

Debonair Dancers Highlights

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September 2023

www.debonairdancers.org

Around the Floor

The days are cool, the evenings are crisp and fall is upon us. Halloween is just around the corner which can only mean that our "Oktober" Dance is close at hand! As in the past, this dance is a combined Oktoberfest and Halloween Dance. Costumes are encouraged, as is traditional Oktoberfest garb. We will have a host beer-tasting before the dance starting at 6:15. There will be a variety of international and American beers, including a non-alcoholic beer and a hard cider. Music will be provided by Ross and Steve, with the evening meal provided by Juan and company.

Our August dance was wonderful! The weather was nice, Lesley's lesson a joy, the evening electric, the food excellent and the music, oh so danceable! Even more fun is the fact that we had 10 guest couples!! Clearly there's a change in the wind!

Speaking of change, these last few years have been taxing for all of us. It has been no different for your club. We have had to cancel dances. We have implemented rules to keep us safe whilst we dance. We have struggled to keep our club alive, as so many beloved venues and clubs in the area have been forced to close. Our post pandemic membership has dropped quite dramatically. Therefore, in an effort to mitigate these challenges, we have applied to become a 501(c)7 non-profit social club, which will allow us to qualify for lower rates at other local community centers. Unfortunately, approval of that application may take several months, so we cannot yet take advantage of that cost saving plan. We had hoped that we would be able to increase our membership to past levels by simply inviting more guests, and while we have had a recent increase in membership, it is still not enough.

We have reached a tipping point in our finances; we either close our beloved club or we raise our rates. The board has run the numbers and we do not have enough to cover the upfront costs for the December dance if we don't change our dance rates now. So, with much trepidation, we have voted to **raise our dance rates, temporarily**. I write trepidation, because we're concerned about this change being a hardship for you, our members. Yet, if we do nothing, we'll be reminiscing about a club that no longer exists. Some change is good and some not so. Losing our club seems like a 'not so' good change.

DANCE SCHEDULE

7:00 – 10:30 PM

Theme & Dress	Date
Oktoberfest, Sunnyvale (casual, costume optional)	Friday, Oct. 20, 2023
Holiday Dance (venue TBD) (formal)	Tentatively Friday, Dec. 15, 2023
Sweetheart Special (venue TBD) (dressy)	Tentatively Friday, Feb. 9, 2024
Presidents' Ball (venue TBD) (formal)	Tentatively Friday, Apr. 19, 2024
Island Escape (venue TBD) (casual)	Tentatively Friday, June 21, 2024
Swinging Summer Social venue TBD (casual)	Tentatively Friday, Aug. 16, 2024

Sometimes we need to make small, uncomfortable changes to avoid the big changes that we will regret. The Board of Directors of the Debonair Dancers club feels that this is a worthy sacrifice to keep our beloved club alive well into the future.

And there is one silver lining in this change. When we are in our new location, at the anticipated reduced rate, we will lower our dance rates. Yes, you read that correctly, we will reduce our rates when we have caught up with our losses. How much depends on our savings, as well as the club size; the larger the size, the quicker we can reduce our rates.

With that good news, we look forward to seeing you all at the Oktoberfest dance and beer tasting!

Jim and Laura Clark-Moore, President

CDC guidance for Covid was updated on September 15th. We are all trying to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe, even as we embrace the joy of dancing. Please note the current guidelines listed with the details of the dance on the next page.

Membership Matters

New Members

We welcome the following new members to Debonair Dancers

- Walt & Jane Kwant sponsored by Clark & Linda McDonald
- Richard & Deborah Lundgren sponsored by Jim & Robyn Alves
- Ted & Deborah Yamashiro sponsored by Jim & Robyn Alves
- Adam & Kimberley Dallas sponsored by Walt & Adrienne Oxley

We also have 4 returning members, bringing our paid-up member total to 55. At this time last year, membership stood at 50, so we are moving in the right direction as we recover from the lockdown and ensuing protocols.

As always, we urge you to bring guests to our dances. This is by far the best way to recruit new members.

Still No Change of Venue

The IRS is yet to process our application for non-profit, social club status that will allow us to rent a dance facility at a much lower rate. The **Presidents' Column** on page-one explains the consequences of this delay. In the meantime, we remain at the Sunnyvale Community Center.

How to Become a Debonair Decorator

The Debonair Dancers Decoration Committee has an extensive inventory of theme-based decorations. The bins are labeled with themes and materials. There are other bins with a variety of vases and artificial flowers. Past decorators have also used their own decorations that are returned after the dance.

To help (new) club members to understand the decorating process, we suggest that they assist the assigned decorator at a dance. For more info on how to get involved, contact Joyce Malia jamalia@aol.com.

Music Requests

To request a particular dance tune, please send details to Astrid & Eric (music@debonairdancers.org). For a band, the name of the tune is sufficient. For a particular recording to be played by the DJ, you can include the artist and the album. Please do not make requests at the dance.

Email us, info@debonairdancers.org with suggestions or comments regarding the Newsletter.

Dance On,

Editors: Joyce and Campbell Scott

Next Board Meeting

November 2nd at 7:30 pm, hosted by Joyce and Campbell Scott, 405 Montclair Rd. Los Gatos. Members are welcome; send email to info@debonairdancers.org if you wish to attend.

Acorns and leaves are falling; it must be time for Oktoberfest

Sunnyvale Community Center, Orchard Pavilion
550 East Remington, Sunnyvale
7:00-10:30 pm, Friday October. 20th, 2023

Members and new guests: \$140 per couple
Repeat guests: \$160 per couple

- Please follow all CDC and Santa Clara County health requirements, currently (9/15/23) that vaccines, boosters and masking in crowds are recommended, but not required.
- Kindly respect individual choices regarding vaccinations and masking.
- Do not attend the dance if you have any symptoms of illness, even if you test negative.

Beer tasting - 6:15

Attire: Casual, costume optional

Music by DJ Ross Hartman

Buffet Dinner: 7:20 pm

Caesar salad
Rolls, butter, coffee (and decaf), tea
Swiss steak and marinara sauce
Hawaiian pork
Au gratin potatoes
Wild rice
Mixed fall squash
Dessert table

Decorating: Joyce Malia & Chuck Thuener
assisted by Zeny Stanton

Hosting: Joyce & Campbell Scott

Contact regarding reservations:

Email: event@debonairdancers.org
Or call John Taecker, 408-489-6576