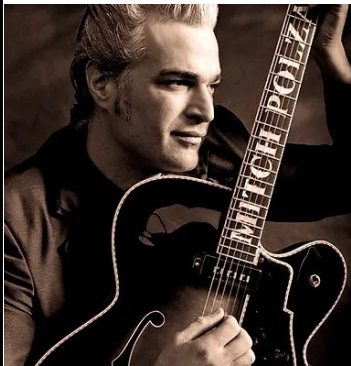


THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



MITCH POLZAK



LUTHER "LUKE" WILLIS

(Go to Page 3)

SUNDAY, June 1, 2025



Beau Jeffers & His Band

1:00pm-3:00pm

**Followed by the
House band**

"The Hall of Famers"

3:00pm-5:00pm

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**FREE DANCE
LESSONS**

**With Admission @
12:00 pm**

*Thank
You
Volunteers*

Letter from The Editor



I hope you were at the May dance to see and dance to Janice Allen and All the Queens Men. Janice has always been there for our Western Swing Society to donate her time and talent. Janice has total command of the stage and is always so exciting to watch. One thing is for sure, she knows how to

keep the dance floor full and happy. Her "Queens Men" were Ralph Chase on keyboard and vocals; Jimmy Baughman on Guitar and vocals; Bill Cornett on drums; Steve Clark on Bass guitar and vocals; and Arron Smith on harmony vocals.

Most of Janice Allen's band are also in our house band. Ralph, Jimmy, Bill and Steve were joined by Ronnie Elkan on fiddle and Arron Smith on drums

Continued on page 2

\$10 Admission at the door




Sunday, June 1, 2025
Western Swing Society
Presents

Dance Lessons with Dave West 12pm-1pm
Beau Jeffers 1pm-3pm
Hall of Famers 3pm-5pm

Jam Room *50/50 Raffle
Food and Drinks available for purchase
Machinist Hall
2749 Sunrise Blvd, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

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

Social Media, Sandra Robinson

Social Media Specialist, Meghan McCoy

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, Arron Smith Sr.

Bartender, Chuck

Decorating Chair, Open

Equipment and Staging, Arron Smith

Historian, (open)

Jam Room, Brad Barnett & Dave Rietz

Master of Ceremonies, Terry Crouson

Membership Director, Linda McCarley

Music Director, Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan

Photographer, Don deMars

Public Relations Administrator Mae

McCoy

Facebook Administrator: Sandra Robinson

Volunteer Coordinator: Sandra Robinson

Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Slide Show, Janet Jimenez

Sound Engineer, Arron Smith

Website Manager, Dave Rietz

Editors Letter continued from page 1

and vocals. We had a great group of guest singers. Beau Jeffers, who will be our featured artist this month, did a few for us. He has also come in to run sound for us and join the fun in the jam room. Rex Barnes, Linda Baughman, Chris "Lefty" Trapp, Rhonda Lynn and Nancy Long all did a few songs for us.

If you have someone that qualifies for the Hall of Fame, coming in October, please let us know. Check out page 9. Time is running out.

I thought our WSS folks might want to know where they can catch some of the folks that play at WSS. I included a few shows on page 10. Some of our members have brought these shows to my attention. Also on the last page there is a complete list of bands and how to contact them.

I was glad to see our photographer, Don Demars, come in with his wife Suzie. He's not able to take pictures these days so

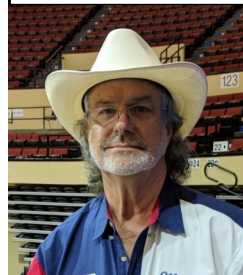


Alicia Fox

Alicia Fox of Fox West Photography has been donating her time and talent to WSS. Her photos are really special. thanks Alicia. She is available for all kinds of weddings and photo shoots.



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!

COME IN AND JAM



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.

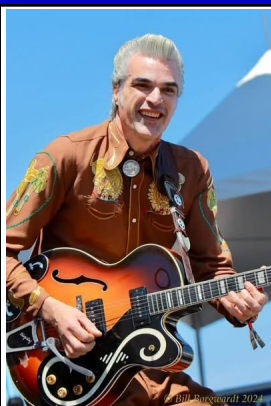
Submitted articles, publicity notices and letters not relating directly to the Society or its members may be published at the discretion of the Editor, as space permits. The staff reserves the right to edit any and all items submitted for publication.

Deadline for Submittals:

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

MITCH POLZAK

Inducted October 6, 2024



Polzak performs rockabilly and 60's country music with the religious fervor of Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash and delivers a Honky Tonk ballad with the sincerity of Merle Haggard and Waylon Jennings. Mitch will bring a room to a fevered pitch of joyous energy on the dance floor and then tell you a story in a song like two old friends sitting at a kitchen

table at midnight.

His virtuosic guitar skills and influences range from the blazing flying fingers of Joe Maphis, Marty Stuart, Roy Clark, and Don Rich to the timeless dreamlike state of "Sleepwalk" by Santo and Johnny along with the vast valleys of deep rumbling twang associated with Duane Eddy.

There is not one singular definition of Polzak's music but that is very specific to what he does. Being fluent in the musical languages of Country, Rockabilly, Honky Tonk, The Bakersfield Sound, Surf, early Rock and Roll, Bluegrass, Cajun, Blues, and Truck Driving music gives Polzak the unique voice of the melting pot of the American musical experience. This is why he consistently connects with so many people directly at every show.

Polzak's abundant joy in communicating with people through music leaps off the stage through every fiber of his being. His near-constant genuine smile can be seen clear across the room and invites you in without any pretense or judgements. Some call him "The Honky Tonk Mister Rogers"!

Make no mistake though. Underneath that smile is a deep and reverent respect for the history and integrity of the music and musicians who came before him and created the sounds and told their stories.

Just as Waylon Jennings created his own outlaw sound, as Johnny Cash could never be put in a box, the full throttle intensity of Jerry Lee Lewis's rock and roll grabs us and takes to a time and place, Polzak's live show has the unvarnished purity of the Bakersfield Sound paying homage to his California musical heroes Buck Owens, Merle Haggard, Wynn Stewart and Dwight Yokam. It's a heaping helping, but a Mitch Polzak show brings all of these musical flavors to the table in a potluck of American musical

Continued page 4

LUTHER "LUKE" WILLS

Born September 10, 1920 Died October 21, 2000

Inducted October 5, 1986



Born on a farm near Memphis, Hall County, Texas, USA, died 21 October 2000, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. Younger brother of Bob Wills and the seventh of the Wills family's children. He was rated so differently from the rest of the family that it became a family joke that his mother had picked up the wrong

baby, after one of the many social dances held in the area. He learned to play stand-up bass as a child and made his musical debut in 1939 in the second Wills band, led by elder brother Johnnie Lee Wills, called the Rhythmaires. He appeared in B-movie westerns in the early 40s with Bob but in 1943, he joined the US Navy. After service, he led Bob's second band and covered the dance circuit of northern and central California, appearing first as Luke Wills And The Texas Playboys Number 2, but to avoid confusion this soon became Luke Wills' Rhythm Busters. He recorded for King Records and RCA - Victor Records, adopting a similar style of comments and interjections as Bob, though not in a high-pitched voice.

In 1948, the Rhythm Busters were disbanded and he worked with Bob until 1950, when he re-formed his own band and took over in Oklahoma City, when Bob returned to Texas to his new dancehall. He rejoined Bob in 1952 and played and sang with the Playboys, often fronting the band in Bob's absence, until they disbanded in 1964. He then worked outside of the music industry in Las Vegas. In 1971, he played bass on the Bob Wills tribute recordings made at Merle Haggard's home in Bakersfield and later made some appearances at Playboy Reunion Shows, but did not appear on the 1973 recording session in Dallas. Although contributing in no small way to his eldest brother's legend, he was not elected to the Country Music Hall Of Fame. In the late 70s, he left the music business and retired to Las Vegas.



Mitch Polzak continued from page 3



flavor.

Polzak learned firsthand from some of his musical influences, sharing the stage with legends like Don Maddox of The Maddox Bros. and Rose, deeply re

spected contemporary and friend Deke Dickersp,

The Ragin' Cajun Doug Kershaw, Rockabilly icons Joe Clay and Gene Summers, former Bluegrass Boy and West Coast music pioneer Peter Rowan and Cajun greats Jimmy Breau, Andrew Carriere, and Blake Miller. He has also shared the bill with Brian Setzer, Jerry Lee Lewis, Duane Eddy, The Stray Cats, Big Sandy and The Fly Rite Boys, and Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives.

The big guy from out West and larger than life energy (he's also 6'5") performer, guitarist, singer, banjoist, songwriter, composer, entertainer, musical historian and teacher Mitch Polzak wears his heart on his sleeve and his playing in his heart.



2025 UPCOMING BANDS

June 1	Beau Jeffers
July 6	Lincoln Highway
August 3	Geoff Miller
September 7	Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
October 3, 4 & 5	Hall of Fame
November 2	Rob Shotwell & Let the Horses Run
December 7	Mae McCoy & Her Neon Stars
January 4	The Baughmans

COMING THIS DECEMBER

A Nashville Christmas

Presented by Meghan "Mae" McCoy

A celebration of Western Swing, holiday cheer, and surprise guests.

Full band announcement coming soon...

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



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
- 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 April Dance

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Y7189tQyVPR9Jpd48>

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

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**



THANK YOU MUSICIANS!!!!!! (PHOTOS BY ALICIA FOX)



Free Dance Lessons with admission on
Sunday April 6, 2025
Best kept secret in town.

RAFFLE WINNERS (Photo's By Alicia Fox)



Somewhere Between Bakersfield and Oahu: Poi Rogers and the Shape of California Sound *By WSS Vice President Meghan “Mae” McCoy*



Poi Rogers debuts with a Western Swing-rooted release, filtered through desert air, Hawaiian steel, and vintage California charm.

[Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars](#) shared a bill with Poi Rogers at a Shelby Ash Presents show in San Francisco — a city that welcomed both sides of my bloodline. My Irish great-grandmother made her home here. My Filipino grandfather came after the war, carving out his place in a country still learning how to

hold him. They built their lives in California. That night, I could feel it in the air.

Poi Rogers came in with a Hawaiian steel guitar, upright bass, and a sound that floats somewhere between Bakersfield and Oahu. The crowd leaned in. It had that rare ease — where no one's selling, and nothing needs to be louder than it is.

Their set leaned into the upcoming debut album, *Twilight Blues* — a project shaped more by tone than tempo, with melodies that settle in slow and stay a while. From what I've heard — their singles “You're All That I Need” and “Don't Steal My Covers” — we get a clear sense of the direction. The tone is warm, washed in steel and sentiment. More easy chair than dance hall. You'll also recognize the unforgettable melody of Tennessee Ernie Ford and Kay Starr's “I'll Never Be Free”, reworked here with original lyrics by Poi Rogers — another nod to the past reframed through their lens.

Carolyn Sills holds the low end steady, unfazed, and beautifully unhurried — like someone who's played this tune in a dream before. Gerard Egan shifts between six-string and steel with a tone that lingers more than it leads. They're a married duo, and you can hear it — they leave space in the arrangements, never crowding each other. And in that space, you can tell: this isn't performance. It's presence.

Their other project, The Carolyn Sills Combo, recently picked up the 2024 Ameripolitan Award for Western Swing Group, and Carolyn herself was named Western Swing Female of



Album cover courtesy of Poi Rogers via poi-rogers.com



Photo courtesy of Poi Rogers via poi-rogers.com

Continued on page 11

AT THE DANCE!!! (Photo's By Alicia Fox) See all The Photos Page 4



DANCING AND VISITING AT WSS !!!!!(PHOTOS BY ALICIA FOX)





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.

UPCOMING DANCES YOU MIGHT ENJOY!



TOMMY THOMSEN
with special guest **WENDY DeWITT**

6/6/2025 \$24.00 -
\$24.00 including fees

Rancho Nicasio
1 Old Rancheria Road
Nicasio, California
94946

Dinner Show with Western Swing Hall of Fame inductee TOMMY THOMSEN & The Ambassadors of Western Swing and special guest WENDY DeWITT- the Queen of Boogie Woogie

Dance at The Church of Boogie Woogie and The Church of Western Swing!

Dinner Reservations from 6:00pm-8:00pm

(Please make a note of your reservation time)

Music @ 7:30 pm

Ticket price is for admission only. Dinner is NOT included in the ticket price.

Bring your photo ID & ticket confirmation to Will Call.

ALL TICKET SALES ARE FINAL. No refunds or exchanges.



Friday Night Live: Mae McCoy & Her Neon Stars Return to Downtown Winters, Winters, CA

Main Street, Winters, CA | Friday, June 27, 2025 | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Back by popular demand! Mae McCoy & Her Neon Stars return to Downtown Winters with a full

night of Western Swing, honky-tonk, and vintage country music that gets the whole street dancing. Part of the Friday Night Music series hosted by the Winters Chamber of Commerce, this summer evening concert brings family-friendly fun and authentic country vibes to the heart of Yolo County.

Mae McCoy is a Filipino-American recording artist, a Western Swing Hall of Fame inductee, and a leading force in California's country dance music scene. Known for her charismatic stage presence and powerhouse vocals, Mae and her all-star band blend classic twang with professional polish.

CDs & exclusive Mae McCoy merch will be available on site, including the critically-acclaimed album *At Sundown* — recorded at the legendary Heart of Texas Studios.

FREE | All Ages Welcome

Main Street, Winters, CA

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Follow @DiscoverWinters for updates

<https://maemccoymusic.com/>

Western Swing Society
Presents



Lincoln Highway
The Goodbye Tour

Sunday, July 5, 2025

12pm-5pm

12pm Dance Lessons with Dave West

1pm Music by Lincoln Highway

3pm Music by our House Band

• Jam Room open all afternoon

• 50/50 Raffle

• Food and Drinks available for purchase

\$10
Admission
At The
Door

Machinist Hall
2759 Sunrise Blvd
Rancho Cordova, Ca

Kenny and the Crickets Dance



July 20th. 5pm.
to 8pm.

at the Golden
Empire Grange
11363 Grange
Court, Grass
Valley CA.

LARGE dance
floor

\$15 per person
Water will be
provided.

Bring your own
sodas, alcoholic

beverages and a snack to share if you wish. Information at:

<https://bannergrange627.org/> or <https://www.cousincricket.com/>

Poi– Rogers continued from page 6

the Year by the Academy of Western Artists. Awards don't always capture the full shape of a sound — but they follow momentum. And Poi Rogers has built their own.

Twilight Blues sits at the edge of the Western Swing world — less barroom, more beachfront. A little surf, a little prairie, a little salt in the air. It's shaping up to be a mood record. A California mood, even if it doesn't call itself that. For fans of vintage Americana, steel guitar, or modern storytelling with classic bones, this release is one to keep an eye on.

As someone with both Irish and Filipino roots, I've always understood American music as a collision of stories — immigrant threads, borrowed instruments, working-class rhythm, and regional sound. I front a California Western Swing band shaped by tradition and live musicianship. I don't write about this music to define it — I write to trace where it's headed. Poi Rogers, with Twilight Blues, threads their own lineage into that larger map.

If you're drawn to dreamy steel, slow burns, and songs that don't ask for a clink of a glass, this might be your record. You can the singles now or visit PoiRogers.com to learn more.

Full album release June 6th.

Meghan “Mae” McCoy is a Filipino-American bandleader, writer, and Vice President of the Western Swing Society. She leads Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars and is the founder of The Thomas & Leilani Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving heritage music and uplifting underrepresented voices. More at MeghanMcCoy.com



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: www.maemccoymusic.com
<https://youtube.com/@maemccoyandherneonstars>
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%2027%20outlaws>

Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station **Contact: Rhonda Rogers** 916-240-8736 email: info@rhondalynn.com website: www.rhondalynn.com facebook.com/rhondalynn66

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.

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

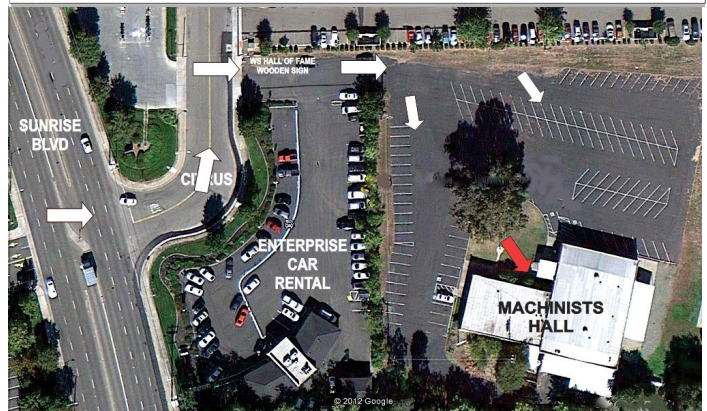
The Western Swing Society holds a music and dance session on the first Sunday of each month, featuring guest bands and artists and jam sets.

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.