

LOS ANGELES SWING DANCE CLUB, INC. (LASDC)

Bi-Monthly Newsletter JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

Volume 48 – Number 1 Club Founded in 1970

Website: www.laswingdanceclub.com

Visit & 'Like': www.facebook.com Los Angeles Swing Dance Club

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from

L.A.S.D.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President-Jim Harris



Vice-President-Nancy Taylor



Treasurer-Karen Smith



Entertainment
Director
Barbara Wallace



Ways & Means
Martine Whitford



Newsletter Editor
Bill Parker



Secretary
Fran Tassin

BAND SCHEDULE: January & February 2018

1st Sunday month – William Porter Band

2nd Sunday Month – Good Rockin Daddy

JOIN L.A.S.D.C. TODAY

NEW OR RENEWABLE

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES - JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER

January through December \$25.00 per person

Please mail dues payable to - LASDC, P. O. Box 2415, Huntington Beach, CA 92647-2415
Please include application form below with your payment.

Sunday dance admission fee: Members \$6, Non-members \$10
Sister clubs \$6.00 with current membership card

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact
Membership Chairperson, Karen Smith 714-403-2125 khockey3225@hotmail.com

LOS ANGELES SWING DANCE CLUB

P. O. Box 2415, Huntington Beach, CA 92647-2415

www.laswingdanceclub.com Visit & "like": [facebook.com/Los Angeles Swing Dance Club](https://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesSwingDanceClub)

NEW OR RENEWABLE MEMBER APPLICATION - Please return this application with payment

FULL NAME _____ Member No. _____

ADDRESS _____ Email _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ BIRTH MONTH _____ BIRTH DATE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ Check () Cash () Please mail to address above.

DUES (@ September. 2017): January through December – \$25 (no discount for couples)

BENEFITS: Free Bi-Monthly Newsletter, Special drawings for members, special discounts
Sunday Dance Admission: Members \$6 and Non-Members \$10 (Sept.2017)

BAND SCHEDULE January/February

Sunday, 01/7/18 William Porter Band
Sunday, 01/21/18 Good Rockin' Daddy
Sunday, 02/04/18 William Porter Band
Sunday, 02/18/18 Good Rockin' Daddy

SUNDAY SCENE NOV./DEC. 2017

Fun 90th birthday party by **Joan Chinzi**. She gifted all her friends with delicious appetizers. Also attending were about 10 of her family plus **John & Lila** from Las Vegas who said they missed seeing some of their friends like Walt & Gloria...**Marlene**, we missed you Sunday...**Ron Meyer** from Las Vegas says he always shares information regarding our dance...big hello and welcome to **Frenchie & Peggy Martinez** from San Francisco-she was the membership raffle winner...

Frank & Audrey Rodriguez are very proud of grandson Tyler who was named 2017 Pitcher of the Year in Sonoma. He played with the Sonoma Stoppers during this past summer...big thank you to **Daniel Snyder** for designing the front page Christmas Design on our November/December Newsletter...also a thank you to **Jack Evertz** for the January/February New Year front page design...(ed.note: appreciate all the help I can get)...at Christmas Dance, Good Rockin' Daddy kept us jumping with: Unchain My Heart, Slip n Slide, Staga Lee, Have I Told You Lately That I Love You...**Mary Ann Fido** sends greetings from chilly CT...

SUNSHINE WISHES to:

Terry Earl recovering from shoulder operation...**Molly Prager** – back problems...**Marvin Brightup**...**Judy Kadak**...**Molly Prager**...**Pat Bane**...
Bill Joslin had a bad fall ...

SINCERE CONDOLENCES

Hal Marchman united with his wife **Bobbie** dancing in that great Ballroom in the Sky. Joining them are **'Jungle' Jim Behrens** and very friendly dancer, **Chuck Bryant** who passed away in November after a lengthy illness.



DECEMBER'S DANCER PROFILE MARTINE WHITFORD

Tall and gorgeous **MARTINE WHITFORD** was born in the *windy* city of Chicago, IL. As a child she lived in El Paso, TX with her mom and sister. In 1950 she decided to move to beautiful California to join her father, and she attended Trona High School in Trona, CA.

It's interesting how she found dancing in Southern California. It happened when she met a guy while yacht sailing in the Caribbean on the Barefoot Cruises. He told her about the 'Red Onion' in Lakewood. From there she also discovered the Press Box – need I say more.

In 1973 she worked as a Diagnostic Ultrasound Technician. It was a unique job and she said “there were only three of us in San Francisco”. This was at the beginning of ultrasound as we know it now. Not only is she beautiful, she is SMART. As life has it, no guy ever snared her in marriage...yet!

In 1959 at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood, she was voted “Miss Tall America”. This was her first and last Beauty Contest.

The Los Angeles Swing Dance Club was lucky when she agreed to be Ways & Means Committee Chairperson. Martine has done a terrific job, especially for our Anniversary Dances. She designs the beautiful centerpieces. The Trophy Ball contest was her idea and a recent winner was Diana Gillis.

Martine already has ideas for our 48th Anniversary Dance which will be in July 2018. The theme will be “48th Anniversary Ball”. We can hardly wait.

She loves to dance guys, so don't hesitate to ask her for a dance!

WHY JACK & JILL?

Once upon a time, long before the memory reach of today's young dancers, Jack & Jill were nothing more than a spectacularly clumsy couple occupying a children's verse.

Dance contests were a couple's arena. Swing dancing was an activity held in dingy nightspots that would chill the heart of a Hells Angel. The proprietors were not to be confused with patrons of the arts; their interest was bottom-lined based. To the delight of management, many dancers of that period were true firewater aficionados. A request for water would direct you to the toilet; a second request would find you in the parking lot.

In any area of human physical rivalry there are few riper for participation than sports and the arts. Better dancers naturally gravitated to peer partners and soon couples were putting routines together to top the competition, merely for bragging rights. In a very short time, every major city possessed a stable of hot couple-teams. A bar owner, realizing that dancers, in addition to being patrons, were a very low-cost form of entertainment, would put up prize money, usually thirty-five dollars (\$20, \$10 & \$5) for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd. In the Los Angeles area, top-tier couples could dance contests seven nights a week at multiple locations. The dance couples were, as they are now, young and feisty. Some couples constantly shifted partners while others became committed partners.

Twenty bucks for 1st place seems hardly worth it now, but in the 1950's, when a couple could fill up the Studebaker for 21 cents per gallon, and mortgage payments hovered at \$70 a month, it wasn't hard to put together a few wins to cover basic expenses. Additionally, prize money paid for the night out, the pleasure of dancing with friends, and the joy of competition.

This was the period after WW II. The economy was humming along nicely and people enjoyed activities outside the home. Everyone went out to the movies. Well-attended ballrooms dotted the community. Canasta parties were big time. Bowling leagues were the mom-and-pop sport de jour. The physical and mind-numbing tentacles of television had yet to bind us to a recliner lounge.

By the late 1950's, most of the top dance couples were hosting contests at different locations. When not hosting their own, they would compete at another host/dancers' contest. This created a stream of top feeders rolling over the competition.

Club patrons grew weary of seeing the same couples placing as winners every night, usually in the same winning slot according to their ability and showmanship. Up-and-coming contest dancers had great difficulty breaking into the winner's circle. A change was needed, and it occurred with Richter 10 impact, when suddenly, in September 1960, a previously unknown Chubby Checker re-recorded "The Twist," a song written and released a year earlier by Hank Ballard and The Midnighters. Overnight, everyone became a dancer; all one needed to do was stand and swivel.

Immediately, the rhythm-challenged customer, who formerly created an audience for the contests, now wanted to employ their newly discovered dancing abilities as a participant. Anxious to retain their patrons, club managers opened contests to all comers, this resulted in the same prior winning combinations topping resentful "twister" teams. Occasionally, when the house was full of "twisters" with winners determined by applause, a "twister" team would topple an experienced West Coast Swing couple. This short period defined an oil and water situation.

By 1962 the "twisters" dominated the club scene. Club owners and bands catered to the "twisters", which simply is good business practice. There were few remaining places for West Coast Swing dancers; it was evident that some positive changes were necessary. And so, it was during this period the Jack & Jill format was introduced in the Los Angeles area.

No longer were couple-teams allowed, contestant-couples were drawn by chance; this resulted in the demise of many of the previously unbeatable teams, as their practiced routines were useless with a first-time partner in a free-form competition. As a consequence of the Jack & Jill format many new contest-grade dancers emerged; they were better overall dancers because they had to be; "luck of the draw" determined their partner.

West Coast Swing survived a two-decade hiatus in popularity while clubbers "twisted the night away." The pulse was weak, but was invigorated in the 1980's with the introduction of "The Hustle", which reestablished dancing as a couple, rather than "twisters" flailing solo about the floor.

Today, West Coast Swing is a major player in the social and competitive dance arena. It is the cornerstone of national conventions where many of the rhythm dances are spotlighted, with competitors being selected using the Jack & Jill format. Jack & Jill was the great equalizer; it raised the bar, and has had a positive influence on dancers everywhere.

END

803 words/Bert Anderson (951) 282-2889 gottadanc1@aol.com

L.A.S.D.C. BOARD MEMBERS for November 2017

President	Jim Harris	(562) 430-1836	<i>hideffjim@yahoo.com</i>
Vice President	Nancy Taylor	(310) 837-9501	<i>entaylor5@hotmail.com</i>
Secretary	Fran Tassin	(714) 826-6712	<i>frantassin@msn.com</i>
Treasurer	Karen Smith	(714) 403-2125	<i>Khockey3225@hotmail.com</i>
Entertainment Director	Barbara Wallace	(562) 597-1345	<i>barbiern1@verizon.net</i>
Ways & Means	Martine Whitford	(562) 426-4338	<i>2martine@charter.net</i>
Newsletter Editor	Bill Parker	(562) 927-7575	<i>bp7575@ca.rr.com</i>
Membership Chairperson	Karen Smith	(714) 403-2125	<i>Khockey3225@hotmail.com</i>
Ambassadors-at-Large: <u>LeRoy Pendray</u> (562) 433-8977; <u>Mary Collins</u> (714) 965-0335; <u>Joanne Harrold</u> (949) 675-1255			
Historian: <u>Colleen Johnson</u> (562) 694-4951 <u>Webmaster: Larry Kroeze</u> <u>Dance Teacher: Linda Davis</u>			

L.A.S.D.C. ADVERTISING RATES

Please support our L.A.S.D.C. bi-monthly newsletter. We have 300 members who share an enthusiasm for West Coast Swing Dancing. Our members are interested in dancing items, businesses, services, real estate, food, etc.

Charge for ads: **Full Page - \$30.00, One Half Page - \$20.00, One Quarter Page - \$15.00, Business Card - \$10.00**

To advertise in our Newsletter, please email notification and/or ready to print copy to: frantassin@msn.com or call (714) 826-6712

L.A.S.D.C. FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

For more information on our club, please view our Website, laswingdanceclub.com. It is updated regularly by our Webmaster, **Larry Kroeze**, and includes photos, special events, places to dance, and our current Newsletter.

Also, please "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LASwingDanceClub for the latest news.

To sign up for a new Facebook account, enter your name, birthday, gender, and email address into the form on www.facebook.com. Then pick a password. After you complete the sign-up form, they will send you an email. Just click on the confirmation link to complete the sign-up process. Now all you need to do is search for the

LosAngelesSwingDanceClub and click on the **LIKE** button. You will then be notified automatically when we post something new to Facebook. **You can also post pictures or news to our Facebook account!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL

JANUARY 2018

- 1 James Allen
- Llana Gerardi
- 2 Ray Robbins
- 4 Vincent Collins
- Sherry Royce
- 5 Herbert Marsh
- 7 Annie Hirsch
- 11 Joe Camasta
- 12 Audrey Rodriguez
- Avenelle Ryniak
- 14 Jerry Cobb
- 15 Robert Foster
- 16 John Roberts
- 18 Nancy Taylor
- 20 Martin Ivener
- Dona Schessler
- Don Skofstrom
- 22 Donna McDiarmid
- 23 Sam Dominguez
- 25 Carol Klasing
- Eloise Kroeze
- 26 Cal Espina
- Phyllis Gilbert
- 27 June Lattanzio
- Gerry Bordelon



- 27 Sandy Lantieri
- 28 Anita Deaton
- 29 Mel Thibodeaux
- 31 Peggy Conners

FEBRUARY 2018

- 1 Martine Whitford
- 2 Hugh Villegas
- 3 Pat Paternoster
- 4 Norm Hirsch
- Isaac Waksul
- 7 Linda Smith
- Emy Sakamoto
- 11 Michael Pierceall
- 12 Joyce Eby
- 14 Fran Pendray
- 17 Judy Covert
- Barbara Sheflin
- 18 James Harris
- 19 Carolyn Hermanns
- 20 Gloria Hadley
- 22 Bill McDiarmid
- 26 Pat Bane
- Anne Mills
- Noelle Grant
- Nancy Lowe
- 28 Ray Cunningham





L.A.S.D.C. CHRISTMAS FUN
(Thank you Santa Claus – Jim Allen)



Joan Chinzi's Happy 90th Birthday Party
(Thanks for treats, Joan)



TOYS FOR TOTS

Thanks to Marines for their participation in our yearly Toys for Tots. Thanks to our most generous dancers for contributing to children's fun and happiness in the Holiday Season.

PLACES TO DANCE

Sundays 1st, 3rd, & 5th - LASDC, Great Western Golden Sails, 6285 E. Pacific Coast Hwy, Long Beach. Dancing to a Live Band 3:00 - 6:30 p.m. (Dance lessons 2 - 3 p.m. included with paid admission) www.laswingdanceclub.com Visit & "Like" Facebook.com / Los Angeles Swing Dance Club (562) 597-1345

Sundays - SDSDC, 3 - 7 p.m. El Cajon - Elks Lodge - 1400 East Washington Av. (619) 444-1812 or (858) 274-6422 - www.elks.org

Tuesdays - DSDC 7 - 9 p.m. Pavilion Dance Studio, 401 S. Pavilion Way, Palm Springs 92262 (760) 323-8272

Thursdays - Atomic Ballroom, West Coast Swing Dancing, Irvine (949) 250-3332

Fridays - Press Box, 8 - 12 pm Westminster Bob Brewer www.thepressboxdance.com

Saturday - 2nd Sat. each month - Starting Gate, Los Alamitos 1 - 5 p.m. Non-stop dancing to music of Don Estep donlestep@gmail.com

Las Vegas - for dancing events, call Lynn Martinez (702) 239-2268 or Ron Meyer (702) 283-1491

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2017 CELEBRATION AT LOS ANGELES SWING DANCE CLUB

