

# VERDI CLUB

Newsletter | June 2022



## Upcoming Events

### Verdi Club Events

Saturday, June 11

[Verdi Club Summer of Swing  
Dinner Dance w/ Steve Lucky  
& The Rhumba Bums](#)

Saturday, July 16

[Verdi Club Summer of Swing  
Dinner Dance w/ The  
Cottontails](#)

### Public Events

Wednesday June 8 & 22

[Verdi Comedy Club](#)

Tuesdays

[Woodchopper's Ball](#)

Thursdays

[Milonga Malevaje - Tango](#)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Please read our Sunshine Committee message. We are saddened at the passing of our beloved member Gene Duden. We will keep Gene's family in our prayers.

Benvenuti a tutti!

June kicks off the Verdi Club's Summer of Swing – the bands for the June, July and August dinner dances will all be renowned local swing bands. I can think of no better way to return to normal from this pandemic, than to re-establish social dancing here.

I fell in love with my fiancée (and Verdi Club Board Member and Entertainment Committee Chair) Melissa Mooney, swing dancing at the Verdi Club at the Tuesday night Woodchopper's Ball, which resumed this month after a two-year hiatus. What impressed me about dancing at the Verdi Club was the observation that our dance floor was one of the remaining bastions of good clean fun in a complex, urbane, and often cynical "modern" culture. It was this observation that caused me to join the Verdi Club, and for me, this is why the Verdi Club is so precious.

So Let's Dance Already!

The Anniversary Dinner Dance on May 14 was a rollicking success. Many thanks to our Board and Officers and Staff who made this very special evening possible. If you were lucky enough to have been there, then you know what I mean. If you did not make it to May's Dinner Dance, then buy your tickets now for the June 11, 2022 Dinner Dance – it's the first of three dinner dances in our Summer of Swing program, and this one features Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums, featuring Miss Carmen Gettit. They played at the Woodchopper's Ball in May, and just blew the roof off the place! Our new stage never sounded better.

Get your tickets for the June Dinner Dance, and for all of the Verdi Club's public events at <https://www.verdiclub.net/event-space/> and just click on the event you want to attend.

Cordali Saluti, Samuel Bellicini





## Verdi Club Directory

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### **Vice President**

Mark Schutz 415-641-8759

### **Financial Sec.**

Ed Sutton 415-305-8707

### **Treasurer**

Dennis Davison 415-584-1075

### **Secretary**

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Steve Mullarkey 650-255-3023

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Delores Homisak 650-996-9060

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Bonnie McGregor 415-528-9630

Melissa Mooney 415-505-0036

Annette Schutz 415-652-2130

Steve Mullarkey 650-255-3023

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Ron McGoldrick 415-720-5150

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Delores Homisak 650-996-9060

### **Sunshine Chair**

Annette Schutz 415-652-2130

### **Manager**

Jason Mulvaney 510-543-5030

### **Verdi Club**

415-861-9199

# DINNER DANCE CALENDAR

## Upcoming Dinner Dances

Date	Band	Style	Menu
June 11, 2022	Steve Lucky & The Rhumba Bums	Boogie Woogie/ Swing	Chicken Piccata Porcini Stuffed Ravioli
July 16, 2022	The Cottontails	Swing	Baby Back Ribs Macaroni Gratin w/ Creme Fraiche
August 13, 2022	Alpha Rhythm Kings	Swing	Baked Ziti w/ Italian Sausage Vegetarian Baked Ziti
September 10, 2022	Halsey and the Highhats	Roaring 20's	Grilled Flank Steak w/ Chimichuri Sauce Tortellini w/ Fennel and Mushrooms

\*Please note that the July Dinner Dance will be held on the 3rd Saturday.

## SUMMER OF SWING!

The Verdi Club will be jumpin' and hoppin' as we feature the Bay Area's hottest Swing bands for our Summer of Swing series starting June 11.

### June 11 - [Steve Lucky & The Rhumba Bums](#)



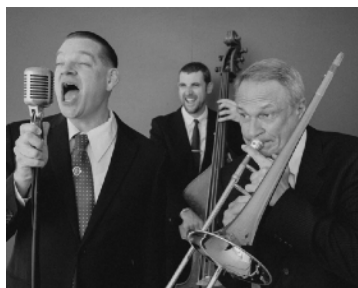
Called "Instant Crowd Favorites" by the San Francisco Blues Festival and "Consummate musicians and entertainers" by New York City's Lincoln Center, Lucky and Getit really shine before a live audience, bringing an intense energy and sheer personal magnetism to the stage, exercising wit in a continuous battle of the sexes. They've earned a reputation as captivating entertainers with "superior musicianship" (Downbeat), engaging audiences at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, the Half Note Jazz Club in Athens, Greece, the San Francisco Blues Festival, as the house band at the Derby in Hollywood, and hundreds of nightclubs, festivals, and performing arts centers around the world.

### July 16 - [The Cottontails](#)



THE COTTONTAILS are one of San Francisco's most exciting musical groups, playing a wide range of styles ranging from 20's/30's Gatsby-era jazz, classic 40's swing, and vintage 50's/60's R&B. The band's versatility allows it to accommodate many settings, from quiet acoustic duo to jazz quintet, to full dance band with horns and guitar. Able to custom tailor our line-up to fit your event's specific needs, the Cottontails are available to perform for parties, weddings, corporate occasions and public concerts.

### August 13 - [The Alpha Rhythm Kings](#)



Swing. Jump Blues. Vintage Lounge. Boogie Woogie.

Established in 2017, the Alpha Rhythm Kings have created quite a stir with music fans, having crafted an exciting, King Size California sound, with what Roots Music Magazine No Depression calls "the badge of authenticity".

The band's top quality musicians, with Robert Dehlinger's "exhilarating" trumpet and "magnetic" singing (Jazz Corner) leading the way, are a favorite with swing dancers, as well as with audiences in nightclubs, festivals and concert halls.



### **Birthdays**

Marco Bass  
Alan Bishop  
Vince Boiteux  
William Cendak  
Donald Dennehy  
Marsha DeScala-Fennell  
Louis Glaser  
Jack Hidalgo  
Ronald McGoldrick  
Lisa Nicol  
William Palma  
Jane Russell-Wisdom  
Mark Schutz  
Robert Spano  
Kristin Wojkowski  
Giuseppe Zumbo

### **Anniversaries**

Mr. & Mrs. George Acri  
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Gawel  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Lenci  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Minto  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Mullarkey  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Panacci  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rodriguez  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Schutz  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Troia

### **Dinner/Dance Set Up Team**

Gino Pettinari, Chair  
Dennis Davison  
Ron and Gloria McGoldrick  
Bonnie McGregor  
Jim and Debbie Poulos  
Annette and Mark Schutz

## **BAND SPOTLIGHT**



### **Steve Lucky & The Rhumba Bums**

Born in Seattle and raised near Detroit, Steve Lucky started playing piano at age eight and was playing and singing professionally by the time he was thirteen. He founded and led the six-piece Blue Front Persuaders through the '80s, playing swing, jump-blues, and '40s and '50s R & B, while living in Ann Arbor and attending the University of Michigan. Their novel sound and wild show was a big draw on the Midwest college circuit, earning them a spot on Star Search and a notable review for one of Lucky's original songs in Billboard magazine.

In 1987 Lucky moved to New York City to play keyboards for Grammy award-winning guitarist and vocalist Johnny Clyde Copeland. During the next five years he was active in the Greenwich Village music scene, was hired to score performance art and theater, and performed with a diverse group of musicians including Joan Osborne, Blues Traveler, and the Spin Doctors.

Sticking to his musical roots, Lucky formed his own band in New York City working the nightclubs and touring throughout Europe. In 1993 he moved to San Francisco and started the Rhumba Bums as a quintet, but admits the band really took shape in '94 with the addition of Miss Carmen Getit on vocals and guitar.

In Carmen's powerful vocals, one can hear echoes of her idols Ruth Brown, Etta James, and Dinah Washington. Miss Getit is a dynamic performer and versatile vocalist, interpreting "slick jazz a la Dinah Washington" or shouting down-and-out blues according to the Ann Arbor Observer.

Miss Getit got her musical start plucking out melodies on the piano before she learned to read. Piano lessons soon followed, and at age ten Carmen began singing and playing acoustic guitar with a group of girl guitarists at her local church. Over fifteen years later Steve Lucky bought her an electric guitar and turned her on to early blues and jazz. In 1998 she recorded a critically acclaimed release with the Rhumba Bums, "Come Out Swingin'!", earning four stars in both Downbeat and Blues Access Magazines and accolades from the press. Getit is recognized for her more swinging styles in Guitar Player Magazine as "smooth and steady", and her grittier blues playing in Experience Hendrix Magazine, where Frank-John Hadley calls Getit "one of the most striking young blues guitarists in the country". You can purchase tickets for the July Dinner Dance [HERE](#)

# HOUSE KEEPING

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## What's New...

Following the Covid -19 two-year hiatus, the Summer of Swing Dinner Dance series commences on Saturday, June 11th. Our Entertainment Chair, Melissa Mooney, has lined up three outstanding bands to aid and abet with our popular Swing Fest. Check Eventbrite to secure your reservations early; the events promise to book early. The Bay Area's swing community knows Verdi's secret weapon – an extraordinary dance floor! We've all heard of the bounce. Couple that with our great bands and we're awesome!

We continue on our quest to provide Verdi women with a comfortable, updated upstairs lounge. The Beauty Bar is nearly complete. It will offer an illuminated, oversized mirror with eventual outlets for curling irons and hairdryers. Additional outlets will provide an opportunity for cell phone charging. We may be 106 years old, but we continue to update our facility to meet today's challenges. The installation of our lush wool-blend carpeting will soon complete the months-long project, a love letter to all the women who visit the Club.

A photo collage is in the planning stages for the 2nd floor adjacent to the Women's Lounge. We look forward to showcasing contemporary photos featuring today's Verdi Club. While we continue to enjoy great vintage visuals of the happenings throughout the years, let's have a space which highlights today's Club. Photos of weddings, receptions, parties of all kinds are welcome, along with dancing and socializing. Keep us in mind by sending photos to [bonnie.mcgregor@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.mcgregor@gmail.com) or [jason@verdiclub.net](mailto:jason@verdiclub.net).

Our furnace (while still working) is long in the tooth and our ballroom and bar spaces are screaming for better air circulation, particularly when parties celebrate with large numbers. Following an extensive vetting process, we are poised to proceed with a new system which will offer state-of-the-art air filtration, heating and cooling. Entering into the contract by the end of June is our goal, carving out Summer time frames for the work. Improving our 1935 Grande Dame has kept the Board and our General Manager at work throughout these past few years.

Once again, remember to get your RSVPs in early for the Dinner Dances. Staffing, food procurement and security considerations are assisted by your early notice.

Thank you!

Warm Regards,

Your Verdi Board





# VERDI CLUB SUMMER OF SWING

SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH

*Featuring*



\$45 MEMBER  
\$90 MEMBER + 1  
\$55 NON-MEMBER

6PM DRINKS  
7PM DINNER  
8PM BAND

## BUFFET MENU

Chicken Piccata  
or  
Porcini Stuffed Ravioli

Wine served with dinner. Additional bottles \$20  
Proof of Vaccination Required

Ticket sales end Thursday, June 9th

Tickets available at [verdidclub.net](http://verdidclub.net)

RSVP by email: [rsvp@verdidclub.net](mailto:rsvp@verdidclub.net)

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# VERDI CLUB SUMMER OF SWING

SATURDAY, JULY 16TH

*Featuring*



\$45 MEMBER  
\$90 MEMBER + 1  
\$55 NON-MEMBER

6PM DRINKS  
7PM DINNER  
8PM BAND

## BUFFET MENU

Baby Back Ribs or  
Five Cheese Macaroni Gratin  
w/ Creme Fraiche Bisquits

Wine served with dinner. Additional bottles \$20  
Proof of Vaccination Required

Ticket sales end Thursday, July 14

Tickets available at [verdiclub.net](http://verdiclub.net)

RSVP by email: [rsvp@verdiclub.net](mailto:rsvp@verdiclub.net)



*"June suns, you cannot store them."*

*-A.E. Housman*

**Gene Duden**  
**December 12, 1921 - April 29, 2022**

Gene Duden was 100 years young when he passed away on April 29th, 2022.

His death was shocking to all of us who loved him. Many of us thought somehow, we would get to see him at the Club forever. His hobby of making cork trivets turned into treasured gifts for many of us.

Gene served in the Navy in World War II. His ship returned to San Francisco. Shortly after, as he would tell the story, he fell in love at first sight with a beautiful woman named Ruth. They married and shared 67 blissful years together. They were blessed with three children – Donna, Debbie and Dennis, their spouses, four grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Gene and Ruth had a passion for dancing and many of those dancing years were spent at the Verdi Club.

I remember him teaching me a dance step in the bar. He made everyone feel special. If you knew Gene you loved him.



*Annette Schutz* - SUNSHINE CHAIR



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