

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
June 2012



Visalia Chapter Coronation

edited by Yvette Haworth



A beautiful event enjoyed by all

Coronation. It was a beautiful night to "Fall In Love With Dance" at the Coronation of Queen Barbara Uichanco on May 19th. Retiring Queen Dorothy Sims crowned Barbara amid a profusion of shades of purple. Hanging from the ceiling were gossamer drapes of shimmering white and purple chiffon. The stage was covered with purple flower bouquets and purple and silver hearts were suspended in mid-air. The traditional arch was decorated with lavender wisteria blossoms, greenery and twinkle lights. Purple and lavender flower arrangements adorned the white linen table cloths with lavender napkins.

The Queens carried purple flower bouquets. Queen Barbara was resplendent in her white gown carrying an orchid bouquet. Her Queen's dance was a delightful foxtrot performed with her husband Greg, highlighted by a beautiful spinning lift. Barbara finished the last several measures with a true dancer's "grit" and in regal fashion, hampered by a malfunctioning shoe strap.



Greg and Barbara

The Queen's Honor Dance was a romantic waltz performed by the Queen's in-laws, Nellie and Vince Uichanco. As a surprise to the audience, Queen Barbara and Greg joined the senior Uichancoes on the floor and for the last

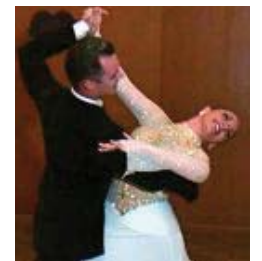


Vince & Nellie

quarter of the dance the two couples waltzed in unison until the very end when Vince & Nellie allowed the younger couple to finish the dance--a moving moment.

The "romance of dance" was displayed by newly-wed pros, Dawid and Natalie Schulz throughout their three dances. They opened with a lively foxtrot, delighted us with a twirling Viennese waltz and touched our hearts with a stunning and passionate standard waltz. We will see more of these Rising Star Champions as they climb the ranks of the Pro-circuit!

The couple also displayed their warm, winning personalities as they joined us for dinner, conversation and general dancing. This was Dawid's and Natalie's introduction to NSD and they indicated they will



Dawid & Natalie

be promoting our Clubs to their students.

Tom Giampietro, our MC, presented the Queens with aplomb and kept the evening moving. Just to prove he is more than a wonderful voice and talented MC, he displayed his gallantry when on bended knee, he assisted the new Queen to repair her shoe.

Stan Medina offered the invocation and ushered in a delicious dinner with a totally decadent dessert catered by Elaine's Table at Tres Bien. Vince Uichanco supplied us with terrific dancing music right up to the last waltz at 11:00.

Earlier Barbara's coronation day had begun with a Hospitality highlighted by strawberry margaritas and homemade dinning delicacies. We applaud bartenders Margo Giles & David Bixler and also Carol Bixler and Wendy Story, who oversaw a sumptuous repast. Many guests took time to cheer their "horse" as we paused to watch the Preakness on TV.

The Coronation planning committee was comprised of the Crown Circle which received extra help from some special people. This year Shane Nielsen and Myra Pimentel deserve special thanks for helping with many aspects of decorating, the champagne & wine reception, and Myra set up and attended to the Queen's dressing room. Assisting Shane as bartenders were Hartune Neffian and Stan Medina. Linda and John Gutierrez were masters of napkin folding and Linda, always helpful, was quick to assist with the decorating. (con't. pg. 2)

Waino Peterson and Don Hanson helped to decorate and greeted our guests. Queen Barbara wanted to express her gratitude to all the Club members and guests who made her Coronation a special night!

As part of the Coronation celebration, Queen Dorothy Sims was honored at the Farewell breakfast held on Sunday morning at the Visalia Country Club. Queen Dorothy presented the visiting Queens with an original poem and Queen Barbara presented Queen Dorothy with a thank you gift from the Visalia club. This elegant and sumptuous brunch was a fitting finale for a royal weekend.



Queen Dorothy

Queen Dorothy's Good-Bye. This year has passed so quickly. It was thrilling to have my family with me for my coronation. I made a photo album depicting all the coronations. Now as I flip through it I am reminded of how special the Crown Circle is. I had the opportunity to form close friendships that will go on for years.

It was such an honor to represent the Visalia Chapter and I thank my chapter for inviting me to be queen. A special thanks to Joe Maciel, my escort for most coronations. I was amazed at how many different ways there are to have a coronation. Each queen puts a lot of thought into a theme, a color scheme, a master of ceremonies, selecting a menu, choosing the right music, providing additional entertainment, and finally performing a queen's waltz. Each Chapter works as a team to make a successful event. There are so many memorable highlights I take with me.

I send Visalia's 2012-2013 Queen Barbara best wishes and extend my love and friendship. May her reign be as rewarding as mine.

In memorium. VSD Charter Member Stella Yocum died on June 2 at the age of 91. In 1975, Stella was Visalia's first queen, and repeated the honor in 1976, and in 1989. She had a stellar record of attending every Convention and Boards from 1975 through 2011. Because of surgery in February she missed the 2012 Boards. With an incredible spirit, Stella was an active member of VSD until this February. We will miss her.

Wedding bells. Myra Pimentel and Shane Nielsen have sailed North to Alaska on a cruise for their fairytale wedding aboard ship. Following their nuptials, they will continue the cruise for their honeymoon. Best Wishes to the happy couple.

Social. Put on island dresses and Hawaiian shirts, then hula your way to Exeter on July 14 for VSD's Pacific Island Luau at the Veteran's Memorial Building. It begins with a dance lesson by Eileen Chavez at 6:00 pm, with a Luau dinner by Margo Giles and Linda Gutierrez served at 7:pm. General dancing is from 8:00 – 11:00 pm. There will be Hawaiian and Pilipino dance entertainment. Cost is \$20. Please mail reservations to: Nellie Uichanco, 3415 S. Church, Visalia, CA 93277. See the flyer at visaliasmoothdancers.com.

NSD means Never Stop Dancing

NSD Statewide Event Calendar

July 14	Palomar Coronation	Make plans now for these wonderful events.
August 31	Convention - SFV/Palm Desert	See your friends again and enjoy the music
January 19	Los Angeles Coronation (New Date)	and dance we all love. We look forward to
March 2	San Diego Coronation	seeing you there.
March 22	Board Meeting - Bakersfield	

Fresno Chapter Coronation

edited by Linda Bennett



Queen Lynn Sanders takes up her role with joy

Coronation. Thank you to everyone who worked, organized and participated and, in every way, made Fresno's coronation a very special day in my life. Worker bees converged on the church social hall to transform it into the Queen's Palace for the day. Kathy Sachse's beautiful decorations and our talented members created a perfect setting for this event.



Queen Lynn Sanders

Soon out of town friends began appearing for the afternoon hospitality. Kathy Sachse and Kevin McCready were ready with delicious edibles and beverages to treat our guests. Refreshed from snacking and socializing, we returned to our rooms to rest and change for the coronation activities.

The evening began with champagne and piano music provided by our very own Rick Wenzel. Sue Dowell presented the Queens in the lovely traditional ceremony. I was thrilled and honored to be crowned by State Queen Carla Rose, with my mother, Edythe, and sister, Dale, by my side. My long time friend and former dance partner, James Kleinrath, choreographed and performed my

Queen's waltz with me, followed by the very moving dance of queens, gradually emptying nearly every chair in the room. The Queen's Honor Dance, performed by Bill and Lona Dolan, was their sweet and plaintive Angel Waltz.

Dinner was the delicious meal of traditional Armenian specialties. James Kleinrath and Melody Singleton presented the entertainment with a playful foxtrot and their sizzling tango, to the delight of members and guests.

The fun continued with two dance contests, a Jack & Jill Swing and a couples Foxtrot. Congratulations to the Jack & Jill Swing winners, Bart Ramentes (Fresno) & JoAnn Georgio (Bakersfield), and couples Foxtrot winners, Ben Wilson (Bakersfield) and Queen Kay Boyer (Bakersfield). Fresno past Queens Helen Kimura and Tahani Elhag were unexpectedly able to join us and it was wonderful to see them again. Too soon, we were rubbing our eyes and our tired feet, and we had to say good night.

Sunday morning began with Fresno's Queen's Farewell breakfast to honor Queen Carla Rose's service as chapter Queen. In a morning of traditions, Queen Carla presented me with a beautiful crown pin. Then, President Kathy Sachse presented Queen Carla Rose with a lovely framed mirror to commemorate her year as chapter



A Family Affair



Lynn, Dale, & James



It is good to be Queen!

queen. She also presented her with Fresno chapter's perpetual Queen's trophy. Queen Carla Rose read a heartfelt message as the traditional Queen's poem for our Queen's year book. There was hardly a dry eye in the house and we all agreed she was and is a very loving and memorable chapter queen.

Hugs and photos and fond farewells until we meet again.
Lynn

State Queen Carla's report. On May 19, I had the honor to travel with Queen-elect Lynn Sanders to Visalia Chapter's Coronation Ball for Queen Elect Barbara Uichanco. We spent some time in Exeter viewing the murals on the walls of the town and visiting a few local shops before attending the Hospitality at the Hotel.

Queen Barbara Uichanco's theme was "Fall in Love With Dance". I had the honor of having Steve Moore as my escort. Purple was everywhere, purple and white netting draped stage with hanging hearts and the arch had beautiful purple flowers cascading down the sides. Table decorations were purple flowers with silver rhinestone hearts on the vases. Each queen carried purple flowers with a large silver heart. Once Queen Barbara was crowned Queen it was time for the Honor Dance, and the special couple that surprised the entire audience was Nellie and Vince Uichanco, Greg's parents. It was simply beautiful, and before you knew it, Greg and Queen Barbara joined them on the floor. Both couples did an incredible job. Entertainment was provided by Natalie and David Schultz. Their dance was beautiful; they are such a beautiful couple and so humble to be dancing for a unique group of social dancers. (con't. pg. 4)

Sunday, we had the most delicious brunch for the outgoing Queen Dorothy Simms at the Visalia County Club. Queen Dorothy is a very special, fun-loving and caring person, and I personally want to thank her for her friendship and being my traveling companion this year. I enjoyed every adventure we had together finding all the coronations/hotel locations and then shopping before each one. We made memories together.

Social report. June. Our June dance will be hosted by Patty Taniguchi and Mike Moyle. Dan Goss will teach lessons in Waltz and Rumba. Come celebrate Father's Day, June 17, with good friends! July. Come enjoy a Summertime Picnic on July 15, hosted by Linda Bennett and Stella Ruckman. West Coast Swing and Nightclub 2-Step lessons will be taught by Stephen Herrera and Mikell Parsons.

Third-Sunday dances are at the Clovis Senior Center, 850 4th 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 for flyers!

Sunshine. We send our condolences Diane Hew, current Golden Gate chapter member (former Fresno member). Al passed away this week.

We wish George Schmidt happy recovery from his bout with pneumonia. It was great to see you at the May dance, George!

Patty Harris was recently in the hospital in Colorado. Patty, we send our best wishes to you!

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid & Don Hubbard

Another beautiful coronation in store

Invitation. Palomar Coronation Ball will be held July 14, 2012 at the Ocean Hills Country Club, Leisure Village Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056. We will honor Queen-Elect Debbie Kincaid, who has chosen the theme "Glitz & Glamour of Hollywood Nights", with colors of "red carpet red, gold & silver". It will be a gala affair with entertainment provided professional dancers, James & Irina Friedhof. It will include a group performance by the Palomar Smooth Dancers, coached by former California Smooth Dance Champions, Marsha & Peter Hansen. Mark & Kao Chapman will do the Honor Dance performing their award winning Quick-Step. Tickets are priced at \$50.00 for the dinner/dance and \$20.00 for the Queens Breakfast on Sunday. The breakfast will be held at The El Camino Country Club, located at 3202 Vista Way, Oceanside, CA 92056. For reservations please contact Geri Deutsch, 5016 Nighthawk Way, Oceanside, CA 92056, (760) 630-3402.



Debbie Kincaid



James & Irina

Queen elect Debbie is a native Californian who grew up near Los Angeles, making many friends who were familiar with Hollywood. That experience stayed with her and led to her choice of a theme for her coronation. Since her election, she has been working with the other chapter members to help create a memorable event. And, she promises a fun evening, and hopes many of us will join in with the Palomar chapter.

Queen's report. Queen Miriam Mozes, along with her husband George, attended an elegant and unique coronation in April in San Francisco. The details and time that went into the decorations were unbelievable. "I thoroughly enjoyed all 16 queens who were presented at the royal event!", declared Queen Miriam. The Visalia coronation was quite a special event as well. The surprise honor dance by Queen Barbara's in-laws was really fun for all! The Fresno event, in June, was attended by Queen Miriam & George, Peter & Marsha Hansen and Debbie Kincaid. The hospitality was quite festive! Queen Lynn Sanders performed a graceful Waltz for the Queens Dance in a special flowing vintage gown. It has been a busy and memorable few months of traveling representing our chapter!



George, Miriam, Debbie, Marsha, Peter

New member. WELCOME new member Juliet Cunningham. Juliet came to us through our newly formed "Meet-Up" internet site (www.Meetup.com/Palomar-Smooth-Dancers). She is new to the dance world. When she moved to Vista in 2009 she took a few lessons at the Vista Community Center and realized how much she loved dancing. With her busy schedule she didn't reconnect with dance until 2012. (con't. pg. 5)

Juliet was born & grew up in Kirkuk, Iraq. She has 5 brothers and 8 sisters! In 1979 she realized that being a Christian in Iraq she had limited social freedom and opportunities. On her own, she moved to the United States to realize her dreams of freedom. She chose to reside in the state of Virginia where she met her husband.

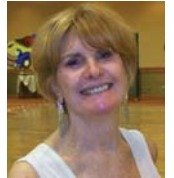
They eventually moved to Texas where they had two of their three children. In 1990 they moved to Des Moines, Iowa and had their third child. Together they started their own company, Team Services which specialized in soil and construction material consulting. When her husband passed away in 2007 she ran the business for a while (Juliet has a Bachelor of Science in Petroleum & Mining Engineering and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering!) then sold their company and moved to Vista. In May 2009 she had 3 graduations within 1 week. Her oldest son graduated from USMA West Point, her daughter from Yale University, and a son who graduated from high school. Juliet lives a very busy life here in Vista! She loves cooking, gardening, traveling, and politics. She also served as a Director of Community Services, 2010-2011, for Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club and Chairs the Architectural Committee for her HOA. She already has begun to volunteer for many of the upcoming Palomar Smooth Dancer's events!



Juliet Cunningham

San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Joan Robinson



Convention, convention, convention

Convention, did I hear? This convention is exciting. We are presenting different professional showcases on Saturday and Sunday. We are offering a greater variety of optional dance classes in the morning. We will have great social parties in the fabulous Chairman's Suite of the J.W. Marriott's luxurious resort. We will have so much dancing, interspersed with entertainment, Jack and Jills, exhibitions & competitions. Your new State Queen is our very own Gavel Club Mistress, Barbara Greenlaw. Barbara has been a positive influence in our

chapter throughout so many years. We are thrilled that she will be our State Queen and represent our chapter. There are so many new and exciting things happening at this convention. Sign up early for the early bird special price of \$169.00 by June 17th. Get your hotel reservations early and request elevator-close rooms. As for me, I am so proud to be part of an existing tradition and to be good friends with our small "gang" who are working hard to put together a wonderful weekend for you. One of the main subjects of our Board Meetings and Presidents' Meetings over the past two years is the decline in numbers that has caused concern over the future of our two annual conventions. Expect a flurry of new faces at this convention. Please welcome them warmly. Let's make sure they know how great we are. At this convention, we will have the opportunity to promote our wonderful club to new people. Let's make sure they want to return in the future. Tell all your dancing friends to come. Tell all your non-dancing friends just to book a room at the unbelievable price of \$119.00 including parking. Go to our website at nsdsfv.org for details.

Queen Roberta's update. It continues to be a busy period for coronations. In April, Les & I went up north to a very special Golden Gate coronation. The coronation honored Queen-Elect Rosalie Wolf and seven former Queens. All eight queens participated in the ceremony along with the usual visiting queens so there was quite an array of royalty. In keeping with the theme of honoring past queens, a beautiful after dinner dance was performed by Ben & Wendy Wilson (2011 Bakersfield Queen).

In May we participated in the Visalia Coronation of Queen Barbara Uichanco. It was a very beautiful event. A very special Queen's honor dance was performed by Vince and Nellie Uichanco (the new Queen's mother and father in-law), who were then joined in the middle of the dance by Greg and Barbara Uichanco. Les & I had another unusual connection to this performance. Two weeks earlier we had taken a 7-night California coastal cruise on the Sapphire Princess. While on board, we had met and become friends with Vince and Nellie who were on the same trip. It's a small world sometimes. (con't. pg. 6)

Traveling members. Bill Morey and Gee Gee Barden recently returned from a wonderful tour in Italy with VBT, a bicycle and walking tour company, visiting the beautiful Amalfi Coast of Italy, including Naples, Pompeii, Sorrento, Amalfi, Ravello, Positano, and Capri, followed by 2 days in Rome. This was their first walking tour, having previously done three very enjoyable bicycle tours with VBT. On this trip they learned to use and greatly appreciate the walking sticks provided. Special activities enjoyed on the trip included a mozzarella making demonstration, a limoncello tasting, a gelatto preparation lesson, visits to a handmade paper museum and to a pasta factory, and a piano concert. Bill Steeber and Barbara Greenlaw lounged around recently on a wonderful Mediterranean cruise while James and Andrea Gutman enjoyed the scenic views of our own lovely Mammoth Lakes area.

Worries & rewards. What a year of worries it has been for us SFV Smooth Dancers. While in New Zealand last Christmas, I received a promo for a new dance in the San Fernando Valley which would be held by some very popular people on the same night as our dance – the first Saturday of the month. I was dismayed, to say the least. It was a sad beginning for us for 2012.

Now the good news. After five months of struggling with losses, many thoughts about possibly moving to another night, we hung in there longer than the competition. I heard the news recently that they were not holding a dance on June 2nd. The reason? Not enough profitability. Thankfully, as we do not need profit per se, we were able to hang in there longer. We “out-hung” the competition. And our reward? A whopping 90 (as in NINETY) dancers attended our dance last night. We were so excited we were almost dancing the Irish Jig!

San Diego Chapter

edited by Denise White

Chapter and studio dance events

Congratulations. Five SDSA members performed at Starlight Dance Studio’s anniversary party in March; Ann Vutisaksatit, and Linda Gu and Russ Jenkins danced in Starlight’s Bolero performance group; Been Kao and Mark Chapman danced a Tango. Also, Len and Peggy Lee and Marsha and Peter Hanson from the Palomar Chapter performed.

At the April Chinese Club dance, Lin Eng performed with his instructor.

SDSA group activities. Several SDSA members are getting ready to sail away on a cruise through Alaska’s inside passage, leaving out of Seattle, in early June. Bon Voyage!

Several more SDSA members have their tickets to attend, as a group, the 2012 Senior Follies, an annual event in which Chuck DiSessa has often performed. The theme of this June event is a spoof on beauty pageants and TV reality talent contests with twelve ladies competing for the coveted Calendar Girl 2012.

Socials. April’s “The Tax Man Cometh,” hosted by Anthony and Barbara Wood was a fun social centered around “tax day”. Some guests and members came in costume, which included a “hobo” or two. The music was great with Al Folkman as the evening’s DJ. The refreshments were served reminiscent of a soup kitchen, and included two kinds of soup. Entertainment was provided by Starlight’s Bolero performance group. Nice job everyone!



In May, another great “Cinco de Mayo” dance party was put on by Kay Ryan, Ann Meador and Patricia DiSessa. The room was bright with color from the decorations and the rainbow-clad guests, so characteristic of Mexico -- all adding to the fiesta mood. The food was plentiful and delicious, and the music was great. Entertainment was provided by Russ Jenkins and his instructor, doing a fabulous cha cha (with a special ending).

Sunday night dance class. Chuck DiSessa comments that actions are underway to promote and advertise our club to a much broader base of dancers. Anyone who attended the Coronation of class member and queen Shirley McCloskey saw the brilliant creativity by Paul McKenzie whose artistic genius was manifested in the Coronation Programs that he created. Aided by his talent and vision, the Dance Class will be promoted over the next few months to an ever-expanding email base of non-members started by Vice President, Caron Schattel. In May, Paul put together attractive email promotional ads designed to stimulate interest and encourage attendance in our Sunday Night Dance Class. Any non-members attending our socials are welcomed to be added to our email list which Paul will be sending out prior to the start of any new classes. As we expand our email base and continue to promote our dance activities to a broader market, we will continue to thrive and grow as a club.



Goings and comings

Club news. Our April meeting dance had a nice turnout. Mike and Donna Bilotta attended to celebrate Donna's birthday – the dance was sponsored by Tina Van Zandt to honor both their birthdays. The theme was "Easter Bunny Hop" and "bunny" Joy Michaels led a rousing "bunny hop" dance for a hopping exercise. Queen Lesley and Allan Scott were there also and danced a few – even a little samba (their favorite). The new format worked well with business meeting, lunch, lesson and dance. Sandwiches, chips and cupcakes were served with lots of "jelly bellies" as table treats. Sandy Wells announced that the Hilton Hotel for the 2013 coronation has been finalized and we're looking forward to a new venue and date, Jan 19, 2013.

The Latin themed May dance was sponsored by Chris and Gordon Lloyd to celebrate their 54th Anniversary and Chuck and Susan Johnson in honor of their 38th Anniversary and Susan's birthday. In addition to the tamales, rice, chips and dip furnished by Patti, a large chocolate cake was served honoring four May birthdays – Don Russell, Gordon Lloyd, Brian Hamilton and Susan Johnson.

The June "Western Hoe Down" dance was a great success with a nice attendance. It was sponsored by Roger and Susan Lewis in honor of their anniversary, and Don Haight in honor of his wife Renee's birthday. In addition, elections were held for all positions, as we do each June. The new team of officers was sworn in by senior Board member Joy Michaels.



LA Chapter 2012 Officers



Roger Seastedt & Patti Rohrer

New members. Two new members were voted in at the May meeting, Roger Seastedt and Patti Russell Rohrer. Roger retired as an engineer from the aerospace industry. He lives on a boat that he built in San Pedro. Besides dancing, he enjoys traveling, including sailing to many parts of the world and is an avid chess player too. Patti is the daughter of Don Russell. After the recent death of her mother, Jan, she moved in with her father to be with him. Her hobbies include skiing, needlework and philanthropies. WELCOME Patti and Roger as new members of LANSD.

Other news. Emails from the "almost around the world" wandering Scholtz's: they expressed their pleasure of meeting with their son in Ft. Lauderdale before boarding the ship to begin their adventure. After a stop in Nassau, Bermuda, sailed across the Atlantic, teaching a dance class each afternoon with about 50 couples attending. Expressing the beauty of Luxor, the means to avoid pirates off Somalia or a land trek into Petra, we anxiously await their return to recall all their adventures.

Sandy Wells and her family traveled to her homeland – Italy. They explored Rome, Florence, Pisa, Venice, Assisi, Pompeii, Naples, Capri, Sorrento and back to Rome to return to U.S. They had a fun filled two weeks.

Shun and Dorothy Ling will be cruising for 19 days in June to Scandinavia.

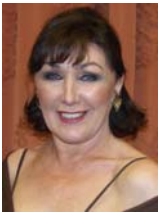
The coronation of Barbara Uichanco in Visalia was attended by Queen Joy Michaels and George Zimmerman, again filling in for Queen Lesley and Allan. It was a lovely ceremony with the honor dance being performed by the senior Uichanco's (Vince and Nellie) with Barbara and Greg joining them.

Bea Gaspar sends thanks to all who have sent cards and flowers during her extended illness. She is feeling much better and only has to have oxygen at night. We're hoping for a full recovery and hope to see her back dancing soon.

Running a gauntlet – being pelted with tortillas and marshmallows – Sandy Wells and Joy Michaels marched with the Red Hat Society in the Doo Dah Parade in Pasadena. The parade is a take off of the Rose Parade with many unique floats, marching groups and individuals. The two ladies also attended a taping of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno with 30 other ladies of this fun disorganization.

Upcoming social. The July "Yankee Doodle/USO Salute" dance will be on July 8 at the El Monte Senior Center, 3120 Tyler Ave., El Monte from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$12. See nationalsmoothdancers.com for flyers.

Don't forget to make reservations for the statewide events coming up! The coronation at Palomar on July 14 and for Convention starting on August 31.



News, news, and more news

Member outings. On a beautiful, sunny day a group of Golden Gate members left the wooden dance floor to the fields of the Golden Gate Race Track where the 4th race was dedicated to their group



and so announced by the track announcer. They enjoyed a bountiful buffet at the Turf Club, placed their bets and were escorted to the Winners circle where they watched the horses race to the finish line. One of the horses did not want to run that day and threw its rider to the ground, another one was eliminated for possible injury, and a photo finish had to determine the winner in another race. A photo shoot with the winning jockey signaled the end of a beautiful afternoon, surely to be repeated next year.

In the ballroom. A new idea surfaced at our club the end of last year when after all the years of taking on the job, Barbara Crawford passed on to the rest of us the naming of the theme of our monthly dance and the corresponding decorations for the tables. I mentioned the first 2 months in previous newsletters. Then there was Mary Crosat's Irish theme in March where green dominated all the tables, and now in May we had Lewis Nightingale's "Blue Tango" delight us. He borrowed spike heeled shoes from all the ladies and as you see, here is the result from one of the tables. The creativity of our members is truly inspiring and I can hardly wait for next month fair when Patrick Jude and myself will be hosting a Western theme.



Member news. Queen Elizabeth Hage treated all of us queens and escorts to a delightful dinner at one of her favorite restaurants here in San Francisco. After a delightful and unusual banquet, Queen Mary Crosat and Queen Rosa Lin entertained us with several versions of "Unchained Melody" aided by a little wine and a full orchestra on a karaoke system. Our "Miss Sunshine" Barbara Crawford, who has not been queen yet, was also invited, perhaps to show her all that she is missing and that it is time for her to join the royal circuit. Oh, what a night it was.....Thank you Elizabeth!

Richard Long is doing very well as his broken ribs and wrist has healed, though his right shoulder is still mending and uncomfortable.

Former member Lucia Edwards is scheduled for heart valve surgery on June 19th. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

Joe and Elena Malta, Rosalie Wolf, Barbara and Ben Cardinalli and Mary and Ray Crosat and Dona Rosco left on a cruise from San Francisco to Hawaii on April 28th for 15 days. Ray and Rosalie turned into "terrors on wheels" with their rented scooters to the amusement of all the other passengers. They visited John Anzalone in his 9th floor condo in Honolulu where he treated them to an incredible lunch. A good time was had by all.

Sad news. It is with great sadness that I have to add a personal note about my long time friend Al Hew who has passed on this last week, just one day after his 78th birthday. For many years and long before I discovered NSD, my friends and I frequented Starlight Ballroom in Sunnyvale. That's where we discovered Al. Diane would "let him" go dance without her on Sundays, much to the delight of all of us. He was such a great leader and accomplished dancer that we would stand in line to get our turn. Of course he had his favorite dance with each of us and rarely switched



Al Hew

things around. When I went to my first hospitality as queen of Golden Gate, I was delighted to discover Al and Diane at the Fresno convention. She insisted on us competing in the Senior Waltz and though we had not danced in several years, it felt like we danced the day before and I think Al won the trophy for us. When visiting Arizona he invited us to their beautiful home and served a delightful home cooked meal.

Even though they were members of Golden Gate, he would look forward to making the rounds at the Conventions & Board Meetings to ask his favorite ladies in the Fresno, San Diego, Visalia, San Fernando Valley, & Palomar Chapters to dance.

For the past 17 years, since Diane's coronation in 1994 when Mary Anderson was state queen, Al & Diane met annually with Ralph & Mary for an evening of dinner & dancing before the Palomar coronation. I will miss him dearly as will all who knew him and danced with him. Save me one of your Quicksteps, Night Clubs and a Waltz, for when we meet again Al.

As always, dance first, think later.

Bakersfield Chapter

An anniversary and an award highlight the month

Socials. Our June dance, with a luau theme, will be chaired by Jo Ann Georgio. The dress for the evening will be casual. This should be a great kick-off to the summer. It will be held at the Rasmussen Center 115 E. Roberts Lane from 7:00 to 10:30 pm. Members are free, guests are \$15 for singles and \$25 for couples. Hope to see all of you there!

Our May dance, All that Jazz, chaired by Ben and Wendy Wilson and a great committee, was a very special occasion, our club's 48th anniversary! The decorations reflected the celebratory occasion, with black table cloths on each table, white lace place mats and top hats with vases of red roses placed inside them. The music for the evening was shared by Ken Silber of the Targets and the Shafter Jazz Band, which entertained us with their very danceable music numbers. In the spotlight were Peggy Amato and Jim Messner who performed a wonderful bolero!

Our Master of Ceremony for the evening was Steve Peterson, who did a special presentation honoring our past Queens and present Queen, followed by all the Queens and their escorts waltzing to the music, The Anniversary Waltz. And then, our former Queen Wendy presented our new Queen Kay with the "Queens Trophy".

President Ben Wilson presented the coveted Gretchen Garretson Award. "This award is presented each year at the May dance to the individual or couple selected for recognition of exceptional service to our chapter. The award is



Judy Evans

named for one of our most outstanding founding leaders, Gretchen Garretson, one who epitomized selfless service by her total dedication to accomplishment of the purposes of Smooth Dancers." This year the award was presented to Ms. Judy Evans, a past Queen and a most deserving recipient. Judy has dedicated countless hours to our club. She started out several years ago by trying to organize our storage unit, where all our decorations are kept. She has spent countless hours making decorations so that we can have a dance theme for any month of the year. All a chair person has to do is decide on a theme, go to the storage unit and pick out the decorations they want, all of them carefully labeled in a storage container! There is enough for each table. Judy has made almost all of them! From the numerous place mats, to the flower arrangements, what she could not make, she bought at numerous bargain stores in order to complete the center pieces. She has a knack for creating new decorations out of older variations, therefore, making everything reusable again.

Congratulations Judy, for a well deserved honor.

Adding to this special evening were Bob and Karen Kandarian. Karen is a past Queen, and Bob escorted her and was able to dance a little with her for the Queens dance. I also caught them dancing a little bit during the evening. Please continue to keep him on your prayer list.

For our April 28th dance we weren't able to get anyone to chair it. This seems to be a problem this year. We really need our members to step up and consider "chairing" our dances. Check with Margaret to see what months are still available.

This dance was a lot of fun. Margaret and her husband brought over the cartoon characters from the "boards" to greet us as we entered the dance, and several of the cartoon character decorations were used on each of the tables. The members that didn't make the boards got a taste of what they missed! A big thank you to Dr. Patrick and Maria Leung for donating the pies that were served! There were 86 people in attendance and it was a great evening!



Bob & Karen

Final note. Congratulations to Phil and Sue Kimbrell on the birth of their new granddaughter!

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