

*National Smooth Dancers*  
*Dance Whispers*  
*December 2012*



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## Los Angeles Chapter

edited by Joy Michaels



### Goings and comings

**Chapter news.** The November "Momma Mia" dance was held on November 11 with several members getting in the mood wearing 70's costumes to dance to ABBA's hits of that era. Decorations were party/gift bags for each of the members celebrating their birthdays this month. The Scholtz's sponsored the dance in honor of their anniversary and Debby Ku and Victor Lee provided a yummy lunch. Susan Lewis, recovering from foot surgery, provided the music. It was so nice to see Stewart Skyhra at the dance after a long absence.

The December "Swinging Christmas" dance was a success, raising \$175 for the Hathaway House and having several guests partaking of our potluck luncheon. A real variety of dishes were enjoyed by everyone. Again, Victor and Debby reviewed the team dance in readiness for the coronation. In spite of the rainy weather, everyone had a good time dancing in the new venue. Music was furnished by Chuck Johnson with the appropriate holiday theme.

Because of rising costs, the venue for our dances has been moved to the San Gabriel Elks Lodge, 1373 East Las Tunas Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776 and our December dance was changed to December 2. Depending on availability, the monthly dances will be changing from the second Sunday to various dates each month.

**Queen elect Sandy Wells.** Sandy has been retired for 3 years, enjoying a stress free life away from the 29 stress-filled years of being an anesthetist.



Sandy Wells

She now enjoys the many simple pleasures in life: working out at the Torrance YMCA (resulting in a 70+ lb weight loss), yoga, celebrating her Italian heritage as a member of The Garibaldina Italian Society, playing bocce ball with her fellow Italians, taking Italian language classes, relaxing with her 3 cats, and of course enjoying every dancing opportunity she can squeeze into a busy schedule.

Sandy serves as a volunteer at the Bob Hope USO at LAX. She grills, bakes and has even mastered the chili-cheese dog. Sandy finds it a wonderful reward to be of service for our active military personnel.

Sandy has been married to Tom for 28 years and enjoys not only dancing, but travel and adventure too. For her recent birthday celebration, Sandy and Tom went zip lining, conquering 10 zip lines, hiking, traversing 4 rope bridges and completing 3 rappels!

Sandy is looking forward to representing the Los Angeles National Smooth Dancers Chapter as their 2013 Queen, and is excited at meeting more NSD dancers around the state.

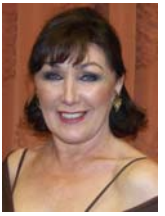
This year the L.A. Coronation will be at the Glendale Hilton Hotel, 100 West Glenoaks Blvd. Glendale, CA 91202, 818-956-5466. Reserve January 19, 2013 as the date for the Coronation and dance. Book your hotel reservation if you are staying and mention National Smooth Dancers for the special rate (\$99 + tax + \$10 if you park). See [nationalsmoothdancers.com](http://nationalsmoothdancers.com) for flyers.

**New member.** Sheri Chu was sworn in by Don Haight at the Holiday dance. Sheri, a retired elementary school teacher, is the wife of new member, Michael Chu. Her hobby is professional cake decorating and, of course, dancing. Welcome Sheri.



Sheri & Don

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**Chapter news.** We had a most wonderful Thanksgiving dance on our regular scheduled Sunday in November complete with beautiful table decorations , compliments of Amy and Dan Ansaldi, who were nowhere to be found that day, as they were on a cruise through the Caribbean. I'm sure we'll get a full travel report when they return, as their journey happened right around the arrival of tropical storm Sandy.

Erin Pick taught a fabulous Samba routine and our caterers provided a wonderful traditional Thanksgiving meal for us.

During Joe Malta's turn on the music machine, I caught him kissing his lovely bride Elena while he played his favorite tune Remember When. Sadly, as I was dancing at the time, I could not catch the kiss on camera.

It proves again, those amazing Italian men find many ways to keep romance alive, even after all these years of marriage and even in public.

Speaking of keeping romance alive, I am continuously surprised to see so many of our more seasoned couples in sweet embraces and secret kisses and giving up favorite activities for the love and safety of their spouse. I salute all of them.



Ray & Mary



Barbara & Ben



Donna & Rosalie

It was lovely to see Mary and Ray Crosat back in the ballroom as well as Barbara and Ben Cardinalli, Donna Rosko and Rosalie Wolf. It's just not the same when they are not there.

This year we can look forward to spending our traditional New Year's eve dance at the wonderful Crowne Plaza hotel, where we have our coronations every year. It frees up so many of our tireless volunteers to enjoy the New Year's celebration along with the rest of us, instead of making sure all the details with the caterer are handled and everyone is happy. It also gives those of us who travel a great distance to get to the dance a chance to stay at the hotel at a greatly reduced rate.

On that note I wanted to mention a group of ladies who regularly come to our Sunday dances and even some of our conventions and drive the great distance from Santa Rosa to SSF to be part of our dancing community. Though they are not members yet, they are all good dancers, much to the delight of our male population.

Our New Years dance is one of my favorites, as we can bring out all the bling a day early, meet up with our dance family, and stay safely at home when the rest of the world clutters up the roads, the restaurants and the ballrooms on December 31st.



Santa Rosa Ladies

**Travels and special occasions.** George and Ana Dayeh followed the festivities of her earlier surprise party for her birthday and their 35th wedding anniversary (I wrote about it in an earlier addition of whispers ) with a cruise to the Mediterranean.

Making stops in Montenegro, Athens, Istanbul, Santorini and finally Split, George and Ana had the experience of a lifetime. The highlight of the trip, when ported in Croatia, George and Ana disembarked for an additional 10-day stay. As Ana was born in Croatia and George studied at the University in Croatia, the trip allowed them to truly reconnect with their roots from their schooling and the place they met and fell in love.

It was a full and exciting year for the Dayeh's and they look forward to spending the holidays with their children and five grandchildren.



George & Ana Dayeh

Wishing you a happy, safe and joyous holiday, and  
as always, dance first, everything else can wait.



## A joyful holiday season

**Holiday events.** Every year it seems like the holidays just kind of sneak up on me and surprises me and somehow I never seem prepared for them. I'm always in awe of those who have their lists prepared and participate in Black Friday!

But here Thanksgiving has already come and gone, and now Christmas is fast approaching, and along with it several of our exciting evenings of dance.

Our New Years Eve dance this year A Night of Hollywood Glamour will be hosted by a great committee of people, including Ben and Wendy Wilson, Mark and Kay Boyer, Phil and Sue Kimbrell, Steve and Rose Peterson, and Rich Gonzales.

This dance will be held at the Bakersfield Woman's Club, 2030 18<sup>th</sup> Street. The doors and bar will open at 7:00pm. A full buffet dinner will be served at 7:30pm with a champagne toast and dessert at midnight.

There will be lots of dancing, including a Jack and Jill competition, and dance mixers! The music will be played by Ken Silber and Dennis Acosta. It's definitely a night you don't want to miss!

Tickets are \$50.00 each before December 14<sup>th</sup> and \$55.00 each after December 14<sup>th</sup>. Ticket sales will end December 22! No tickets will be sold at the door. Contact Kay Boyer at (661) 204-3501 and get your reservations in early!

Formal attire is requested. So ladies get into your ball gowns and men get your tuxes ready and come "walk the red carpet" with your smooth dancer friends. Let's bring in the New Year together.

Our December dance I'm Dreaming of a Snow Queen White Christmas will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Rasmussen Center 115 E. Roberts Lane from 7:00-10:30pm. Guests: single \$15, couples \$25 at the door. Music is by Ken Silber of the Targets.

Susan Salvucci is the committee chair for this wonderful dance. Susan is requesting all men to wear their tuxedos and ladies to please wear a white gown with a little crown on their heads! OK, ladies, this is your chance to be Queen for an evening, so let's see how many of us will do this! If you can't find a white gown or dress don't be deterred, wear an elegant gown and buy a little tiara for your head. It should be a fun elegant evening!

Our Most Improved Dancer awards will be announced at this dance so make sure you're there to celebrate the winners!

**Socials.** Our November dance, Somewhere in Time, was a wonderful evening! Bernice Fiolle did an outstanding job, along with her committee. The decorations were lovely. Bernice, used two sets of tablecloths on each table, black overlaid with a lovely silver patterned one. She then placed a styrofoam mat, covered to look like snow, and on that she placed tree branches, painted white, with little sequins on them to make them glisten and also placed a dancing couple beneath the branches, making them look like they were dancing in the snow. They gave the whole place a look of a winter wonderland.

For our refreshments Bernice and her committee served up vanilla ice cream with great toppings and delicious homemade brownies!

Rich Gonzales was our music man and played some great danceable tunes. A very lovely time was had by all who attended.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend our October dance, Dancing in the Moon Light with the Goblins, but I heard everyone had a great time, and there were some really great costumes. Bernice Fiolle came dressed as a man, complete with beard and mustache and stole the show. Bernice's dance partner James Minyard came dressed as a woman and was a show stopper also!

Light refreshments of yogurt and cupcakes were served, and there were 65 people in attendance.

**Boards footnote.** Charlene is working hard on getting all the details put together for the March 2013 boards. I hope everyone is gearing up and getting in shape as we want to see all of you in the winner's circle!

And don't forget the package special cutoff of March 11, as well as the hotel reservation cutoff of February 21.

**Final note.** I take this opportunity to wish all our NSD friends and acquaintances Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and we will see you on the dance floor!

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## Holiday season traditions

**The Lights The Night of Christmas** was truly glittering as the glow of the lights brought warmth and good cheer to Visalia's annual dinner dance held on December 1st to kick off the holiday season. About 100 members and guests began the evening with no-host cocktails and a fabulous array of hors d'oeuvres provided by club members. Dinner was followed by a sumptuous dessert buffet again provided by club members.

All the ladies and gents were adorned in holiday party attire ready to dance on the wonderful dance floor of the Sons of Italy hall to the music of Tim Inouye. Keeping to the theme, the stage was decorated with a massive array of white Christmas trees all decorated with twinkle lights. The stage decorations were so lovely that the proprietor asked if they could keep the decorations throughout the rest of the season. It was Co-Chair Nancy Cargill's vision coupled with Linda Gutierrez and Dorothy Sims helping to execute the vision.

One of Visalia's Christmas traditions is that each table is decorated by a different member according to their interpretation of the dance theme. Once again the creativity and artistry displayed were exquisite. This year's tables were decorated by Becky Paschall, Lona Dolan, Nellie Uichanco & Myra Nielsen, Sally Bailey, Wendy Paden, Sue Giampietro, Maria Helm & Joan Dewey, Carol Bixler, Lotti Carr, and Nancy Cargill.

During a terrific evening of general dancing there was also entertainment provided by two lovely ladies from Fresno and instructors Dmitriy Kochkin and Franco Perazza from Ballroom Live. Mary Short (in a lovely coral ball gown) opened the show with a lively and spirited quickstep partnered by Dmitriy. She then glided across the floor performing a flowing, lyrical waltz with her long-time, Fresno-based instructor, Franco. Franco also performed a contemporary cha cha-swing combination with Leah Dickerson. Leah was wearing a jazzy hot-pant and knee-high boot costume to show off the fast kicks and energetic movements. The final performance was a sexy bolero by Mary and Dmitriy.

The 2012 Awards for most improved dancers were presented to the winners by last year's recipients. Shizuko "Suzi" Carlson was honored as the Most Improved Female Dancer, as presented by Barbara Uichanco; Jim Renfro presented Karl Richards with the Most Improved Male Dancer award; and, Wendy and Gary Paden received the Most Improved Couple award from Myra and Shane Nielsen. The annual 2012 Achievement Award was presented to Linda Gutierrez by 2011 winner Dee Peterson. Congratulations to each of these very deserving winners.



Suzi Carlson



Jim & Karl



Shane & Myra, Wendy & Gary



Dee & Linda

As is traditional the generous members and guests brought enough toys to fill Santa's sleigh for those children who need a special Santa in their lives. Hats off to the hard-working and inspired Co-Chairs: Nancy Cargill, Linda and John Gutierrez and their committee members Dorothy Sims, Vince & Nellie Uichanco. The Christmas Ball was a huge success!!!

**Studio 65 Curtain Call.** But it was a Visalia Chapter Saturday Night Review with few others performing. The reports are that everyone did a great job! David and Carol Bixler danced a bolero, Margaret Moholt, partnered by instructor Dan Goss, danced a Tango; Bill and Lona Dolan performed a foxtrot and rumba, Shane and Myra Nielson performed waltz, Wendy and Paul Storey danced the tango and for their first ever showcase, Wendy and Gary Paden danced the waltz. To complete the show the Visalia Formation Team performed their Celtic Viennese Waltz. Congratulations to one and all on their showcase performances!!



## Continuity plus change

**Dance Now Formation Team.** Six members of the team gave three performances at different venues in September and October. On November 14, all eight members of the formation team enjoyed the delightful annual RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) luncheon at the Castaway Restaurant, which is situated in a beautifully scenic location atop a high hill in Burbank. Like the other volunteers who donate their special talents to those in need, the Dance Now Formation Team is given credit by the RSVP program for the hours of practice and performance that they put in all year. The formation team members are fortunate and grateful to be able to practice their routines on the large wood floor at the Joslyn Senior Center in Burbank.

**Chapter news.** Mark and Sally Emanuelli and Joan Robinson recently revisited the JW Marriott for a chance to enjoy the hotel. Unfortunately, the weather was a bit chilly that weekend, but the jacuzzi was fun and the Emanuellis' children had a great time. Even though Joan had spent so much time at the hotel for the Labor Day weekend convention, she said she felt completely disoriented on this last trip. She didn't even know where the main restaurant was located because during the convention she had traveled solely between the Chairman's Suite and the Ballroom.



Mark & Joan



Sally & Mark

Joan will be recruiting dance hosts for the Bakersfield and Visalia 2013 events. If the other chapters approve it, there may be a Jack and Jill Club Challenge for the Race to the Winners' Circle at the next event. The Jack and Jill competitions were tremendously successful at our Convention. It's one of the new ideas we hope to see continued.

Here in the SF Valley, admission rates are rising for many dances. Our chapter has yet to vote on whether to join them. We have the advantage of being able to maintain our cost of membership, which may encourage more dancers to join our club. People attend our dances, but don't join. We realize other chapters are having the same problem. Times have changed. People have changed. Maybe it's all technology's fault!

**New editor.** Hi! My name is Debbie Bloom and I'm a danceaholic. I haven't danced for 31 days – but not by choice. Like all of you, I embrace my passion for dancing. Unfortunately, I broke and compressed my little toe about four weeks ago. Doctor's orders: no dancing for about six weeks. So this is a great time for me to start helping out with the editing of the San Fernando Valley contributions to Dance Whispers. My fingers, rather than my feet, are giving voice to the feelings that I usually express through dance.

I've been an American style social dancer for about twenty years. I love all the smooth and rhythm dances. With my boyfriend and dance partner, Jerry Engel, I've been involved with Smooth Dancers for the last couple of years. We love the monthly dances at a great venue with wonderful music. We went to the awesome convention in Palm Springs and had the best time imaginable.

I'm looking forward to working with the fabulous people in this chapter and editing our articles for Dance Whispers.

**Upcoming Dances.** Future dances will be held on Saturday, January 5th, and Saturday, February 2nd. We hope to see you all there.

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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	Golden Gate Coronation
May 18	Visalia Coronation
June 1	Fresno Coronation
July 13	Palomar Coronation
August 30	Convention - Visalia
November 2	San Fernando Valley Coronation

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

We hope to see you there.

## Holiday news

**Holiday social fun.** Kicked off by the fabulous Palm Desert convention, the San Diego chapter has been busy with several very special dance festivities in these last months of 2012. On September 22nd, the chapter held a Member Appreciation dinner dance party as a way of saying “thank you” to all the members who have helped the club so much over the years. Thanks to the dedicated committee of Ann Meador, Kay Ryan, Caron Schattel, Patricia DiSessa, Chuck DiSessa, Al Folkman and all the others who helped, the dance was an overwhelming success. The arrangements of the beautifully displayed balls hanging from the ceiling, the sparkling lights all around, and the turquoise color theme made for delightful “eye candy”. Dinner was a very classy presentation of many varieties of food, an elegant three-level champagne punch server, and a mouth-watering dessert table with the fresh fruit, chocolate éclairs and cream puffs arranged around a chocolate fountain. The committee truly outdid themselves. All who attended thank them so much for a wonderful experience – we really appreciate the committee members, too!



Chuck DiSessa & Ann Meador



Nancy & Anthony

Paul McKenzie and his committee did a great job putting on another fun dance party for October’s Spooks and Spirits social. The ghostly decorations were cute and there was lots of food -- the men really went after the ice cream and toppings, even if it meant they missed part of the mixer! The entertainment by Nancy Schwartz and Anthony Wood was fun to watch. The Bolero and Cha Cha that they performed were the same dances they performed for their competition at the convention. It’s easy to see why they took first place trophies with these routines. It’s always great to see the new competitors get up and entertain the guests with

dances they’ve worked so hard to perfect.

For San Diego’s Black and White Anniversary Ball in November, Ann Vutisaksatit and her committee did a great job of planning and executing the dance. The decorations were sparkling and in keeping with the theme. Most of the guests wore a combination of black and white, which really added to the overall effect of the evening. The food was truly amazing for a special anniversary celebration! Entertainment was provided by Lin Eng and his teacher, Irina Chalkevich, who did a great Tango. Irina’s good friend, Shanna Timms, and her partner then performed a very sizzling Mambo.



Ines, Nancy, Kim, Chuck, Lisa

**More holiday fun.** On December 2nd, several SDDS members attended an afternoon performance of Handel’s Messiah, in which our own Bob Churchill was a member of the chorale. In addition to being a dancer, Bob is also a singer. He has sung in the bass section of the 150-member choral group for 13 of the last 14 years of Messiah performances, and in some of the choral group’s other presentations over the years. After the performance, Bob and “groupies” circled back to Kay Ryan’s house where she, Ann Meador and Patricia DiSessa hosted a Christmas open house. Several other chapter members attended as well and all had a great time celebrating the beginning of the holidays our SDDS friends.

**Get well soon.** Nina Duffy received a kidney on November 20th from her younger sister. Both Nina and her sister are doing fine, and Nina was expected to come home from the hospital on November 23rd. If you wish, please send cards in the mail; no visitors at this time.

**In Memoriam.** It is with great sadness that we report that George Plikshe passed away quietly on November 18 at his home. Ines had been to dance class and when she came home, she found that George had passed quietly away. Ines will have an informal memorial service and dance for George on December 8, from noon to 4 p.m., at Infinity Dancesport Center, to give his NSD family a chance to say, “Good-bye,” and to spend some moments together remembering the wonderful times we had with him. If you wish, you may call Ines to express your condolences; she said she would be happy to talk with their many SDDS friends. George will be dearly missed by his SDDS friends and fellow dancers. He was a Jolly Good Fellow who loved his wife and enjoyed his friends.



# Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid & Don Hubbard



## Ending a terrific year

**Full house.** The Palomar Holiday Dinner/Dance Party was held on November 25, 2012 with over 100 in attendance at the lovely Ocean Hills Country Club Ballroom! Thank you Miriam Mozes for coordinating the affair. The tables were extremely elegant and festive! Dinner, provided by Ranch Caterers, was exceptional as usual. We were honored to have Mark & Kao Chapman, from the San Diego Chapter, entertain us with an elegant Waltz and their famous Quick-Step routine! Also giving us much enjoyment throughout the evening were Len & Peggy Lee, with a beautiful and precise Argentine Tango, Duane & Donna Thornton with a sultry Bolero, and Don Hubbard & Debbie Kincaid with a fun Cha-Cha. Lots of laughs were had as George Mozes presented our door prize drawings! It was all a wonderful way to begin the holiday season!



Party goers Jacq, Dar & Don

**President's report.** Peter Hanson has just completed his second term of office as President of our Chapter. "It has been a great year" replied Peter when asked about how he felt about the direction that our Chapter is moving. "I am particularly pleased with how many of our new members have pitched in and done service for our club." Peter also pointed out that notable highlights of the year are a Palomar record of 150 attendees for our July Coronation and the increase in the number of members traveling to other NSD events.



Peter Hanson

**Special thanks.** Go to George and Miriam Moses for their work for the entire year. George, with the assistance of Miriam, teaches our Chapter's weekly lessons at the Vista Senior Center. Our lessons are popular because of the teaching skill and the humor provided by George. Classes have averaged 42 per session. Besides increasing the dancing skill and interest in dancing in the community, the lessons have brought many new members into our chapter. Both Miriam and George are active in our monthly Socials. Miriam provides for the organization at the Ocean Hills Country Club and George serves as Master of Ceremonies.

And to Marsha Hanson, organizer, teacher and choreographer of our Palomar Formation Team. Marsha prepared this group for a performance from the movie "Grease" for Queen Debbie's coronation. The performance was well received and selected to represent Palomar at the NSD Convention in Palm Desert. Other requests resulted in shows at San Diego instructor Mary Manzella's birthday party at "Dance for 2" dance studio and for the Chinese Dance Club's social at Champion Ballroom. Marsha continues her work for dancers who wish to improve their skills by teaching our monthly lessons held in conjunction with our Sunday socials. She is assisted by her husband Peter. Also, her efforts were a huge success as co-chairperson for Queen Debbie's Coronation. Thank you Marsha!



George & Miriam



Marsha Hanson

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NSD Means Never Stop Dancing

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## Social Season

**Social report.** October. 32 dancers Danced the Night Away on October 21, hosted by Kathy and Rick Constantino and Bob and Sue Dowell. The decorations are what one would have expected in a spooky way. Alex Periera taught a great Foxtrot lesson, and Lorraine Tilton kept everyone dancing with fun music.

November. Wow! What a way to end our 2012 Third Sunday Socials, with 50 in attendance! Dan Goss was our instructor for a Samba lesson; everyone seemed to enjoy it. It was a lot of fun. Our entertainers were Nancy Cargill from Visalia Chapter and her instructor, Franco, performing a West Coast Swing. They had a cute routine. Thanks, Nancy and Franco! Ginna Bearden and her committee did a lovely job, and the decorations were so clever and pretty. Thank you all so much!

January. Our January dance, Winter Dancing in the Cold January Nights, will be held on January 20, and will be hosted by Carla Hartunian. Dan Goss will teach a Cha Cha lesson.

**Christmas Party.** Sunday, December 16, 2012. Reservations are due by December 10! This is a semi-formal dinner dance. Champagne reception begins at 6pm, a catered holiday dinner will be offered at 6:30, and dancing will begin at 7:30. Our 2013 slate of officers will be installed as well. In addition, toys will be collected for the Clovis Adult Ed Even Start Program; bring an unwrapped toy for ages 3-5.

**This and That.** Queen Lynn and her mother will be in Florida for 10 days in December for her sister's wedding. Safe travels, Lynn, and congratulations to your sister!

Linda Bennett recently performed in Dianna's Studio of Dance Fall Showcase. With her instructor, Mario Moreno, she performed an Argentine Tango routine and freestyles in the following dances: Foxtrot, Waltz, Viennese Waltz, Tango, Bolero, Rumba, East Coast Swing and Cha Cha. She says her day was made a success by how much fun she had!



Linda Bennett

**Sunshine.** Dorothy Webster recently had stomach surgery and is in a rehab hospital in Pleasanton. She should be home in a couple of weeks. We wish her well and a speedy recovery!

**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!

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From all of us who bring you Dance Whispers, we wish all the members of National Smooth Dancers a happy holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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