



The California Swing Dance Hall of Fame

Presents
The 34th Anniversary
Gala Awards

on

September 28, 2024





Good evening,

It has been an honor to serve as President this past year. I'm sure you'll agree that this year's inductees truly represent the Best of the Best in California Swing dancing.

On behalf of our Board Members, I extend our heartfelt appreciation for your continued support, which allows us to honor past, present, and future Hall of Famers.

Sincerely,

Sharlot Bott, President

California Swing Dance Hall of Fame



Greetings!

Welcome to our 2024 Awards Gala!

We are thrilled to have you join us in celebrating this year's California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Inductees. With 74 nominations, our community has shown incredible support for so many deserving dancers. Thanks to our Distinguished Electors for their thoughtful reviews and votes, we have inducted 32 outstanding swing dancers.

California's rich Swing Dance history, from its roots in the 30s, 40s, and 50s to its revival in the 80s and 90s, continues to thrive today.

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations. Congratulations to our Inductees—welcome to the California Swing Dance Hall of Fame family. You are now a cherished part of our history.

To our attendees, thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the evening and be sure to greet the Hall of Fame Stars, past and present, joining us tonight.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors, California Swing Dance Hall of Fame

California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Nominating and Voting Process

Dancers are nominated and ultimately inducted in 4 Star Categories –

A Star nominee must be a living in California resident for at least five years. Completed applications, including photo and video links, are submitted through the website nominating page.

Nominees/Inductees are recognized for their outstanding swing dance accomplishments, such as teaching, promoting, performing, competing, and their impact on Swing Dancing in California.

Star Categories

Nova Star: 5 - 10 years

Rising Star: 11 - 20 years

Shining Star: 21 - 30 years

Golden Star: 31+ years

Legendary swing dancers who have longevity, are influential, respected, and revered as leaders, champion swing dancers, teachers, and more.

Note: Lindy and WCS are considered and voted separately within the Star Categories.

Other Nominating Categories:

Couples: Couples with 10+ years as partners whose body of work and influence created a significant impact within the California Swing Dancing Community

Special Achievement: Those whose contributions serve, support, promote, preserve, and progress the California Swing Dance Hall of Fame and Swing Dancing community within California.

Stellar: A Legendary Swing Dancer who is now deceased and forever honored in California's Swing Dance Hall of Fame History.

Lifetime Achievement: An individual who is highly revered in the Swing Dance Community for their Lifetime body of work and influence. The Board of Directors selects this award for a candidate meeting the Lifetime criteria. It may not consistently be awarded in every cycle.

Award Cycle

Nominations and awards are held every other year. Our next nominating/ award year is 2026. Any swing dance community member may nominate based on the criteria for the category.

Nominations begin in early Spring. Voting is completed mid-year, concluding with Inductions and a Gala in the Fall. Nominee bios and videos are submitted via links to our Distinguished Electors (38) and Board of Directors (11) for review prior to the balloting process.

Voting/Tabulation and Execution

Links are accessible on any mobile device or web browser. Real-time results are auto-calculated as votes are submitted producing instant results with online charts and analytics.

Once all ballots are complete, the Board of Directors reviews the ranking charts without names based on the collective ranking data top to bottom to determine the number of inductees within each category.



February 13-16, 2025

Double Tree By Hilton
Sacramento, CA

CapitalSwingConvention.com



SwingTACULAR

THE GALACTIC OPEN



Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

August 7-10, 2025

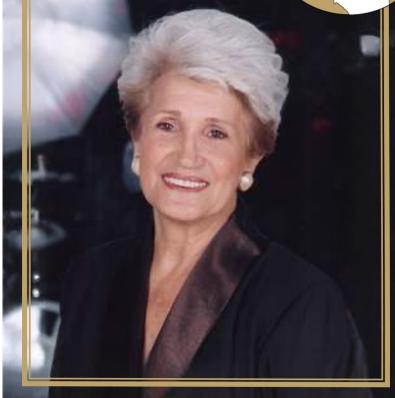
DanceGeekProductions.Art



Annie Hirsch

CALIFORNIA
SWING DANCE
HALL OF FAME

2024 Stellar Star Inductee



Annie Hirsch

Annie Hirsch was one of the first inductees honored at the inaugural California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Gala in 1990, where she was recognized as a Shining Star. Although the Golden Star category was not introduced until 1992, the Board of Directors decided to induct Annie into this category in 2018. Annie's passion for swing dancing began when her older brother, Danny, taught her the dance. Initially, she struggled to find others who danced the tight style of swing she had learned. In the early 1960s, she moved to Southern California, where her friend Patti Demaio took her to "The Water Wheel" in Covina. There, she rediscovered the swing dancing she loved and felt a renewed sense of joy.

As some swing dancers began to fade from the scene, Annie was grateful for Kenny Wetzel's efforts to keep the community together with his ongoing dances.

Known for her incredible footwork and syncopations, Annie's partnership with Jack Carey led to a new blended style that made them favorites on any dance floor.

Eager to see the swing world grow, Annie volunteered her time to dance clubs and promoters across the country, helping them organize events. In 1993, she co-founded the World Swing Dance Council with Skippy Blair, shortly after the United States Swing Dance Council closed. She developed the points tracking system and competition guidelines still in use today, ensuring dancers could compete at their appropriate levels.

After retiring from her long-held position as Chief Judge, Annie traveled, danced, and cherished the friendships she made over the years. She earned the highest respect in the dance world, dedicating her efforts to promoting swing dance to younger generations and supporting their growth.

Annie Hirsch passed away on June 27, 2023. She will be remembered as a gracious and selfless leader in the swing dance community, whose contributions have left a lasting impact.

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Honoring our
Swing Dance
History

Distinguished Electors

Laureen Baldovi
Dani Canziani
Kelly Casanova
Parker Dearborn
Jordan Frisbee
Michelle Adams
Mark Scheuffele
Eileen Dovbush
Jack Smith
Sarah Vann Drake
Hilary Alexander
Jack Chen

Mary Ann Nunez
Tom Paderna
Martin Parker
Kyle Redd
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Jacob Wigger
Joel Plys

California Swing Dance Hall of Fame

Chairs

Sharlot Bott – President

Gary Thompson – Vice President

Master of Ceremonies

Mark Scheuffele

Mark, affectionately known as Mark the Marine, is a respected west coast dance champion, judge, teacher, and favorite social dance leader. Mark is a 2010 Shining Star Inductee and a 2016 Golden Star Inductee. His charm, wit, and commanding presence are sure to make our evening special.

Evening Performers

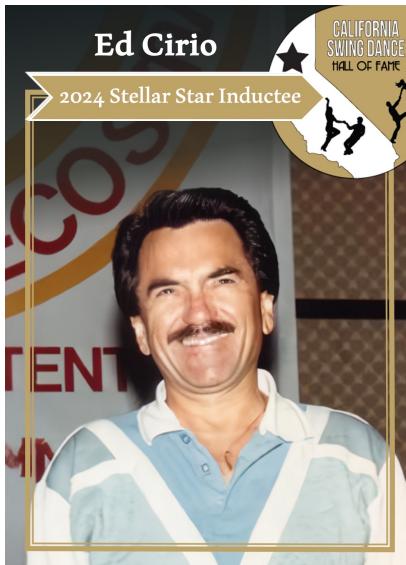
Lindy, Balboa and Collegiate Shag Exhibitions

Parker Dearborn and Melissa Rutz -West Coast Swing Exhibition

Evening DJs

Andrew Jose

Sharlot Bott



Edmond "Ed" Cirio

Edmond (Ed) Cirio passed away on October 31, 2023. Born on January 2, 1934, in Richmond, California, Ed dedicated over 40 years to Caltrans as an engineer, retiring in 1995.

Ed's journey into West Coast Swing began in 1970 with Jesse Naputi's Good Time Swing Club in Alameda, California. He further honed his skills under the guidance of Bill Joslin, Sandy Chavez, and Frank Mannion. In November 1972, Ed joined the California Swing Club at the "Jolly Friars" in San Francisco and was soon elected vice-president.

As the dance classes grew in popularity, Frank Mannion and Bill Joslin enlisted Ed to teach the beginners while they focused on the advanced and intermediate students. Ed taught at the California Swing Club for four years before resigning in 1977 to take over Bill Joslin's class at the "Garden Inn" in Hayward when Bill relocated to Los Angeles. In February 1978, Ed partnered with Phil Trau to establish Top of Beardsleys in Burlingame, with the blessing of Kenny Wetzel. This venue was modeled after Kenny's Top of The Golden West in Norwalk, CA. By 1980, they had moved their operations to the Peninsula Italian American Social Club.

SAN DIEGO SWING DANCE CLUB



Established in 1970, as a non-profit group committed to safeguarding the tradition of West Coast Swing dancing. We joyfully marked our 54th Anniversary, making us the most enduring West Coast Swing Club in existence.

For Details



Join FB Group

Dance Admission:

Members - \$10

Non-Members - \$15

Yearly Membership - \$35

First Timers - FREE

EVERY SUNDAY

Lessons 1:30 - 2:30

Social Dancing

2:30 - 5:00

www.sandiegoswingdance.com

Dance HQ - 5035 Shawline Dr San Diego, CA 92111

DIEGO
Dance

2nd Friday
West Coast Swing
Lessons and Social

FREE INTRO TO WCS CLASS
INTERMEDIATE LESSON
LESSONS @ 7:30
DANCE @ 8:30

Mark & Christann

Vinh

Dance HQ - 5035 Shawline Dr San Diego, CA 92111

Buddy Schwimmer

CALIFORNIA
SWING DANCE
HALL OF FAME

2024 Stellar Star Inductee



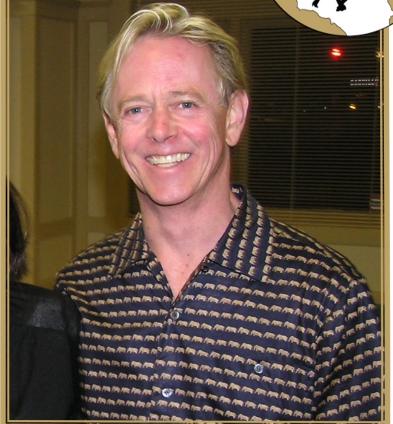
Buddy Schwimmer

Born in Gary, Indiana, Harry Daniel Schwimmer was the third child of 5. He started dancing in 1953. Buddy created Night Club 2 Step in 1964. Buddy was a competitor, instructor, choreographer, and coach who spread his knowledge throughout the world to thousands of students. Buddy was involved in multiple movie and TV specials, including American Bandstand, American Graffiti, Big Band Ballroom Bash, Bill Russell RV Specials, Dick Clark Road Show, Wolfman Jack Road Show, Shebang, and Where the Action Is. Known as the "King of Swing" and "the man with a thousand moves," Buddy Schwimmer was an active competitor for many years. Buddy taught ballroom and multiple swing styles (WCS, East Coast Swing, Balboa, Lindy, Boogie, Jive and Rock & Roll). Buddy is well-known for his dance training with children and teens. He was owner of The Dance Center, which offers classes to kids ages 2½ years to adults. He was the first dancer in his extended dance family and is the proud father of two great dancers: Benji and Lacey Schwimmer. Buddy was passionate about dance and was quoted saying "My goal has always been to keep the beauty and style of swing alive. That is why I work so hard training young people, because the young people today will be our teachers of tomorrow. If I could get a swing dance program in every school and college throughout America, I would do it!"

Jonathan Bixby

2024 Stellar Star Inductee

CALIFORNIA
SWING DANCE
HALL OF FAME



Jonathan Bixby

Jonathan began dancing at the age of 15 and even enjoyed being a regular dancer on American Bandstand with Dick Clark in the late 1960s. After graduating from UCSC, he became a kindergarten teacher until he moved to Santa Barbara in 1979 to pursue a dance career. By connecting with celebrated dancers like Dean Collins, Frankie Manning, and Maxie Dorf from the 1940s, he and his partner, Sylvia Sykes, learned various forms of Swing and Balboa from the masters. They have been passing on this knowledge for more than three decades.

Jonathan was inducted into the California Swing Dance Hall of Fame as a Nova Star in 1992 and a Shining Star in 2010. His contributions to Swing Dancing in California since 1979 more than merit the permanent Stellar Star Nomination.



Bill Joslin

Bill was a Radio Man in the U. S. Marines and veteran of the Korean War. Bill started dancing around 1952. He was a teacher at Arthur Murray's. In the 70's, Bill, along with Frank Mannion, taught regular classes at the "Garden Inn" in Hayward, California. The attendance for the dance classes grew, to the point that they needed help. Frank Mannion and Bill Joslin asked Ed Cirio to teach the new beginners while they taught the advanced and intermediate classes. Bill was a wonderful Cha Cha dancer and loved Xavier Cugat and Tito Puente. His Latin rhythms carried over into his Swing dancing with his amazing shuffle footwork. Dancers such as Romiro Gonzales, TX and Kyle Redd, were directly and indirectly influenced by his footwork. Bill was a constant in the Swing Dance Community from 1952 to his passing in 2023. He was the favorite dancer and long-term friend to Sandi Rowell (Chavez). Bill competed at the US Open in the early years. Bill worked as a magician at the Magic Castle in Hollywood for over 30 years. He was still working there every Sunday. At 91 years young he enjoyed dancing every Friday night regularly at the PressBox. Deceased March 2023. Bill along with other swing greats was among the first to be inducted into the newly created Golden Star category in 1992.

Evening Gala Program

- 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm - Check-In
 - ❖ No Host Bar and Dancing
 - ❖ DJs: Andrew Jose & Sharlot Bott

- 5:45 pm - 7:00 pm - Dinner
 - 7:00 pm - 7:15 pm - Welcome
 - ❖ Opening Emcee: Mark Scheuffele
 - ❖ National Anthem
 - ❖ President's Message

- ❖ Board of Directors Introductions & Distinguished Electors (Stand)
- ❖ Recognition of Past Hall of Fame Inductees and 2024 Nominees Present (Stand)

- 7:15 pm - 7:45 pm - Social Dancing
- 7:45 pm - 8:15 pm - Award Presentations I
 - ❖ Special Achievement Awards (4) - Presenters: Andrew Jose & Gary Thompson
 - ❖ Couples Awards (2) - Presenter: Kim Sifter
 - ❖ Golden Star Awards (3) - Presenter: Sharlot Bott

- 8:15 pm - 8:30 pm - Social Dancing
- 8:30 pm - 8:45 pm - Exhibitions I
 - ❖ Lindy, Balboa, Collegiate Shag (Group Performance)

- 8:45 pm - 9:00 pm - Award Presentations II
 - ❖ Stellar Awards (6) - Presenters: Andy Bouman
- ❖ Rising Star Awards (7) - Presenters: Andrew Jose & Debbie Carpenter

- 9:00 pm - 9:15 pm Exhibitions II West Coast Swing & Social Dancing
 - ❖ Couple Inductees: Parker Dearborn & Melissa Rutz

- 9:15 pm - 9:30 pm - Awards Presentations III
 - ❖ Shining Star Awards (7) - Presenters: Laura Thompson & Kim Sifter
 - ❖ Nova Star Awards (3) - Presenters: Andrew Jose & Vinh Mines

- 9:30 pm - 11:30 pm - Social Dancing

Thank you and Good Night!



THE OPEN

SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

40th
Anniversary

THE MAGIC.
THE PRESTIGE.
THE OPEN.

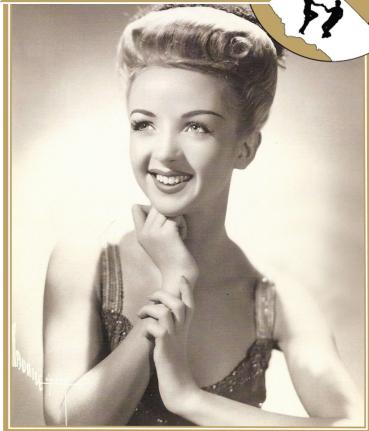
NOV 27TH - DEC 1ST • 2024

Marriott Hotel | Burbank, CA

Jean Phelps Veloz

► 2024 Stellar Star Inductee

CALIFORNIA
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HALL OF FAME



Jean Phelps Veloz

Generations of dancers idolized Jean Grinnell Phelps, known professionally as Jean Veloz. In MGM's *Swing Fever* (1943), she dazzled audiences by whirling with servicemen Lennie Smith and Don Gallagher in the high-energy number "One Girl and Two Boys," accompanied by Kay Kyser's band and framed by Marilyn Maxwell's singing.

Veloz showcased her jitterbug skills in *Where Are Your Children?* (1943), starring Jackie Cooper, and danced with Bob Ashley in *Jive Junction* (1943), starring Dickie Moore. She partnered with Arthur Walsh in the 10-minute MGM swing short *Groovie Movie* (1944) and stepped out with Dean Collins in *The Horn Blows at Midnight* (1945), starring Jack Benny. After performing in Nick Castle-choreographed productions at the El Rancho Vegas hotel in 1946, she began training with Frank Veloz at one of the dance schools he operated with his wife, Yolanda. The renowned dance couple appeared in films such as *Pride of the Yankees* (1942). Soon, Jean partnered with Frank, and they taught Anthony Dexter the tango for the title role in *Valentino* (1951). They also choreographed *Latin Lovers* (1953), starring Lana Turner, Rita Moreno, and Ricardo Montalban, before marrying in 1963.

Born on March 1, 1924, in Los Angeles, Jean and her brothers, Robert and Raymond, often practiced the Lindy Hop with friends at home. She and Ray later won a jitterbug contest in Santa Maria, California, competing against more than 500 dancers.

"Jean innovated a style of swing dance that was admired around the world," Frank Veloz said. "It was silky smooth and greatly contrasted the more jitterbug style prevalent during the 1930s-'40's"

*Be Your
Best Version...*



*Congratulations 2024
California Swing Dance
Hall of Fame Nominees and
Inductees!*

*Sharlot Bott
West Coast Swing Dancer/DJ*

*Follow me on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/sharlot.bott/>*

The California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Board of Directors recognizes and extends a heartfelt thank you for your generosity and financial contribution

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thank
you

TO ALL THOSE WHO INSPIRE AND CARRY THE TORCH
THAT IS CALIFORNIA'S SWING DANCE LEGACY!



GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE AMAZING
NOMINEES!



Couples



Mikey Nikki Shesha

2024 Special
Achievement Award

CALIFORNIA
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HALL OF FAME



Special Achievement

BoogiebytheBay
2024 Special
Achievement Award

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Swingin the Blues
2024 Special
Achievement Award

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Capital Swing
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Golden Star

Benji Schwimmer

2024 Golden Star Inductee



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Tami Stevens

2024 Golden Star Inductee



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Gary Jobst

2024 Golden Star Inductee



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California Swing Dance Hall of Fame

Next Nominations Open Feb 2025

Next Gala Tentative Date Sept 19, 2026



csdhof.com





Shining Star



Christopher Dumond

2024 Rising Star Inductee

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Joel Torgeson

2024 Rising Star Inductee

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Andrew Jose

2024 Rising Star Inductee

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Natalia Eristavi

2024 Rising Star Inductee

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Mackenzie Goodmanson

2024 Rising Star Inductee

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R I S I N G S T A R

Grace Babbes

2024 Rising Star Nominee

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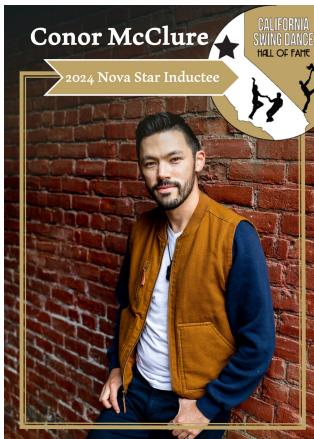


Chandrae Gomez

2024 Rising Star Inductee

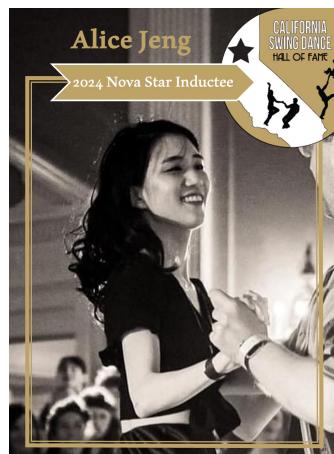
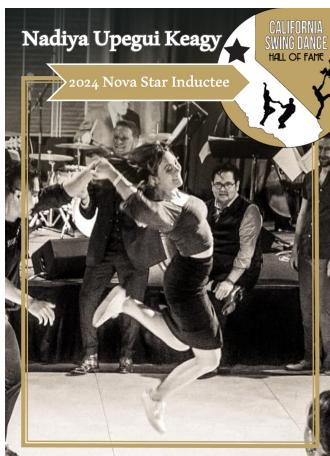
CALIFORNIA
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HALL OF FAME





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The California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Board of Directors recognizes and extends a heartfelt thank you for your fundraising support and donation of services

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Samantha Buckwalter
San Diego Swing Dance Club
Scott Kaufman
Sharlot Bott
Spotlight Ballroom
Srishti Jacob
Standing United
Tom Paderna
Vicky Chan
Vinh Mines
Vince Newlan
Yenni Setiawan
Warren Pino



Dear Guests and Swing Dance Enthusiasts,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we extend our heartfelt thanks for joining us this evening. We hope you had a wonderful time and enjoyed the experience. Your support and generous contributions enable us to continue hosting this spectacular gala, celebrating both the legacy and future of swing dance as we honor and preserve its rich history.

We are excited to announce that the next California Swing Dance Hall of Fame Inductions will take place in 2026. To prepare, we will be holding fundraisers throughout 2024 and 2025, and we truly appreciate your continued support. Nominations will open in Spring 2025, with balloting and voting starting mid-year. The 35th Anniversary Gala will be held in Fall 2026—a milestone we can't wait to celebrate with you!

Be sure to like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates. You can also visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel, where you'll find footage from tonight's event and more. For a look at the legendary swing dance inductees from years past, visit our website at www.csdhof.com.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Gala!
Until then, drive safely and good night.

The California Swing Dance Hall of Fame



Thank You for Joining Our
Celebration!
See you in 2026!

Want to nominate someone? Visit our website at www.csdhof.com