

*National Smooth Dancers*  
***Dance Whispers***  
*September 2012*



## Convention a great event for all attendees

edited by Joan Robinson



### State Queen Barbara takes up her reign in a truly beautiful coronation.

The Coronation! Oh my, what a fun part of the evening this was for me. It was the culmination of many plans and ideas, and the charming reigning chapter queens



State Queen Barbara Greenlaw

welcomed me so warmly into this circle of friendship.

My crown was set in place by the vivacious outgoing State Queen Carla Rose Hartunian, with her good wishes and blessings for a wonderful year. "Orient Express" was the music we chose for our Queen's dance and it sums up for me an elegant, lovely way to travel – and that traveling to all the NSD chapters will commence for Bill and me in January.

I remember the dance floor being filled with so

many ladies who have been queen for their chapter and I am excited to be a part of this reign for a lovely second time around.

"Champagne and Strawberries" were served by two handsome gentlemen from the SFV chapter, Bill Krambo and Les LaZar, for the Queen's Reception in the beautiful Chairman's Suite. Following the reception the Crown Circle Luncheon was attended by 52 members of the Crown Circle. We ladies always have lots of conversation and laughter and even a few items of business to link with previous years and events and traditions. I chose the theme "Friendship" because I feel so strongly that it typifies what the Crown Circle is all about. We were entertained by Wendy Wilson on flute and her friend Charis Franz on oboe for some very elegant classical music. Wendy is the immediate past queen of the Bakersfield Chapter.

This year we had delightful works of art donated and on display by professional artist, Gee Gee Barden of SFV, and there were three very lucky winners who each took home a beautiful memento. It was wonderful to discover and feature these talented women.

It is my joy and honor to serve this year as State Queen and I have the absolute pleasure of knowing that we will be traveling to each chapter's coronation to celebrate and welcome each lady who will be selected Queen of their chapter. (con't. pg. 2)

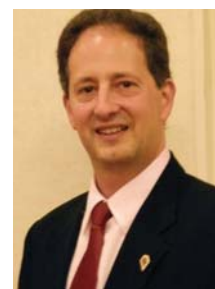
### Convention Report.

What an "AB FAB" (short for absolutely fabulous) convention it was. The energy level was extremely high; all who attended thoroughly enjoyed the activities and dance events. We made many changes and additions to the formats this year. The dance hosts and the Jack and Jill "competitions" were by far the biggest hits. But the key to our success was that nobody ever had a moment to be bored. Mark's (my co-chair and president) schedule of the weekend was filled with activities – so much so that we were OFTEN asked if there would be any time for 'general dancing'. The event was hopping from 2pm Friday afternoon right up to 11am Monday morning. Almost all events were kept to a five minute time limit so that our dancers could get back to dancing. And there were events every 20-30 minutes so those who preferred to watch rather than dance still enjoyed the atmosphere and fun. Thanks to all of you who loved our ideas and gave us such praise; we are happy that it went so smoothly. (What else can you expect from Smooth Dancers?) We're thrilled to hear that Bakersfield and Visalia are thinking about replicating some of our ideas. We are eager to help all chapters of Smooth Dancers have successful spring and Labor Day conventions. (con't. pg. 3)



Joan Robinson

Event  
Co-Chairs



Mark Emanuelli

**Coronation (con't.)** It was a fabulous Convention. Thank you to everyone for being there and for contributing your energy, your talents and your enthusiastic participation - making it one super weekend!!

State Queen Barbara Greenlaw



Queen Barbara and Escort Bill Steeber



2012 Queens



Queen Barbara and Escorts

**State Queen Carla's farewell.** Dearest NSD Members, Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to be your State Queen this year. It has been an honor to represent all eight chapters of NSD. Being State Queen has been the highlight of my year! I loved traveling to the chapter's coronations and being a part of each coronation, which is one of the most important traditions of the NSD organization. But, what all NSD members need to understand is once you are a Queen you have the opportunity to build a network of lifelong friends with each queen and their husbands and escorts. That is what has happened to me. I now am part of a sisterhood of Queens all over the state. I will cherish the friendships I have made in the crown circle this year. A special thank you goes out to all the handsome escorts that escorted me during each coronation ceremony. I was always thrilled to have a different exquisite man, to be my escort.

I tried to bring a little joy and surprise to each member of NSD by reaching out to you on your birthday; hopefully a simple card showed you how much I care about each one of you in this organization. I've become known as the Queen who surprises you with sprinkles and confetti inside your cards or maybe one that even sings to you. My intent was to spread a little love and make each one of you feel appreciated.

Thank you again for the honor of representing NSD as State Queen for 2011-2012, for our wonderful organization. Hopefully I did my best to represent you, and I look forward to either dancing with you or giving you a big hug.

Lots of Love, Carla Rose Hartunian



State Queen Carla Hartunian



Queen Roberta LaZar

**Queen Roberta's Farewell.** It's so difficult to write my farewell report as the San Fernando Valley Queen. I want to thank everyone in the San Fernando Valley chapter for choosing me to represent you as your Queen. I have enjoyed participating in the coronations at our sister chapters and getting to know Smooth Dancers all around the state. While we will no longer be attending all the coronations, Les and I hope to travel to at least a couple events each year to visit with many of the friends we have made since November 2010.

Les and I really enjoyed convention and we appreciate all the hard work that our fellow chapter members put in to make it such a success. Welcome to our new State and Chapter Queen Barbara. I really enjoyed being a part of her coronation and watching her beautiful Viennese waltz. I know Queen Barbara will be a wonderful representative for our chapter, and a wonderful State and Chapter Queen.

Now that our convention is over, I am getting in the mood for Visalia's "Out of Africa" convention next year with an East African Safari. We will be visiting Kenya and Tanzania. See you all next Labor Day weekend. Sincerely, Roberta

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## Convention report (con.t)

Since Whispers is the best documentation of Smooth Dancers history, we want to document some of the ideas that were put into play during this convention:

- **Teamwork:** Eight Chapters worked in concert to pull this off. Chapters stepped up to decorate, host the entryway, and run the music for an afternoon or evening, freeing up valuable time for the host chapter to handle issues and prepare for the next activities. We especially want to acknowledge the following people and chapters: San Diego: Friday Eve Dance (Mike Cowlshaw – DJ), Fresno: Friday Night Hospitality, Visalia: Sat Aft Dance (Greg Uichanco – DJ), SFV: Sat Eve Dance (Mark Emanuelli – DJ) & Sat Night “Evening Coffee”, Golden Gate: Sun Aft Dance (Joe Malta – DJ), Los Angeles: Sun Eve Dance (Susan Lewis & Chuck Johnson – DJ), Palomar: Sun Night Hospitality, Bakersfield: Dennis Acosta: Electronics, Music, Scrutineer.
- **Promotions:** Revised advertisements targeting non-members to join us for our “Labor Day Dance Weekend” (NSD Convention made it sound like only NSD members were allowed to attend). We were happy to have 39 local SFV “friends” in attendance.
- **Dance Hosts:** Eleven dance hosts enabled us to even out the balance between men and women. We gave the hosts complimentary passes in exchange for a commitment to dance till they dropped! Having more single single men in attendance made the event more attractive to single ladies, both members and non-members.
- **Flashmob:** For the first time in NSD’s 71-year history, we had a showcase event that featured members of every chapter dancing on the floor together!
- **Jack & Jill format “competition”:** Single dance results enabled broad entries, no restrictions on costumes, and no preparation required. So many people lined up to enter; we had to turn some away.
- **Jack and Jill Invitational:** We invited past competition winners to be on the floor again to grace us with their talents. (Note: Next time we’ll have competitors walk on the floor with their ORIGINAL partners, THEN change to their J&J partners)
- **Decorations:** Lighting for the curtains changed with the flip of a switch (courtesy of the electrical engineering talents of Frank Trapp). Tall floral arrangements graced the room as our main centerpieces for most of the dances. This simplified the decorations needed by other chapters, who could just add on to the central pieces. Saved money and created elegance.
- **Formation Teams:** Our chapter performed a group dance, which encouraged other chapters to do the same. Chapter members worked together to create shows of their own, which resulted in a higher level of commitment to attend the convention.
- **Hospitality Schedule:** Lighter snacks were served from 2 – 4pm to allow attendees to still get dinner and to hopefully ease the burden on Friday Night Hospitality (kinda worked, but we heard that it was still REALLY busy Friday night). Saturday Hospitality changed to “Evening Coffee”, a dessert/nightcap after an evening that included a full dinner with dessert, as well as five hours of dancing.
- **Single Ladies’ Dance Practice:** Sharon Crisp and I taught the cha cha, the fox trot, and the samba as routines that single ladies could perform in a female formation team. Unfortunately, they didn’t have enough practice time to do it without a leader, and I was simply too busy to dance much during the weekend. The ladies were able to get on the floor with the samba, thanks to Sharon and Fresno’s help.
- **Dance Lessons:** We had four group lessons instead of two, with approximately 60 participants at each lesson. This gave the 250 attendees who were NOT at the morning meetings something to do. We could consider having as many as six or eight lessons if “practice sessions” are limited.

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Here’s the terrific DJ team all of whom worked hard to give us that great music. Thank you one and all.

Mike



Greg



Mark



Joe



Susan & Chuck



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## Convention (con't.)

- Grab & Go Lunches – Lots of good quick food at affordable prices kept up attendees' energy levels. Sponsored by SFV chapter, it became a success due to patronage by many attendees. (Needs to be in a conspicuous area. – even our location, which was just to the right of the entryway", needed to be continually pointed out.)
- Centralized Coffee Bar for Meetings: All officers thought that this was an improvement, and it saved us money over three separate coffee services.
- Exhibitions vs Competitions: When there were not enough entries to establish a sanctioned event, couples who had practiced and honed their competitive pieces were able to take the floor in a critiqued exhibition. We combined levels when applicable in order to have more couples on the floor and to increase general dance time.
- Coronation: We limited the scheduled time for the coronation to thirty minutes in order to return the group to dancing and to minimize the time on the 'dais' for the queens. We added a short explanation of "Why There Are Queens" to explain to non-members the value we place on our queens. We pointed out that it's not just an old tradition that we carry on for no purpose. It is THE reason we have been able to keep eight chapters of 600+ friends in contact. (Even before Facebook!)
- Dinner with Dancing: We've been doing this at SFV Coronations for a while. We start low-key general dance music approximately 30-45 minutes into the dinner hour to allow those eager to dance to get back on the floor.
- Breakfast with Dancing: Our contract stipulated that we have a dance floor for the duration of the event. When asked what time we needed it until, Mark E responded, "We would like it until 12:00 noon on Monday". And it was so granted. The floor was busy with dancers even on Monday morning – what a great way to end a weekend of dance!

### Now for some of the fun stories of the weekend:

...We organized this convention over two years via emails. In all that time, we had only five meetings. ...Our dedicated floral arranger was our own Gee Gee Barden, with her arm in a sling. Her 'single handed' attempt to finish all 30 vases wasn't the most efficient, but the results were beautiful. Fortunately, help arrived in the bodies of Chuck and Susan Johnson, and we were able to open on schedule.

...We found George Schmidt's name badge. It took 8 hours to figure out to whom it belonged.

...Friday's evening music was great, but the sound was not filling the room as planned. Mark noticed that no sound was coming from the floor speakers. He worried for two hours that either the amplifier or speakers had malfunctioned after the two hour road trip from SFV. Or perhaps it was the computer hookup. After the Friday evening event ended, Mark tried some CDs, and had the same floor speaker failure. Climbing under the table to begin troubleshooting, we found that we forgot to plug in the speakers to the amplifier. Gotta plug them in for good sound, huh?

...Old fuddy-duddy fogies we are not. We are proud to say the hotel had to close us down at 12:30 a.m. on Sunday evening. Our piano playing, singing, and partying was too much for the hotel guests to handle. (Yay!)

...Lost and Found: We found a few pair of shoes – hopefully, nobody went home barefooted. We found a long black glove – how could someone lose one and not the other? (Call Mark for L&F)

...Did anyone notice that the two co-chairs (one who hired the judges and one who recorded the music) were each a winner in one of the Invitational Jack and Jill dance? We didn't fix it – honestly.

...After cleaning up Monday morning, the worker bees squeezed into the elevator. We were so busy talking that nobody pressed the button for the floor we wanted. It took longer than it should for any of us to notice!

**Competition report.** Sixteen "Traditional" events were offered on our registration forms: two Senior Events and fourteen Sanctioned Competitions. By the entry deadline, there were enough contestants to hold the two Senior events, and five of the sanctioned competitions. There were insufficient entries to hold competitions in Four-Star Smooth or any Latin or Standard style events.

Many couples withdrew their entries due to injury or other factors, which reduced the participation in six of the seven competitions. Two events, Two-Star Smooth and Three-Star Smooth, resulted in only two entries. Rather than being cancelled, they reverted to being critiqued events (Exhibitions)..

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## Convention (con't.)

### Traditional Competition Results

#### Senior Cha Cha (unsanctioned)

- 1 - Don Hubbard & Sharon Tate of Palomar
- 2 - James Messner & Peggy Amato of Bakersfield
- 3 - Doug Holmes & Ines Plishke of San Diego

#### Senior Waltz (unsanctioned)

- 1 - Duane & Donna Thornton of Palomar
- 2 - Peter Hanson & Margaret Moholt of Palomar
- 3 - James Messner & Peggy Amato of Bakersfield

#### 1-Star Rhythm

- 1 - Anthony Wood & Nancy Schwartz of San Diego
- 2 - TG & Hilda Thomas of Bakersfield
- 3 - Shane & Myra Nielsen of Visalia

#### 2-Star Rhythm

- 1 - Anthony Wood & Nancy Schwartz of San Diego
- 2 - Steve & Rose Peterson of Bakersfield
- 3 - Jerry Engel & Debbie Bloom of SFV

#### 1-Star Smooth

- 1 - Shane & Myra Nielsen of Visalia
- 2 - Larry & Kim Johnson of Bakersfield
- 3 - Steve & Rose Peterson of Bakersfield

### Competitors in "Exhibition"/ "Critique" Events

2-Star Smooth - Larry & Kim Johnson, Greg & Barbara Uichanco

2-Star Latin - Frank Trapp & Keiko Isshiki

3-Star Standard - Frank Trapp & Keiko Isshiki, Ken & Marion Scholtz

3-Star Smooth - Ben & Wendy Wilson, Greg & Barbara Uichanco

4-Star Smooth - Bill & Lona Dolan

### Jack and Jill Events

Open Jack & Jill contests, each consisting of three dances, were held on Saturday and Sunday evening. .  
There was one invitational event on Sunday evening.

There were 12 winning couples, one for each dance of the four contests.



Marion & Ken



Wendy & Ben



Lona & Bill



Keiko & Frank



Barbara & Greg

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## Convention (con't.)

### Thank You's:

Lastly, we simply cannot say Thank You enough to the team from San Fernando Valley, "The Worker Bees" .. so...stealing from Thank You's exchanged in email, and dedicated to all of you:

THANK YOU ..for outstanding service and such dedication to our club... The enormous details that were handled were executed extremely well and there must have been times when you felt stressed, overburdened, and tired.

We have often claimed that NSD "has to change" ...and this weekend we tried do just that. We built it – and many of you came. We threw a dance event to love and remember, even for non-NSD family members. It all worked! Everybody's efforts are so very much appreciated. We know that we are going to miss some of the contributions, but with a one-week deadline, this is who we remember in particular:

Bill Morey – for fabulous forms, ads, yearbook, the Grab & Go counter flyer, even a contract with Dance Vision, USA to advertise with us!

GeeGee Barden – for proofreading, advising (and sometimes insisting) on corrections to our yearbook, as well as and single-handedly (lol) putting together our centerpieces, always with a smile on her face.

Barbara Greenlaw – for arranging Gavel Club details, Crown Circle details, dancing in the Flash Mob, and being a gracious State Queen, for jumping in during registration to hand out packages, and for registering people for competitions and Jack & Jill events.

Bill Steeber – for arranging all the competition entries, voting sheets for judges, critique sheets, and for burning competition and practice music. In addition, for writing countless checks, balancing the books, and keeping our funds up-to-date. Also, a big thank you for the handy pocket-schedules!

James Gutman – for filling your truck with goodies to bring along, for making runs to Costco for hospitality snacks, and for working tirelessly in jeans and t-shirt in 106-degree weather to set up the event!

Andrea Gutman – for coordinating four days of hospitality in the Chairman's suite! For getting the snacks from Costco and preparing them by 2pm on Friday! For dancing in overalls for the "Labor Day" part of our skit.

Keiko Isshiki – for coordinating formation teams – entries, showcases, practices – and staying in the loop with the master schedule, which included six formation events and more than fifty dancers.

Frank Trapp – for creating a beautifully lit entranceway and a multi-light arrangement to backlight our draperies., which allowed us to hook up the floor lights on Saturday night to a 'conveniently' open 4<sup>th</sup> circuit. You enabled us to professionally light our shows.

Roberta LaZar – for two consecutive years of representing our chapter as a magnificent and loyal queen (we know who will be traveling all next year to make up for it...), for your insight and support in advertising outside of NSD, for being an all-around great hostess, and for pitching in whenever you were needed.

Les LaZar – who created the amazing Holiday Extravaganzanator 2012! You supported all of our efforts, even romping around in your swimsuit during our skit! We thank you for jumping in as required, always on a moment's notice.

Sally Emanuelli – for tracking registrations, meal requests, and check deposits for 6 months for 300 people! For having all those records on hand, printed out for any and every question asked during the event, for jumping in, unasked, to handle registration for Jack & Jill contests and other competitions.. For handing out the 300 registration packets and printing name tags, event tickets, lesson tickets, etc. For handling all of that in addition to making sure your two beautiful children were well fed, dropped off at the right location, and remained happy and healthy. All this while putting in 40-hour work weeks!

### And to our event chairpersons:

Joan Robinson – for marketing non-stop for 6 months and being personally responsible for getting 11 dance hosts at our event! For buying flowers and thirty cases of wine for the event (we have a lot of wine left for our dances this year!). For arranging the transportation of the wine and for organizing the folks who watched the doors, took tickets, played practice music, etc, etc.. for executing the Flash Mob (compliments of Gerri Cook) by gathering dancers from across NSD, and for jumping in with both feet after originally responding, "Are you out of your mind?"

## Convention (con't.)

Mark Emanuelli – for scheduling 72 hours of events in 3-minute increments, for MCing for 3 days straight, for creating our color brochure covers, our schedule of events form, and PDF versions of everything thrown his way. And for signing contracts with the Marriott, Banquet Orders, Schedules of Events for the Hotel, Signage Postings for the Hotel, fixing room reservations, establishing the Grab & Go counter, and carrying a hotel phone for 3 days to handle any and every last minute change. For establishing the vision that we can have a successful convention for more than 300 people and for enabling the team to create the reality of that vision.

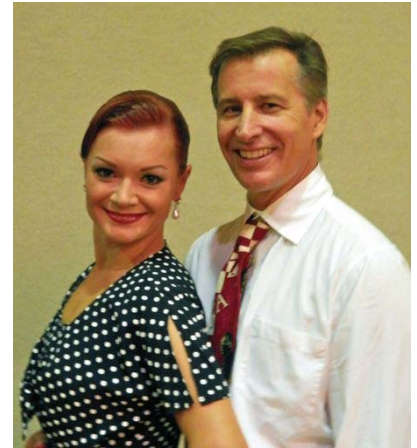


Lei Mei Wang & David

### To our professionals:

Thank you to David Moutrey, Lei Mei Wang, and Jerry More - our overcommitted and far-too-much-fun professionals who put on a spectacular showcase, taught private lessons, hosted a great set of group lessons, and THEN partied with us both during the dances AND at the hospitalities. They were a blast - it was a lot of fun helping them pull off the really fun shows...

Thank you to our second pair of professionals - Michael Kuka & Natalia Lind - who brought spontaneity and vibrance with their own dancing on Sunday. Lindy Hop at a Smooth Dancers event - EVERYONE loved that...



Natalia & Michael

**Also.** Thanks to the staff at the JW Marriott Resort in Palm Desert - with a dedicated team of professionals, they catered meals, set up the ballroom, changed the colors to match our themes, and helped keep our group in touch with them to solve all issues in under 30 minutes. They were an outstanding team and I would not hesitate to contract with them again in the future. Heck – Mark's ready to draft a contract for 2019! So, I'm saying for the second time: "ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND??"

Thank you to the members of the San Fernando Valley Chapter who attended and enjoyed our convention. Finally, thank you to the many unnamed folks in our National Smooth Dancers family who made this a reality:

Thank You All

**Business Meetings.** As you all know, in addition to all the dance and pure fun, there are also business meetings held at each convention. They are for the presidents, the board members, and the delegates.

Important discussion is held regarding the future of the organization and how to advance it. This year, as is usually the case, there was considerable discussion around the next two conventions, including detailed reports from Visalia about 2013.

There was also much time spent on how to improve participation in the state wide events. The Bakersfield Chapter specifically identified the next two years as a critical time for increasing attendance at the Board Meeting in order for them to continue on with it in the present form.

It was suggested and discussed that advertising revenue might be an effective way to defray costs, with each chapter having it's own unique situation in that regard.

Please see your chapter members in these groups for all the detail.



The Presidents



The Board of Directors



The Delegates

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## Convention (con't.)

**Gavel Club and the Award.** The Gavel Club and its inception have an interesting history. It began as an idea and a platform for an award which would be given NOT for dancing but for Outstanding Service to the organization.

The qualifications for such an award were put together in 1974 and Carl Koehler, a prominent trophy manufacturer, received the order to create the award. A trophy was designed to express the true meaning and high ideals of NSD and the first award was given out the following year in 1975. For 37 years this original idea has continued to recognize and honor a member's dedication and outstanding service to the National Smooth Dancers organization.



Peter Hanson

Chapter presidents, both past and current, make up the membership of the Gavel Club and the club meets once a year at Convention for a luncheon to conduct business and to vote. It is the responsibility of these members to select a person to be rewarded for outstanding service to National Smooth Dancers at the chapter and state levels. Nominations for this award are submitted in writing to the Gavel Club Chairman fully describing a nominee's qualifications.

This year, a most deserving Peter Hanson of the Palomar chapter received the Gavel Club Award. He is witty, an innovator, a Go-To person for ideas and answers and a 37 year NSD member. Congratulations Peter!

The Gavel Club meeting is not just business oriented, we have great fun too! This year Chuck Johnson from the Los Angeles Chapter, assisted by his lovely wife Susan, took on the role of "Auctioneer Supreme" calling the auctioning of several gifts. Chuck says that he learned this talent as a kid from his father and I want to tell you he was terrific - and what a response he received! The proceeds from the auction went into the Gavel Club funds, as the club is self sustaining and does not ask or receive funds from any chapter.

I have been privileged to serve as Chairman of the Gavel Club for the past six years. I am stepping down and I want to introduce to you my successor as Chairman of the Gavel Club, Vern Miranda from the San Diego Chapter. He will bring new ideas and good things to the organization. Vern, I wish you the very best as the new Chairman of the Gavel Club.

Barbara Greenlaw - Retiring Gavel Club Chairman, State Queen - 2012

### Chapter commentary.

Los Angeles. We're still recovering from our fantastic weekend. Kudos to all who participated in making it a huge success. Los Angeles had a significant attendance with 27 fun loving folks. What a terrific venue! After attending numerous meetings, our members came away with new ideas and strategies to improve our chapter in the future. Every holiday represented a more exciting theme – with LA handling the Valentine's Day dance on Sunday night. Numerous hearts and cupids decorated the tables and Susan & Roger Lewis and Chuck Johnson played wonderful dance music for the event. Our "team" dance turned out very well – thanks to the choreography and leadership of Victor Lee.

Congratulations to Liz Bradford for winning the perpetual trophy at the Crown Circle brunch, to celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being State Queen, and being acknowledged for winning the Gavel Club award in 1979. -Joy.

Visalia. Congratulations San Fernando Valley!! With a very small core group of workers, this club created an atmosphere where everyone could enjoy visiting friends who feel like family and experience many hours of the joy of dancing. Just a few highlights were the Flash Mob surprise, the many formation team presentations, Rick Wenzel at the piano during hospitality, the special Invitational Jack and Jill contest and of course the pro entertainment. A special treat for the ladies were the many dance hosts. SFV you threw a terrific party!!

Visalia's contribution was to host the St. Patrick's Day dance at the "Irish pub" complete with beer mugs on the tables and a performance by our formation team – a beautiful Viennese Waltz to a lilting Irish tune. We also introduced a line dance to an Irish jig that kept getting faster & faster.

When Cheryl missed a dance (for a shopping spree), Dean Levitan received honorary Dance Host status from the Visalia women. -Yvette.

Fresno. Convention 2012 was a huge success with lots of great new ideas and something for everyone. 25 Fresno members attended with 13 sharing Visalia's bus.

Outgoing State Queen, Carla Rose Hartunian, was escorted by Bob Dowell. She crowned our new State Queen Barbara Greenlaw.



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## Convention (con't.)

Thanks to Joan Robinson for the dance host idea and great recruiting. The hosts had special badges and did their best to keep the ladies dancing.

In addition to the usual competitions, critiqued exhibitions and Jack & Jill contests were held. Each of the 5 dance parties included at least one Jack & Jill contest and there was a high level of participation and enthusiasm by dancers and audience alike.

At the Monday breakfast Fresno presented Kathy Sachse, who is retiring, with Life Member status to honor her contributions to Fresno Smooth Dancers. -Lynn.

Palomar. We had 27 members at a glorious weekend of friends, dancing, eating and more friends, dancing and eating! We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful and elegant facility to crown our lovely new State Queen Barbara Greenlaw. Barbara and her escort, Bill Steeber, took on a remarkable Viennese Waltz for her "Queens Dance". We were all mesmerized! The "Dancing Through the Holidays" theme was great fun from Salsa Caliente to "Luck O' the Irish" to "New Year's Eve" to "4<sup>th</sup> of July Beach Party" and finally the "Valentine Soire"! Thank you San Fernando Valley Chapter for all of your hard work pulling together a seamless and exciting event! Additions to convention, such as the Jack & Jill competitions and dance hosts; brilliant! At the Crown Circle Luncheon Queen Carla placed an adorable photo holder with 3 favorite pictures she had taken at past events, at each current chapter queens' place setting. Very clever of Queen Carla!

Congratulations to chapter President, Peter Hanson, who received the prestigious National Smooth Dancers Gavel Club Award! Congratulations Peter! -Debbie.

Golden Gate. After an 11 hour drive down the avenue of the queens we arrived in Palm Desert at the beautiful Marriott resort. Prince Charles, queen Liz, queen Gabrielle and our friend Vera happy to finally be there after a grueling drive.

It would have taken 3 hours less, had I not left my computer at the first rest stop. Only the insistence of the other 3 to drive back and Vera's ingenious and persistent phone calls to various agencies, and lest we forget the amazing honesty of the person who found it and turned it in, saved my life, as it is all in that computer.

More than being grateful for getting back my computer, I am grateful for the amazing friends I have, not replaceable by anything. This is what this club is all about and coming to conventions such as this one reinforces those friendships we have made up and down the avenue of the queens.

This convention was special in many ways. Ingenious new ways of having competitions by having Jack and Jill contests. Different chapters taking on the different dances, afternoon and evening and sharing in the creation and execution of the themes. It was truly a great new concept and I think I am not the only one who loved it.

It was a blast, four days of non stop fun and dancing and the only time we could find to go to the pool was on Saturday night at 11PM. I salute Sally and Mark Emanuelli and Joan Robinson as well as all who were involved (don't know their names) on an amazing new concept and a very successful convention, filled with fun and excitement. -Gabrielle.

Bakersfield. Convention was well attended by our members. Our unofficial number was forty three. I think our chapter had the largest turn out for this event.

This year the San Fernando Chapter really outdid themselves; the wonderful dance hosts for the single ladies, as well as several Jack and Jill contests, both received very enthusiastically.

Professionals David Moutrey and Lee Mei Wang were so entertaining! They also made themselves available for private lessons and seminars. Jerry More, also a pro, was there assisting and held two dance seminars in which he taught the Hustle and Cha Cha. The Sunday night professional dancers, Michael Kuka and Natalia Lind, were absolutely exquisite!

Interspersed between all of this activity were several of the chapter formation team dancers.

The dance competitions were wonderful this year especially since several of our members participated and did so well. Please see the results above. -Dorothy.

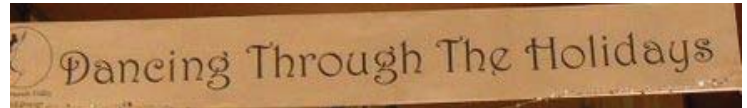
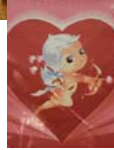
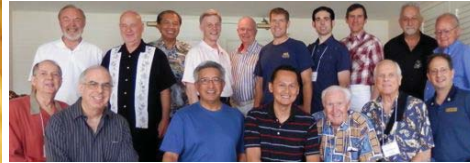
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See all the chapter news beginning on page 12.

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## Convention (con't.)

As you might expect, we had many, many photos from our wonderful convention. Unfortunately we could work into the articles only a few. So here's a collection of random pictures that just seemed to need a home. Enjoy. -DH, ed.



## Convention (con't.)

**Visalia Convention 2013 Out of Africa.** The 2013 Convention "tour" Out of Africa – a Safari Adventure, will be hosted by Visalia Chapter at the Marriott Hotel and Visalia Convention Center in downtown Visalia beginning August 30. Upon arrival you will be welcomed at the First Class Lounge with a food and beverage hospitality and greeted by your flight crew and tour guides to assist with your documentation.

On Friday evening you will gather at Game Reserve Camp Resort for a Welcome Orientation party to meet with fellow travelers and native guides. Along with learning safety tips for safari travel, there will be dancing, mixers and possibly special contests. Local custom calls for a visiting tribe to provide an after-dance hospitality event.



Saturday afternoon you will be transported to Lake Nakura where the water appears pink because of the millions of flamingos. You will be guests of the local villagers at their Flamingo Fantasy festival, which features dancing, competitions, mixers and other surprises.

Saturday evening will be a highlight of your trip as you will be included in the festivities and pageantry as visiting royalty gathers to crown a new Queen at an



elegant Coronation Ball at the world-famous Mt. Kenya Safari Club and Resort. This royal

occasion includes dinner, dancing, competitions and professional entertainment. After the Ball, you can mingle with all of the royal guests as another visiting tribe hosts an "after party".

Sunday will feature an afternoon Big Five Game drive and hunt (with cameras only) for the 5 most dangerous and magnificent African animals – elephant, rhino, cape buffalo, lion and leopard. There will be tribal dancing, competitions, mixers and a surprise or two.



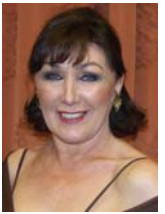
Sunday night at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro you will enjoy the lush environment of this unmistakable landmark and possibly spot the hikers who climb the mountain, both day & night. There will be dancing and competitions, plus special presentations and a professional showcase. Again, a visiting tribe will provide late-night refreshments so you may continue to visit on your last night of the safari tour.

Your final day of this African safari, you will enjoy a "Kwaheri" ("Farewell" in Swahili) Breakfast. As is tradition, this elegant breakfast is served under the tree-tops and open sky. After a sumptuous breakfast, tribal chiefs will make comments and awards will be given before you head for home.

Optional tours for your enjoyment include a Friday morning Golf Tournament (with enough sign-ups), and optional dance seminars will be available on both Saturday and Sunday.

Visalia Chapter looks forward to welcoming you to our OUT OF AFRICA 2013 Convention Tour on August 30, 2013. -Yvette.





**Travels.** While most of us will be sweating this week here in the Bay Area, Elena and Joe Malta will be on their way to visit green, cool and beautiful Ireland. Elena promised to kiss the Blarneystone for me, so I will be more eloquent in the future, you'll see.



**Outings.** On a recent outing to an American Indian POW WOW in Napa, our former queen Liz Talmadge and her Prince Charles as well as myself experienced the original American art form of dancing, performed by existing tribes from all over the country. It was very inspiring to see the traditions being kept alive with original costumes and drumming.

**Getting to know** our long time member Evelyn Gavello. Born in 1938 in San Francisco Evelyn started dancing Modern Dance and Tap at a very early age, progressing to Swing in her High School days. As her mom was an exceptional dancer the talent ran in the family and she soon entered and won contests at the many dance clubs in San Francisco.

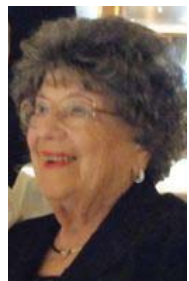


Her grandparents owned the very 1st Mexican restaurant called "The Hothouse" in San Francisco's Playland where she worked as a cashier, always hoping to get off early so she could go dancing.

After moving to Milbrae to take care of her mom, she discovered the Millbrae rec center and Steve and Ann Marie Baily who refreshed her skills in ballroom dancing and introduced her to Golden Gate dancers, where she has been a member now for 15 years.

Even after having both knees replaced, Evelyn is dancing again at our Sunday dances and at her favorite nightclub in Belmont "The Iron Gate" almost every weekend. She loves to cruise the Caribbean and Europe and visited Spain last year, using her Spanish language skills. Evelyn has a daughter and a son as well as two grandsons, Ethan (7) and Colin (3) who live in Fremont. Her favorite thing to do, guess.....dance!

Evelyn Gavello



Rosalie Wolf

**An incredible birthday.** Our current queen Rosalie Wolf turned an amazing "95" on the 7th of August. Unbelievable when she looks only 60 at the most. We wish you the best of health in your new year, lots of wonderful moments with your family and all of us. Happy Birthday!!

**Sad news.** Sam Chan passed away on Sunday July 22nd . He and his lovely wife Asako were members at Golden Gate since 2004 and Sam took turns playing the music at our Sunday dances. When I asked some of our members what they remembered most about him, the answer was always : "his amazing kindness and warm smile". He will be missed by all of us.



Sam Chan

As always, dance first, think later.

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NSD means Never Stop Dancing

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## Goings and comings

**Club news.** Our August meeting was a “Hawaiian hooki lau” with everyone having a good time.

Kuni Jessup furnished the Hawaiian theme lunch with a noodle dish as main course.

Michael Chu and Debby Ku gave a waltz lesson and Tom Wells was the music man. Kyle & Jodene Catterlin (anniversary) and Brian Hamilton (birthday) each sponsored the dance.

We added one more member – Michael Chu – to the LA Chapter. Michael is a civil engineer who enjoys dancing (proficient in all styles and rhythms), traveling, photography and computers. He is also a member of USA Dance and Dance Buddies. Welcome Michael!

Our September “Italian Independence” dance was held on September 9. Sandy and Tom Wells provided the Italian decorations and supplied the Italian luncheon. The Scholtz’s gave the class on International Tango and also provided the music.



Kuni Jessup



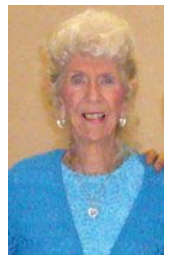
**Other news.** The Roger Lewis’ went to Rock Creek Lake in the High Sierras on a fishing/hiking trip with their son and grandson. Roger had a great time but found his grandson could “out climb” grandpa with no trouble. Chuck & Susan Johnson went to Colorado to attend a Johnson family reunion.

Our condolences go to the family of Bob Kandarian of the Bakersfield chapter, who succumbed to cancer on Sept. 5. He will be missed by all who appreciated his music at the Bakersfield Boards.

**In Memorium.** Sadly, we lost two more members this month. Sylvia Skyrha lost her battle with Alzheimers. Our condolences go to her husband Stewart and family.

Virginia Morrow was a longtime member and ballroom dance teacher who taught many of our members over the years. A dancing memorial was held to celebrate her life and bright colors were requested to be worn by the participants.

**Upcoming social.** The October “Black and White Ball” will be held on October 14 at the El Monte Senior Center, 3120 Tyler Avenue, El Monte – from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Cost is \$12. Jodene Catterlin will be taking reservations and Shun & Dottie Ling will provide the food. See [www.nationalsmoothdancers.com](http://www.nationalsmoothdancers.com) for flyers.



Virginia Morrow

**Coronation.** Save the date of January 19, for The Renaissance of Dance at the Coronation of Queen-elect, Sandy Wells.

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**Announcements.** Los Angeles Chapter President Kyle Catterlin announced that Joy Michaels will assume the position of Home Office Secretary, effective January 1, 2013. She will take over from Susan Johnson, who held the office this year while a more permanent arrangement could be made. We thank Susan for her invaluable assistance. And we congratulate Joy, and wish her the best in this important role.

At the same time, and in a departure from our history, it was decided that this position should have a term of office, which is now set at three years. This term of office concept is intended to continue for the indefinite future, and will remain at three years unless specifically announced otherwise.

## Recognizing our friends

**San Diego's Summer Picnic Social.** Our July Social was a blast, with great food and music that everyone enjoyed dancing to. 108 people attend our summer picnic this year. Kay Ryan and Patricia DiSessa really set a new standard for the quality of the chicken dinner that we all enjoyed. The annual event has been one of our most popular club socials, and this year's picnic was no exception!



**An Enchanted Luau Evening.** It's always great when club members step up and volunteer to chair a social; it is particularly special when, as it was in August, some of our longest-tenured and dearest members do so. Anne and Dave Saul have done so much for the chapter that they were recently voted "Life Members"—and here they were, still working for the rest of us by hosting this great Luau. Also close to our hearts is Ines Plikshe, who co-chaired this event with Dave and Anne. Ines did a wonderful job creating this evening with Dave and Anne; we're sorry that Ines' husband, George, couldn't attend and enjoy the product of his lovely wife's efforts with the rest of us. As wonderful as Dave, Anne and Ines were in putting the social together, it wouldn't have been as great a success without the DJ services of Ann Vutisaksatit, who provided a great program of dance music.

**Thank You, Judy and Vern Miranda.** If you have been to a San Diego social or coronation in the last few years, you may or may not have realized that you were being photographed on the dance floor and thereabouts. If you don't already know, you were probably photographed by either Judy or Vern Miranda. Together, they provide an important service, making sure that the San Diego Chapter has pictures and videos to document our events and ensuring that those moments in time are available on the chapter's website.

**"Celebration of Life" for Maggie and Fred Deming.** As reported in the last edition, Maggie and Fred Deming passed away in June. As a reminder to NSD friends, the San Diego chapter will hold a "Celebration of Life" for the Demings on October 6th from 1 to 4 p.m., hosted by Al Folkman and Wandalee Dimond at their home in San Diego.

**A Changing of the Guard.** In July, semiannual elections were held for officer positions. Another changing of the guard occurred also, though, of no less importance to San Diego members: the editorship of the chapter's monthly



Brenda

newsletter, Smooth Talk, was passed from Brenda Gettig to Mark Chapman. Smooth Talk is the chapter's foremost means of communication to members. The gathering and writing of articles, the laying out of the articles in an attractive and enjoyable-to-read format, and the printing, mailing and e-mailing of the newsletter is an extremely time-consuming task. I think it is fair to say that the magnitude the task is largely underappreciated by chapter members. After 3 years of dedication, Brenda turned over the Smooth Talk keyboard to Mark Chapman. Not only has Brenda done an outstanding job of producing Smooth Talk each and every month, but she has also been a competitor at many NSD functions. Now Mark has assumed the responsibility, adding to his many, many other efforts on behalf of the chapter, including prior editorship of San Diego's



Mark

contributions to Dance Whispers. Thanks so much, Brenda and Mark, for your past and continuing contributions to the San Diego Smooth Dancers!

# Visalia Chapter

edited by Yvette Haworth



## Fall season has arrived

**Age of Aquarius.** Visalia turned back the clock to the 60s & 70s on August 11th for the "dawning" of the Age of Aquarius. Everyone was wearing tie-dye and paisley, leather, beads, bell bottoms and flowers in our hair – the very best hippy and flower-child attire.



Lotti Carr & Joan Dewey

VW buses & bugs adorned the walls with happy faces and groovy sayings everywhere. The stage was an array of flower power, peace, love & happy faces. We all "dug" the music provided by Vince Uichanco to find the sounds of that era to keep us on the dance floor.

Chairs Tom and Sue Giampietro were assisted by Lotti Carr, Yvette Haworth, Suzie Carlson, Diane Sellers and Adelle & Mark Martinez. Decorations were created by Sue and Lotti, with the help of Lorenzo who painted the buses.

**Steppin' out.** We all hope our NSD friends and guests will be Steppin' Out on Saturday, October 20th to help Visalia celebrate our 37th Anniversary with dinner, dancing and entertainment at Exeter Memorial Bldg, 324 N. Kaweah, Exeter. We

begin at 6:30 pm with cocktails and dinner will be served at 7:00 pm. General dancing will follow dinner at about 8:00 pm.

Cissie Vigen (Fresno) and Franco Perraza will provide entertainment and Nancy Cargill (Visalia) will also perform with Franco. We will be dancing to the great music provided by Greg Uichanco.

It's a semi-formal night with a black and gold theme. Gents, you are required to wear a jacket and tie, but your tux is optional. The Committee of Nancy Cargill, Chair, Lotti Carr, Margaret Moholt, Barbara and Greg Uichanco, and Myra and Shane Nielsen have planned a wonderful evening for your enjoyment. Cost is \$40 and reservations are required by October 10th.. Send reservations to Margaret Moholt at 2118 S. Anthony Ct, Visalia, 93277.

**A special thank you.** Lona and I would like to say thank you to all our friends and dance enthusiasts in NSD for standing for us at this year's Boards in March and again at our recent Convention. It is a pleasure to dance for everyone and truly humbling to have the support of our wonderful organization. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Bill and Lona Dolan.

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## NSD 2013 Statewide Event Calendar

January 19	Los Angeles Coronation
March 2	San Diego Coronation
March 22	Board Meeting - Bakersfield
April 13 or 20	Golden Gate Coronation
May 11	Visalia Coronation
June 1	Fresno Coronation
July 13	Palomar Coronation
August 30	Convention - Visalia
November 2	San Fernando Valley Coronation

The Los Angeles chapter coronation will be here sooner than you expect. Please join us for a lovely event at our new venue.

We hope to see you there.



## Socials are the highlight of summer

**Socials.** Our September 22 dance theme will be, “I scream you scream we all dance for ice cream”. This dance will be held at the Rasmussen Senior Center, 115 East Roberts Lane from 7-10:30 pm. Non members are \$15 person and \$25/couple. So come dance the night away with us at our ice cream social. Our newest ‘Target’ Rich, will be playing our favorite dance numbers.

On a final note about the Convention we were so delighted to see long time former members Jack and Rosemary Duffy in attendance. They looked wonderful and seemed to be having a great time.

Our August dance with the theme “Endless Summer” was chaired by Frances Hein with Paul and Irene Leung as Co-Chairs. It was certainly a wonderful dance as Frances always does a great job as our Hostess! Frances chose yellow tablecloths with green place mats and a lovely flower arrangement with packages of snacks placed around them for us to nibble on.

Steve Peterson acted as our ‘Master of Ceremonies’. Ben and Wendy Wilson did a beautiful spot light dance, which included Waltz, Tango and Foxtrot. A delicious buffet was served; Ken Silber played the music and there were 77 people in attendance.

Our July dance “A Salute to Our Armed Services” was hosted by Margaret and Richard Keith. Margaret chose red tablecloths with white place mats on which were placed a bouquet of flags of all the branches of the service. Punch and coffee were provided. Dennis Acosta played our music and everyone had a great time.

There was some sadness to the event as Margaret announced that this would be her last dance as she and her husband were moving to Florida to be near family. Dorothy Chapman announced this would be her last dance also, as she was moving to Connecticut. Dorothy was a former queen and long time member. Dorothy and her husband Wayne were both very active members of BSD. She will be missed. We wish them all good luck and happiness in their new adventures.

Our new temporary social chairs are Rose Peterson and Sue Kimbrell, Rose can be reached at 661-332-1138 and Sue at 661-496-6475. Call them to set up a dance to chair!

**A salute to new members.** BSD has added several new members this year: Hilda Mar Thomas married to TG Thomas, Nicky NG, and Mi Harrell who was a former member and rejoined. Stephen Richardson who dances with Delcie Feller, Seeta Brown, also a former member, Richard Gatewood, Richard is Ben Wilsons’ cousin and new to dancing and is often seen working hard on mastering his dance moves, James and Annette Hall who were former BSD members, John and Sandy Siercks, Don Parrish , Sharon Lehto and Aracely Alvarez who is Hilda Thomas’ sister. Make sure you introduce yourself to these new members and make them feel welcome.

**In Memorium.** It is with great difficulty and great sadness that I report the passing of long time member Bob Kandarian. Bob was a great dancer and a great music man. Please keep Karen in your thoughts and prayers as she goes through this very difficult time.

**Final note.** Congrats to Rose and Steve on their new grandchild!



Bob Kandarian





## Socials ....and a big Thank You

**Third Sunday:** What a great August 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - 51 people attended! Queen Lynn and her committee did a fine job with the decorations, setting out the food and keeping everyone happy. I know our dance instructor, Stacy O'Neal taught a great Salsa class. Our thanks go out to Steve Moore, who played the music for us.

September 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday will be hosted by Jag and Brigitte Singh. Please come out and join us! Franco will teach a Bolero lesson.

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!

**Sunshine.** Our best wishes go out to Kevin McCready. He has been recovering from pneumonia.

Our local dance community suffered a tremendous loss with the deaths of Harold and Kin Cardwell in the August 25<sup>th</sup> plane crash at Lake Tahoe. Our sympathies, thoughts and prayers are with their families at this sad time.

Robert Jensen recently had back surgery. Robert, we wish you the best in your recovery!

**Thank you to Kathy.** While at convention, the Fresno chapter presented Kathy Sachse, who is retiring, with Life Member status to honor her contributions to Fresno Smooth Dancers.



Kathy Sachse & Lynn Sanders

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