

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



BRAD BARNETT



WALLACE DEMPSEY

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Letter from The Editor



Dearest love ones. My name is Allison, I am Ronnie Elkan's daughter and Shelley Elkan's step-daughter. Regretfully, on Sunday, December 17th, Shell moved on and is no longer physically with us. Fortunately, we all know her and have wonderful stories and memories to share and cherish forever.

She was an inspiration to me and one of my greatest teachers in life. I'm honored to have been able to call her one of my mothers and to later experience her as a grandmother to my daughter. She is a powerful human that has showed me strength and perseverance no matter what life gives us. I have a hole in my heart that will never be filled, but I have deep gratitude for knowing what it felt like to have her be a part of my life. Her love and devotion to my father was not something I

Continued on page 2

SUNDAY, January 7, 2023



Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
1:00pm-3:00pm
 Followed by the House band
 "The Hall of Famers"
3:00pm-5:00pm

SUNDAY DANCE January 7, 2024

Western Swing Society Presents

SUNDAY DANCE
 Jan 7th, 2024
 12pm-5pm

Rhonda Lynn and Edgewood Station

Schedule
 12-1pm - Dance Lesson
 1-3pm- Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
 3-5pm Hall of Famers

FREE DANCE LESSON
 David and Alicia Fox West

Entry: \$7 Members

FOOD/DRINK FOR PURCHASE
 JAM ROOM * RAFFLE * HUGE DANCE FLOOR

2749 Sunrise Blvd, Rancho Cordova, CA

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NEW!!! FREE DANCE LESSONS
With Admission @ 12:00 pm

The Western Swing Society

PO Box 2474

Carmichael, CA 95609

westernswingsociety.net

Facebook: SacramentoWesternSwingSociety

Founded in 1981 by Loyd and Perry Jones to enable performance, preservation and perpetuation of the unique American art form known as Western Swing Music.

Officers:

President, Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345

Vice Pres, Meghan McCoy

Treasurer, Linda Swanson

Secretary, Sandra Robinson

Other Directors:

Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463

Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520

Jimmy Boehnke

Arron Smith

Ralph Chase

Staff and Committee Chairpersons:

Admissions Coord, Linda McCarley

Bar Manager, Cyndi Lee

Bartender, Cyndi Lee

Decorating Chair, Open

Equipment and Staging, Arron Smith

Historian, (open)

Jam Room, Tony Arana

Master of Ceremonies, Terry Crouson

Membership Director, Linda McCarley

Music Director, Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan

Photographer, Mary Harris

Public Relations Administrator Mae

McCoy

Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Slide Show, Janet Jimenez

Sound Engineer, Open

Website Manager, Dave Rietz

Editor's Letter Continued from page 1

could ever describe with words. I am grateful for every moment I had with her and her unconditional love that will live on through all of us.

Above, I included our last photo taken on December 5th.

My heart goes out to all of you and my deepest condolences for our loss. She was truly an angel and now more powerful than ever.

Allison Elkan



WSMSS Hall of Fame Lawton, Oklahoma 7-15-2023



Shelley and Ronnie at the Western Swing Society Hall of Fame September 29 thru October 1, 2023



BACK AT THE DANCE:

What a great dance it was. I'm really sorry I missed this one and I sure hope to be at the next dance to see all my Western Swing Society family that has supported me over the last year and a half. I can't tell you how much that has meant to Shelley and me.

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JAM ROOM JAMMERS



We'd like to have you write to us about your experience if you play in the jam room or go in to listen.

We'll share your comments here in this column. Just send your thoughts to ronnie.elkan@gmail.com or send us a letter via snail mail. In the meantime we'll list the players who joined us last month.

Come in and join in, you can listen or sign up to play and/or sing. Are "Hall of Fame" hosts, Brad Barnett and Dave Rietz will be there to welcome you!



Happy New Year!

Free Dance Lessons with admission on Sunday January 7, 2024!



Western Swing Society Music News

is published monthly by the Western Swing Society

Views and opinions expressed by contributing authors are not necessarily those of the editorial staff or the Society.

Submitted articles, publicity notices and letters not relating directly to the Society or its members may be published at the discretion of the Editor, as space permits. The staff reserves the right to edit any and all items submitted for publication.

Deadline for Submittals:

All items, photographs, articles, and ads are due to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month.

BRAD BARNETT

Inducted October 1, 2023



Brad Barnett AKA Tegner Zeering was born in Coalinga and raised in Merced, Ca. His interest in piano stems from his mother who was a fabulous pianist, accompanist, private piano teacher, and symphonic soloist.

In the late 1970's in San Jose his roommates Steve French and Alan Hall had a great band called "Dirt Road" that performed country and western

swing. He joined and they played several clubs in the area. Around this time he started playing music at "The Ranch", a western venue that did corporate picnics. He worked there with a fiddle player named "Fingers" who called him to play a one-night stand backing up the late great Hank Thompson at the officer's club at Travis Air Force Base.

In the early 1980's he began performing with Johnny Roberts in Redding. In 1983 because of those earlier gigs he got called to join a group that Merle Haggard was putting together for his daughter Dana Haggard. They played several venues including Merle's club Silverthorn at Lake Shasta. In 1984 they toured with Merle as an opening act.

After this period Brad embarked into a career in the teaching profession, teaching music in elementary schools in Fremont, California. From 2008 through 2019 he played keyboards, mandolin, and background vocals with the "Ghost Riders Square Dance Band". They traveled each year to the national square dance convention, including the Japanese national in Tokyo, Japan in 2011.

In the bay area he played in a trio with Billy Smith and Nancy Long. That is how he heard about the Sacramento Western Swing Society and how they loved to perform there. Brad and his wife Janis relocated to Sacramento in 2020 and he's enjoyed being a member of the jam band for the last three years.

**WALLACE "WALLY" DEMPSEY**

Born June 12, 1920 Died June 6, 1992

Inducted October 3, 1993

He was born in Wilmington, Delaware. Both of his parents were musicians and they taught him to play chords and melody on the banjo. He played professionally with them through his teens. In 1941, he joined "The Broome Brothers" on tour in California. In 1944, he toured 15 weeks with "Sunset Carson", playing fiddle and banjo. He also toured with "Lash LaRue", toured and recorded with Eddie Dean, and played guitar and banjo with "The Sons of the Pioneers". He toured with Gene Autry from 1946 to 1948 and did a one month overseas tour with Bob Hope in 1948.

In 1955, he decided to quit the music business and went into the construction business in Woodland Hills, California, where he 'played in the dirt' until 1959. At that time he returned to Delaware and joined "the Al Smith Banjo Group". He moved to Arizona in 1961 due to ill health. There he played banjo off and on with the "Marty Robbins Band" and also played banjo for the "Shakey's Pizza Corp", opening new stores both in Arizona and Texas.

In 1983, he moved to Northern California, where he played banjo and guitar at Sam's Town in Cameron Park and was active with "The Chico Banjo Band". He performed on Gene Autry

Page 2 Wallace Dempsey

Recordings such as: "Mexicali Rose", My Heart Cries for You", and "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer". He also recorded with Eddie Peabody on "Star Dust" and Eddie Arnold on "Just A Little Lovin"

He wrote the songs "Banjo Rag" in 1964 and "Dumplin's" in 1991. He appeared in the movie "Tumbleweed" with Gene Autry. He has two personal tapes available.

He died June 6, 1992 of a major heart attack in Spirit Lake, Idaho. He is survived by his wife, Maud; two sons Scott and Wallace Jr; daughter Madeline; two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Merry
Christmas
& **HAPPY NEW YEAR**



VISIT THE NEW LOCATION FOR THEIR NEW STORE @ 4614 Madison Ave. Sacramento CA 95841



Western Swing Society Café Menu

Serving All 3 Days of HOF

Hamburger with chips or potato salad \$8.00

Cheeseburger with chips or potato salad \$8.50

Pulled Pork with coleslaw \$9.00

Cobb Salad \$10.00

Hot Dog with chips or potato salad \$4.00

Chili Dog with chips or potato salad \$5.00

BLT on Sourdough with chips or potato salad \$7.00

Chips \$.50

Thank you for supporting



SUNDAY JANUARY 7, 2024

2749 Sunrise Blvd, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Rhonda Lynn and Edgewood Station

Jan 7, 2024
1 - 3 pm

- *Dance lessons at noon.
- *Food and drink available for purchase
- *Large dance floor
- *Raffle
- *House band from 3 - 5 pm



Country Music Plus

www.rhonda-lynn.com info@rhonda-lynn.com 916-240-8736

FOOD AVAILABLE

American Legion, Mather and Rancho Cordova, are all volunteer veterans that prepare meals and cook for us at all our Sunday dances. Come early for lunch to support these volunteers and stay to dance.

A hot meal, reasonably priced, provided by our American Legion

Thank you for your service!

All credit card transactions will have a \$.50 surcharge



2024 UPCOMING BANDS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| January 7 2024 | Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station |
| February 4 | Classic Country Boys |
| March 3 | The Lincoln Highway (With Guest, Larry DeLeon) |
| April 7 | The Familiar Strangers |
| December 1 | Mae McCoy & her Neon Stars |

WSS BOARD MEETING MINUTES December 12, 2023

Meeting called to order by President Ronnie Elkan at 6pm via Zoom

Members Present: President Ronnie Elkan, Vice President Mae McCoy, Secretary Sandy Robinson, Treasurer Linda Swanson, Ralph Chase, Arron Smith, Chuck Webb, Jimmy Boehnke, Dave Rietz. Guest Nick Dennis
Approval via email of November 14, 2023, minutes taken by Linda Swanson.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Receipt for Liquor License received. Ronnie thanked everyone for a job well done at the last dance that he and Shelley were unable to attend. He was so happy to see such positivity. Thanked Mae McCoy for great Social Media presence. Our Annual Toy Drive was very successful.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Linda Swanson reported we have \$8,156 in our Scholarship Fund. It was discussed we need a sub-committee to work on scholarship and we need to be creative -- Possible Youngster Fiddle Contest. There were 148 paid attendees at November dance.

NEWSLETTER:

Our Monthly Newsletter is available on line via email to our Members. There are 12 copies at each dance reserved for New Members and those unable to access via email. Also a reminder to all members to make sure Linda McCarley has your email address, and if you aren't receiving the Newsletter via email to check your spam for it.

WEBSITE MANAGER:

Dave Rietz reported Mae McCoy's Social Media Fliers are really helping to get information about our monthly dances and upcoming activities out. A reminder to keep sharing the Facebook posts to continue to circulate the monthly announcements.

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:

Having the Free hour of Dance Instruction was a great success. Mae McCoy reported that she has lined up our Dance Instructors for 3 more dances. A credit card system for our Front Door and Bar was discussed. Exact details and cost will be explored and reported at next Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved Arron Smith, Second Ralph Chase
Sandy Robinson, Secretary

TO ALL THE MUSICIANS, THANK YOU (Photo's By Don deMars)



Editor's Letter continued from page 2

The dance lessons were an incredible success. The dance floor was packed and we had nine couples come into the hall that have never been there. The WSS is still the "best kept secret in town". Make sure and let everybody know about us cause we have lots of room.



Well all the musicians were on fire and got to play for a packed house. Mae McCoy, our WSS Vice President, and her Neon Stars were at the top of their game and ready for

Christmas. The Neon Stars are Jim Baughman on lead guitar; Ralph Chase on piano and vocals; Arron Smith on drums; Olen Dillingham on fiddle and mandolin; Steve French on pedal steel and Chuck Webb on bass. It's hard to miss with a band that talented.

"Hall of Famers" were up next in the 3:00 to 5:00pm spot. Mae uses the same players in her Neon Stars except for Bill Cornett, drummer extraordinaire and Steve



Clark on bass, and I don't blame her. They had some guest singers Nancy Long, Peggy van den Broeck and Janice Allen. The boys in the band all took a turn at singing. In Ralph Chase's words "It was a great day".

PICTURES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT

Pictures are now available on our website: <http://westernswingsociety.net/>. OR on [Google Photos](#)

Tips:




- From PDF newsletter, click on link below these instructions to enter that photo album.
- Use the three dots  at top right to download entire album or a selected photo
- To see all albums, click top left on [Google Photos](#)
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- To find all photos of a particular person, click  then click [See all people](#) at the bottom of the dropdown list. Scroll and click on a person. You will see all photos of that person. Then you can download and print what you like.



PHOTO LINKS

Monthly Dance Photos November & December

- <https://photos.app.goo.gl/tvAtaLv8fV3eAbT4A>
- <https://photos.app.goo.gl/66d4AEfyJHYAXgF18>



WINNERS (Photo's By Don deMars)



OH MY LOVE, SHELLEY ELKAN**JULY 12 1957 TO DECEMBER 17, 2023****HOF # 0627**

Inglewood, California was where I first appeared on July 12, 1957. I was a towheaded youngster with glasses and a deep, froggy voice. Music was an integral part of my household. My mom had majored in Voice and Pipe Organ in college while getting her teaching credentials and she was also an accomplished pianist.

My mom always taught us kids to sing rounds so that when we were hiking through the woods on a campout, we could march along in rhythm. She said I could harmonize and carry my own part in a round by the time I was four. In fact, I remember one time we were all singing around the huge blazing campfire at our site and the other campers asked if we were entertainment (like the Von Trapp family) provided by the campground and wanted to know if they could join our campfire. I thought that was so funny at the time. We must have had over 60 people gathered around singing along with us. It was also on a camping trip that my stepdad taught us all to sing “**Chattanooga Choo Choo,**” a song I still sing today.

Growing up, I was lucky to have a built-in quartet with my two sisters and my mom. Even now, we sing together every chance we get and have had compositions arranged especially for our four voices by David Plank, a musician friend in Tucson, Arizona.

Music studies continued in elementary and high school, where I received the *Bank of America Achievement Award in the field of Fine Arts* and the *A Cappella Director's Award* from my high school. I also kept busy playing bluegrass, western swing, and country folk tunes with a band called *Crystal Blue*, which included my long-time school friend Keith Little (Rose Maddox, Vern Williams and Ricky Skaggs), on vocals, banjo and guitar. The band had the opportunity to play for then-governor, Ronald Reagan, a great experience I won't ever forget.

As an adult, I played a lot of western swing in the house bands for two of Sacramento's premier country nightclubs of that time: the *Private Stock Band* at the Brass Horse Saloon from 1984 to 1986, and the

Shelley Elkan on next column



Private Stock Band and then as the *Bite The Bullet Band* at The Yellow Rose Lounge for an additional seven years (1986 to 1992). During those years, I was honored to have the opportunity to open shows for Johnny

Lee, Johnny Paycheck and Reba McEntire.

One evening in 1985, I met Dewayne Blackwell, author of such mega hits as “**Mr. Blue,**” which was a million seller in 1959, David Frizzell's “**I'm Gonna Hire a Wino to Decorate**

Our Home,” and Garth Brooks' “**Friends in Low Places.**” Dewayne had come into The Yellow Rose with another composer friend to see if my voice would be suitable for some demos he was



working on. I'm proud to say that I was asked to work with him on two songs before he moved out of the area, back to Nashville, Tennessee.

While with *Private Stock* at The Yellow Rose Lounge, I was privileged to share the stage with the beautiful and talented Sacramento Western Swing Hall of Fame inductee, Rusty Woods, and sing many of her daughter Jill's, songs including the Platinum award winning “**Out of Your Shoes,**” recorded by Lorrie Morgan.

Finishing my college degree, begun years earlier, was important to me. When the owners of The Yellow Rose Lounge sold their business, I took a day job and completed my education with honors, graduating Magna Cum Laude and being initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective honor society for all academic disciplines. I still kept my toe in music and would sing at various events on weekends whenever I could.



Thanks to good friend Olen Dillingham, another Hall of Fame inductee, I joined the Sacramento Western Swing Society in 2005 with my husband, fiddler Ronnie Elkan. The Society has been very gracious to me over the years, allowing the latest rendition of *Bite The Bullet* to play many times at

Shelley Elkan continued from page 7

the monthly dances and at the four-day extravaganza Hall of Fame celebrations. I am in constant awe when I'm introduced to all the fine folks who comprise the all volunteer Western Swing Society: the committee members who work so hard for all of us and the musicians, so many of whom are legends in the industry.



Sometimes I have to pinch myself when I'm on stage and look over at the fabulous musicians that surround me, three of whom are Hall of Famers. I know that as a band, Bite The Bullet strives hard to honor the tradition of Western Swing music. We're always on the lookout to add a tune with that special danceable quality that embodies the spirit of Western Swing music.



My husband, Ronnie and I met so many wonderful people from the Northwest Western Swing Music Society when they were down in Sacramento attending the 2005 Hall of Fame that we joined their fine organization in 2007. We have since been able to attend their Hall of Fame celebrations in 2007, in 2009 when Ronnie was inducted, and most recently in 2010 when I was inducted.

In 2007, I was inducted into the Hall of Honor at the Lincoln Western Music Roundup. This was a very proud moment for me and one that I will always cherish.

I've always been a huge fan of *Asleep At The Wheel* and, in 2008, 2009, and 2010; I had the thrill of joining my friend's band, *Cousin Cricket*, to open for them when *Asleep At The Wheel* played in Nevada City and Grass Valley. Meeting and visiting with band members, [Elizabeth McQueen](#), [Jason Roberts](#), and [Eddie Rivers](#), after the show was so much fun and such an honor. What a hoot!

For my part, I'm constantly amazed at the doors music has opened for me, allowing me, the local girl, to share part of my heart, through my singing, with so many great audiences and musicians. I've been lucky and blessed. My plan is to keep singing in public as long as people ask me to and to keep singing for myself always. There is no better way to keep a happy spirit. *Written by Shelley Elkan*

TIME TO SWING (Photo's By Don de-Mars) See all Don's Photos Page 6



OTHER WESTERN SWING MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS/MUSIC HAPPENINGS

Buck Ford & Pure Country Band: Check Website for schedule, <https://buckford.com/events/>

Carolyn Sills Combo: <https://www.carolynsills.com/>

Cowtown Society of Western Music, Contact: Joe Baker, Membership Director, 940-452-6300, 4361 F.M. 1195, Mineral Springs, TX 76067

Grace Clark and Swingitude: www.graceAclarkmusic.com. 925-443-5217

Greater Arizona Country/Western Swing Association and Hall of Fame, Inc. PO Box 953, Dewey, AZ 86326. Contact Jim Gamble at 928-458-0714.

Hot Club of Cowtown: <https://hotclubofcowtown.com/>

The Lincoln Highway Trio: Every Tuesday, 1:15-3:45pm. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr, Carmichael. \$8 cover at the door. <https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhighwaybandca/>

Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars
Contact: maemccoy@gmail.com
<https://youtube.com/@maemccoyandherneonstars>

Micheal Ray Strauch & The Fortunate Few
Contact Facebook for dates and places
Sactown Playboys @ <https://www.facebook.com/sactownpbs/>

Slade Rivers Band: <https://sladeriversband.com/events/>

Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest, PO Box 644, Shattuck, OK 73858. Meets quarterly. Go to website at: www.wsmss.com.

Cliff Huey 27 Outlaws Band @
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=cliff%20huey%202027%20outlaws>

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF WESTERN SWING MUSIC, HERE IS WHERE TO GO!

<https://www.westernswing.com/Events.html>

Board Meeting Invitation

You can attend the Society's monthly Board meetings; Please contact any board member if you would like to attend on Google Meet or if you have a suggestion.

NEW!!! FREE DANCE LESSONS

With Admission @ 12:00 pm



MEMBERSHIP

Any Changes? Keep us up to date on any changes in your membership information, especially email addresses. We can't get your newsletter to you unless we have your current information.

You can mail changes in your information to the Society at P.O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA 95609; or email it to membership@westernswingsociety.net
Thanks! Keep on Western Swingin'

MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS

The Western Swing Society holds a music and dance session on the first Sunday of each month, featuring guest bands and artists and jam sets.

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at The Machinists Hall
2749 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA*

Donation: \$7 for Members; \$10 for Non-Members
For information, browse to www.westernswingsociety.net

*The address is Sunrise, but the driveway is on Citrus.



Driving Instructions to MACHINISTS HALL: From Hwy 50, take the Sunrise Blvd. South exit and cross two lights (Folsom Blvd. and Trade Center Drive). After crossing Trade Center, be in the left lane and take the next left turn which is Citrus Road. You will see an Enterprise Car Rental lot in front of you. Turn right into the driveway just past Enterprise. You'll see our sign, and you are there. Park, come in and join the fun.