

Mates and Dates November 2025

Notes from the President

I hope you all enjoyed our Farewell to Summer dance September 19. Tricia and Deborah did another great job with logistics, food, and decorations. It was great to have Steve, a veteran DJ and his protege Mike provide our music.

It is with mixed emotions that I write this as my term as club president nears a close. If you elect Jerry Bowes, our current Vice President, as my successor I hope you give him the same love and support you have given me. In the face of rising costs, changing venues, and half the board with limited experience he has done a very good job for the board and for the club. I have every confidence that with your support you will appreciate his generous spirit and leadership skills and see even more improvements in your enjoyment of our club dances.

TL;DR

This is a techy abbreviation for Too Long, Didn't Read. Everything you need is on this first page.

- Our **Masked Ball** will be Friday Nov 21 at the Masonic Lodge, 890 Church Street in Mountain View. Formal attire with music provided by the 4 piece **Vintage Jukebox Band**. Doors open at 6PM, pre-dance singalong with Alan Bernstein starts at 6:15, dinner served at 7:00. Bring a mask to express your inner mystery, creativity, or playfulness. Professional photos for with and without masks will be taken.
- Please take our dance preference survey: <https://matesanddates.org/survey.php>.
- Board elections are at our January dance. It will go faster if you nominate yourself for **Treasurer** or **Vice President** or **Member at Large** before then.
- We are at the **MV Mason Lodge** for our January 16, 2026 **1940's Winter Ball**. Formal/period attire. Music by the 17 piece **Joe Ferrari Big Band**.
- Costs will increase **next year** except for first time visitors.
 - Due to the increased venue cost (3x!!), member cost for dances will be \$125.
 - Annual membership dues for 2026 will be \$60 (break even is your 3rd dance).
 - Costs for first time visitor couples is \$100.
 - Payment of 2026 annual membership dues is due before your registration for the first dance on Jan 16. If you have not paid by then, you are a guest and the dance cost is \$145.
- Expect notification for next year's dues in early December, we prefer you pay with Zelle.
- Registering online is easy. See <https://matesanddates.org/new> for graphical tutorial.
- Dance registration is by table. Anyone can register for the next dance at any time online. Once you do, tell your friends what table to request so they can select that on their online or paper registration form to sit with you. Anyone can see who is seated where (and the link to the table number location map) at <https://matesanddates.org/seating>.

I Can Sign Up for the Next Dance Online? How?

Yes, you can sign up for the next dance online. If we have your correct email you can get a password to log into the 'members only' section of the website. Learn more by scrolling down to the 'For Members' section of the website home page, <https://matesanddates.org>. Additionally, a version of the below with screen shot images is at <https://matesanddates.org/new>.

First Set Up Your Account Password

- Put <https://matesanddates.org> into your browser url window to go to the site.
- In the dark navigation bar near the top of the page, click on the word **Login**.
- When the form comes up, go to the lower left and click on **Forgot My Password**.
- Enter your email address in the small box in the middle of the page.
- Click the button below labeled **Reset My Password**.

You will receive an email within a minute or two from 'Mates and Dates Login Assistance' with a link in it (check your junk or spam folder if you don't see it soon)

- Click on the link and it will take you back to a form on the website.
- Enter whatever new password you want to use twice, once in each box.
- Click the button **Update My Password** at the bottom.

Register Online for the Dance

Once you create your password (you will be logged in upon creating/resetting your password):

- Click on the upper left hand logo.
- In the middle of your home page you will see a paragraph labeled **Dance Stuff**.
- Find out where you want to sit by clicking on the link that says:
 - [See where everyone is sitting for the upcoming dance](#).
- Click on the logo again to go back to the home page. Click on the link that says:
 - [Register and make table selection for the upcoming dance](#).
- You will come to a form that all you should have to do is choose what table you want to sit at and how you would like to pay (check or Zelle)
- Click on the **Register Us** button at the bottom.

You will receive an email with all the details of the dance. You can then either send the check to Deborah or pay via Zelle by going to your online bank and sending the money to payments@matesanddates.org. If you pay by Zelle you can do the entire process in 5 minutes, skip writing a check, and save the price of a stamp.

Also, once you log in, there is a Faq link in the upper navigation bar that has details about seeing where people are sitting, how to invite guests, etc.

You can get a preview of the paper registration form you will receive in the mail if you do not want to register online by logging in and clicking on the **Attendance** link in the dark background navigation bar and clicking on the **Offline Member Registration Form** or **Offline Guest Registration Form** buttons.

Upcoming Dance: Masked Ball, Nov 21, 2025

The Masked Ball will be the last dance of the year and will be Formal: tuxedos or suits and ties for men and elegant gowns or dresses for women, and of course masks are encouraged. We will enjoy music from the Vintage Jukebox Band. Doors open at 6PM and we will start the evening at 6:15 with a singalong and at band break there will be a mask contest. Dinner at 7:00. We will have John Green, a professional photographer, taking photos of us with and without masks. Time for that deferred hair care appointment so we get you at your good looking and looking good best.

Next Dance: 1940's Winter Ball, Jan 16, 2026

Live music will be provided by the 17 piece **Joe Ferrari Big Band**, a very popular band among ballroom dance clubs all over the bay area. Formal or 1940's theme attire. This will be at the **MV Mason Lodge**, the building renovation was delayed and gave us another month access before it begins in spring. Nice opportunity to invite guests (at the new reduced \$100 guest price) to a fancy gala with live music. **Note:** This is a live big band. They may sometimes be louder than your typical DJ but the more you dance the better they sound. We will have foam ear plugs for those with sensitive ears but there is no volume knob on a big band, so it will be up to you to take care of yourself.

Board Elections: The Club Needs You

It is also a **requirement** to be a non-profit organization to have four separate designated corporate officers for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Being a non-profit makes a big impact on reducing the cost and increasing availability of affordable venues. Our immediate needs for next year are candidates for **Vice President**, **Treasurer**, and **Member at Large**. We will have nominations at the November dance and elections at the January dance. (We have other volunteer / appointed positions (like our photographer and other members of decorating and event setup teams) that are important but not elected by the membership.)

Below are the current nominees for board officers You can see the job descriptions on the website (click the **Roles** link in the big horizontal navigation bar at the top of any page and then click on the button **Describe All Roles**) and if one appears to match your skills and passions and you want to enjoy the team that has fun together while 'making it all happen', send your nomination to matesanddates.pres@gmail.com.

President:	Jerry Bowes
Vice President:	
Secretary:	Mike Taylor
Treasurer:	
Event Coordinator:	Deborah Lundgren
Attendance Coordinator:	Deborah Lundgren
Member at Large:	Patty Dick
Member at Large 2:	Judith Bell

Survey Feedback

We received 33 completed feedback forms at the last dance. People generally liked the food, decorations, photographs, and the Salsa lesson. People wanted more attention around the music selection, the air conditioning, the timeliness of starting the music for dancing, and wanted us to spend less time talking so we can all get more dancing in. Change of registration to online and by table was frustrating for many. We learned a lot, early adopters helped us and their fellow dancers get with the new process, and it will go better next dance. Thanks to those who helped be part of the solution to get everyone registered and seated. We hear you. We are making changes. (See all feedback: <https://matesanddates.org/feedback/2025-09-19.pdf>).

Responding to your feedback about Music: We will be inviting a new DJ for March that is very tuned in to ballroom music and in May we will try pre-recorded music all selected by experienced ballroom dancers (see website FAQ once logged in). For the May dance we will publish the song list a month before the dance and you can review it and make suggestions and requests ahead of time. For those who prefer a live DJ or who have never heard good pre-recorded ballroom music at a dance, I invite you to go to the Nov 9 National Smooth Dancers Sunday afternoon dance and get a feel of how it works. It's a lovely venue, easy to drive to, includes a free WC Swing lesson, easy traffic on Sunday afternoon, and costs \$25 each. See <https://goldengatedancers.org/>.

Change of Venue

The Mason Hall renovation will start sometime next spring and will take 3+ months. We will be holding our dances starting in March at the Campbell Community Center in the same location currently used by the Debonair Dancers. It is more expensive (by more than a factor of 3!) and the board will continue to evaluate other venues in an effort to get the best value and most enjoyable venue for the club. We are hopeful we can come back to the Mason lodge, but we will have to wait until mid-late summer to see how the renovation progress is going.