



# Buckles & Bows Square Dance Club



Editors: Pat & Jerry Akers

**President's Message** Well, another year is drawing to a close and it has been a very good year indeed for Buckles and Bows.

All of our dances and activities have been well attended and supported by our members and every dance has drawn visitors from all over the area as well. At last Saturdays dance with Mike Sikorsky calling and Cindy Mower Cueing the rounds, we had over 50 visitors including some from as far away as Torrance. As always, we received many compliments about the friendly atmosphere that Buckles and Bows is famous for.

Our Tuesday night Class/Workshop continues with close to 100 class members and Angels attending every week. This is not only a testimony to our great Instructor, Mike Seastrom, but also to our many club members who help make every Tuesday night a Square Dance Party that folks don't want to miss.

We are particularly happy to see the return of so many of our members who were kept away by Covid.

Speaking of parties...I hope you're planning to attend our annual Holiday Party on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Goebel Center. Paulette and her helpers have worked hard to make sure that this will be another great event.

At this time of year we like to thank all of our Board Members and the many others who pitch in whenever called upon to keep Buckles and Bows a leader in what we hope is a resurgence of Square Dancing in our area.

We would especially like to extend a long over due shout out to our Vice Presidents, Jerry and Pat Akers. For many years Jerry and Pat have quietly done much of the work that Nancy and I get credit for. In addition to being the editors of The Newsletter they also keep our WEB Site up to date. If that isn't enough, they also take charge and coordinate our many charitable and outside activities. Jerry and Pat have also actively participated in all of the planning that that has gone into our Post Covid rebound helping us remain the best club anywhere. In short, when you see Jerry or Pat be sure to thank them for everything they do.

See you at The Party.

***Bill & Nancy Armstrong - Presidents***



## **Important Dates for SSD Dancers**

- Tuesdays thru Dec.13th, Class for New Dancers at Goebel Center
- Saturday Dec. 3rd, Class Level Dance with Boots and Slippers in Simi Valley
- Sunday Dec. 4th, 'Denim and Lace Social" (Caller: Dale Hoppers) at Goebel Center
- Tuesday Dec. 20th, SSD Class Dance at the Goebel Center



# **Buckles and Bows Holiday Event**

## **“Denim & Lace Social”**

**Club & Class Members Only**

**Sunday December 4th**

**2:30-5:00 pm**

**Proof of Covid Vaccine Required**

**Goebel Center**

**\$10 per person - pre paid**

**Holiday or Square Dance attire encouraged**

**Please Bring an Appetizer or Dessert**

**Dale Hoppers will be calling a variety  
of different dances to entertain us.**

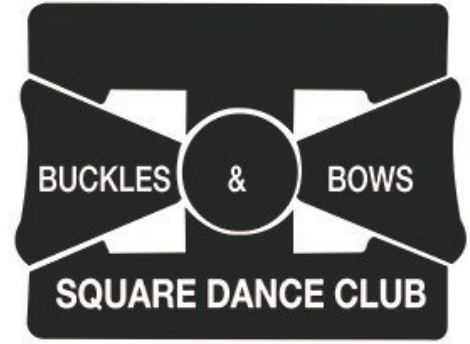
**Come to dance, eat and visit**

**Information & RSVP call:**

**Paulette (805) 791-9557**

**Spreading Sunshine**  
**Stay well and keep dancing**

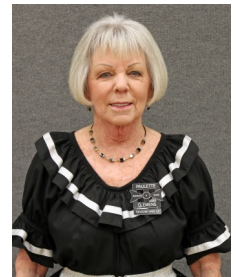
**Kathy & Jon  
DeForge**



***Holiday Party Dec 4th***

Only a few days before our "Denim and Lace" Holiday Dance and Social, December 4, 2022 from 2:30- 5:00pm. It's not too late to sign up. You don't want to miss this party, lots of tasty food and a great caller, Dale Hoppers to entertain us. RSVP Information is on the flyer on page 2.

***Paulette Clemens - Social Chair***



**Holiday Party Decorating Crew**



**Interested in Buckles and Bows Club Clothing?**

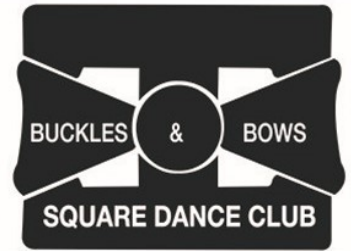
For Shirts and Jackets contact: Ann Duran email [annduran@gmail.com](mailto:annduran@gmail.com)

For Club Outfits contact: Kathy DeForge email [kathyshortell@gmail.com](mailto:kathyshortell@gmail.com)

# BUCKLES and BOWS



Conejo Valley Food Bank  
**Manna**  
mannaconejo.org



## Food Drive Results

650 pounds of food and \$625 of cash/checks donation,  
this includes \$200 from our club.



### December Birthdays

- Debby Arter
- Evelyn Thompson
- Elaine Ferguson
- Bob Farley
- Wendy Weiser
- Carol Boyce

### December Anniversaries

- Rick & Sylvia Koppel
- John & Sandy Hood
- Harvey & Nellie Cusworth

**Fall Class**

Hi, all,

Tuesday nights are so exciting nowadays. We've had up to 12 squares, plus a full table of tacos and treats, so it's just like the good, old days. Our students are enjoying the class, and several have said, "We're in it for the long haul!" We love hearing that.

At this point, we have eight more calls to be taught to complete the SSD program, and then a bit of practice to learn all these new dance steps by getting them into muscle memory. It always takes a while to get the latest steps into memory since there's not as much practice with those steps - but everyone is moving in the right direction toward that goal.

We have 17 students who are still attending class. To help everyone learn their names, they are listed below, with pictures of most of them. Also, they so love having helpful Angels. When they are in a strong square, they feel more confident that they can follow you to help them learn, so thank you for showing up on Tuesdays to assist at class.

Here are the pictures and the names of students. See you all on an upcoming Tuesday night.

See you all soon,

*Dean and Joanne Cunningham - Class Coordinators*



Melinda  
Norwood



Larry and Lyn  
Doose



Kaneolani  
Wood



Lee  
Esposito



Theresa  
Berenger



Silvana Zucca and  
Matthew Long



Tracy Watson and  
Bill De Martino



Kathy  
Border



Elena and  
Pete Suarez

Students not pictured are: Geri Knilans, Jessica Lugg, Bonnie Mayling, and Kaliko Orian

Joanne Cunningham suggested the newsletter could be a path for us to learn about our fellow club member's backgrounds. She has provided the first article in the new 'Our Story' series. The idea is club members contribute a short biography to be shared. The hope is even with limited social contact, we can learn about each other. Please send your one page or less stories to Pat and Jerry Akers email: akers.jerry.e@gmail.com. A special thank you to John Duhig, This featured continues because he hunts down 'volunteers'.

## My Story - Elaine Ferguson



In a little village on the big island of Wrangell Alaska, there was a little white house with a front porch on Church Street. When we moved there, I was about 3 and my brother 2. My favorite memory of living there, is that after dinner dad would put us in the crabapple tree in the front yard and go inside to help mom with the dishes.

We were too small to get down out of the tree; but, could spend hours climbing around its branches or just sitting viewing our world from our exalted position. Years later, after my brother had climbed the corporate ladder and I still climbed trees and construction scaffolding, I went back and discovered how tiny that tree really is.

When I was 11, I earned 25 cents an hour babysitting a 2-year-old boy and his 3-month old sister, doing their meals and laundry too. I had to buy my school clothes with my meager earnings. My grandmother sent me a pattern and material for a full circle skirt, so I learned to sew. Patterns cost 25 cents, so I decided I could make my own. My first project was a yellow 'scarf' blouse. It had triangular sleeves and a scarf collar. I had no idea at that time that I was teaching my brain to design in two dimensions something that would be in three dimensions, a skill I put to use many years later designing houses.

I was sent to college to get my Mrs. It took two years. My husband decreed "No kids and no pets!" Well, I got pregnant on the train to his first duty station in Georgia. We had three kids and numerous pets and had moved to California after making homes in many states and Sicily. I became active in church and PTA and began selling World Book Encyclopedia door to door, doing quite well after my manager convinced me I was smart (not a "stupid illogical woman"). I learned to talk to people with confidence. After 20 years, I managed to escape that abusive marriage.

I left him for a penniless older man who treasured me, made me think I had value. So, I grew. My dream man had been someone who would tell me what to do, to think, and to believe so I wouldn't have to make decisions. Instead, my new husband needed me to tell him those things. So, I grew. I discovered I could make good decisions. I was good at planning and organizing. Because he was a contractor, I channeled my love of art into designing houses, making it a 35-year career. In building our own house, we'd come to a project like laying vinyl flooring. I'd say, "We need a professional for this." He would say, "You're a professional, you can do it." I learned to lay flooring, cut and finish drywall, do roofing, and decorative things like gold leafing and marbling. I always did the finish work, as he wasn't precise enough to suit me. Besides, trim used smaller nails. I did learn to drive 16-penny nails without curling them.

After 35 happy years of ballroom and square dancing, traveling and building together, my husband had a stroke. Then I had to do everything. I would drive to the store and sit in the car and cry, because he had always done the shopping as I hated it. Once I was grocery shopping and my list disappeared. I caught my breath: "Oh, I lost my list" escaped my mouth. Then a voice in the next aisle said, "Would you like to borrow mine?" So shopping became not so distressing. (cont.)

### **My Story - Elaine Ferguson - continued**

Several times in my life I've gone back to school. First, I finished my BA and taught Special Ed for a few years. I went back again to study architecture. I had a client who had lived in the U.S. for 50 years and still couldn't speak English, so I decided I needed to learn Spanish. School was a lot more fun as an adult. As a kid, grades were so important. I was 68 when I last returned to school to learn AutoCAD.

While nursing my husband in his later years, I taught myself to make quilts. Some were bed quilts; but, I love making landscape quilts. It's painting with fabric as the medium. When my husband died at 96, I went back to dancing. A year and a half and four partners later I found my third mate. He is an elegant ballroom dancer and learned to square dance with me.

I think the most important things I've learned are: conquer your fears. Don't let them master you. If you face them, work through them, you'll discover they weren't as bad as you thought. A fellow writer once said to me: "I see why you are so good at so many things. You just keep at them until you get good." That's the second lesson. The harder something is, the greater your joy in mastering it.

### **Buckles and Bows Wagon Master Report for 2022**

Each year Buckles and Bows RV group migrates to Pismo Coast Village RV Resort, just like the Monarch butterflies go to Butterfly Grove, which is always a hiking destination. We were a week earlier than usual, but we were still able to find the monarchs starting to cluster in the eucalyptus grove.

Thanks to Bill Armstrong's efforts, we were able to set up our very own little square dance at the Central Coast Senior Center with Darren Gallina calling. With the help of some locals, we had three squares.

A good number of campers chose to go for a one-hour drive up the coast to see Hearst Castle for the Grand Room tour. On the way back to camp, we ate lunch in Cambria. What a great day to be with wonderful friends. We all had such a great group experience in literally perfect weather.

Avila beach is always a favorite for campers to lunch at the Fat Cats Cafe and for a small group to play golf. The little town of Avila is very quaint with a string of restaurants on the beach.

One morning a large group went to the Southern-inspired restaurant, Huckleberry's, for breakfast. Another night we went to the Mexican restaurant Old Juan's Cantina.

Most nights we had group dinners with campers bringing their own protein and a dish to share with the group.

The week was a great success, full of food, trips, perfect weather and great stories, some around our new high tech campfires. If you want to RV, rent an RV, or stay in a hotel, mark your calendar for all or some of the days for next year's event. We are already under contract from September 26 to October 1, 2023.

Retirement/vacation! The way it is meant to be!



***Wagon Masters: Brad and Donna Baker***

### Our Members Are Not Just Into Squares

Many of our members are active in several forms of the great exercise of 'Dancing'. We include a note about a special night and honor for one of our members Lorretta Kalan.

Dean and Joanne Cunningham, as well as Bob Biehl and Jennifer Freud, attended "An Elegant Victorian Evening" where our own Loretta Kalan had a coronation as Queen-Elect of the San Fernando Valley Chapter of a National Smooth Dancers. It was elegant, indeed. The attendees and Loretta's Court dressed in fancy Victorian gowns or formal dresses, and the men were handsome in their tuxedos and suits. The Court was introduced, and they twirled and promenaded to the stage. There was food and drink all night, ballroom dancing for all who attended, and entertainment showcasing ballroom dances. The entertainment was topped off with a performance of Moulin Rouge with about 15 dancers, including Loretta and James. The evening was truly special, and our congratulations go out to Loretta as **Queen Loretta Kalan**.



### Valley Trailer's 75th Anniversary Dance





### City of Hope Fund Raiser Dance—Oct. 30th Dinner Followed



### Buckles and Bows at the Sierra Hillbillies SSD Dance





# Mardi Gras Dance



Costumes Optional

**Caller: Dee Dee Dougherty**

**Cuer: Cindy Mower**

**Saturday, January 28, 2023**

**SSD & Plus Level 7:30 to 10:00 pm**

**Rounds 7:00 to 7:30 and between Tips**

**Bonus Advanced Tip at 10:00**

**Donation \$10.00**

***Goebel Adult Community Center***

**1/2 block East of 23 Freeway**

**1385 E. Janss Road**

**Thousand Oaks**

**Coming Dances:**

**Feb 25 - David Mee**

**March 25 – Mike Haworth**

**Information:**

**Bill & Nancy (805) 368-5371**

**Visit Us @**

**Web Page: <http://www.bucklesandbows.org/>**

**Facebook: [Buckles & Bows Square Dance Club Thousand Oaks CA](#)**

**BUCKLES & BOWS**



# **BUCKLES & BOWS 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance**

**Caller: David Mee**  
**Cuer: Dawn Mee**



**Saturday, February 25, 2023**

**SSD & Plus Level 7:30 to 10:00 pm**

**Rounds 7:00 to 7:30 & between tips**  
**Bonus Advanced Tip at 10:00**

**Donation: \$10.00 per person**

***Goebel Adult Community Center***

**1/2 block East of 23 Freeway**  
**1385 E. Janss Road**  
**Thousand Oaks**



**Coming Dances:**  
**March 25 – Mike Haworth**  
**April 22 – Rod Shuping**

**Information:**  
**Bill & Nancy (805) 368-5371**

**Visit Us @**  
**Web Page: <http://www.bucklesandbows.org/>**

**Facebook: [Buckles & Bows Square Dance Club Thousand Oaks CA](#)**

# December 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4 <i>Holiday Party</i>	5	6 <i>Class</i>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 <i>Class</i>	14	15	16	17
18 <i>Hanukkah Starts</i>	19	20 <i>SSD Dance</i>	21	22	23	24
25 <i>Christmas</i>	26 <i>Hanukkah Ends</i>	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Years Eve</i>

Buckles & Bows Square Dance Club  
1583 Wakefield Ave.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Live Lively -



Square Dance!

