star, and many top placements in various WCS competitions

Together they have over 30 years of experience in the dance community, teaching a variety of dance styles including Country 2-Step, West Coast Swing, Hustle, Nightclub 2-Step, Cha Cha, Waltz, and more.

Known for their fun and entertaining teaching style, they teach, coach, and choreograph for group classes, private lessons, wedding dance couples, and performance dance teams, as well as provide specialty classes and entertainment for private and corporate events.



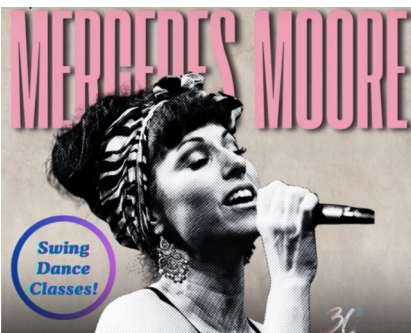
### June 22 — Parker Dearborn Advanced WCS Workshop

**We're thrilled to welcome Parker Dearborn as our guest instructor!**

A Champion West Coast Swing dancer, Parker began dancing at age 14 and quickly rose through the ranks, earning national recognition in the Showcase Division. Known for his dynamic energy, musicality, and creative footwork rooted in traditional

swing, Parker brings a deep respect for the dance's history while inspiring today's dancers. Parker is also a respected teacher, judge, emcee, and promoter — and even appeared in the film *Love 'n Dancing*. Also known locally for his VERY well attended classes at Dance Headquarters, Parker is now a partner in the studio.

While his dance partner and fiancée, Melissa Rutz, is recovering from surgery and unable to join us, we send her our best wishes and look forward to welcoming her in the future.



### June 29 — Mercedes Moore East Coast Swing Workshop + Live Band Performance

Mercedes Moore is a dedicated Swing Dance Instructor.

Known for her friendly and approachable teaching style, Mercedes is passionate about helping students

master the fundamentals of swing dance while having fun. Her encouraging nature inspires dancers of all levels to bring their best to the dance floor. Whether you're just starting or looking to refine your skills, Mercedes creates a welcoming environment that makes learning swing dance an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Tina Moore lost her husband suddenly and unexpectedly on April 30, a week shy of their 54th wedding anniversary. The SDSDC offers our heartfelt condolences to our very loved club member Tina Moore.





## From Taylor, Your Outgoing Activities Director

**SDSDC,**

Thank you all for making our 55th Anniversary Celebration such a hit! You can now relive the magic—photos are up on the website, and trust me, they are *ICONIC*.

Before I officially wrap things up as your Activities Director and pass the baton to the fabulous Fatima, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude. Thank you for making the past two years at SDSDC so unforgettable. From refreshing our logo and dreaming up big themes to planning parties and decorating our beloved dance hall—it's truly been a ball. Walking through these doors was one of the best decisions I've ever made! You all inspire me beyond measure, and I'll carry that with me wherever I go.

As many of you know, I'm moving back to Colorado for the rest of the year—but this isn't goodbye! I'll continue supporting SDSDC by crafting our newsletters and keeping communication flowing. It feels like the perfect way to stay connected until my eventual return.

Until then, I'll be in San Diego often, as my role as Director of Business Development will bring me back regularly to sync with local colleagues and clients. You can bet I'll be extending those trips whenever I can *SWING* it to join you on the dance floor.

With lots of love,

**Taylor**

Your Activities Director

## A Message From Fatima Zaki, Your New Activities Director



As an avid dancer, I'm delighted to join the SDSDC community as this year's Activities Director. I'd like to thank Taylor for her contributions to the SDSDC board.

I've been an educator for 22 years, teaching Performing Arts and Dance to students from kindergarten through 12th grade. I've organized and produced many showcases over the years, and I look forward to bringing those skills to our club.

Working alongside Lisa Simmons—our fabulous decorator—we aim to make each monthly dance theme a

fun and engaging social experience. You'll get plenty of notice about upcoming themes through the newsletter, website, and weekly emails, and we encourage everyone to join in by dressing to match the theme!

I always welcome feedback and suggestions — everything we do is for the enjoyment of our members. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the dance floor!



On **Sunday, June 1**, we'll have cake and decorations to celebrate June birthdays. On **Sunday, June 15**, we'll celebrate Father's Day with a Wild Wild West theme—so dust off your boots and dress Western!

## From Your Webmaster

The SDSDC website should be your "go to" address for up-to-the-minute information about upcoming SDSDC events. The top-center section of the website always contains the latest information that has been posted. The most recent newsletter is available by clicking on the Newsletter banner. I am continuing improve the website.

**IF YOU ARE NOT GETTING EMAIL FROM US — PLEASE VERIFY YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH CHRIS AT THE FRONT DESK.**

Please consider sharing the link to the website with friends that might be interested in attending our events:

**[www.sandiegoswingdance.com](http://www.sandiegoswingdance.com)**

As always, your input on improving the website is welcome,

Jody Kravitz, SDSDC Webmaster



## Some photos from our 55th Anniversary Party on May 10, 2025

Check the photos section of our website for more photos.



The entire board wouldn't fit in the photo booth!



Photo Page on our website



Above, these two, Lloyd and Margaret, remember when it all started!





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

**This month I had the pleasure of interviewing Larry Grogan, a.k.a Larry #3**

I was born on February 1, 1942, in Miller, South Dakota. Two months later, my father reported for duty in the Army. He participated in Operation Torch, the Allied landing at Oran, Algiers, in November 1942.

In 1943, my mother's family moved to Portland, Oregon, to work in the war industry. My mother was encouraged to join them, and she became a certified welder in the shipyards.

After the war, we moved back to South Dakota. During seventh and eighth grade, I attended a one-room country schoolhouse. My father leased a farm, and we milked 26 cows twice a day—by hand. That convinced me that farm life wasn't for me.

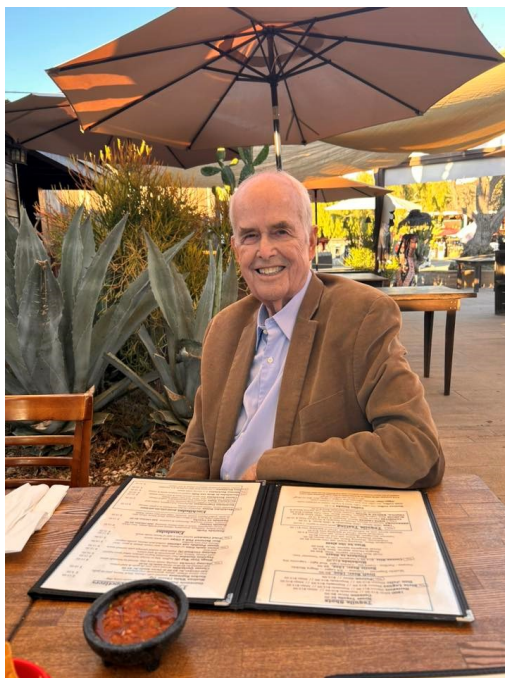
With the help of family, I moved to Chula Vista, where I finished high school on June 16. By June 19, I was standing on the famous "yellow footprints" at MCRD.

I loved the Marine Corps and was fortunate to be on the first plane of Marines deployed to Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Unfortunately, a knee injury ended my military career.

As a civilian, I worked as a manager for a finance company. I eventually married and had two children—a boy and a girl. I now have two fine grandsons.

Later, I left the finance company to work for SDG&E, where I was responsible for all geothermal exploration, both onshore and offshore. This included drilling and testing operations in the Salton Sea geothermal resource, as well as planning and directing geothermal drilling on Lihir Island in Papua New Guinea. (Kennecott, the company involved, was part of British Petroleum at the time.)

In addition to my professional work, I served the El Centro and Imperial Valley commu-



nities, spending four years on the El Centro City Council, including a term as mayor in 2001. I also served on the Imperial County Board of Supervisors and was Chairman of the Board in 2007.

My wife and I opened a pawnshop in El Centro, which we ran for 22 years before selling it in 2012 and relocating full-time to Alpine. I developed a passion for woodworking, which I've enjoyed for the past ten years.

Sadly, my wife passed away from cancer in 2017. In 2019, I began taking guitar and dance lessons at the El Cajon Adult Center. Eventually, I joined the San Diego Swing Club at the Elks Hall in El Cajon, where I remain a member.

That same year, I met Chris Leavy. We share many common interests—music, dance, theater, and travel. Together, we've traveled extensively, including visits to Ireland, river cruises in France, the Old Globe Theatre tour in London and Bath, and several shorter trips within the United States.

Although I'm retired, I remain involved in the energy industry—specifically with a lithium project in Imperial County. It's a \$2 billion effort slated for groundbreaking this summer or fall. The project will also produce manganese and zinc at full development. I acquired the mineral rights and land to build the John Featherstone Power Plant, which will provide brine for the lithium plant.

There have been many attempts at mineral development in the Imperial Valley. After seven years of research, testing, and reporting, I have high hopes that direct lithium extraction will finally succeed.



**SAN DIEGO SWING DANCE CLUB, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2025-2026  
Executive Board**

President..... Meredith Anderson  
Vice President ..... Vinh Mines  
Membership ..... Jody Kravitz  
Treasurer..... Marlynn Peak  
Secretary ..... Kathy Hord  
Newsletter Editor ..... Jody Kravitz  
Activity Director ..... Fatima Zaki  
Dance Director ..... Geoff Burns  
Hospitality Director..... Larry Clendenin  
Publicity Director..... Maria Tee

**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:**

June 8th 12:00 pm  
July 10th 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

## June Birthdays

01 Steph Tilton	16 Jill Curtiss
02 Cristian Flores	16 Madelyn Kunysz
02 Richael Valles	19 Mark Dudenhoeffer
06 Deborah Donoghue	21 Paul Twomey
07 Dale Pontow	23 Arthur Mensah
08 Suzi Rubin	23 Jeffrey Zimmerman
09 Paul Ackerman	24 Jason Chen
09 Wayne Peleti	24 Serena Trumbull
11 Jay Huff	26 Paula Perry
11 Juliet Felkins	27 Karen Tabadisto
12 Judy Bowman	

## 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 June 15th.



### Margaret Says!

**If I don't ask don't tell.**

No unsolicited advice on the dance floor. We are here to dance and have fun. If I want dance instruction, I'll pay a professional. If I want your advice I'll ask you...or beat it out of you.

## 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**