

SWING TIMES

A Publication of the San Diego Swing Dance Club



Hello San Diego Swing Club Members and Dance Enthusiasts!



As we move deeper into the fall season and approach the end of another incredible year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the amazing growth, energy, and connection we've all shared on the dance floor. November marks a time for gratitude, and I am truly thankful for each of you who make the San Diego Swing Dance Club a vibrant and welcoming community.

A Look Back at Dance Diego

I'm still buzzing from the energy of this last month! We had an incredible turnout, and it was inspiring to see so many talented dancers, both local and from out of town, lighting up the dance floor. A special thank you to all the volunteers and the organizing committee—you made this dance a huge success. Let's keep the momentum going!

Looking Ahead

November is packed with exciting opportunities to continue improving your skills and having fun! I'm particularly excited about our Guest Instructors: Shawn Torgerson, Trish Connery Walkup, and Conor McClure. I highly encourage everyone to attend, regardless of your experience level.

If you're looking to share your love of dance, don't forget about our Intro to West Coast Swing classes. It's the perfect opportunity to invite friends, family, or anyone who's been curious about trying West Coast Swing.

Hello, SDSDC!

Holiday season is upon us! As we get ready for a festive season, here's a friendly reminder on our exciting upcoming events and activities. Please note the new adds in **red!**

New date confirmed! November 3 – Veterans Day Dance (and November birthdays!) Join us as we honor our veterans with a special day of dancing.

New! November 17 – Friendsgiving Dessert Potluck. Bring a sweet treat to share and let's celebrate all we are thankful for this season!

Volunteer Opportunities

As always, we're looking for passionate members to help with club activities. Whether it's assisting with setup for events, DJing, or helping to spread the word about our fantastic club, we could always use an extra hand. If you're interested in getting involved, please let one of our board members know.

Thanksgiving Gratitude

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to every member of our club. Your enthusiasm, support, and participation are what keep us going. It's truly an honor to serve as your president and to help foster a community where everyone feels welcome and excited to dance. Let's keep that energy and positivity flowing as we head into the holiday season.

BUT WAIT—THERE'S MORE!

Our Holiday Dinner Dance is on Saturday, November 23rd at 5:00 pm. Seats are limited so secure your spot and be part of this unforgettable event, now is the time to act!

\$40 for members \$60 for non-members

This is an absolute STEAL for the quality of food and entertainment you'll be getting. Seriously, don't wait until it's sold out and you're wishing you had signed up sooner!

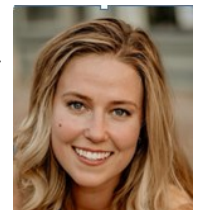
Thank you again for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing all of you at our November events. Let's keep dancing, keep connecting, and keep having fun!

Warmly, Vinh Mines
President, San Diego Swing Dance Club

November 23 – SDSDC Holiday Party. This year's theme is *An Enchanted Holiday*. Picture rich emerald and jewel tones, touches of nature, and of course, the sparkle of the timeless disco ball. Don't forget to purchase your ticket for this magical evening!

Lastly, keep an eye out for more details on our upcoming California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Fundraiser—exact date coming soon.

Hope to see you on the dance floor soon!
Taylor



Upcoming Lessons at the San Diego Swing Dance Club

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

Nov 3	Large Ballroom	Shawn Torgerson — Hustle	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS
Nov 10	— STUDIO CLOSED — No Dance or Lessons		
Nov 17	Large Ballroom	Trish Connery Walkup — WCS	Small Ballroom: Intro to WCS
Nov 24	Large Ballroom	Conor McClure — Adv WCS Workshop	Small Ballroom: No class

From Our Dance Director Geoff Burns

Shawn Torgerson teaches Hustle on November 3

Shawn opened the studio Dance For 2, now better known as San Diego's, Dance Headquarters in 2005. At that time it was just the top floor of the American Legion in Linda Vista. The room was small but, was the start of what is now one of the largest dance studios in San Diego at 7,700 square feet and features what he feels is the best of the best in staff, students, flooring, sound, lighting, and location. While able to teach with high proficiency a multitude of styles his specialty is club dances and uses his background in hip hop and breakdancing to create unique and cool pattern combinations that can be used in partner social dancing. He now focuses primarily on running the studio and making sure it continues to be evolving at a top-notch level while teaching a limited amount of private lessons and classes.



Dance Headquarters is his complete vision. A place where all dance styles and people of any gender, race, size, or religion are welcomed. A favorite saying of his is, "Dance is a form of expression and everyone should learn to express themselves."



He has worked very hard in putting together a place that offers everything from social partner dancing to top-level competitive dancing while making sure staff and students are warm and welcoming. Whether you come here to learn, train, or practice he hopes you enjoy the dance.

Trish Connery Walkup teaches Intermediate WCS on November 17



Trish Connery Walkup An award-winning dancer, Trish is a five-time UCWDC Worlds Champion in multiple divisions as well as a California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Rising Star.

She is a multi-year finalist at the US Open Swing Dance Championships including top placements in Masters Routine Division, Masters Strictly Swing Division and Team Division.

Trish teaches a multitude of dances: Hustle, Country 2-Step, Nightclub 2-Step, Cha Cha, Salsa, West Coast Swing, etc. Trish and her husband, David Walkup, are the premiere Country 2-Step instructors in San Diego, teaching three different levels of classes every Wednesday night at Starlight.

In addition to weekly group classes and private lessons, Trish is often on the teaching and judging staff at dance conventions. She produces specialty workshops for corporate clients, dance studios and private parties. She provides teaching, choreography and coaching services for social and competitive dancers and loves to work with wedding couples as they prepare for their all-important first dance.

Conor McClure Advanced WCS Workshop on November 24

I've been teaching and studying dance and movement for the past eighteen years—I started my journey with Jazz dance in high school and went on to study Modern and Ballet during college, where I was also introduced to Ballroom, Argentine Tango, and Pilates. After graduation, I went on to teach dance full-time before branching into fitness, becoming a personal trainer and movement coach. Over the past nine years, I've traveled and competed nationwide as a West Coast Swing dancer, currently competing in the Champion and Classic Divisions.



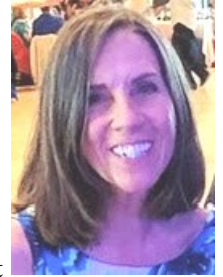
It's my hope to continue to share my love of dance and movement for many years to come!

We Welcome Our New Members:

Juliet Felkins
Alan Marshall
Helen Martinez

Aida Lionnet
Laura Patterson

Getting to Know Each Other Better Interviews with Meredith Anderson



This month I had the pleasure of interviewing Marlynn Peak. After reading this article I think you will agree with me that we have another very interesting member in Marlynn.

I was born in Pittsburgh, Pa and moved to Los Angeles at the age of 2. I came to Oceanside to complete the final 2 years of high school following my parents divorce. Initially I moved back to Los Angeles for work and permanently returned to



When I formally retired I started taking art classes. I primarily focus on graphite and watercolor. I also took Tai Chi classes and now lead and teach to a group of about 35 people weekly. I travel as often as I can. As a child my family traversed the U.S. stopping to see all the major sites. If there was a sign for 'World's Largest Ball of String!' my dad immediately headed in that direction. So far I have visited 32 countries, some several times. The last 18 countries since 2021 when the world opened up after the pandemic. I still have a few trips on the books for 2025.

Dancing is my other passion. I learned East Coast Swing on the top of my dad's feet around the age of 5. I learned Cha Cha from the Cuban uncle of a childhood friend. I've been referred to as a 'street dancer' because I never had any formal



Oceanside following my marriage to a local Hawaiian/Samoan I had met while in high school. I have 2 children, 3 grandchildren. Divorced after 24 years, single for 12 before meeting my life and business partner. We had 23 years together before his death at the beginning of the pandemic.

I started my work life with Pacific Telephone as a telephone operator and ended as a Training Course Developer. I accepted a management buyout when the Bell System was split up in the 80's. From there I was a Mary Kay Sales Director (yes, I had a pink car!), followed by doing medical collection seminars around the country, a short stint with a diet food company and ending as the operations manager in a Chiropractic seminar and homeopathic products company. While I 'formally' retired in 2006, I do part-time work handling all of the accounting and administrative details for One More That's It Sports Pub in Oceanside where I am a part-owner. My life partner and I were also the original owners of Pier View Coffee Company, also in Oceanside. That business was sold when he became terminally ill.



dance lessons until I discovered West Coast Swing in the 80's. I became a member of this club when it was located in North Park. However, when I met my partner he was an East Coast Swinger and wasn't interested in learning a new style. When the pandemic lifted I knew I had to get back to dancing and found my way back to the club. I also found myself completely 'out of step' with the evolution of WCS! Thanks to the free classes, workshops, awesome instructors, and truly great dancers in this club I've been able to get back, mostly, in step. There's still so much to learn!! I love the friendly, welcoming atmosphere here at the club and look forward to many more years of dancing!

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

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

OUR NEXT MEETINGS ARE:
 November 3rd 12:00 pm
 December 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.



Bob & Suzie Avila, new member Juliet, and Olga Lopez relaxing on 10/13/24

November Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------------------|
| 01 | Janeen Johnson | 18 | Terry Uchida |
| 02 | Alex Aleshin | 19 | Belinda Young |
| 02 | Donald Walker | 21 | Christann Heideman |
| 03 | Barbara Ham | 22 | David Gonzales |
| 03 | Declan Cordova | 25 | Charlotte Hemmer |
| 08 | Kary Lynn Vail | 25 | Micko - Tengmei Stegner |
| 09 | Hugh Molesworth | 25 | Sandi Muir |
| 09 | Richard Smith | 26 | Janet Johnstone |
| 10 | Carolyn Mein | 26 | Margo Melton |
| 10 | Dave Madrigal | 26 | Patty Dalton |
| 12 | Annie Johnson | 26 | Patty Dalton |
| 12 | Gail Malone | 27 | Sherry Maldonado |
| 12 | Kikue Ainslie | 28 | Mark Crosby |
| 13 | Lynn Mallery | 30 | Howard Heilbrunn |
| 14 | Brian Sussan | 30 | Joe Cekander |
| 16 | Joan Canonigo | | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

The club will provide a cake and supplies to celebrate birthdays, usually on the 1st Sunday of the month. In November, it will be November 3.

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

HOTLINE Voice or Text — (619) 333-6603



**New Website
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