

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
March 2013



Los Angeles Chapter

edited by Joy Michaels

A new venue for a new queen, start with a splash

Coronation. On January 19, 2013, Queen Elect Sandy Wells was crowned the new queen of the Los Angeles Chapter in the Renaissance of Dance event. Queen Lesley Scott was able to attend and



Queen Sandy

did the honors. Then the new queen and reigning queens participated in the Queen's Waltz. Honor dances were performed by Victor Lee & Debby Ku and Ken & Marion Scholtz. An LA team dance to NY, NY was an entertaining surprise. A scrumptious dinner was presented and enjoyed by everyone. Mark Emanuelli, who played waltz and foxtrot mixers and several requests, provided music for the evening. Thanks to Susan and Chuck Johnson for coordinating the event at the new venue at the Hilton Hotel in Glendale. At the Sunday morning brunch, Queen Sandy presented the Queen's Trophy to Queen Lesley. Many guests attended and enjoyed a bountiful buffet.



Crown Circle

Queen's farewell. It's hard to believe my reign has come to an end. It has been an honor for me to represent the LA Chapter. My thanks to all the prior LA Queens who graciously filled in for me at coronations when I was unable to attend. I had long wanted to be queen and am sorry I was not able to partake in all the ceremonies. My coronation was an exhilarating event and participating in the coronation of Queen Sandy was also an outstanding experience. Best wishes to our new Queen Sandy. May your reign be a royal experience filled with memories that will last forever. Queen Lesley.



Queens
Sandy
&
Lesley

Queen's report. Queen Sandy and escort Tom attended their first "away" coronation in San Diego on March 2-3. Queen Been Kao began her second reign with a themed coronation, Lady In Red. Breaking from tradition, Kao sported a daring and beautiful red gown, making her the evening's Lady In Red. All our queens attended, led by State Queen Barbara Greenlaw, and were able to enjoy a Jack & Jill competition and two honor dances.

Other news. Several of our members were/are traveling. Liz Bradford and Roger Seastedt enjoyed a recent trip to Cuba with a group sponsored by the Elks. Liz reported that the scenery was outstanding and the people were very friendly. They attended a nightclub show, which featured great music and some fabulous salsa dancing. Victor Lee & Debby Ku conducted a dance class on a Princess cruise to the Caribbean. Chuck & Susan Johnson are on a 45 day cruise to many South Pacific countries, including Tahiti, Western and American Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, 5 ports in New Zealand, Tasmania, and two ports in Australia. Ken and Marian Scholtz are on another teaching cruise to Australia. The Ling's traveled to Hawaii and Don Russell and Kim Fleck cruised to Tahiti.

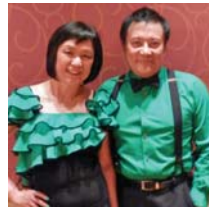
Past State Queen Jodene Catterlin had another back surgery and, after a slight setback, is recovering at home. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her back on the dance floor soon.



Queen Sandy



Ken & Marion



Debby & Victor

(con't. pg 9)



A queen returns

Queen Kao. This is Kao's second reign as Queen for San Diego Smooth Dancers. Since meeting husband and dance partner Mark in 2001, she has been active in NSD events and activities. Kao has competed at the Four Star level at numerous NSD conventions through the years. She has also taken great pleasure in performing at a wide variety of venues, both within and outside of NSD.

At various times over this past decade she has performed at a Public Library event; at a donors' appreciation dinner for the Braille Institute; in the living room for a friend's house warming; at her own wedding reception; at socials with the San Diego Chinese Dance Club; for chapter Coronations at Fresno, Palomar and San Diego; in showcases at Champion and Starlight Ballrooms; and at more holiday events and parties than she can remember. Although she makes it a point never to ask to perform, Kao has always been happy to comply when asked to do so. In this spirit, she has truly embodied the NSD mission of "bringing ballroom to our community."



Queen Kao

Kao had so much fun when she was San Diego's Queen in 2009, that she was delighted when asked by her chapter to don her tiara again for another year of traveling, coronations, and fun. Kao has remained in touch with many of the friends she made during her first year as Queen, and she looks forward to making many new ones during the coming year. Since she now knows what the coming year will entail, Kao is feeling a little less anxiety and a lot more excitement than she felt the first time around! She is proud to represent San Diego at other NSD chapter functions, and she was pleased to welcome all who attended to celebrate the traditions and history that National Smooth Dancers represents to all of our members.

One of Kao's clients, who knew how much she liked to dance, told her there was a ballroom studio opening in San Diego that she should check out. Following this lead, Kao got caught up in the excitement of ballroom and began taking a wide variety of dance classes, especially in the Latin style. She eventually joined Smooth Dancers, where she met her current husband Mark, and they began taking lessons together in International Standard dance. They performed on some formation teams and also began competing at NSD Conventions and Board weekend events. Kao ultimately married Mark in 2005 in a quiet ceremony overlooking San Diego's Old Town; the next day they threw a big ballroom reception for their NSD friends and families. This was a wonderful high point in Kao and Mark's life, made even more special because they were able to perform a wedding waltz for all their guests.

We all wish the beautiful San Diego Smooth Dancers Queen Been Kao, and her handsome escort, Mark Chapman, a warm and safe journey touring all the National Smooth Dancers chapter functions during the next year.



Mark & Queen Kao



Crown Circle



Queens Kao & Shirley

Other news. Wandalee Dimond is back home after hip surgery and two weeks rehab at a skilled nursing home. She is on hospice care but has reconnected with her hands and can now feed herself. She has regained her appetite, which is a good sign. We hope she will regain some ability to walk again but now needs to be transferred from bed to wheelchair. Al and the caregivers are taking good care of her. Our best wishes to Wandalee and Al.

Bakersfield Chapter

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



The Board meeting is almost here

Queen elect Sue Kimbrell is a Bakersfield native. She met her husband Phil when she was fifteen. They were married when she was eighteen and will celebrate their thirty-fourth anniversary this summer.



As a mother of two, Sue was deeply involved in the lives of her children, daughter Kerry and son Jared. Sue says she grew up singing in her church choir and school choir, but now just enjoys singing to her beautiful granddaughter Audrey Rose.

Sue began working in the office of Del Rio Elementary School when the school opened in 1992 and continues to work there. She enjoys traveling during her summer vacations and has traveled to several countries and every corner of the United States. She loves cruise ships and driving her car with the top down!

Sue and Phil started dancing about five years ago, and in 2010 were awarded the most improved dance couple award by our chapter. They have made many great friends through their involvement with Bakersfield Smooth Dancers and she is looking forward to acquiring many new friendships as she has the honor of representing the Bakersfield Chapter this year.

Queen elect Sue Kimbrell

Board Meeting. Ladies and Gentlemen start your engines! The race is on! Make your plans early to join us for a wonderful weekend of fun, food and dance!

The weekend starts off with picking up your dance packets, and if you arrive early enough you can relax and get ready for the evening festivities, which start off with a wonderful buffet dinner, beginning at 5:30pm. After dinner there will be lots of great dance music to sway too, along with Jack and Jill competitions which you can enter if you are so inclined!

Saturday morning will find you enjoying a delightful continental breakfast, 7:30 to 9:30. This being the Board of Directors weekend, there will be the different committee meetings to attend for those involved.

There will be a chance for the competitors to practice, and don't forget the dance seminar being taught by our professional dancers that is always a pleasure. Then from 1:00 until 4:00 the 'Tour de Dance' begins! This afternoon dance offers general dance time interspersed with our competitors for the "dance off," and a chance to cheer for your favorite dance couples!

Saturday night will find you back in the ballroom from 6:00 to 6:30 for some good libation to oil up your engines and get you roaring for the evening ahead!

We will hold our coronation for our Queen elect, Sue Kimbrell followed by a delicious dinner. All of this will culminate in a chance to dance the night away, including a dance exhibition by our professional dancers, and to view the remaining dance competitors.

Sunday morning is your chance to join us in the Winner's Circle, and at our farewell breakfast. This is your final chance to cheer for the winners, give hugs and farewells to your NSD friends and wish them God speed on their journey home!

Remember though, none of this will be possible if you aren't here with us in Bakersfield on March 22, 23 and 24th!

Socials and events. Our December dance, with the theme "I'm Dreaming of a Snow Queen White Christmas," was well attended, and most of the ladies wore a white gown and a crown! Susan Salvucci and her committee did a great job putting it all together. The decorations were beautiful! Sue used white tablecloths; tall white vases filled with lovely white feathers, and placed down the center of the tables were white feather boas. It looked like a winter wonderland.

Our December dance is when we announce our most improved dancers, winning the honors this year were James Schmitz for most improved male, a well deserved honor for James. Our most improved female dancer was Bao Truong a long time member and an excellent dancer. Paul and Irene Leung won our most improved couple award. Congratulations to all of you! A big thank you goes out to Kay Boyer and her committee on their hard work in selecting the winners for 2012.



(con't. pg. 9)

News, and still more news

New award. Looks like I have to start way back in December when, at our lovely dinner dance, last year's (and first annual) "Rosalie Wolf and Bob Fragomeni Spirit of Service Award" was handed out. All of us had the privilege to vote for the person we thought was truly the best candidate for this award and with overwhelming majority we voted for John Anzalone. He tirelessly and without ever expecting recognition helps with all the chores that make the meetings and the dances run smoothly. Always the first one to arrive and the last one to leave, he truly was the best candidate for this award. Congratulations John!!



John, Rosalie & Dan

New Year's eve. Our dance took place for the first time at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Foster City where we also have our coronations. We all agreed it was a fantastic venue and we will make it a tradition to have this event there from now on. We had a Jack and Jill contest for the first time and our own Patrick Jude took home the trophies for all three dances in a unanimous vote by the judges. Congratulations Patrick and Karen.

Queen elect. Also in December we nominated our new queen Shulamit Rabinovich to be our representative this coming year with her coronation taking place on April 13, 2013 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Foster city.

She had a lovely luncheon given by queen Liz Talmadge and her husband Chuck at their charming home in South San Francisco. Our talented queen Amy Ansaldi made all the decorations and brought Shulamit to tears with the details of her initiation to our crown circle. It was a royal affair fit for a queen-to-be. Her comments follow.



Queen elect Shulamit

"Having grown up in Lithuania and Ukraine we came to the United States as stateless refugees having been stripped of our citizenship in the Soviet Union in 1979. As a young couple, two professionals with young kids, we had to choose between the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. On our second day in this country and on our way to an interview in Palo Alto, a perfect San Francisco day lay in front of us, sun shining, fog spilling slowly down San Bruno Mountain and so we fell in love with the city and have not looked back.

Both Boris (my knight in shining armor) and I had successful professional careers. He traveled around the world many times designing and building for Sprint, while I participated in the design of hospitals all over the country.

I love dancing and all that goes along with it: the sound of the music, the movement of dancers on the floor, their upturned faces and gracious arms, whirling skirts and the smell of perfume and clean sweat. Did this love for dance develop by watching the Nutcracker for the first time or from watching the figure skating competitions on TV? Perhaps it's just an attraction to beauty and glamour disguising so well the years of hard work, synonymous with women. How else to keep the family together, raise the children, study, work to progress and excel? There was no room for being a woman, for make-up, beauty and elegance.

It's our time now, our son and daughter are grown and are successful adults, my turn has come to have fun, to laugh and to dance.

What a great idea to elect a queen; what a great honor to become one. I believe this will be the best year of my life. Thank you Golden Gate chapter."

Getting to know our long time member Norma Hall. Born in Manhattan of Puerto Rican parents and raised in a fun filled large community in the Bronx where parties, music and dance were a regular occurrence. As her parents owned a candy store, she was the most popular kid on the block and shares those precious memories of growing up in New York city, to this day with the same friends.

"My family relocated to San Francisco in 1957 where I began working at Ma Bell making lifelong friendships with many lovely people. It is here where I met my dear friends Elena and Joe Malta when they were still courting. Everyone was always welcome at my mother's house where good food was plentiful and always available.

My marriage blessed me with a wonderful son who attended UC Berkeley and is fluent in 4 languages. Together we traveled to Spain, Turkey and took a cruise to the Holy Land.

When Joe and Elena invited me to a dance, my life in the NSD world (con't. pg. 9)



Karen & Patrick



Norma Hall

Visalia Chapter

edited by Sallie Holden



A new year brings in a new team

Chapter news. The last issue of Dance Whispers was published in December so we have two months' worth of informative and interesting dance news.

You'll notice that Yvette Haworth is no longer Whispers editor for the Visalia chapter. After two years of reporting on Visalia events, it was time to move on to other things. Two of the other things include performing a spectacular tango with dance partner Neshan Tabibian at the February social and co-chairing, with Lotti Carr, the 2013 Convention.

I've been skimming past issues of Whispers and it looks like I've got some tough acts to follow: Yvette, Margaret Moholt (three times as Whispers editor), Carol Bixler, Linda Gutierrez, Ann Phillips, Vicie Nagy, Billie Harrell, and Bernice Orr. Looking at back issues is not only a history lesson in NSD but technology. Not to mention the aging process, but better not to talk about that.

New officers. The January social dance was, as tradition dictates, the swearing in of the 2013 officers. Held in Exeter at the Memorial Hall, the theme was "We Want You!" New President Greg Uichanco was sworn in. Greg is



married to the current Queen, Barbara. Maria Helm was installed as Vice President, Margaret Moholt as Treasurer, Bill Dolan as VSD Board member, and Wendy Storey as Social Chair. Cheryl was the music person for the night. Reinstated by Lotti Carr, members did the Grand March and agreed that this activity should be a part of every inauguration in the future.

Apparently they had fun doing it. Pictures of this dance, as well as a full list of officers, are on the website, which is created and maintained by Dee Peterson.

Socials. February social was chaired by Maria Helm and had a Mardi Gras theme, complete with carnival masks, beads, and lots of women in purple and/or gold. The event began with a samba lesson from instructor Dan Goss, then a potluck dinner and three hours of dancing to music organized and played by Tim Inouye.

On March 9, in Exeter, there will be a dance entitled "Second Annual Bollywood Bash," hosted by Carolyn and Karl Richards. It will start with a dance lesson by Eileen Chavez.

Convention 2013. While all this dancing was going on, there were also business meetings of the VSD club and meetings for convention planning. That event promises to be a lot of fun. Packages will be available at Boards and by contacting Lotti Carr.

The club has performed formation routines at past conventions and 2013 will be no exception. Right now, it's looking very exciting: there are thirteen couples participating. Good luck to the leader and instructor, Dan Goss, in keeping all those adults in line. In all senses of the phrase.

NSD 2013 Statewide Event Calendar

March 22	Board Meeting - Bakersfield
April 13	Golden Gate Coronation
May 18	Visalia Coronation
June 1	Fresno Coronation
July 27	Palomar Coronation
August 30	Convention - Visalia
November 2	San Fernando Valley Coronation

Board Meeting is almost here!!

Check the new date for Palomar.

Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



Coronations and socials

San Diego Coronation. Queen Lynn and Carla Rose, Queen Mum, arrived on Friday just in time to join current San Diego Queen, Shirley McCloskey, former Fresno member, some San Diego members and other early arrivals for dinner.

Saturday morning was sunny and warm as Carla and I did some shopping and sight-seeing at the historic Hotel Del Coronado. We found the two shops we were looking for that specialized in crown jewelry and other “royal” items and stocked up.

The afternoon hospitality was arranged by out-going Queen Shirley and her committee. We enjoyed delicious food and drink and visited with other out of town arrivals and San Diego members until it was time to change for the evening.

We always love going to the famous Champion Ballroom in San Diego. It was founded by Mary Murphy, vivacious judge on So You Think You Can Dance, and is home to the San Diego chapter. Our carry pieces were exotic gold fans with red flowers and red and gold ribbons. Queens and escorts gathered in the foyer with Queen-elect, Been Kao and her husband, Mark Chapman, and Kao's three darling little granddaughters, Mikayla, Emma, and Eva, who were her attendants.

After taking our seats there was a short delay until Queen Kao slipped into sight from around a corner and appeared in a ruby red ball gown. Wow, what a surprise and possibly a new trend in the offing! After receiving her crown, Queen Kao and Mark performed a wonderful Queen's Dance, as was only to be expected of State Champion dancers. Their honor dancers were Olga Ginzberg and Egor Shchiryy, wonderful young rising star professionals teaching and training at the Champion Ballroom.

Fresno queens represented our chapter well during a fun Jack & Jill Waltz & Cha Cha contest. Carla & Ben Wilson (BSD) were 2nd in Waltz and Vern Miranda (SDSD) and I were 3rd in Cha Cha. Prizes were won by 6 couples, wine for the men and chocolates for the women.

At Sunday's breakfast we discovered the San Diego chapter tradition to honor the new Queen, who opened her gifts at that time. We had a great time ohh-ing and ahh-ing over the creativity that goes into the thoughtful “royal” gifts.

We had a fantastic time and can't wait to go back. It may be a long drive but it is always well worth the trip to go dancing with San Diego Smooth Dancers.

Social report. 74 members and guests attended our 2012 Christmas Dance. A champagne reception was followed by a delicious catered buffet dinner. Kathy Constantino gave a beautiful and moving invocation. Vivian Simons, director of the Clovis Adult Ed “Even Start” program, gratefully picked up the toys our members donated for their kids. Mary Short and Franco Perraza performed a beautiful waltz for our entertainment.

In January snowmen of all shaped and sizes greeted everyone for “Winter Dancing in the Cold January Nights”. Approximately 50 members and guests enjoyed a Cha Cha lesson taught by Dan Goss. We witnessed a special treat when our brand new member Angie Garcia performed a beautiful waltz with her instructor Dan Goss.

The theme for February was “Valentine Dancing in February.” Tables were decorated with valentine-shaped flower vases made by Barbara Stickler. The 50+ attendees worked hard at a Bolero lesson taught by Robert Allgeyer. A Valentine snow ball dance highlighted the evening, a rumba to Andrea Bocelli's duet with Jennifer Lopez, Quizas, Quizas, Quizas.

The March Dance to be held on St. Patrick's Day, will be a tribute to Queen Barbara Stickler.

New Members! During our February dance, time was taken to welcome several new members: Heidi Hagopian, Jeff Jackson, Angie Garcia and Virginia Close, and the return of Jim & Jan Mitchell. We are thrilled with our new and returning friends!

Sunshine. Our deepest sympathies and loving prayers are with Carla Hartunian on the very recent passing of her mother.

Jim Escobar is recovering from knee surgery. We hope your knee is well on the mend by now!

Kathy Sachse recently had oral surgery. Kathy, we hope it went well and you are well on your way to recovery by now!

We are keeping Barbara Stickler in our thoughts and prayers.



Queens Shirley, Carla & Lynn

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid & Don Hubbard



Busy start to the new year

Queen's report. Congratulations Queen Sandy Wells, our newest member of The Crown Circle! Palomar had a great turn out for Queen Sandy's coronation, 15 members in attendance!

We all enjoyed a lovely evening at a beautiful new location—the Glendale Hilton Hotel. We were all very excited to get to know Queen Sandy at Hospitality which was held in one of the beautiful suites – what a spread! Her coronation



Attendees at LA coronation

was a lovely event with beautiful bright turquoise-themed, hand-made center pieces. Queen Sandy performed a unique and fun Queen's Dance! Great music and a grand time was had by all! The next morning continued with a fabulous breakfast at the hotel with the exchanging of beautiful gifts between queens and heartfelt gracious speeches.

Queen Kao Chapman, San Diego's beautiful Lady In Red, will forever be in our memories as she was crowned in her gorgeous red dress! The room was transformed into a dreamy candle-lit ballroom. I will never forget her precious grand daughter walking in carrying a bouquet as tall as she was! We all enjoyed watching Queen Kao and her husband Mark Chapman perform a perfectly executed Queen's Waltz. The rest of the evening proved to be quite fun and included a Jack & Jill contest where we were able to view the true talent that exists in NSD! Queen Shirley came through, as she does so well, for the marvelous Saturday afternoon Hospitality! The next morning brought a lovely brunch and continued comradeship with NSD friends.

New Members! Richard (Rick) Brunton joined us in February. Born in Detroit and raised in San Diego, Rick began dancing as a young man with Kona Kai Cotillion from 1958–1970, and with Dance Masters from 1960–1972. He was the founder of Aston's Quarter & San Diego Children's Theater. Later on he became the owner of Silver Springs bottled water in Los Angeles and then president of Aquadyne International & PureWater Systems here in San Diego. His daughter, Brittney, is currently a Business Major at SDSU. Rick was introduced to Palomar Smooth Dancers by Darlene Drury.

Martin & Sharon Cooper also joined us in February. Marty & Sharon started dancing about 11 years ago on cruise ships and became serious dancers 3 years ago when they started to run a weekly dance for Seniors in Encinitas at North County Dance Studio. Marty's last position in his career was President of Citibank, Australia. Sharon retired to be a stay-at-home mother 35 years ago! She was the Executive Director of the St. Louis Kidney Dialysis & Transplant Association. They have two daughters and twin 19 month old grandsons! They both have many hobbies but seem to really enjoy cruising. Marty is a member of Rotary while Sharon does volunteer fundraising. Don Hubbard introduced them to PSD.



Marty (l) & Rick (r)



Debbie & Gary

Our newest member, Gary Nelson, began dancing in 2002 when he began with WC swing lessons. Soon he found himself dancing 3-4 nights a week. He refined his skills with classes at Mira Costa College, where he also participated in the performing arts program. This brought him to intermediate level dance and he was hooked! He heard about our PSD dances at Ocean Hills, where he met Debbie Kincaid and decided to join her in the club. He is the youngest of four children, born in Lynwood, CA, grew up in the Covina/Claremont area, and served in the Navy. After college he spent his career in computer storage and microwave communications. He currently lives in La Costa and is the proud father of 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Gary's other

passion is "grand scale panorama photography"! And he's an accomplished wedding photographer. Welcome aboard Gary!

Socials. 4th Sunday socials at the Ocean Hills Country Club continue to be a popular event in the community. February's dinner-dance featuring a "Sweetheart" theme had 78 dancers in attendance. Hosts Mary Anderson, Sue Takemoto, and Jack and Marilee Ragland provided an excellent meal of Chinese cuisine in honor of Chinese New Year! Table decorations were quite lovely and admired by all. George Mozes was the MC, while Marsha and Peter Hanson taught an excellent Fox Trot lesson.

And, our coronation date has changed. It's now July 27. Please mark your calendars!

In Memoriam. Our sympathy to the family of Becky Bartlett, who passed away from complications after knee surgery last month. Becky and husband Mark were active members who joined our chapter last August. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mark and family. Dorothy Oliver, born in 1914, died in December. Dorothy and her husband George joined NSD in 1958. For many years she provided a place for our business meetings. She was a great friend.



Off to a great start for 2013

State Queen report. It was such good fun to see everybody and share hugs at the NSD Convention in September. I so enjoyed talking and dancing with old friends and new.

The highlight in January was, of course, the Los Angeles chapter's beautiful coronation of Queen-elect Sandy Wells, accompanied by her beaming husband Tom and her attendant crown bearer, Filomena Campbell. Sandy and Tom waltzed into our hearts on a "Rainbow Connection". Her entire "Renaissance of Dance" evening was full of memorable festivities. Sandy, for a moment you had us wondering where you were going with the "Stripper".....Hmmm, such a saucy little gal!

During a delicious dinner, we socialized and caught up on the latest with each other. Dancing to the evening's music, provided by Mark Emanuelli of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, was, as always, a delight. We had the pleasure of watching two charming Los Angeles chapter couples, Victor Lee & Debby Ku and Ken & Marion Scholtz, perform a special and wonderfully entertaining honor dance in tribute to newly crowned Queen Sandy. What a terrific surprise it was when the Los Angeles six-couple formation team burst onto the floor for a lively presentation. Twenty-four dancing feet! Now that just can't be beat!



Bill & Barbara

We were so happy when Queen Lesley and Allan arrived at Hospitality and were able to be part of the coronation festivities. Best wishes to you Lesley as you have completed your reign.

Bill and I wish to thank the Los Angeles chapter for a coronation event full of style and panache. We love the new venue and all the conveniences it offered. Los Angeles, you have started us off to a great 2013 year of coronation fun and friendship. Sandy, you and Tom are now an essential part of this unfolding year. I wish you a warm welcome to the Crown Circle.

Love and affection, State Queen Barbara Greenlaw

The Dance Now formation team has been back to its full complement of four couples since Christmas. They've performed at four different venues in the last two months; the Sunland Senior Center, the Pacoima Senior Center, the Keiro Retirement Home in Los Angeles, and the Keiro Nursing Home in Los Angeles. This was the first appearance at the Pacoima Senior Center, and the audience was enthusiastic. After the performance, a member of the Center's staff said she was inspired to get back into shape for dancing herself! The group's performance at the Keiro Retirement Home was planned to fall on Valentine's Day. Our closing number was a waltz done to Moon River. The long red dresses of the ladies and matching red shirts of the men reflected the romantic theme of the day.

Dances and activities. Our March dance had one of the biggest turnouts ever, with forty-five people attending the pre-dance lesson. David and Lee Mei Moutrey, champion pros, taught a beautiful tango pattern. We had a new DJ, our very own Jane Rollins. She played a wonderful variety of music that included a short applause track at the end of each song. Nice touch, Jane.

In our new format for this year's dances, we'll be rotating DJs and instructors every three months. In addition to David and Lee Mei Moutrey, we'll be having lessons by Andre Fortin, who is the instructor and choreographer of our Dance Now formation team. And we're so pleased to have Michael Donovan, a beloved dance organizer and teacher in the San Fernando Valley, who serves as both instructor and DJ. Michael generously shares his talents by dancing with many of the ladies and joining our mixers. He adds a wonderful dimension to our events with his sparkling dance technique and his uncanny ability to lead his followers into complex and graceful routines.



Jane Rollins

So far, 2013 has been a successful year for our chapter. This is truly exciting and quite a contrast to the low attendance at our dance this time last year. I'm looking forward to the upcoming Bakersfield weekend, which you'll find me promoting anywhere you find me dancing, and that's a lot of places!

Love and Prayers for Sally Emanuelli and her family. Sally extends her thanks for all the love and support she has received. Sally had surgery on Feb 28 to remove a benign tumor which was uncomfortably close to her facial nerves. The surgery was performed with no complications, and she will very soon be her lovely self again.

Sally and Mark ask for your love, hope, and prayers for Sally's mother, who was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer and has recently started chemotherapy in Taiwan. Sally will be flying there soon to be with her mom as she starts this challenging fight. Sally hopes to see you all again very soon. She will miss her extended dance family, but takes your love with her to give her strength.

(con't. pg. 9)

Continued:

Los Angeles:

Since “retiring” from the working world, Joy Michaels has been involved with the 5000 member Culver City Senior Center and was elected to the Board of Directors and sworn in by the Mayor of Culver City.

Socials. Valentine’s Day dance was a disappointment because so many members were away or ill. Those who came enjoyed the music of Tom Wells, and Sandy Wells furnished a nice lunch of sandwiches, chips and cookies. Joy Michaels sponsored the dance in honor of George Zimmerman’s birthday.

The St. Patrick’s dance was held on March 3 with a better turnout than last month. Debby Ku and Victor Lee were in charge of the music, food and dance lesson. Liz Bradford took reservations. George Zimmerman sponsored the dance in honor of Joy Michaels’ birthday.

The April 14 “April Fool’s” dance will be at San Gabriel Elks Club, 1373 E. Las Tunas Drive, San Gabriel, 1:00-4:00 pm. Cost is \$12. See www.nationalsmoothdancers.com for flyers. Our next Tea Dance is April 22, also at the Elks Club, cost \$8.

Bakersfield:

Our New Year’s eve dance was a wonderful evening! The theme was “A Night of Hollywood Glamour”. Steve Peterson was Master of Ceremonies and introduced all who came into the ballroom. We were then escorted to our tables, which were decorated with black tablecloths, top hats, miniature Oscars, red roses, and little votive lights. A delicious full dinner buffet was served to kick off the evening! There were Jack and Jill competitions, great music by Ken Silber and Dennis Acosta, and a champagne toast and dessert served at midnight, and of course, our wonderful smooth dance friends to enjoy it all with!

The January dance is the annual Presidents’ Ball honoring our past and present presidents. Maria and Patrick Leung and their committee did a great job and everyone in attendance had a great time! There was wonderful food to enjoy and great music to dance to.

Our February dance was hosted by Frances Hein. The theme was a “Mardi Gras Amour”. The great music was played by Richard Gonzalez and Ken Silber was our Master of Ceremonies. Frances, as usual, did a masterful job along with her committee members. The exquisite decorations were provided by Jeanette Rogers, who borrowed them from another chapter. They really added to the festivities, and gave us a real feeling of being transported to Mardi gras! This was truly a fun, festive dance, enjoyed by all.

Golden Gate:

and all of the wonderful people who go along with that world began, and it reignited my passion for dance. It has been a joy! Thank you NSD.”

Travel news. Mary and Ray Crosat spend time in Puerto Vallarta for Mary’s birthday in January at their daughters home. For her Birthday celebration she sang “Irish eyes are smiling” accompanied by a Mexican Band. Wish we had a visual and audio on that.

As always, dance first, everything else can wait.

San Fernando Valley:

Sad News. It is with sadness that we acknowledge the loss of a dear and sweet lady, Elsie Neuvert, our long time SFV member. Elsie loved to dance. For many years she was a supporter of our chapter and a source of great fun during inter-chapter activities. Did you know that Elsie was actually one of the “Rosie the Riveter” ladies during the war years? Elsie passed away in her sleep on Friday, January, 25, 2013 at the age of 97. Family and friends gathered in love and tribute at the Old North Church in Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills. Elsie is survived by her daughter Vickie and grandson Tony.

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