

*National Smooth Dancers*  
***Dance Whispers***  
*March 2012*



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## Los Angeles Coronation a Beautiful Event

Queen Lesley gets handover from Queen Joy

edited by Joy Michaels

On January 28, the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Monrovia was transformed into a “Broadway Stars” opening for the Queen Elect Lesley Scott.

Reigning Queens and other guests were treated to hospitality in the afternoon with wine, soft drinks, sandwiches, salads and dessert.

The coronation ceremony started with the reigning queens entering the ballroom to the tune of “Dancing Queen” and were introduced by Roger Lewis. Susan Lewis was the crown bearer. Allan Scott had been ill and it was touch and go whether he would be able to escort Lesley, but he came through with flying colors and was able to be her escort, although not dancing. After Lesley was crowned by outgoing Queen Joy Michaels, all of the Reigning Queens and past Queens from all chapters did a Queens’ Dance. Barbara Greenlaw and Bill Steeber did a wonderful Argentine Tango exhibition for the Honor Dance. A delicious dinner followed. Special entertainment was provided by the “Dance Now” dance group from the San Fernando Valley Chapter. Music for the evening was provided by David Moorhouse, who played waltz and foxtrot mixers and many requests. In fact, people were still dancing when the crew came to pick up the floor! Thanks to Chuck and Susan Johnson for handling the hotel arrangements, decorations and all that is entailed to make a coronation a success.

The Sunday morning breakfast was a bountiful buffet. Remarks were made as Queen Lesley presented the outgoing Queen’s Trophy to Joy Michaels. People were still visiting long after finishing eating – a sure indication that they were enjoying themselves.

The first coronation of the new year is always a great time to exchange hugs and greetings and catch up with good friends. There was a nice turn out of attendees from around the State to help Lesley celebrate her new reign.

**Queen’s Report.** Triple Crown – that is awesome. Having been the recipient of my third reign as Queen of Los Angeles National Smooth Dancers, I was saddened to have it end. Who would have thought the dream of a young girl wanting to be Queen of the Pasadena Rose Parade would manifest itself into three wonderful terms as queen of a ballroom dance organization? The members of all the chapters of NSD have been so wonderful to George and me and each venue has had a special “memory” for us. Although “third time is the charm” we plan to continue attending as many coronations as possible in the coming years – supporting the wonderful organization that National Smooth Dancers is – and keeping the marvelous friendships we’ve acquired over the years. Thank you everyone and I hope Queen Lesley will enjoy the rewards of being NSD Royalty. (con’t. pg.2)



Queen Lesley Scott & Alan Scott



Lesley, Roger & Susan Practicing



Retiring Queen Joy Receiving Gift



Queens and Escorts at 2012 Coronation



Los Angeles Chapter Attendees

**Other news.** Liz Bradford took a cruise through the Panama Canal on the Crystal Symphony. A ziplining excursion in Costa Rica was exciting! Chuck and Susan Johnson enjoyed a free cruise to the Mexican Riviera on Carnival as compensation for the loss of their prior cruise when the engine failed and they were stranded for 4 days at sea. George Zimmerman and Joy Michaels cruised to the Caribbean ports of Cayman Islands, Roatan, Cozumel and Belize with Joy’s sister and husband and a cousin and his wife.

Ken and Marion Scholtz were on a teaching cruise to Argentina and Brazil, stopping in Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro for some free time and sightseeing. They had a fun time taking Argentine tango lessons and dancing at clubs at each venue to the tango and samba. They are also excited to welcome their first grandchild – Jerome (Romey) in Bellingham, Washington.

Roger and Susan Lewis welcomed their second great grandchild (Zeppelin). They have also been named as club Sweethearts, to represent the round dance club they attend, at the yearly Sweetheart Ball put on by the California Square Dance Association.

Bea Gaspar has been sidelined for awhile with shingles. Hopefully a full recovery will be forthcoming soon.

Sadly, we have lost three more long time members. Andy Funtsch passed away in his sleep. Vera has moved to a smaller unit, which is closer to all activities. She would enjoy hearing from friends. Jan Russell died within three weeks of being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Our sympathy to Don and family. And Steve Olowiany passed on February 13. His transplanted heart gave out after many years. Our sympathies to his family as well.

Our February dance was a celebration of the Chinese New Year with Asian food being furnished by Victor Lee and Debby Ku. At the meeting, Susan Johnson’s resignation as social chairman was accepted and Sandy Wells was nominated and elected as new social chairman. The dance was also sponsored by Jodene Catterlin in honor of Kyle’s birthday and Joy Michaels in honor of George Zimmerman’s birthday.

**Announcements.** LA President Kyle Catterlin announced two changes with major impact on the statewide organization. Home Office Secretary Pat DiSessa (SD) tendered her resignation from that role after serving for over six years and doing a terrific job. Her presence at Board and Delegates Meetings will be missed. Former Board of Directors president Steve Moore said “Pat is our inimitable Home Secretary...and we will miss her so much.... Pat is our precious treasure to occupy our book of NSD memories.” As most of you know, Pat received the Gavel Club Award at the 2011 Convention, marking the respect she has and deserves throughout the organization. Thank you Pat. Filling her shoes will be another very capable person, Susan Johnson (LA).



Pat DiSessa

As Liz Bradford commented in the last issue, she is taking leave of the work she has done so well for so long, producing Dance Whispers. She was recognized at the last LA chapter business meeting for her fine work, with an orchid presented to her by corresponding secretary Jodene Catterlin. Kyle appointed Joy Michaels as editor for LA, and as a separate role Don Haight will be publisher/producer for the statewide letter, assisted by Chuck Johnson. - DH.



Jodene and Liz

## NSD Statewide Event Calendar

- March 23 Board Meeting - Bakersfield
- April 14 Golden Gate Coronation
- May 19 Visalia Coronation
- June 2 Fresno Coronation
- July 14 Palomar Coronation
- August 31 Convention - SFV/Palm Desert

Make plans now for these wonderful events. See your friends again and enjoy the music and dance we all love. We look forward to seeing you there.

# San Diego Coronation Fun for All

edited by Denise White

## Queen Mary retires as Queen Shirley returns to the role

**Coronation of 2012 Queen Shirley McCloskey.** On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the San Diego Chapter crowned Shirley McCloskey as their 2012 Queen.

Shirley was born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley of California. She received her education in pharmacy from the University of the Pacific in Stockton. She has a son, Will, a granddaughter, Sabella, and four sisters, all of whom she dearly loves. She moved to San Diego in 2007 to increase her opportunity to dance! Shirley works full time as a pharmacist at Scripps Hospital and has always enjoyed her work as a pharmacist.

Shirley is happily looking forward to representing San Diego Smooth Dancers as Queen in 2012. Shirley is grateful for NSD, for the many friends it has brought into her life, and for the opportunity it provides her to dance with freedom and passion among friends who share a passion for dance!

Fittingly, Shirley chose "Celebrate Dance ... the ultimate freedom!" as the theme for her coronation. The ballroom shimmered in turquoise, white and silver as SDDS members and visiting NSD Queens and guests embarked on a fairy tale evening.



Queen Shirley McCloskey



Queen Shirley & Escort Mark Chapman

The evening began with a champagne reception as guests arrived and greeted old and new friends. Kay Ryan and Ann Meador opened the event with a warm welcome and a lovely invocation. After the buffet dinner, Brenda Gettig initiated the coronation proper with her introduction of the current NSD queens. Retiring Queen Mary King was escorted by Mike Cowlshaw, and incoming Queen Shirley was escorted by Mark Chapman. Kay Ryan was the Crown Bearer and Cathy O'Harra was the Flower Bearer. Everyone was touched as Mary placed the crown on Queen Shirley's head.

Shirley performed a gorgeous Queen's Waltz with her instructor, and Jacky Yu and Linda Gu performed an outstanding samba for the Queen's Honor Dance. Exhibition dances were given by two professional couples, a fun Jack & Jill contest with 14 couples was held, and mixers and general dancing took place between special attractions.

Chair Persons Judy Miranda and Ann Meador worked tirelessly with Shirley to bring off this stunning event. A huge thank you also goes to Kay Ryan, Anne Saul, Caron Schattel, Patricia Burke, and Rose Madrid for their decorative talents and invaluable help. Mike Cowlshaw's music selections were perfect throughout the evening and drew compliments

from everyone. Thanks also go to the several other San Diego chapter members who contributed their time and effort to making the weekend of festivities a resounding success.

**Farewell Message from Queen Mary.** Dear Fellow Smoothies, This is my last message to you as reigning Queen of San Diego Smooth Dancers. It has been my pleasure serving as your ambassador this past year. There has been much fun, great dancing, but best of all, making new friends along the way. Last year at this time, I was totally overwhelmed with the journey which was ahead of me. This year I am overwhelmed with the knowledge that the journey is over.

I send a heartfelt thank you to all the Queens at all the other Chapters who gave advice when I needed it and guided me through all the coronations. There were people like Shirley McCloskey, Peter and Marsha Hanson, Debbie Kincaid, Ken Graham, Bob and Iris Steele, and Patricia Burke who made sure I got to each coronation. Thanks to all of you.

As I passed the crown to Shirley, my heart was saying to her heart, "I wish you as much fun and friendship that I found on this incredible journey."

Thanks everyone. It was an amazing year. Love and Dance to all Smoothies.  
Queen Mary King



Queens Shirley & Mary

**Get Well Soon, Chuck!** Attendees at San Diego's coronation event may have noticed the conspicuous absence of Chuck DiSessa. Chuck had heart bypass surgery on February 27<sup>th</sup>. He is home, doing fine, and his recovery is progressing as expected under Patricia's excellent care. Chuck, we wish you a speedy recovery and a quick return to your statewide community of loving friends.

## Board Meeting and coronation to be a great event

**Coronation Report.** Queen elect Kay Boyer grew up in Southern California and at 27 moved to the San Francisco Bay area. She moved to Bakersfield to be near family in the summer of 2007.



Queen Elect Kay

She took her first ballroom dance lesson February 2008 where she met her husband Mark . They became dance partners and best friends. Their friendship grew and they were married May 1, 2010.

Kay has three children, she is a licensed Real Estate Agent and loves what she does.

Kay is very involved with BSD and serves as the Board's recording Secretary. Kay has made many wonderful friends since she began dancing at BSD. she is also looking forward to acquiring many new friendships as she represents the Bakersfield Chapter at each coronation.

**Board update.** It's March and time to get ready for the Boards. Have you made your reservations yet? Competing? Make sure you mail those registrations to Sue Kimbrill, 12901 Birkenfeld Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93314 Telephone:661-496-6475. We hope to see all of you here in Bakersfield March 23, 24 and 25, 2012.

**Other news.** Our February dance, "An African Love Affair", was hosted by Veda Cruickshank and her great committee. This was a celebration of Valentine's Day and Black History Month. It was held at the Rasmussion Center. The dance was semi-formal. Two spotlight dances were performed by Bill and Lona Dolan.

Our January Dance is always in honor of our past Presidents. This years dance was hosted by Bill and Sue Landry and was a wonderful event. There were sixty people in attendance. Bill Landry was the MC and paid tribute to the past presidents . Rose Peterson announced the final recipient of the most improved dancer award, which went to TG Thomas, congratulations TG! All in all a great evening.

Our December dance, hosted by Frances Hein, was well attended. Roy Scarazzo was our MC for the evening. In the spotlight, Rose and Steve Peterson performed a great Cha Cha number. During the evening, Rose had the honor of

## 2012 STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROGRAM BAKERSFIELD-MARCH 23 - 25, 2012 COMIC CITY CAPERS

### FRIDAY

2:00-4:30pm Registration-Hospitality.....Restaurant  
7:00-Midnight Krypton-Nite .... \$60.00pp....Ballroom  
Superhero Attire Optional  
Buffet.....Steamboat Willie's

### SATURDAY

9:00-Noon Registration.....Ballroom Lobby  
8:00-9:30am Contestant Practice.....Ballroom  
9:00-10:30am Dance Rules Committee.....Bat Cave  
9:00-11:00am Presidents Meeting.....Dithers & Co. Boardroom  
9:30-11:00am Board of Directors' Meeting....Camp Swampy  
11:00-Noon Dance Seminar \$5.00 at Door...Ballroom  
Noon-1:00pm Queen's Reception....Jessica Rabbits Salon  
Reigning Queens and Escorts  
1:00-4:00pm The Dailies....Ballroom...Comic City attire or casual  
2:00-4:00pm Dance Contest: Senior Waltz, Beginner's Waltz,  
Beginner's Cha Cha-Intl, Social Swing-EC  
6:30-7:00pm No Host Bar.....Ballroom  
7:00-8:00 pm Formal Dinner.....Ballroom  
8:30pm Queen's Coronation  
9:00pm Dance Exhibition  
10:00-Midnight Social Dancing, Dance Competitions  
Interm/Adv. Smooth&Std.,  
Dance of Champions

### SUNDAY

9:00-Noon Breakfast—That's All Folks!....Ballroom

**Package Deal:** \$160.00 Per Person if Postmarked by March 13, \$180.00 thereafter. Mail package reservations to Bakersfield Smooth Dancers, Frances Hein 6302 Broadmoor Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93306. Contestants must have a package and must be amateur member.  
**Hotel:** Doubletree Hotel 3100 Camino Del Rio Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93308, 888-779-4694.

**General Chairman** 2012 Board of Directors Meeting; Charlene Miller, 2600 Barrington #15 Bakersfield, CA 93309 (661)831-0877.  
**Contest Chairman:** Sue Kimbrell (661)496-6475.

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presenting our most improved dancer awards to the lucky recipients: Kay Boyer, for most improved female dancer and Peggy Amanto and James Messner for most improved couple. Congratulations to all of you!

Congratulations to TG Thomas and Hilda Mar on their recent marriage! TG and Hilda were married on Valentine's Day!

On a final note, our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Bob Kandarian, Bob has been diagnosed with a serious life threatening illness. We will miss Karen and Bob on the dance floor, and their wonderful contributions to the success of our club.

## Join us for a terrific coronation event

**Our queens.** First I need to apologize to our Queen Elizabeth Talmadge for not mentioning her in the list of officers as our current queen. In case you did not know, Liz Talmadge and her



charming prince Charles are our current reigning royalty until April 14 when we will have our coronation "Once a queen, always a queen", honoring Queen Rosalie Wolf and 7 other former queens, who were treated to a lovely tea by queen Liz on February 4th.



Liz Talmadge

**Getting to know our long time members.** The many faces and talents of Barbara Crawford.

Barbara was born in a small town outside of Sidney Australia. She and her parents immigrated to the US in January 1948 and she became a US citizen in June of 1956, just 3 months after her only brother was born. Barbara taught school for 30 years and now that she is retired, she has added many cruise vacations to her other passions of ballroom dancing, quilting and reading mysteries about women detectives.

She is a very accomplished quilter and two years ago she started a service organization called BEE Charitable. The quilters meet in her home two days a month from April through October, making comfort quilts for the Blind Babies Foundation, Shelter Network (homeless) and the Polytrauma Unit at the Veterans hospital.

She joined the Visalia SD in 1985 and transferred to GGSD in 2004. Barbara was in charge of our Sunday dance decorations for many years, brought interesting and inexpensive ideas to make our convention in 2010 so successful, and has now taken on the position of social chair, bringing her many talents, new ideas and her compassion and love for her "dance family" to her new post. And she is also a great dancer!



Barbara Crawford

**Club news:** At our last business meeting it was announced that a new award was created which is named: "The Bob Fragomeni and Rosalie Wolf Sprit of Service Award" which will be given once a year to a member in our chapter who has distinguished him or her self throughout the year with exceptional service to the chapter beyond and above the expected. I can already name (but I won't) at least 5 people who would qualify for this. So let's get in line and do more than what we have signed up for, or least do a little of what is expected from all of us to make our chapter greater than ever this year and take some of the burden from those who always do more than their share.

**Illness in our little family.** We are sad to report that our Donna Rosko had a nasty fall and needed to have her hip replaced as a result. We are told she is recovering well and will soon be joining us on the dance floor again. As many of you have experienced, a new hip can really help with that Cuban motion and we are looking forward to seeing her dancing to Latin tunes with new enthusiasm very soon.

Barbara Cardinaly, who was ill for a few weeks, recovered and joined us again this last Sunday at our Sweethearts dance, with her Sweetheart Ben. We were treated to fabulous table decorations including a huge box of marvelous truffles on each table, as well as flowers, by our new members Shulamit and Boris Rabinovich. One more reason to dance more, so we can eat more of those kinds of treats.

I am personally so very saddened at the passing of Visalia member Tom Moholt, I will always remember the wonderful dinner at their beautiful home, he and his lovely wife Margarete along with two other Visalia couples treated us to when I was queen and did not know anyone yet. It set the tone of what I was to experience having joined this amazing dancing family we call NSD.

As always, dance first, think later.

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# Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett

## Put our lovely spring socials on your calendar

**State Queen's Report.** State Queen Carla Rose Hartunian has an announcement for all NSD members in Fresno and the whole state. Fresno's Queen Elect is Lynn Sanders. Save the date: June 2, 2012, for Lynn's coronation.

I attended the Los Angeles Coronation for Lesley Scott with my traveling partner, Dorothy Sims, Visalia's Queen. We were treated to a tasty hospitality for all the out-of-town guests on the sixth floor of the Courtyard Marriott, Monrovia. Dorothy and I were prepared, bringing our Queen's wine glasses to that event. Lesley's theme for her coronation was "Broadway Stars" and every table was decorated with top hats and canes with an explosion of silver Mylar stars. Queen Lesley was escorted by her loving husband, Allen Scott. I had the honor of having Tom Wells as my escort. A spectacular honor dance was performed by Bill Steeber and Barbara Greenlaw.

On Sunday morning, a farewell brunch was held for a special Triple Crown Queen, Joy Michaels. LA Chapter presented a very special large trophy to Queen Joy for her service as LA's queen three different times. Thank you to Kathy Sachse and Kevin McCready for attending this event and supporting other chapters' coronations.

**Social Report.** For the February social, thanks to Lorraine Tilton and her committee Jim Escobar, Lynn Sanders, Tony and Nancy Palazzo, Stella Ruckman and Sharon Crisp. Sharon was also the MC. The theme was Mardi Gras and the table decorations were black vases with Jester-type canes and feather masks. Unique dance lessons were provided by Kathy Page and Guy Ashby – Milonga and Argentine Tango. About 35 people attended, and one of them was Henry Wegermann. Henry, we hope to see you more often before you head to Portland or Brazil.

At the March social Kathy Sachse and Kevin McCready will host the annual St. Patrick's Day Dance, complete with Corned Beef and Cabbage! Join us on Saturday, March 18, for Waltz and Rumba lessons taught by Miss Mata. Entertainment will be provided by Celtic Motion Dance from the California Arts Academy.

The April Springtime social 2012 will be held on April 15, 2012, hosted by Kathy Sachse, with Tango and Mambo lessons taught by Franco. Sharon Crisp and Dan Goss will entertain with a dance exhibition.

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All third-Sunday dances are at the Clovis Senior Center, 850 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Clovis, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 for members with a potluck dish and \$15 for members without a dish, and guests. See [www.fresnosmoothdancers.org](http://www.fresnosmoothdancers.org) for flyers!

**Corrections to officers.** Please note the following corrections to Fresno officers published in the January/February Whispers:

Queen: Carla Hartunian, 1617 E. Shea Drive, Fresno, CA 93720  
(559) 259-8953  
Whispers Editor: Linda Bennett

### Condolences.

"An Angel is Dancing Above the Clouds"

Roganne and Henry Wegermann were original charter members of the Fresno Chapter. Roganne was Whispers editor 1991-93. She and Henry were chairs for competitions and professional entertainers for our first state convention in 1992. Roganne would promote NSD no matter where she was. She and Henry would travel to conventions, state boards, coronations and other chapter dances. They loved to compete together and did very well for themselves, bringing in several awards for their dancing.

Between competitions and always volunteering for NSD, Roganne completed her college education and began teaching math. She later went back to school and received her Master's degree.

Henry and Roganne traveled to many destinations, but their favorite was Brazil, where they purchased a lovely condo on the beach. While there she would email and keeping friends up on their activities.

Roganne passed away on December 18, 2011, and she will be greatly missed.

**Congratulations:** to ANN PHILLIPS – she recently retired as a respiratory therapist from Kaiser. Ann worked in this position for 13 years, and she says it was a great experience. We wish you the best, Ann!

Ann  
Phillips



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NSD means Never Stop Dancing

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## News and activities galore

**Queen's Report.** Queen Miriam Mozes enjoyed the Los Angeles Chapter Coronation and gives thanks to the chapter for its excellent hospitality, food, entertainment and fine dancing. She also thanks the other 11 members of the Palomar Chapter, including her husband George, for supporting her at the Coronation with their attendance.

**Dance socials.** The January social was fun; Dance Director, George Mozes, introduced us to a new format for our mixers. It is called a Progressive Mixer in which four couples started the dance and on cue each dancer selected another partner from the audience! Shortly thereafter the dance floor was full. Marsha Hanson began the social with a skilled foxtrot routine. Many thanks to Duane & Donna Thornton and Antonia & Jesus Quinene who provided pizza and salad with wonderful desserts!

The February Sweetheart Social was a great success with a new record of 61 dancers in attendance. George Mozes continued to improve our foxtrot with lessons before the social. Thank you Melinda & Joe Leddy and Doris & Ed Quinene for organizing our delicious snacks and desserts.

**Welcome back.** A hearty welcome back for Mary Anderson who had a bad fall that put her in the hospital for a month. Unfortunately, that included Christmas Day, which she and her husband, Ralph, spent together. Her rehabilitation has been steady. To the surprise of many, Mary walked into the February social! When asked if she was ready to do the swing, she replied, "Not quite yet! But I'm looking forward to attending the next chapter meeting".



Bob Hicks

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**In memorium.** Long-time member, Bob Hicks, passed away last month. Our condolences go out to his family and to Gail Womack, friend and dance partner. Bob saw service in WW II as a Navigator in the Air Force. As well as dancing, he was an avid golfer. He will be missed.

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**New members.** We are pleased to welcome Darlene Drury and Dane Gilkey who were sworn in as new members in January 2012.

Darlene has been dancing since her father first told her to put her feet on his toes at age 5. Dancing was in her blood as her parents were ballroom dancers, instructors & champions in Chicago. Her serious dancing began 3 years ago when she took a group dance class and was hooked. Born in Chicago she raised her four children in the same town. She has 7 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Currently she volunteers at Escondido Center for the Arts and at the Memorial Building in Downtown San Diego where she is a partner in Wheelchair Dancing for Veterans and Seniors.

Dane was encouraged by his friends about 10 years ago to try some ballroom classes. He enjoyed it so much he took some private lessons and found his groove. He was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and raised in Chicago. Dane is a Vietnam Veteran who now works for the Federal Government at the North County V.A. Outreach Program in San Marcos. Besides dancing he has done a lot of traveling and looks forward to more in the near future!

**Dance lessons.** Our dance classes have enjoyed large turnouts, thanks to the popularity and effectiveness of teachers George and Miriam Moses. Debbie Kincaid has been recruiting new potential members on line through Meetup. Classes are held at the Vista Senior Center each Monday evening with a different dance each month. The waltz will be the dance for March.

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Don't forget to make reservations for those statewide events coming up!

Board meeting starts Mar 23. And there are four wonderful coronations, starting with Golden Gate, leading up to Convention on Labor Day weekend.

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## Convention report and all the news

**Convention 2012.** Hey, we may be small, but we pack a powerful punch in more ways than one. As the famous Eliza Doolittle said in "My Fair Lady" – "Just you WAIT, 'Enry 'Iggins" Just you WAIT" for our Convention 2012. This will be an incredible delight - combining old traditions with new ideas. We have achieved motel rates for the five star Flagship, J.W. Marriott in Palm Desert. We have also created a low package price. We have also achieved the ability to avoid spending restaurant tabs at this exclusive J.W. Marriott. After all the food already included in your low package price, your rooms provide refrigerators (almost unheard of in five-star resorts). This is an event – not to miss. This is what's called "An Affordable Rich Vacation!" Make the use of it. Stay several days at our special rate. I have attached below the group link, that your attendees can book their room reservations or they can call our Passkey reservation center at [877-622-3140](tel:877-622-3140). <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/NSDA2012>

**Queen's Update.** Les and I have been keeping busy since my November coronation. Over the holidays we spent 2 weeks on board the Queen Victoria cruising from Los Angeles to Hawaii and back. Since most of our time was spent at sea, there was a lot of time for relaxing and enjoying the many on-board activities. The Queens Rooms is a beautiful large ballroom and there were six fancy theme balls in addition to the normal nightly dancing. On most nights there was a dance band and singer playing real dance music. The ship retains a British feel and a large number of passengers were British. Many of the passengers do international standard and Quickstep (rather than Swing) is the dance of choice for faster music. We thoroughly enjoyed our trip.

In January I began my official duties as Queen when I attended the Los Angeles Chapter Coronation honoring their new queen Lesley Scott. Having been Queen in 2011 I now have a lot of friends from around the state. It was fun to get a chance to see many of them in January. I am looking forward to attending my next event, the San Diego Chapter coronation in early March.

The **Dance Now Team** continues to amaze the dancing world as those who attended the Los Angeles Coronation will attest. Their rendition of "Dancing in the Rain" was a delight and our tiniest chapter of the "Big Eight" also boasted the showcase performance by the one and only Great Bill and Barbara Team, aka Steeber and Greenlaw at the same event. I boast true pride for our small chapter. And hey, I'm not even involved, being "shy and retiring."

**Dear Friends Who We Care About.** We received a lovely note from Len Vanderhoof, one of our longest standing members who gave us an update on his travels with Martha Rhodes. In 2011, they traveled to Central and South America, and this month, Len had a second hip implant performed. I could have written more but, in this day and age, we're not used to deciphering handwriting. So Len, I hope I did you proud anyway. Thank you so much for keeping us updated. Your input was most appreciated.

Speaking of which, I would love for someone to orchestrate a photo page of our longest standing members for our upcoming convention brochure. Maybe someone could suggest someone? Someone truly savvy with photos and pictures.

**Non-Dancing Academy Art Award.** And the winner is: Gee Gee Barden, one of our main troopers, who currently has two paintings on exhibit at the Valley Watercolor Society's annual juried show which is running through March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Studio 800 in North Hollywood. One of her paintings, "Ghosts in the Moonlight – Indian Pipes" won an honorable mention award. The winning paintings from the show can be viewed at [www.valleywatercolorsociety.org](http://www.valleywatercolorsociety.org). Congratulations Gee Gee. I'm so glad you have time to accomplish such works of art when you're not visiting Amsterdam, Antwerp, Ghen, and Bruges in Belgium. Gee Gee is also quite a prolific writer. If anyone is planning on visiting these places, her Christmas letter can fill you in completely on what do to, where to go, and what to see.

**Editor goes traveling.** "Moi" to quote Miss Piggy, went to New Zealand for six weeks. It was a sisterly mandated "it's your turn to visit me" kind of trip. Was it wonderful? Of course, seeing family members always is. I was there for Christmas. But desperate to dance, I flew to Christchurch, in the south island, where I was invited to attend a New Year's Eve dance. So I danced the New Year in before any of you did. Hah. One-upmanship. What do you think about them apples?

Well, "das all folks." Look forward to seeing you all in Bakersfield on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Exotic Asian travel themes

**Asian Fusion.** VSD's February social dance titled Asian Fusion was held February 12th at the Exeter Memorial Building. The committee, many decked out in authentic Japanese kimonos and other Asian attire, created a wonderful Asian atmosphere with artifacts representing Japanese, Chinese and Filipino culture. Covering the stage were large authentic Asian fans and complimented with a full array of smaller red (Chinese color for good luck) fans. On the walls hung authentic Japanese kimonos from child-size to full adults. Tables were arranged with exotic flowers, small fans, Chinese-red envelopes with a penny inside for prosperity and hand-crafted origami figures by Debbie Snyder. The greeting table included the display of a beautiful Japanese doll in full kimono dress.



Maria Helm & Debbie Snyder

Absolutely no detail was overlooked. including the traditional "Fortune Cookie" which followed the Asian-themed potluck. The Club members provided incredibly delicious Asian dishes and many Club members joined in wearing of traditional Chinese silk dresses or other Asian-influenced attire..

Music man Greg Uichanco kept us on our "dancing feet" with great music, laced with several different types of mixers and a Jack & Jill swing contest won by Tim Inouye and Yvette Haworth.



Asian Fusion Committee

Club members Nellie Uichanco, Domi Aville were joined by friends Thelma Diaz and Lulu Tan to open the Filipino folk dance exhibition. When the ladies finished, Nellie and Vince Uichanco delighted guests with a couple of playfully romantic folk dances. This VSD dance was one "not to have been missed." Chaired by Maria and Bob Helm, the committee included Joan Dewey, Manuel Madril, Wendy and Garry Paden, Debbie Snyder and Jim Renfro.

**Bollywood Bash.** The March Social titled "Bollywood Bash" will be held March 10th at the Exeter Memorial Building. and will feature "Bollywood dancers" entertainment, Franco Peraza, from Fresno's Ballroom Live will teach a lesson at 6 p.m. dance lesson. VSD members always provide the best potluck in the Valley which will be served at 7 p.m. followed by dancing from 8-11 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to dress in character "Bollywood-style" or in the bright colors of India. Price for guests is \$15. For more information call Carolyn at 559-732-8662 or visit the website [VisaliaSmoothDancers.com](http://VisaliaSmoothDancers.com).

**In memory.** VSD is sad to report the sudden passing of long-time member Tom Moholt. Tom was stricken with a massive stroke and left us on January 26, 2012. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his loving wife, Margaret and their family. We will all miss Tom's wonderful sense of humor and his practical approach to life.

**Dancing brings romancing.** VSD Club members Debbie Snyder and Jim Renfro took up ballroom dancing when Debbie's daughter was preparing for her wedding. Debbie and Jim became engaged over Christmas so this time, they will be preparing their own wedding dance. Congratulations and Best Wishes to the happy couple.

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