

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
October 2012



SFV; It's a, It's a, It's a Wrap
But we're getting ready for 2013

edited by Joan Robinson



Convention wrap. Oh My Goodness Gracious Me! I have to confess to a couple of “faux pas” in my last missive to you all. For those of you who don't understand the French euphemism, it means “screw up a la egg all over ze face.”

So, as I wipe the egg gently off ze face, I would like to say that Donna Thornton (Palomar) replaced Sharon Tate and was the winner of the Senior Cha Cha with Don Hubbard. And I truly missed one big thank you to Bill and Lona Dolan (Visalia) for their wonderful performance during our Coronation evening. Our “thank you's” were geared strictly to categories so I'm sure those who were there will agree that Bill and Lona's performance created a category of their own.

Next, I would like to confess to another thank you (another special category of its own) that got left out. Visalia chapter – your Monday morning skit was exceptional. It was fun, entertaining, and moved us all to thinking excitedly about our next convention. I've been to Africa many times and those stewardesses' uniforms were perfect for that era. Where DID you get them? And the voo doo tribalist dancer? I bet you didn't find him hanging around Visalia!

I have received so many compliments on our Convention and how much fun was had by all. Apparently, the single ladies were well taken care of and enjoyed it tremendously. One friend told another that there were so many mixers that she felt she danced with everyone at the convention. So I'd like to share with you all a wonderful email I received from one of our first timers.

Hi Joan,

Always a pleasure seeing you!!

The Dance Weekend in Palm Desert was my first experience at this kind of event.

I really did not know what to expect. I had soooo much FUN! It was amazing! There was non-stop dancing and fantastic teachers and performances.

But what was really wonderful and unexpected was that everyone I danced with was a great dancer and shared the passion I have for dancing. I could not stop smiling the entire weekend! I can't wait for the next one!

Thank you Joan for making this event happen! It was just beyond my expectations in every way!!

Love,

Meredith Stern

Chapter news. So, moving on to exciting news that is geared to our own chapter again, we are honoring Visalia's “OUT OF AFRICA” with photos of our past queen's recent trip there. As Roberta Lazar said: “What does a retiring queen do with her time anyway?” So, enjoy the photos and gear up for Visalia's African Safari next year.



I did tell you, last time, about board member Gee Gee Barden who, “single-wristedly,” created our beautiful orchid floral arrangements until Chuck and Susan Johnson (Los Angeles) arrived to help her out? Gee Gee's right wrist, badly

broken in a bicycle accident on Martha's Vineyard early in August, is recovering very slowly. She has been receiving physical therapy with a hand specialist since removal of the cast two weeks early due to swelling. Unfortunately, her stiff fingers and wrist will require at least several more months of therapy. An evaluation will be made in December as to whether further surgery will be necessary. However, her one finger left-handed typing still kept our small board going. After all, she is our recording secretary and has vitally important things to say in our email correspondence. As Mark wrote last time, we ran our convention via email, not meetings. Gee Gee never skipped an email beat in spite of her broken right wrist.

Our dance last month was a terrific success as new people who attended Convention decided that we were fun people to hang around with and that they should put us on their dance calendars. We had an excellent turn out and Mark's music was exceptional. We have new enthusiasm in our club and we will bring it to Bakersfield and Visalia next year.

The Dance Now formation team has been valiantly carrying on without Gee Gee and Bill Morey as a three couple team. Performance venues, in addition to our Convention, included the Keiro Nursing Home on September 14th, a dance at the Gardena Nisei Dance Club on October 20th, and St. Andrew' Health Rehabilitation Center on October 25th.

San Diego Chapter

edited by Denise White

More wrap up

A Wonderful Convention! San Fernando Valley did an outstanding job with the convention this year, with the help of some of the other NSD chapters. The San Diego attendees had a fabulous time! The article below was written by Mark Chapman and shares one of our chapter's "goings on" (which was probably replicated in some degree by revelers in the other chapters).

For many of us from San Diego, an NSD convention wouldn't be the same if we didn't close out a long day of dancing with a wine party in George and Ines Plikshe's suite. Ever the elegant hostess, Ines let us know early on that she would do everything in her power to fit all of us into their room each evening. She expected us all, hoped to pour each of us a drink, and was delighted to see all those of us who could actually drag our poor tired bodies up to their room for one final event of the day.

These evenings with Ines and George were particularly special this time. George hasn't been feeling all that well lately, but he did the driving all the way out to Palm Desert and back so they could enjoy the weekend with all of us. Ines took good care of her man, though—they came a day early and left a day late, so their vacation would be as relaxing for George as possible.



George & Ines

But of course, the rest of us didn't help George get much rest, since we partied in their room until he passed out, waited for him to wake up, and then partied some more! (What else are friends for, if not to keep you up late on a fun night?) Speaking of the ladies, a Plikshe wine party would not be complete without at least one compromising photo.

So where were the rest of us guys while Al Folkman was getting all the attention? Waiting our turn of course—but it sure didn't seem like the ladies wanted to give Al up to give us our chance on the sofa. Way to go, Al!

Finally, a small tribute to the lady who coordinated the Friday evening Cinco de Mayo party, which was San Diego's contribution to convention events. Even before others arrived on Friday to help her, Ann Meador was hard at work decorating the tables for the evening. I know she was ready for some wine and a well deserved rest after taking on the responsibility for that project! Thanks for all you do, Ann!

Upcoming Socials. Please join us for the San Diego's Anniversary Social on November 3. Also, the social on December 1 will mark the 20th Anniversary of our annual Christmas Showcase, founded by Vickie Durham in 1992.



Ann & Mark

NSD Means Never Stop Dancing



Fall events are here

Monthly events. Is it just me or do I sense a “feel” of fall in the air? It’s hard to tell, I know, because the mornings are crisp with a bit of chill in the air, but by noon it quickly gives way to lots of warmth! It makes it hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner and with them come all of our wonderful holiday dances! I’m very happy to announce that we have chairpersons for all of them!

Chairing our November dance is Bernice Fiolle, who has chosen as her theme “Somewhere in Time”. Our talented Bernice along with some of her committee has been busy making decorations for this dance. The dress code for the evening is semi-formal.

Our November dance is always held on a Sunday because of the Thanksgiving holiday. This year’s dance will be Sunday, November 18th from 7-10:30pm. It will be held at the Rasmussen Senior Center 115 East Roberts Lane. Non-members pay \$15/Person and \$25/couple. Ken Silber will be our music man for this romantic event.

So grab your dance shoes, slip into something sexy and join us “Somewhere in Time”.

Our October dance “Dancing in the Moonlight with the Goblins”, will be hosted by Jo Ann Georgio and her committee. Jo Ann hosted our June dance, and stepped up to the plate to host this dance also, so thank you so much for doing this Jo Ann!

This dance is of course, our annual Halloween dance, so get those costumes out of the closet and come out and dance with all the ghosts, goblins, pirates and witches that are sure to be there!

Don’t have a costume or don’t want to dress up; then come casual! The place to be on Saturday, October 27th, from 7-10:30pm is the Rasmussen Senior Center, 115 E. Roberts Lane.

Dennis Acosta will be brewing up his own brand of music for this fun filled evening so make sure you join us!

Our September dance “I Scream, You Scream, we all Dance for Ice-cream”, was a wonderful dance. It was hosted by Sue Kimbrell and a great committee. Sue chose pink tablecloths, with pink place mats, and silver trays with ice cream sundaes, milkshakes, and ice cream cones placed on them as decorations. They really added to the theme and fun of the evening.

Sue Kimbrell was the “Mistress of Ceremonies” for the evening and introduced Steve and Rose Peterson who performed a lovely waltz for our spotlight. They performed to the song ‘Rose’.

Following their waltz, Sue and her committee served us a delicious buffet of ice cream, with every kind of toppings imaginable and also some really delicious cookies, mmmm, YUMMY!

There were 70 of us in attendance and we all enjoyed dancing to the music played by our newest Target, Rich Gonzales.

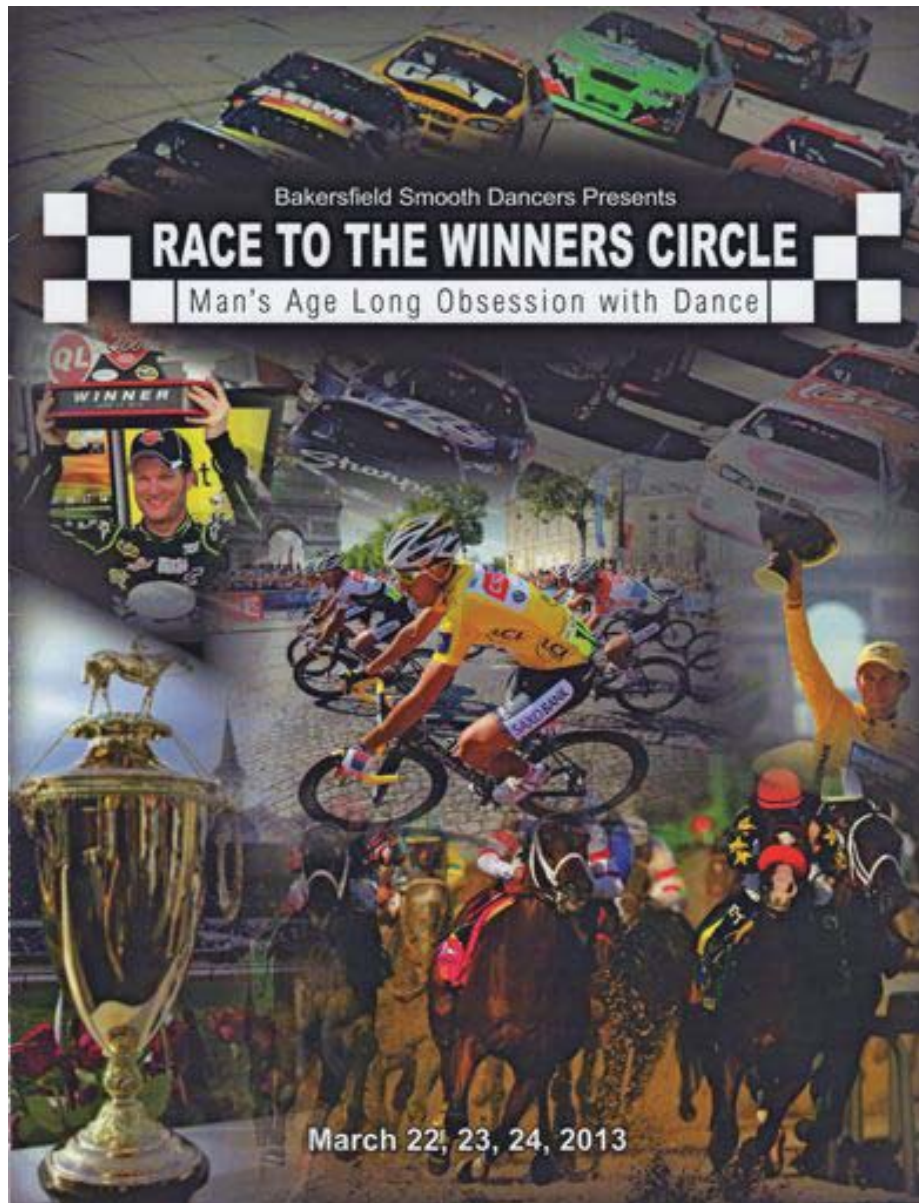
A note from Karen Kandarian: The outpouring of sympathy, friendship and love for Bob has been overwhelming. Our family is so grateful for the support offered to us at this time. We loved and admired him and it warms our hearts to know that so many others felt a deep affection for him. Thank you, Karen.

Karen, our hearts go out to you, and we look forward to when you will feel ready to come join us again on the dance floor!

Other news. I got a phone call from Dorothy Chapman the other day and she wanted me to convey the message that she is very happy where she is, the food is delicious, but she misses her friends and the California sunshine! We miss you too, Dorothy

Larry Johnson has put together the slate of officer’s for next year. He will put these before the membership soon. The position on the Board that still needs to be filled is for our Social Chair. This all important job consists of getting people to commit to hosting a monthly dance. Also, making sure we have plenty of paper goods, coffee, punch etc. on hand for them to use. Surely there is someone in the club, maybe one of our new members who would like to help in this very important function! Please contact Larry and let him know you’re willing to help.

Board Meeting. See all the scoop on the next page!! See all your friends and dance partners there!!



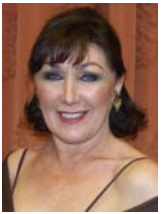
Board Meeting. Our Boards, "Race to the Winners Circle", will be held on March 22, 23 and 24, 2013. There are some changes in the works for next year! Some of them are already listed in your packets; other changes will be sent out in a separate sheet to the clubs later. One big change is our Saturday night Coronation, which will be at 6:00pm with dinner following at around 7:00pm. Other details are still being worked out. We are hoping that with these changes we can pack in a lot more dancing!

Mixed in with this gala, our professional dancers will perform for you, also our competitors will be strutting their stuff, vying for that grand prize!

We invite you to get your engines tuned up and ready to go, the race is on for the winners circle! Who will finish first; who will come in last? Everyone can be a winner at the Bakersfield Boards' next March. So make sure your there from start to finish! Remember that's March 22, 23rd and 24th, 2013!

It's going to be a great weekend as Charlene always does a great job, just be sure you get your reservations in early and don't miss out on this chance to be in the winner's circle with your NSD friend!

Package Specials are \$179.00per person by March 11, 2013 and \$199.00 per person postmarked after March 11, 2013.



Getting to know our long time members Bill and Elizabeth Hage. Once upon a time many years ago a young man, after finishing serving his country as an Air Force Pilot, completed his college education in his favorite place, the Golden State of California and went to work in an old fashioned,



Elizabeth & Bill

highly regarded bank. Years of hard work culminated in a promotion to senior bank officer.

Upon visiting the Banks Trust Department one day, he noticed a new face, a young slender Asian Lady, stylish, feminine and exotic, like a breath of fresh air in an otherwise stuffy office. As they got to know each other, he found out that she came from Hong Kong with her parents, husband and four year old daughter to pursue the American dream. As the young man was also married, their families became friends.

When they found themselves available many years later, they fell in love and married. They are now enjoying their second spring with an extended family including their daughter, son in law and a precious grandson, along with their dancing family, the Golden Gate chapter.

Travel stories. To Ireland, with Elena and Joe Malta. Ever heard the expression: “The

Luck of the Irish” ?

We discovered where the Tenors and Sopranos come from and great ship builders live, the ones who built the Titanic. And Bushmills Whisky factory, makers of Irish Coffee.

The singing starts at 9PM and goes to the wee small hours of the morning. After a couple of Guinness beers you are singing at the top of your voice, like at a football game, with better timing. We had a generous supply of free samples of all the Irish libations.

From Dublin to Belfast we met the finest people and saw some of the most breath taking views. Mountains, lakes and historical sites, landscapes dotted with castles. If you go, don't miss the B-stone, it's an incredible experience and an awesome country to visit.



Joe & Elena

Argentina. Patrick Jude and his “other dance partner” Rhonda. Having won a trip for two to Buenos Aires for a weeklong immersion into the life of a milongero, we were treated to a private dance lesson every night followed by a milonga. Our hosts put us up in a four star hotel, centrally located in the Congresso district and we were chauffeured in a private car for a tour of the city sampling local cafes and art galleries, along with time to shop for shoes and clothes.

Our Argentine Tango improved tremendously under the direction of our hosts and the trip was beyond our expectations.

Sunday dances. As many of you might already know, our Sunday dances are now themed and a different member takes on the task of naming the theme and then creating fabulous table decorations to match the theme.

This month it was John Anzalone's turn and he came up with the idea to create a Venice style afternoon in Rome and asked all the members to come wearing face masks. It was indeed a colorful and fun group to watch that day



and along with the wonderful food created by our new caterers most of us were glad we ditched the urge to watch all the games that day. Dancing always wins in the end when choices have to be made.

Illness in our family. Richard Long had shoulder surgery, but he is recovering nicely, I am told. Greetings go out to Alda Tomera and Marty and Eric Oscarsen, who can no longer attend our dances. We think about you often.

As always, dance first, think later.



Fall season has arrived

37th Anniversary. It was a night of glitter and glitz as the Visalia Chapter celebrated its 37th Anniversary on Saturday, October 20th at the Exeter Memorial Building. "Steppin' Out" was a semi-formal black and gold themed dinner and dance affair. Decorations carried out the theme with centerpieces of tall black vases topped with sprays of glittering black & gold, with beautifully folded black napkins banded with gold lace displayed on gold plates at guest's place. Small glitter-encrusted gold high-heeled shoes completed the Steppin' Out theme on the tables. It was delightful to see most of the ladies carried out the theme and dressed in various combinations of black & gold gowns with lots of "bling"!

Guests were greeted with Champagne and wine when they arrived which was served by Domi Aville and Myra and Shane Nielsen. Mistress of Ceremonies, Lotti Carr, who just returned from a trip to Turkey, opened the evening with introductions of Club President, David Bixler and all members of the Visalia Crown Circle who were in attendance. (Crown Circle are reigning and past Queens). Lotti encouraged guests to read a short history of the Visalia Chapter of NSD which was included in the program before inviting the 76 members and guests to enjoy the delicious buffet dinner catered by The Happy Cookers.

Beginning at 8:00 pm, Music Man Greg Uichanco enticed the dancers to take the floor for the traditional first waltz. During the evening Greg played a variety of music and kept the dancers on their toes with several mixers.



Franco & Cissie

Highlighting the evening were two dance exhibitions. Visalia's Nancy Cargill, wearing a very saucy gold Latin costume, performed a Cha-cha and West Coast Swing combination that was both spicy and sassy!! She was partnered with her instructor Franco Peraza from Ballroom Live Studio in Fresno. In sharp contrast to the lively Latin dance, Cissie Vigen from the Fresno Club, who for many years has performed rhythm dances, has now transitioned to smooth. Cissie and Franco performed an elegant foxtrot that demonstrated her beautiful lines and expressive arm movements. Queen Barbara Uichanco expressed the Club's appreciation and presented the performers with flowers and gifts.



Nancy & Franco

A wonderful evening of camaraderie, dancing, dining and laughter was over all too soon with the final waltz ending at 11 o'clock! Kudos' to the committee of Domi Aville, Nancy Cargill (Chair), Lotti Carr, Margaret Moholt, Myra and Shane Nielsen, Barbara and Greg Uichanco.

Upcoming events. "Bewitched", designed for fun – BOO – lous dance fun is next on the VSD calendar. This Halloween Tea Dance of will be held on Sunday, October 28th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at the IOOF Hall in Visalia. Dress is casual or spookie, if you like. Light refreshments will be served. Dance music is provided by Greg Uichanco. Come join us for an afternoon of dancing. It's a great time to practice new dance steps and enjoy an afternoon with friends. The committee is Barbara and Greg Uichanco, Carol Abeyta, Myra and Shane Nielsen.

"Disco Party!!" For one night only Disco returns on November 10th at the Exeter Memorial Building. Dean the Dream and his Disco Queen (The Levitans) are inviting you to dig those polyesters out of moth balls and dress for a night at the Disco. (Nothing speaks disco like a young John Travolta in a white suit look-a-like). The Hustle Lesson is from 6:00 – 7:00 pm followed by one of Visalia's Legendary Potluck dinner provided by Club members from 7 to 8:00. Dancing starts at 8:00 with music by Disco Diva Cheryl. Be ready to dance under the mirror ball!!

"The Lights The Nights of Christmas" is the final event of the year -- a glittering affair of dinner and dancing on the very large, hard-wood dance floor of the Sons of Italy Hall in Visalia. This formal Holiday Ball starts the holiday season on December 1st with no-host cocktails at 6:30pm. Dinner will be served at 7:00 and will be followed by a delicious dessert buffet provided by Club members. Ladies and gents, decked out in holiday finery, will begin whirling around the dance floor at 8:00 pm to the music of Vince Uichanco.

Visalia's Christmas tradition includes entertainment (tba), lots of mixers, Club awards and plenty of dancing. Each table is decorated differently by a member of the Club according to how they interpret this year's theme of "The Lights The Nights of Christmas". It is always interesting to see the wonderful creations designed by our members. Come and share the Christmas season and the joy of dance with us. Contact Co-Chairs Nancy Cargill and Linda and John Gutierrez for more information or visit the website: visaliasmoothdancers.com.



Halloween fun, and new members

Spooky Halloween Dance. What fun we all had celebrating Halloween. There was a great turnout of creative costumes! The evening got off to an amazing start with Samba dance lessons provided by highly acclaimed dancers James & Irina Friedhof. What a treat! The hosts for the evening, Amiel & Dana Sharon, Mark & Becky Bartelt, Dane Gilkey and Darlene Drury, provided a wonderful fried chicken feast with festive fall table decorations. The night wouldn't be complete without an official costume contest.



Winners were: Couples costume contest, Jesus & Antonia Quinene as Dorothy & The Scarecrow! Woman's costume contest, Melinda Leddy as a really scary witch! Men's costume contest, was a tie between, Duane Thornton as an Arabian Shiek and Al Harruff as Harpo Marx! Thanks to all participants.

New Members. We recently welcomed new members Alicia Sanchez and Mark & Becky Bartelt! Alicia Sanchez was introduced to Palomar Smooth Dancers through George and Miriam Mozes and their common businesses. Alicia was born in Mexico and raised in Los Angeles. While living in Los Angeles she worked as a Public Health Investigator for the City of Los Angeles. Currently she is the owner and administrator of The Manse Residential Care for Elderly with Dementia. Alicia has 2 daughters and 7 grandchildren (including triplets!). She loves learning ballroom dance, reading and spending time with friends and family.

Mark and Becky Bartelt, friends of Alicia Sanchez, are joining us new to the dance world and regularly attend our Monday night dance lessons where they are picking up on the dances quickly! They have been married for over 30 years and have two grown children and 1 grandchild, Alexa, who all live in Arizona. Born in Orange County and raised in Vista, Mark was in the United States Air Force for 24 years. He is currently working for General Atomics Aeronautical Systems as a Manager and Technical Editor. Becky was born at Camp Pendleton and raised in the Oceanside/Vista area. She currently is working at the Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton, as a medical records coder. "We enjoy being a part of Smooth Dancers as it allows us to spend quality time together!", said Mark and Becky.



Mark, Becky & Alicia

Travels. Last month Joe and Melinda Leddy went on a photo safari in South Africa. After three enjoyable days in Cape town, they flew to Kruger National Park, a 500,000,000 acre National Reserve. During their four days there, they were taken on seven different safaris. They saw all species of animals of the African plain. On one safari they followed a leopard around who came to their truck and scratched himself against their tire. The leopard later made a kill of an Eland but had no dinner as some Hyenas came and stole the kill! While stopping close to a herd of elephants, the guide got out, faced an elephant and raised his arm. The elephant raised his trunk in response. During another safari, they stopped a distance from a pride of lions who were lying around in the shade; the pride ignored their 4-wheeler. The traveling was not rough. They slept in well constructed thatched huts. Guests were fed seven times a day and had a personal butler. The food was good and included entrees of eland, impala, and ostrich. When asked about their safari experience, Melinda replied. "It was the trip of a lifetime. I can recommend it to anyone who enjoys seeing wild animals in their natural habitat."

Sharon Tate and Don Hubbard went on a Cruise to Turkey and the Greek Islands. The starting point of Istanbul is an exciting city and they visited the beautiful Blue Mosque, The Mosque of Santa Sofia and the shopping Bazaar. Outside the city of Kusadasi is the ancient city of Ephesus, with its marble streets and well restored library and Greek theatre. The Turkish city of Analya and the Greek Island of Rhodes offer well preserved medieval walls and castles. A boat tour around the Greek Island of Mykonos and a stop for a swim in turquoise waters on a beautiful beach was an additional pleasure. The service aboard the Silver Sea Line was excellent and included a personal butler.



Social Season

Note from past State Queen Carla Hartunian

To all NSD members,

Thank you so much for all of you who sent me a birthday card this month. I was so surprised when I started getting Birthday cards at my mother's house. That is when I knew my dear friends, Queen Lynn Sanders and Queen Shirley McCloskey, were up to something. They deserve a big thank you from me for reminding all of you that it was my birthday. I received 57 birthday cards in the mail and 91 birthday wishes on Facebook. I too was surprised with confetti and sprinkles in many of the cards. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, NSD members, I felt so loved by all of you. God Bless you all, see you soon.

Love, Hugs and Dances,

Carla Rose Hartunian

New Members!! Well, it is really nice to say that two new members have joined the Fresno Chapter: Dr. Douglas Cairns, Ph.D. (Mary Catherine Doi's husband), and Bauke Van Oosbree (he goes by Van). Help us welcome our new members!

Third Sunday. Hosts Jag and Brigitte Singh welcomed 41 people to our September dance. The theme was "Drifting Through the Seasons," and table decorations were the driftwood centerpieces used in our 2011 Convention. Franco taught a very nice Bolero lesson, which was followed by plenty of delicious food. Sharon Crisp did a great job as Music Person, even though she was under the weather with an ear infection. She's a trooper! Thank to our hosts and the committee.

On October 3rd, "Dance the Night Away," was hosted by Kathy and Rick Constantino and Sue and Bob Dowell. Decorations were what to expect in a spooky way! Alex Periera taught an excellent Foxtrot lesson for the 32 people who attended. Lorraine Tilton provided the music. It was a fun evening!

GINNA BEARDON will host a "Harvest Hoopla" on November 18. Come join us!

Our Christmas Party is right around the corner. Please get your reservations in early! Thanks!!!

All 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. Tony Palazzo had shoulder surgery on October 5 and is going through physical therapy. Tony, we wish you a speedy recovery!

We offer our condolences to Sharon Crisp on the death of her younger brother very suddenly from throat cancer on October 12. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Robert Strickler will be having knee replacement surgery on October 24. We'll be thinking of you!

NSD 2013 Statewide Event Calendar

January 19	Los Angeles Coronation
March 2	San Diego Coronation
March 22	Board Meeting - Bakersfield
April 13	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

These are the firm dates for next year's statewide events. Make your plans now.

We hope to see you there.



Goings and comings

Club news. The Black & White Ball was the theme of our October dance. In year's past it was an elegant affair with an orchestra and dancers dressed in black and white formal attire. Through the years it has been toned down but is still a special dance. This year we had Dolores and partner doing the music and the Ling's sponsoring the dance and furnishing the food. No dance lesson was given so the "NSD team" could practice a routine to be shown at Queen Elect Sandy Wells' coronation. A pleasant surprise was seeing Tina Falbo, who hasn't been attending our dances for quite some time. She told us that she was off again on another cruise through the Panama Canal.

Other members who haven't attended were contacted and Vera Funtsch, Donna & Mike Bilotta and Chris & Gordon Lloyd were all doing well, but just not able to attend our dances. President Kyle Catterlin was elated to be dancing for the first time in over 3 months after recovering from shoulder surgery.

Other news. Congratulations to Sandy Wells for receiving the Emeritus Award for 29 years of service from the California Nurses Anesthetist Association.

Joy Michaels enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon entertaining a group at the L.A. Veterans Hospital, with members of the Culver City Senior Center, playing along with keyboard, guitar, harmonica and Joy keeping time with a washboard.

In Memorium. Sadly, NSD lost another member on October 17. Bea Gaspar lost her battle with numerous illnesses she has been fighting all year. Bea was a longtime member who was L.A. Queen in 1978, was editor and wrote a column for Dance Whispers, "Bea's Buzzin'" for many years, was corresponding secretary and for the past few years has been having fun with the Red Hat Society ladies.



Bea Gaspar

I personally have had a personal connection with her, driving her to our NSD dances and enjoying her company with the Red Hat outings. I miss her friendship and lively conversations coming and going to different activities. (JM,Ed.)

Our hearts are saddened at the loss of our long time friend Queen Bea Gaspar. She was a delightful person and a true lady in every sense of the word. National Smooth Dancers was a huge part of her life, and she was dedicated to supporting and growing the club for many years. In fact, she and her husband, John, were in large part responsible for us joined the Club. For all the personal tragedy in her life, she never dwelt on the negative. She was one of the most positive, caring people we ever knew, and she had a smile and laugh for everyone. Words cannot express how much she will be missed. (Susan & Roger Lewis)

I will certainly miss her. She has been my best friend for many years. She and her husband, John, took several trips with Ray and me. She was always willing to help in any way. Since her husband, son and daughter had pre-deceased her, she was cared for the past few years by her niece, Phyllis. Our sympathy to her grandson, Chance, and the rest of her extended family. (Liz Bradford)

Upcoming socials. The November dance will be held November 11 and the December Christmas Swing dance will be held December 9 at the El Monte Senior Center, 3120 Tyler Avenue, El Monte – from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Cost is \$12/ea. See www.nationalsmoothdancers.com for flyers.

Coronation. Save the date of January 19, 2013 for the coronation of Queen Elect Sandy Wells.
