

DANCE WHISPERS

National Smooth Dancers, Inc.

LOS ANGELES
PARENT CHAPTER

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Publication of
N. S. D., Inc.



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

2010

Liz Bradford, Editor



IT'S CONVENTION TIME

By now you should be packing to depart for San Francisco for the 2010 State Convention hosted by the Golden Gate Chapter. If you are flying and wish to use the free shuttle to the hotel, be sure to call (650) 570-5700 and let them know your arrival time.

Festivities get under way on Friday afternoon, September 3 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 1221 Chess Dr., Foster City, CA with hospitality starting at 2:00 PM.

The Convention is being Co-chaired by Barbara Crawford, Gabrielle von Stephens and Gordon Robinson, who is also assisting Bob Fragomeni as Finance Chairman. Sue Robinson is serving as Convention Secretary and Rita Parma is handling reservations.

Elizabeth Hage is in charge of the Crown Circle Luncheon while Bill Hage and Herb Chow are heading up arrangements for the Gavel Club Luncheon.

The competition chairmen are Igor and Nadia Tilinin, and Joe Malta will serve as music man.

Barbara Crawford is coordinating decorations while Chuck Talmadge will be the Props Construction Supervisor. Emma Steed and Barbara Crawford are doing costume design and construction.

George Dayeh is in charge of publications and Phil Brown will handle the music equipment. Gabrielle von Stephens is in charge of trophies and the professional dance demonstrators.

The hospitality bar will be serviced by Ray Crosat and Ben Cardinalli.

In addition to all of these assignments, each event will have a Coordinator as follows:

Welcome Hospitality - Bob Fragomeni; Friday Evening - Dan and Amy Ansaldi; Saturday Afternoon - Chuck and Liz Talmadge; Saturday Evening - Barbara Crawford, Amy Ansaldi and June Long; Sunday

Afternoon - George and Ana Dayeh; Sunday Evening - Joe and Elena Malta.

Choreography by Emma Steed assisted by Ed Bellin and Monday Morning - Phil and Maurine Brown.

This is definitely a team effort with just about the entire chapter participating in some way. All we have to do is show up and enjoy ourselves.

San Francisco always puts on a great convention. You won't want to miss it!



CORONATION

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 29, 2011 for our Coronation Ball to be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Monrovia. All events will be held under one roof at 700 W. Huntington Dr., in Monrovia.

BLACK & WHITE BALL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2010

1:30-4:30 P.M.

Refreshments 3:45 P.M.

EL MONTE SENIOR CENTER

3130 N Tyler Ave. El Monte, California

Live Music by Dolores Moore Admission \$12.00

Reservations: Susan Johnson 2328 Loma Vista St.
Pasadena, CA 91104 (626) 794-1101

Los Angeles Chapter Social Calendar

Friday, September 3-6

Convention - San Francisco

Sunday, Sept. 121:00 PM

"Roaring Twenties" - El Monte

Sunday, October 101:00 PM

Black & White Ball - El Monte

Sunday, November 14 1:00 PM

Thanksgiving Dance - El Monte

Sunday, December 5 ..1:00 PM

Christmas Party - El Monte

Saturday, January 29, 2011

Coronation Ball - Monrovia



SEPTEMBER DANCE

On Sunday, September 12, our dance theme will be "Roaring 20's". The meeting will start at 1:00 P.M. A lesson will follow and then general dancing to Ray Bradford's music played by Liz. Expect some nostalgic tunes.

The El Monte Senior Center is located at 3120 Tyler Ave., El Monte. Ample parking is available in the rear. The price for members and guests is \$12.00 and light refreshments will be served about 3:45 P.M.

Checks should be made payable to NSD and sent to Susan Johnson, 2328 Loma Vista St., Pasadena, CA 91104. Dress in the spirit if you have a straw hat and vest for gentlemen and flapper style dresses for the ladies.

BLACK & WHITE BALL

Our annual Black and White Ball will be held at the El Monte Senior Center on Sunday, October 10. There will be a short business meeting at 1:00 P.M. followed by general dancing.

Live music will be provided by Delores Moore.

The price is \$12.00 per person. Make checks payable to NSD and send to Susan Johnson at the address above. If you can come at the last minute, please call Susan at (626) 794-1101 and let her know, so she can plan on the refreshments.

This is a dressy event and combinations of black and/or white would be appropriate.



**Party Line
...by Liz**

Eleanor Terry joined a group of dancing friends for a cruise of the Danube River. She flew to Frankfurt and on to Prague to board the boat.

Several of our members attended the Palomar Coronation but managed to get back for our regular July Dance.

Gordon and Chris Lloyd traveled to North Carolina for a family reunion. They visited Kittyhawk and Cape Hatteras. We missed them at the July Dance.

We extend our Sympathy to Susan Johnson on the passing of her father.

Joy Michaels and Bea Gaspar have been enjoying the activities of "The Red Hat Society" including luncheons, shows and a trip to the aquarium in Long Beach.

Steve Olowiany was hospitalized for three weeks with heart problems. He is also recovering from a foot problem. He and Tina plan to attend the Convention with some added stops along the way.

It was nice to see Timothy Stocks and Don and Renee Haight at our August party. Renee ended up helping in the kitchen as usual.

Shun and Dottie Ling enjoyed a cruise to Alaska

We have missed the Deans. Doreen spent 3 weeks in England visiting family and friends. Bill Stayed home and took care of himself. He says he can do that because he used to be a Boy Scout.

21 people from Los Angeles went to San Francisco for the Convention, some by air and some driving.

This will be the 50th Convention I have attended since joining the club in 1957. Our 1st convention was "Golden Gate in '58" which included such things as a picnic with a baseball game and one competition - the 4 Star (at that time only American.) There have been many changes over the years but it's still great fun.

NEW MEMBERS

Maria Steinke who is Andy Anderson's partner is known to many of us having attended NSD events for some time. She was a Savings Counselor and her hobbies include reading, movies, plays, music, opera, dance and travel.

She belongs to a Viennese Club, Swinging Seniors, Joslyn Adult Center and the Moose Lodge. She is a busy lady, and we are glad to have her join us.

Her address is 340 E. Harvard Rd. #308, Burbank, CA 91502. Phone (818) 729-9082.

Maria was sponsored by Andy Anderson and Chuck and Susan Johnson.

We are happy to welcome Allan and Lesley Scott into the Los Angeles Chapter. They were members of the San Fernando Chapter for many years where Allan is a past president.

Allan is a retired Glazing Contractor. He was a charter member of the San Diego Chapter and is a member of the Elks. He is a former competitor and a great dancer. He and Lesley have been married almost 30 years. He loves to travel especially in their Motor Home.

Lesley has just recently retired as an Instructional Associate. Besides dancing she enjoys tennis, sewing, photography, computing and of course traveling and camping with Allan.

Their address is 177F Riverside Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663. Phone (949) 642-5182.

They were sponsored by Liz Bradford, and Roger and Susan Lewis. We are delighted to have them as members of the Los Angeles Chapter.



RED, WHITE & BLUE

A small but enthusiastic group enjoyed our Patriotic Dance on July 11 at the El Monte Senior Center.

Susan Johnson handled the reservations and decorated the tables with bright vases of red, white and blue flowers. All of those attending joined in the spirit with outfits in various combinations of the color scheme. John and Genevieve Lucas had top hats besides.

At the business meeting we voted in new members Maria Steinke and Allan and Lesley Scott. Social Chairman, Susan Johnson confirmed our dates for the rest of the year and announced that our Coronation will be held on Saturday, January 29 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Monrovia.

After the meeting, the Johnsons did a fun dance lesson in the Greek Circle dance to Never on Sunday.

Chuck played great music for dancing with two lively mixers. Refreshments were lemon bundt cake with ice cream cups. Susan Lewis helped with serving and cleanup. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

TEAM MATCH

The following members will be representing Los Angeles at the Convention Friday night Team Match. Waltz - Chuck and Susan Johnson; Fox Trot - Ken and Marion Scholz; Rhumba - Joy Michaels and George Zimmerman; Tango - Don and Renee Haight; Swing - Roger and Susan Lewis; and Cha Cha - Gordon and Chris Lloyd. Kyle Catterlin will be the judge.

Other members attending will be rooting for our team at the "Bay to Breakers" event.

DEADLINE

Deadline for the next issue of Dance Whispers is October 15. Send copy to Liz Bradford 9904 Norlain Ave. Downey, CA 90240.(562) 928-5505 or FAX (562) 927-2858.

Dance Whispers is the publication of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Smooth Dancers, a non profit organization devoted to the preservation and promotion of ballroom dancing, and is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September and November.

**LOS ANGELES CHAPTER
WEB SITE**

www.nationalsmoothdancers.com



LUAU PARTY

Our Hawaiian Party on August 8 was a festive occasion with a nice turnout of members and guests.

Roger and Susan Lewis brought decorations including 9 ft. high palm trees for the stage and large shells and greenery for the tables.

At the business meeting, our three new members - Maria Steinke and Allan and Lesley Scott were initiated. Gordon Lloyd was appointed to be our 5th delegate along with our Board Members and President. Ken Scholz was appointed to the Dance Rules Committee.

Victor Lee and Debby Ku gave us a demonstration of intricate cha cha patterns and then taught them in the class.

Susan Lewis had prepared a beautiful program of Hawaiian music with great dance tempos. She had a Fox Trot and Rhumba mixer.

Susan Johnson handled the reservations and the refreshments.

She served chicken salad sandwiches along with assorted chips and watermelon brought by Victor and Debby. Chuck Johnson made the sandwiches. Maria had brought a lovely layered cake in celebration of Andy Anderson's 94th birthday. Andy had a slow week - he only danced four times! He is an inspiration to all of us. He was a charter member of the San Diego Chapter.

All of the brightly flowered dresses and shirts added to the atmosphere of this fun party.

**STATEWIDE
ACTIVITIES**
September 3-6, 2010
State Convention
San Francisco
November 6, 2010
San Fernando Valley
Coronation

SAN FERNANDO

Mark Emanuelli, Editor

BAKERSFIELD

Rosie Munoz, Editor

GREETINGS!

Good Morning, Evening or whenever you are reading your copy of the Whispers! I hope you are all doing well, dancing whenever you can, and having a great time!

The dog days of summer are here and SFV is planning for its trip to the Convention in Golden Gate. We will be fielding a team (of sorts) for the team match, a sight not to be missed! We've also got a few diehard competitors on their way up, as well as our beautiful queen-for-a-day, and we hope to represent the SFV in style!

Next on my laundry list is a placeholder for 06 November 2010 (our Coronation for the next SFV Chapter Queen). We don't have a name to publish as of this writing, but we hope to have a queen-elect in the very near future. We are planning to repeat some of the logistics from last year - a repeat of the wonderful hospitality at the Lazar's home, followed by dinner and dancing at the Hollywood Academy on its 3000 sq. ft. floor. Rooms are at the Airtel, but the breakfast brunch is TBD. Stay tuned if anyone is used to changing plans, it's SFV.

MONTHLY DANCES

That should segue nicely into a reminder to come down and attend one of our monthly dances, if you are in the neighborhood. The split dance floor is working beautifully - keeping 3000 sq. ft. for the main floor, and creating a second "practice" floor of about 800-1000 sq ft. so that if you want to practice a few moves, you can be out of the mainstream line of dance.

Our monthly dance in September is suspended due to the Convention, but dances will continue on the first Saturday of the month in October.

Oct. 2 - Mark Emanuelli DJ
November 6 (Coronation)
James Woo DJ. Mark Emanuelli
- MC

December 5 (Holiday Dance)
James Woo DJ.

We also have a new DJ, Piero, who plays a GREAT mix of music; he premiered with us on August 7, and will be in our standard rotation in 2011.

Keep up to date at: www.nsdsv.org. Any NSD member from ANY chapter always pays our member prices.

EVENT PRICING

A quick reminder on our pricing.

Nonmember "Guest" donations \$14.00 per person.

NSD Members \$10.00 (All NSD memberships are valid - join us if you are in town.)

Participating Members - only \$5.00. (SFV Members in attendance at the beginning of our business meeting at 6:00 PM.)

That about wraps things up from the northern basin of the southland. We are looking forward to having you all at our Coronation in November, and we can't wait to see you all again at the Golden Gate Convention. We're ready to leave our Hearts in San Francisco!

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Dance Rules. Brian Yip



TG Thomas

Bakersfield Smooth Dancers is honored to have TG as our President. Before his term is over, I think it would be nice to reflect on some of his accomplishments.

TG has been dancing off and on for the past 30 years, but it's only been in the past six years that he has made significant progress. He attributes this primarily as a result of his affiliation with BSD.

TG served two Western Pacific tours with the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. After separating from the Navy, he completed a Bachelor's Degree in Biology at UC Riverside. He completed a DVM at Ohio State University and after three years of private practice, he returned to active duty in the U.S. Army. There he completed a Masters Degree in Public Health. In 1996 he retired from the Army as a Lt. Colonel.

TG began a new career as a Community College Professor in Odessa, Texas, and then in Fort Worth, Texas. To be closer to his daughters (and now two grandchildren), he took a position at Bakersfield College where he currently teaches Microbiology, Anatomy and Physiology.

TG has no plans for retiring from teaching any time soon, but he certainly intends to continue dancing and be active in NSD for many years to come.

MID SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

The July dance was hosted by Kay Boyer and Karl Goesele. Emcee Steve Peterson and their committee of 14 did a great job.

The spotlight featured Kay Boyer and Josh Harless dancing a night club two-step followed by Rose and Steve Peterson with another version of the dance. Both couples were equally very entertaining.

Scrumptious cake and ice cream were served.

SUMMER DANCE

Frances Hein hosted the June dance with TG Thomas as the emcee. In the spotlight for the evening was Bernice Fiole and James Minyard. While James strummed his guitar, he and Bernice sang a poetic song "The Rose". Immediately after, they were dancing a bolero to the tune of "Titanic". Bernice added her own creative styling and the performance was just magnificent.



IN MEMORY

Thanh Truong passed away early in July. He was a good-natured man and an excellent smooth dancer. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Bao and the family.

Our sympathy also goes out to Dorothy Vaughan. Her husband, Richard, lost his battle with Alzheimers.

CORRECTIONS TO OFFICER'S LIST

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VISALIA

Carol Bixler, Editor

All things came together to make this year's Luau a really beautiful evening, even some tropical like weather with gentle rain at the Exeter Memorial Building.

I must tell you that I was honored to work with Caryl Creason (co-chair), Don Hanson, Margo Giles, Linda and Johnny Guiterrez, Chriss and Don Laursen, Cheryl Levitan on music, and my husband David. This group reminded me of why I enjoy Smooth Dancers so much. What a giving group of people. Margo was just recovering from foot surgery and Linda had to take time off work to prepare the meal. The food these two presented was absolutely fantastic this year. Caryl wrangled with reservations, rounded up a nice number of people to attend and handled the emcee duties. Don was there hauling in 100 lbs. of ice when the ice machine broke down. (not to mention that he cleans everything in the kitchen!) Cheryl not only played great music, but was gracious enough to use the Hawaiian DJ hut that David built for the Luau. I am promising David that I will stop coming up with crazy ideas for decorating. Don and Chriss managed the entry table which is no easy feat.

Don Goss started the evening off with an excellent Samba lesson. He taught basic steps that would be useful in any social setting.

I enjoyed our entertainment so much and hope that the rest of the group did as well. Hans and Vitya Kam are a delightful young couple who live in Clovis and are competing as amateurs. They performed four beautifully executed dances for the club, samba, Cha Cha, Rumba and Jive. They are both through college now and are working as professionals, but their passion is ballroom dance.

All in all what more could you ask for, great food, great music and great friends.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

Stan Medina, incoming Vice President and Cheryl Levitan, incoming Secretary were officially sworn in for the 2010-2011 year. Stan's contact information is P.O. Box 154, Corcoran, 93212. Phone (559) 972-1872. Cheryl may be reached at 5630 W. Delaware, Visalia, 93291 Phone (559) 739-8008.

VSD SUMMER EVENTS

Cheryl and Dean Levitan hosted "Club NSD" August 14th at Exeter Memorial Building. This nightclub theme has been a popular event with our club. Eileen Chavez's Formation Team performed for the event. Our last dance for the summer was the Fiesta Tea Dance, also hosted by Cheryl and Dean at the Visalia Odd Fellows Hall.

COMING EVENTS

"Hot Cuban Nights" potluck social on Saturday September 11 will be hosted by Jaime and June Aguet at Exeter Memorial Building. Robert Taylor of the Cellar Door in Visalia will teach a Salsa Lesson.

The Anniversary Ball, honoring our 35th year, will be held October 16 at the Exeter Memorial Building. 6:30 PM social hour, catered dinner 7:00 PM (\$30.00 per person - \$40.00 after October 2). Call Margaret Moholt (559) 636-0643. We are excited to have Ben and Wendy Wilson perform at this event.

SAVE THIS DATE

Plans are underway for our clubs exciting Christmas Formal "Dreaming of a White Christmas", under the leadership of Lona and Bill Dolan to be held Saturday December 4 in Visalia. Once again they have arranged amazing entertainment, Felipe and Carolina Telona, who are World Rhythm Finalists and World Showcase Champions. The price of the catered event will be \$40.00 per person until Nov. 20 thereafter \$50.00. Contact Bill and Lona at (559) 635-8238.

FRESNO

Kevin McCready, Editor



DANCING QUEEN REPORT

Kathy Constantino

Palomar had a fantastic Coronation! The theme was "Dancing for the Stars with Joy" honoring Marsha Hanson as their new Queen. We started the weekend with hospitality at Ocean Hills Country Club in Oceanside. It was a perfect time to renew old friendships and make new ones. We returned to the same location to attend the Coronation in the evening. The room was aglow with candlelight and stars. The cocktail reception had wonderful hors d'oeuvres and a chance to greet more friends.

The Coronation was first, and the Queens carried bouquets of colorful orange and yellow flowers. Marsha and Peter's grandchildren, Tabatha and Adam, did a perfect job on their roles in the ceremony. Peter and Marsha performed a beautiful waltz to the song "True Love". They always manage to bring a tear, it was wonderful.

Later in the evening we were treated to some very special entertainment by Visalia's Bill and Lona Dolan. They did a lively fox trot, a fiery bolero and finished with a waltz/tango. Sunday morning we met at another beautiful country club to say farewell to Queen Peggy Lee. After a delicious breakfast and many pictures it was time to bid farewell. We had beautiful weather and a wonderful weekend. It's GOOD to be Queen.

Editors Note: Kathy and Rick were supported by Bob and Sue Dowell and Kathy Sachse and Kevin McCready.

TRAVEL

While in Southern California Rick and Kathy traveled to Laguna Beach to see the Masterpiece, Live Art Exhibit. Bob and Sue traveled on to Palm Desert with Bill and Lona who were entered into a dance competition.

2011 CONVENTION

This month our emphasis has been the preparation of the presentation we will be putting on at the farewell breakfast at the 2010 Golden Gate Convention being held in Foster City this coming Labor Day

Much recruiting of participants, preparing a script, making costumes and props, under the direction of Kathy Sachse, have been taking place. This activity is culminating with a series of "dress rehearsals" which began on July 26th and will continue on August 23rd and 31st. We are happy with the chapter's cooperation and enthusiasm.

SOCIAL AND DANCE EVENTS

In June our monthly theme was "Fathers Day Dancing" and was hosted by Lorraine Tilton assisted by her Committee, Dennis Drew, Lorrie Navarro, Sharon Chrisp and Kathy Sachse. The music was played by Sarah Vigen. We thank them for their support.

In July everyone went to a picnic that was hosted by Jeff and Cyndee Danner with help from Linda Bennett and Kathy Sachse. For the event live entertainment was provided by Guy Ashby and Kathy Page with fabulous performances of Argentine style dances.

We are starting a new event that will be replacing our "An Affair to Remember". Our first "Harvest Ball" will be held on Saturday, October 2nd, 2010 at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church Social Hall. Dancing will be to recorded music. The

event will start with a No Host bar at 6:30 P.M. Dress will be "Black Tie Optional".

Entertainment by Dmitry Kochkin, Franco Peraza and Mary Short.

Other upcoming monthly socials held at the Clovis Senior Center on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 4:00 P.M. are: September 19th "National Ballroom Month" and October 17th "Halloween Party".

OTHER NEWS

In the last issue we had good news to report, unfortunately for this issue Fresno Chapter has not been that lucky. We have lost a number of former members and friends who have been long time supporters. Oleta Rush was our Queen in 1999. Harriett Aloojian was a music and voice teacher who worked closely with our convention group in 1992 and 1999 helping us to fashion songs for our convention presentations.

We also lost Bud Williams and a long time supporter Tad Kenemoto. We also send our condolences to a current member, Leo Garcia, on the loss of a second brother.

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Our sincere apologies to our lovely Chapter Queen and State Queen-elect Amy on the misspelling of her last name in the June edition of the Whispers. Her husband Dan tells me that the family name Ansaldi is Italian, probably of Tuscan origin. It is a lovely name and our regrets that we did not spell it correctly.

We are getting close to Convention time and everyone in the Chapter has redoubled their efforts to accomplish all the other tasks that need to be done to put on a high quality event. Dan and Amy are working our tails off practicing the Big Friday Night Welcome Pageant, choreographed down to the last step, the last movement by this most talented impresarios. Now if all of us players in this drama just don't mess up!

COSTUMES

Barbara Crawford and Emma Steed have designed, cut out and sewn together the brilliant costumes to be worn by our Lady Dancers. So now the Convention will not only have a sizzling dance routine by a dozen of our loveliest beauties, but they will also have these fancy duds for them to wear!

PICNIC

The July 4th Celebration at Joe and Elena Malta's home this year included many of the members of our Chapter. The weather in Burlingame was ideal for a picnic, with temperatures in the mid to high 80's during the afternoon. I've never seen so much wonderful food, with of course, the refreshments to go with them. Thank goodness we do a lot of dancing or we would soon show the effects of such a lavish life style.

Recently, Elena and Joe Malta and your Editor and his Elizabeth drove north of here to Yountville in the wine country for a very special dinner which for us was a gift from our daughter. We stayed overnight as the dinner began at 7:00 PM and we left the restaurant at 11:00 PM. The restaurant was the French

Laundry, and the four of us had their tasting menu, small dishes of exquisitely prepared food. We have never had such an extended or expensive meal.

After dinner we walked to our accommodations just a short distance away. The heat of the day had given away to a pleasant nighttime, and we fell into bed and slept like babies. The following day, after a lavish breakfast at our Inn, we spent several hours driving around the Napa County area enjoying the countryside and the miles and miles of vineyards, so green and lovely and so prosperous, and then home over the Golden Gate Bridge and back into the beautiful fog. Such a lovely, wonderful weekend.

We are fortunate to have welcomed Jon and Gail Sellaro several months ago as new members. The two of them met at an Arthur Murray Party. They recently celebrated their 25th anniversary with a cruise on Holland American to Barcelona, Italy and Greece, winding up in Venice, everyone's favorite vacation spot. But their most enjoyable vacation was in 1998 when they visited Milan rented a car for a week and drove all over Italy with another couple. Fortunately Jon speaks some Italian, although in his very humble way, he tells me that he doesn't speak it very well.

Les and Rosa Lin just returned from Amsterdam where they went for the wedding of their dear daughter Vivien. Rosa tells us that the weather was unbearably hot, but none-the-less the wedding which took place on an excursion craft on the Amsterdam River was absolutely beautiful. Her two sons and two grandchildren were also there as was the grooms family. One of the many highlights of the occasion was the evening party and dance for 200. Les gave his daughter away, but then he also gained a wonderful son-in-law in return. When Elizabeth and I picked up Les and Rosa at the airport

when they returned home, they were still glowing from this lovely event.

MEMBER NEWS

Unfortunately our dear Rosalie Wolf recently slipped and fell and injured her face severely. While she had major black and blue areas on her face, luckily she did not break anything. She was at the August dance enjoying everyone's company, and even got in a very short dance. Our members were all very pleased to see her, and we all sang Happy Birthday to her.

We were also very pleased to see some familiar faces returning after an extended absence. These included former members Sam and Asako Chan who arranged to bring an entire table, as did George and Annette Leung. George and Annette are very supportive of our activities and often bring a number of guests. .

It is often surprising to see the other side of a person one only knows from the dance floor. For instance, we know Nadia Tilinin is a superb dancer but did you know that she is also an excellent cook and baker, as well as a dedicated gardener. But back to her baking; her chocolate bundt cake is a gift from the heavens and I am so grateful to have shared her extraordinary chocolate cake.

CONVENTION

By the time you read this, one of the best Conventions you have ever experienced will be over and the Golden Gate Chapter will have come through with a winner, despite the limited seating of the Ballroom at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. This is the result of the combined efforts of our President Elena Malta, Convention Co-chairs Barbara Crawford and Gabrielle von Stephens, the very well organized Gordon Robinson, our Godfather, Bob Fragomeni and many others too numerous to mention. And of course the efforts of all of us that participated and had the time of our life!

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Mark Chapman, Editor

We were all saddened last month by the loss of one of our longtime San Diego chapter members, Wanda Thomas. I'm sure many of you have known Harold and Wanda through the years; they joined NSD back in the mid '60s. Kao has known them a long time, and she always enjoyed dancing with Harold at our socials – Wanda was very gracious about sharing her excellent dance partners with the single ladies. When Kao and I were married back in 2005, Harold and Wanda were there to celebrate with us at the reception we held at Champion. I also remember watching them perform on at least one occasion at a showcase or a social – an American fox trot.

Wanda was a lovely lady and she and Harold made an elegant couple, whether performing together or just dancing socially. Beginning about five years ago Wanda's health began to decline, and although she and Harold continued attending our socials for awhile longer she gradually became unable to dance. Eventually they were unable even to make it to our socials, and we all missed their presence very much. For five years now Harold has devoted himself to caring for Wanda as her loving husband and companion. On July 6th, Wanda passed away, she was 85 years old, and she and Harold had been married for 54 years. Wanda served as the NSD State Queen in 1968 and as San Diego Chapter Queen in 1979 and 1980. We will always miss her gracious presence in our chapter.

At our annual luau celebration in August we were all very pleased to have Harold back with us and to be able to introduce him to the newcomers that evening. Harold looked relaxed and pleased to be back at Champion, but he professed to "not being able to remember how to dance". Knowing what a great dancer he was Kao didn't

believe that for a minute, so we had him sit at our table and she pulled him out to the dance floor several times during the evening. She happily confirms that he is still a wonderful dancer, just as she remembered from five years ago. I'm sure we're all going to help to make sure Harold feels at home again – we're very glad to have him back with us.

Speaking of mixers and ladies, our chapter tried a new approach to making sure all the ladies get to dance as much as possible during the evening. At our luau social, we passed blue leis out to all ladies – members and guests alike – who were without a dancing escort. Then in the course of the evening in addition to our usual mixers, we had two "blue lei" dances in which all the chapter men made sure every lady with a blue lei had a partner before the rest of the ladies were paired up. Based on the general buzz since the social it seems like this worked very well and pleased the ladies a great deal. It looks like this will be a permanent feature of our socials henceforth, and it will be fun to see how our social committee ladies incorporate the "blue lei" concept into various party themes.

Four fantastic ladies who really can't say "No" have stepped up to the plate once again, this time to organize the Sunday social for the Golden Gate convention. We have 22 members going to the convention from San Diego, so Patricia, Kay, Ann and Caron should have plenty of support as they coordinate a really fine afternoon for the lucky convention participants. We know the convention will be a blast, and it was good to hear that all the packages have been sold, with a waiting list. Congratulations to Golden Gate for a successful registration effort! I look forward to having heard a great many stories about the wonderful time everyone had at the convention.

PALOMAR

Don Hubbard, Editor



**Queen Elect
Marsha Hanson**

"I have heard that being Queen is better the second time around", remarked Queen Elect Marsha Hanson, Palomar's new Queen is referring to her experience as State Queen in 2000. She is looking forward to renewing friendships and enjoying hospitality and dancing at each of the other chapters' coronations. In addition to her many experiences as State Queen, she and husband Peter were American Smooth Champions 1993, 1994, and 2000.

CORONATION

What a party! What a happy time! Palomar's Coronation was everything that we had hoped it would be. "Dancing to the Stars with Joy" began with a hospitality party at the Ocean Hills Country Club under the direction of Social Chairperson Helen Kergen.

The Ballroom was decorated with an arch adorned with silver and gold stars and white sheer puffed drapery to represent the sky and soft clouds. Eight reigning Queens in lovely white gowns and tiaras flanked Queen Elect Marsha Hanson. The Crown Bearer was Grandson, Adam Hanson, the Flower Bearer, Granddaughter, Tabitha Holston. As customary, the new Queen and husband performed an excellent waltz routine. They were soon joined by the eight reigning Queens

and their escorts, and then the ballroom was filled as all former Queens and escorts also were invited into the celebration.

WITH SYMPATHY

Our original Queen Elect Pat Poesti has found it necessary to rescind her commitment as Queen Elect in order to care for someone very special in her life who is seriously ill. As a former nurse, she has been at his side day and night to give him that care. Our prayers are for his recovery.

DANCE COMPETITION

Joyce and Don Radesky won the American Waltz Competition as the Infinity Ballroom in San Diego recently, dancing to the music "I Had a Dream". At a Showcase on July 24 at the Infinity before an audience, Joyce and Don repeated their performance with the other San Diego Champions.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Charles Carr of San Diego, and Stan Jarrett of Oceanside. Charles, originally of Cleveland Ohio is a long time resident of Rancho Bernardo. He is a retired computer programmer, having worked 22 years as a civilian for the U.S. Navy. His hobbies include dancing, which Charles has done most of his life, and off road vehicles for use in the desert. He has three sons and seven grandsons, all living in San Diego.

Stan Jarrett, originally of Binghamton, New York, has lived in the North County for over thirty years. He is a retired manufacturing engineer having spent many years with General Atomics. His main hobby is dancing which he has enjoyed since he was a teenager.

SENIOR FOLLIES

Joyce and Don Radesky, along with many members of the San Diego Chapter NSD, recently attended the Senior Follies held at the Lyceum Theatre in San Diego. The show was fantastic, with lots of singing and dancing depicting past high school prom years.