

# Mates and Dates January 2026

## Notes from the President

I hope you all enjoyed our Masked Ball. Special thanks to John Green and Janice Zinn for providing a wonderful photo album of our dance. We have many photos of the event available on the website (you all clean up pretty nice!). The board nominees for 2026, our streamlined registration processes, lovely decorations, and some excellent bands continue to raise the delight and enthusiasm of the club. The nominees for corporate leadership and our important operational leaders for the coming year promise an even more exciting year ahead. It has been an honor to be your president this year and I return to being 'just a member' with a great sense of pride in how the club has evolved, the roster of the new leadership, and the direction the club is heading. Happy New Year!

## TL;DR

This is a techy abbreviation for Too Long, Didn't Read. Here are just the basics:

- Our **1940's Winter Ball** will be Friday Jan 16 at the Masonic Lodge, 890 Church Street in Mountain View. Formal Tux or 1940's attire (dust off that Zoot Suit, Bolero Jacket or that Kitty Foyle dress) with music provided by the 17 piece **Joe Ferrari Big Band**. Doors open at 6PM, swing lesson with Lesley starts at 6:15, dinner served at 7:00. Big band music starts at 8PM.
- **Please 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 on you to take care of yourself.
- Board elections are at our January dance. It will go faster if you nominate someone or yourself for **Secretary** or **Member at Large** before then.
- At the March 20 **St. Patricks Dance**, we will have pre-recorded music hosted by our virtual DJ Otto Madik. Please fill out the attached/online music survey and bring it to the January dance to ensure your favorite dance songs are on the list.
- Costs will increase for 2026 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.
- 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>.

- If no one in your table group can register online you can annotate whom you want to sit with on your mail-in registration form. **Include the phone numbers of everyone that has confirmed they will attend that you want to sit with on the registration form so we can call you all to coordinate. The sooner you register, the more likely you will get your preference.**

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

Yes, you can sign up for the next dance online. Paying with Zelle is easier for you and us. 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>. See the online tutorial at <https://matesanddates.org/new>.

If you register online and pay by Zelle you can do the entire process in 5 minutes, skip writing a check, and save the price of a stamp.

## Board Elections: The Club Needs You

It is a **requirement** of a non-profit corporation 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 **Secretary**, and **Member at Large**. These are great (and easy) positions in which to learn how the club works and have fun planning with us. We will have nominations and elections at the January dance.

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 appeals to you send your self-nomination to [matesanddates.vp@gmail.com](mailto:matesanddates.vp@gmail.com).

President:	Jerry Bowes
Vice President:	Ray Farnsworth
Secretary:	(You?)
Treasurer:	Judith Bell
Member at Large:	(You?)

These members will hold the critical club planning and operational roles for the upcoming year. We are not voting for them at the January dance but I want us all to thank them for their generous sacrifice of time and effort to make our dances happen. Their photos are on the website (after you login), so look them up, match the name and face, and thank them personally.

Attendee Experience Director:	Tricia Taylor
Attendance Coordinator:	Deborah Lundgren

Club Photographer:	Tricia Taylor
Data Administrator:	Jerry Bowes
Event Coordinator:	Deborah Lundgren
Member at Large:	Patty Dick
Webmaster:	Jerry Bowes

## Survey Feedback

We received 24 completed feedback forms at the last dance. Most everyone had a great time at the dance, enjoyed the band, and loved our own Jim Alves as guest vocalist. All your results are archived at <https://matesanddates.org/feedback>.

## Your Favorite Dance Music

In March we will have pre-recorded music selected by experienced ballroom dancers. We will publish the song list a month before the dance and you can review it on the website and make suggestions and requests ahead of time. We also have an online and paper survey about your favorite dances. Please fill out the included music survey, write your name on it, and bring it to the January dance (unless you fill it out online).

At the March dance, each table will have copies of the song list with rating checkboxes so you can tell us which ones you don't like and add suggestions of your favorites. (See sample at <https://matesanddates.org/playlists> ). For those of you new to ballroom pre-recorded music, I invite you to go to the Jan 11 National Smooth Dancers Sunday afternoon dance: free dance lesson, light Sunday afternoon traffic, and \$25 each. See <https://goldengatedancers.org/>.