

Volume 42, Number 4 **SEE YOU SUNDAY APRIL 7 FOR THE FAMILIAR STRANGERS** April 2024

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



**MICHAEL GREGORY**



**MARTY JAMES**

*(Go to Page 3)*

## Letter from The Editor



“Better late than never” I hope. Sorry this newsletter is getting out so late. I kept looking at the calendar thinking I had plenty of time and here it is. This is going to be a great dance on April 7. We have a spectacular band that has been so great to WSS. You don't want to miss The Familiar Strangers.

Wow, the last four dances have been record breakers for us. I sure appreciate all the members coming out to support Western Swing Society. We are here to keep live western swing music alive and well. We feel like this is a great cause and as a non-profit organization we depend on all our volunteers and the money at the door goes to rent and insurance. So far we are doing good as we have great support.

Our dance lessons have been a huge hit. No matter what your level of dancing is there is something for everyone. Come on out and try it at 12pm on the

*Continued on page 2*

**SUNDAY, April 7,, 2024**



**THE FAMILIAR STRANGERS**

**1:00pm-3:00pm**

**Followed by the House band**

**“The Hall of Famers”**

**3:00pm-5:00pm**

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

## SUNDAY DANCE April 7, 2024

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY PRESENTS  
**SUNDAY DANCE!**  
 SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH  
**FAMILIAR STRANGERS**  
 FREE DANCE LESSONS  
 DANCE LESSON 12PM  
 LIVE MUSIC FROM 1-5PM  
 \$7 MEMBERS  
 JAM ROOM  
 FOOD & DRINKS  
 LARGE DANCE FLOOR  
 RAFFLE  
 \* 2749 SUNRISE BLVD, RANCHO CORDOVA

**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*  
day of the dance.

Lincoln Highway did an awesome job. They sure kept the dance



floor full. Doug Weiss fronts the band playing bass guitar and singing. Terry Crouson on guitar and vocals; Brian McCommas on guitar and vocals; Mike Cox on drums; and guest singer Larry DeLeon. Thanks boys for a great show.

We can always count on "The Hall of Famers" to do a great job keeping the dance floor going. The band was Jim Baughman, guitar and vocal; Ralph Chase, piano and vocal; Olen Dillingham, fiddle and 5-string mando; Steve Clark, bass and vocal; Steve French, pedal steel and vocal; Bill Cornett, drums and vocals; Arron Smith Jr., drums, vocals and sound engineer; Ronnie Elkan, fiddle; Guest singers were Mae McCoy, Nancy Long Linda Baughman and Janet Allen.

For those of you that didn't get a chance to get back to the jam room I'll post some pictures. You would have to have been there to hear what great music was being played. Please take a minute to visit the jam room on your next visit.

In case you didn't notice, our regular folks that take care of the raffle weren't there due to illness. Bob and Virginia Kuykendall have been there for us and we really appreciate what they do. Nancy Long has taken the job and has pulled a team of volunteers together to get it done. Also, back at the bar, Cindi has had some medical issues and our very own "Scrappy" Arron Smith Sr. has been filling in. Thank you to all our volunteers.



**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](mailto: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!



Free Dance Lessons with admission on Sunday March 3, 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 ad's are due to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month.

**MICHAEL GREGORY**

Inducted October 1, 2023



Michael, a Sacramento native, has toured/recorded with multiple #1 artists in several genres including Steve Holy, Jo Dee Messina, Shane McAnally, SWV, Eric Benet, Roger Smith, Wayman Tisdale, Robert Brookins, Brent Bourgeois, and The Osmond Brothers. His first real

band experience came at age 14, playing with Buck Owens' cousin, Dale Owens, in the gospel group Joy. The band also provided Michael his first experience in a recording studio when the band made a record with Western Swing Society Hall of Fame member, Jimmy Baughman.

TV appearances include Tonight Show, David Letterman, Today Show, CNN's Entertainment This Week and five appearances on the Grand Ole Opry.

He has played on hundreds of artist CDs, TV show themes and national TV & radio ad campaigns. Michael returned to his hometown of Sacramento to marry his wife, Jenann, in 2018 after 20 years in Nashville and is currently playing with a host of local bands.

Through out the years Michael has been able to play western swing music on stage and on recordings whenever asked to. He also has been able to post his western swing capabilities on social media such as Youtube and Facebook.

We know Michael plays what pays the bills, but that doesn't limit his abilities. He is a truly great musician

Quotable Quotes

"He's got great ears!" - Brent Mason, Nashville studio guitarist

"I was looking for the fire extinguisher to put out his hands!" - Keith Urban, recording artist

"Mighty fine playing!" - Kerry Marx, Grand Ole Opry house guitarist

"He's a monster!" - Mike Scaggs, guitarist and founder of P2P Amplifiers

"He can play almost anything." - Todd Hallawell, National Fingering Guitar Champion



**MARTY JAMES**

Born April 7, 1936 Died March 2, 2023

Inducted October 5, 1997



Born, with given name: Neal A. Maertins on April 7, 1936, in Richmond, California.

Early music training: Piano lessons at age four formal violin lessons beginning at age 9.

Concert violinist at age fourteen, performing on stage with the Richmond, Oakland

and San Francisco Symphonies at ages fifteen and sixteen.

Graduated from Richmond Union High School at seventeen, at which time was gaining clear interest in band music, performing as a member of local Glenn Miller style orchestras.

Entered the U.S. Air Force in early 1954 and upon being assigned to overseas duty in Tripoli, Lybia and North Africa was drawn to country and western bands and soon found himself with his own band playing in local service clubs. I was about this time that he teamed up Lucky Hill a local disc jockey. Lucky was responsible for coining his professional name, Marty James It was also at this time that he played on his first professional recording with Lucky on Starday Records.

Competed in All-Air Force talent shows with his western trio, winning at all levels, including the world championships in Las Vegas, Nevada in early 1956. From these performances his group was chosen to perform on the Ed Sullivan show. Soon after, he traveled with an all Air Force "Tops In Blue" variety show appearing in most of the eastern half of the U.S. As well as Iceland

While attending college in San Pablo, California he was hired by the Black Jack Wayne Band and performed at the Garden of Allah in Niles, California as well as weekly TV show on channel 2 in Oakland, CA.

His musical interests concentrated on Western Swing and he joined the Al Palmer band in the later 60's. There he was fortu



Continued on page 6

**NEW MERCHANDISE AT WSS**

These folks were so much fun to work with and I'm hoping they will come back soon. They were so generous to WSS. Thank You Susie and Dennis!



**2024 UPCOMING BANDS**

April 7	The Familiar Strangers
May 5	Mae McCoy & Her Neon Stars
June 2	Bite the Bullet
July 7	Rhonda Rogers & Edgewood Station
August 4	Janice Allen & All The Queen Men
September 1	Natural Country
October 4, 5, 6	Hall of Fame
November 3	Bob Woods Swing
December 1	Mae McCoy & her Neon Stars

**Western Swing Society  
Café Menu**

**Serving 12-3:15**

- 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**
- Beyond Burger \$10.00**
- Chips \$ .50**

Thank you for supporting



**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 Board of Directors**

Left to Right: Mae McCoy (Vice President) Ronnie Elkan (President) Arron Smith, Ralph Chase, Sandra Robinson, Linda McCarly, Dave Rietz, Jimmy Boehnke, and Linda Swanson. Thank you to all of these great Board Members!



THANKS FOR THE MUSIC (Photo's By Don deMars) See all Don's Photos Page 6



*Marty James continued from page 3*

nate to perform and fine tune his craft with musicians who had played with the Bob Wills and Leon McAuliff bands.

In the mid 60's he was chosen to perform with the Ray Price big band premiering his "For The Good Times" hit at the Hollywood Pavilion.

Later he played fiddle with the Shorty Joe's "Red Rock Canyon Band" in San Jose, CA area and joined Shorty's band for Western Swing cruise ship adventure in the Caribbean in 1992. Some of the outstanding musicians on that trip included Bobby and Larry Black.

Still performing regularly with Tom Rose and Bobby Thompson bands throughout Northern CA.









Present home is in Livermore, California.

This Bio is from our original files and might be out of date.

**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](#)
- Once back at the home page, click on Albums  in the left column
- 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 March Dance**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/45EbDtChn6QkJEYHA>



**RAFFLE WINNERS (Photo's By Don deMars)**



DANCING IT UP!!! (Photo's By Don deMars)



**TIME TO SWING (Photo's By Don deMars) See all Don's Photos Page 6**



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







# HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

## THE TIMING

**January 1—May 31st:** Submissions of nominees for consideration accepted from a member in good standing

**June:** Hall of Fame Selection Committee reviews and chooses 12 nominees to be inducted in the Hall of Fame. Nominations must adhere to the rules and be complete in order to be considered. Any submissions not chosen roll forward to the next year for consideration

**July:** Board signs off on the chosen inductees. Inductees are notified and told about our Hall of Fame Event details

**August:** List of inductees first appear in the newsletter

**September:** Photos of inductees appear in newsletter. List of HOF bands in newsletter

**October:** The three day celebration, culminating in the Induction Ceremony on Sunday

## HOW TO AND THE RULES

Let's have another inspiring set of inductees for the Western Swing Society Hall of Fame event, the 1st Friday—Sunday in October. ***The closing date for submission of nominations is May 31st. Start NOW. Time FLIES!***

Any member in good standing may make 2 nominations, by either postal or email.

An 8 x 10 hard copy photo or a digital jpeg (at least res. 300 dpi) is required at the time of nomination.

The nomination should contain sufficient biographical information to enable the committee to evaluate the nominee's qualifications.

Nominations must include the name (as they wish it to appear in our Hall of Fame registry), address, phone numbers and email addresses (if available) for the nominee **and** the person submitting them. If the nominee is deceased, please include the name of a person who may be able to accept the award.

Mail to: Western Swing Nominations Committee,  
P. O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA 95609

## It's Easy!

### Nominate a musician or exceptional volunteer for this year's Hall of Fame

Time is running out. May 31st is the last date to submit your nominations for our Hall of Fame celebration!

Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is a BIG HONOR, so submit a nomination and make someone's day!

1. The name, address, phone and email of member submitting the nomination
2. The name, address, phone and email of the nominee
3. The nominee's name as the nominee wants it shown in the bio and on the Hall of Fame registry
4. Biographical information about the nominee, with emphasis on involvement with Western Swing Music.

- Birthplace and date.

- Age at which participation in music began? How? Singing? Playing an instrument?

- Early inspirations and influences?

- Time and place of first professional performance.

- Name of well-known bands and/or performers with which nominee has played.

- Names of well-known locations where nominee has performed.

- List of any awards or formal recognitions received by the nominee related to his or her music career.

- Nominee's personal reasons for involvement in and support of Western Swing Music.

See the instructions in the previous column and email or mail your completed nomination information so that it is received by WSS no later than May 31st.

**DON'T FORGET** to include *your* phone, email and the *nominee's* phone, email and mailing address so that we can contact you.

### 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](http://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: [www.maemccoymusic.com](http://www.maemccoymusic.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](http://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

# APRIL

### 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](mailto: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](http://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.