

*National Smooth Dancers*  
*Dance Whispers*  
*April 2013*



## Bakersfield

edited by Dorothy Vaughan

### Another Spring Spectacular

**Coronation.** Saturday night of Board meeting weekend is always the coronation of our new queen. This year the honor goes to Sue Kimbrell. The dress is formal, the ladies are beautiful and a wonderful, memorable evening is had by all.



Queen Sue Kimbrell

During the evening there were also competitive dancing and general dancing. It was a joyful evening for all the attendees.



Sue & Phil

The ballroom for Saturday night was transformed into a Kentucky Derby theme. Sue choose beautiful hats for her decorations. She added lovely maroon tablecloths with mirrored mats, and vases were used to hold up the hats, making them visible as you looked across the ballroom. It was altogether very lovely.

Several members of the various chapters added to the festivities by wearing some lovely hats which helped to capture the Kentucky Derby feel of the evening.

The Coronation began with the Chapter Queens and their escorts entering the ballroom to the music of My Old Kentucky Home, sung by Rose Peterson and Ken Silber. Each Queen carried a lovely goblet with a small bouquet of flowers in it, and etched on the sides of the goblets were the date and theme of the dance. It is a wonderful keepsake for the Queens to enjoy for years to come.

Queen Sue and her husband Phil performed a lovely waltz to the song 'If,' music that is very meaningful to both of them.

A scrumptious dinner followed the Coronation.

Our professional performers, Michael Kuka and Natalia Lind, performed some exquisite dances and were breathtaking to watch!



The Crown Circle



Sue & Professionals

**Queen Kay's farewell.** Thank you to all the National Smooth Dancer Chapter Queens, Bakersfield Smooth Dancers past Queens and all members that made 2012 a very special year for me.

This past year has given me many wonderful memories, like practicing how to walk and sit properly, making sure we went to left or to the right to get to our correct placement, and remembering to bow to the queen. Seriously, I will always remember the beautiful Queens and their Coronations, the Queens's Brunch and Hospitality. Most of all, I will remember all of the wonderful friends I have made in Bakersfield as well as all the other chapters.

Thank you to Frances Hein, Charlene Miller, Wendy Wilson and Judy Evans for all of their coaching, mentoring and assistance with my Coronation and throughout the year. Thank you to Carla Hartunian for her guidance and

friendship at the other Chapter Coronations especially my first one. Thank you to Don Haight for providing pictures and everyone else who posted them on Facebook.



Queen Kay Leads the Queens



Queens Kay & Sue



Joined by State Queen Barbara

I am looking forward to attending the Coronations this year and seeing all of my NSD friends. I will miss being part of the reigning circle and wonderful attitudes of our queens and their escorts and the great camaraderie we have. I think this past year has been indubitably one of my best ever.

I was very excited to crown our new queen for 2013, Sue Kimbrell. I'm sure she will have a great year as queen.

Thank you again NSD for an amazing year and I'm looking forward to seeing you soon! -Queen Kay Boyer

**Board meeting weekend.** Well earned kudos go to Charlene and Francis Hein, who successfully managed to turn out a wonderful weekend of fun, food and dance at our annual boards. This year's theme, "Race to the Winners' Circle" was an amazing success according to all who attended.

The Friday night dance was spectacular, starting with a delicious buffet dinner and wonderful music to dance to all night long! The evening dance was kicked off with Rose and Steve Peterson, along with



several of our members, leading a snowball dance. As the evening progressed there were Jack and Jill contests, mixers and dance hosts, to make sure everyone got to dance. All in all it was a great evening.

On Saturday afternoon our "Tour de Dance" was a lot of fun and showcased the first of many dance competitions. It was wonderful to see so many competitors on the floor! We also enjoyed some wonderful general dancing in between the competitions.



Rose & Steve



Sunday morning we gathered together for our farewell breakfast and chapter Presidents' introductions.

And, of course, everyone was anxious as the awards were also handed out to our competitors.

Winning the Senior Waltz, in third place was Al Folkman and Antonette Tuti, San Diego, second place was Les and Roberta Lazar from San Fernando Valley, and first place went to Tony and Wen-shi Rodriguez from Bakersfield. Congrats to all of you! Beginning Waltz results were: third place Steve and Rose Peterson, Bakersfield, second place went to Len and Peggy Lee from Palomar and first place to Tony and Wen-shi Rodriguez from Bakersfield. Great Job! Beginning Cha Cha: the third place award went to Doug Hammond and Jane Rollens from San Fernando Valley, in second place were Tony and Wen-Shi Rodriguez from Bakersfield and first place went to Paul and Wendy Story from Visalia. Winning the Social Swing competition was: third place Doug Hammond and Jane Rollens from San Fernando Valley and in second place Les and Roberta Lazar from San Fernando Valley. Our first place winners were Don Hubbard and Debra Kincaid from Palomar. The intermediate Smooth winners were: third place James and Andrea Gutman from S.F.V. second place were Jeff and Jenny Durling from S.F.V. and the first place winners were Greg and Barbara Uichanco from Visalia. In the Advanced Smooth Division, Mark Emanuelli and Antoinette Tuti from San Diego placed third and Greg and Barbara Uichanco from Visalia placed second, while first place went to Brian Yip and Joan Robinson from San Fernando Valley.

And, special mention to Lona and Bill Dolan of Visalia for their beautiful four star exhibition performance, and taking home the top honor trophy. Congratulations to all our winners!

And, let's not forget the Jack & Jills which were so much fun. In the waltz, in third place, Jerry Engel and Joan Robinson, second went to Tony Rodriguez and Jane Rollins, while first went to Mark Chapman and Lynn Sanders. Cha Cha: third place, Ty Upshur and Nancy Schwartz, second place, Lane Stubblefield and Antoinette Tuti, and first to Mark Chapman and



Bill, Lona & Queen Sue



Lynn Sanders. For the NCTS, third went to Rich Gonzales and Joan Robinson, second to David Kimins and Nancy Schwartz, and in first was Brian Yip and Carla Hartunian. In rumba, third was David Kimins and Nancy Schwartz, second to Ben Wilson and Lana (unk), and first went to Rich Gonzales and Joan Robinson. What a great time for everyone.

**Business meetings.** One thing we all should remember, besides the great time we had, is that this weekend is called "The Boards" because there really is a meeting of the Board of Directors, which has representation from all the chapters. There is also a meeting of the chapter presidents, very logically called the Presidents Meeting. Both discuss the status of current operations, including membership and financial changes, and how we should manage ourselves in the future.

The overwhelming issue facing NSD is how, or whether, we can maintain the existing statewide event structure, which includes Board Meeting, Convention and the chapter coronations. They are all wonderful events, but the sponsoring chapter can't keep on if it means losing money.

At present, the statewide constitution requires two board meetings, held semi-annually, and conducted in person. The Los Angeles chapter agreed to sponsor an amendment

allowing only one such meeting, at the discretion of the board. This would be consistent with state law, and will give NSD more flexibility in managing itself. As you might guess, this will involve quite a process, and will be discussed and voted on at each chapter.



The 2013 Board of Directors

There are always other things discussed at these meetings, so ask your board member for all the detail.

**Chapter comments.** San Fernando Valley. The Bakersfield Spring Weekend, or perhaps we could say "The Bakersfield Bash", was outstanding in every way. The many dancers in attendance and the swell of competitors produced an infectious wave of energy that we all enjoyed.

The beautiful coronation of Queen Susan Kimbrell was quite the topping on the weekend cake. This charming lady was welcomed, with open arms and dancing feet, into the Crown Circle. Many of Susan's family members were in attendance to share her special evening. We watched with delight as Queen Susan was graciously crowned by outgoing Queen Kay Boyer, thus completing her own year's reign.

The Bakersfield chapter traditionally hosts a luncheon for all of the reigning Queens and their escorts, as well as all the ladies who have served as Queen of the Bakersfield chapter. This large and special gathering celebrates and honors our past and present Queens. Their collective experience is passed on to Queen Susan as she and husband Phil commence a year of great enjoyment and travel.

Thank you, Bakersfield, for a terrific weekend of dancing, fun, and friendship. It was over the top and certainly exceeded our expectations. And to you Queen Susan, "Welcome Aboard!" - State Queen Barbara Greenlaw.

Whew - what an awesome weekend it was. On Friday, we enjoyed a buffet dinner and danced on a huge ballroom floor. We awoke Saturday to a hot breakfast buffet, a great dance lesson, and a fun afternoon dance. The evening brought us a formal dinner, a spectacular four-dance show, and more dancing. Sunday morning included yet another breakfast with a little more dancing for those of us who just can't get enough. The music was amazing. The entire weekend cost less than \$200 (can you believe it!) and another \$250 for the hotel room. Trust me - you cannot get that kind of deal at any other dance event. It was a wonderful weekend that everyone enjoyed both on and off the dance floor. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the Bakersfield chapter. I can't wait to see what's in store for us then. - Mark Emanuelli.

The Rrrroaring Revelry of the Race to the Finish: We got all revved up for the Bakersfield Convention. Throughout the weekend, we rejoiced in the music, dancing, and camaraderie. Renowned dancers, Michael and Natalia, performed a riveting dance revue with a romantic rendition of a racy Argentine Tango. During the regal coronation of Queen Sue Kimbrell, we respectfully revered the Bakersfield queen as she began her regime. We relished a resplendent dinner replete with a rich desert. When the competition winners were revealed and rewarded, we showed our high regard for their well-rehearsed routines. For relaxation, we reposed at the resort's refreshing spa to relieve and rejuvenate our aching feet. On the reverse trip home, we reflected on the rendezvous, while resting up before our return to reality. It was a ravishing reunion to remember. We're resolved to revisit Bakersfield next year! - Debbie Bloom.

Fresno. We had 10 members plus 2 guests attending this year's State Board Meeting and Coronation. Members Rick and Kathy Constantino have celebrated their wedding anniversary with us at Bakersfield Boards ever since they joined Smooth Dancers. But this year they decided to celebrate their 35th anniversary with a cruise through the Panama Canal. I think that rates an excused absence and hearty congratulations. Lorraine Tilton, Fresno's Board Member and Queen-elect was bravely in attendance despite a decided turn for the worse in the knee department,

which improved just in time for the ride home on Sunday.

Bakersfield made some changes that seemed to work out very well. Instead of the Friday afternoon hospitality and their customary midnight buffet, we enjoyed a buffet dinner laid out for us from 5:30 – 7:30 pm which gave us time to change for the party either before or after dinner. They also included a full breakfast Saturday morning. Joan Robinson (SFV chapter) assisted by recruiting 4 very nice gentlemen dance hosts, much to the delight of the single ladies.

Participation was increased in dance competitions and the popular Jack & Jill contests. SFV and Palomar chapters had the majority of the contestants. The Fresno chapter was represented by Henry Wegermann, who was invited to compete in the Beginners Cha-cha with Antoinette Tuti (SD). Henry and I also entered the Intermediate Smooth.

At Sunday breakfast we received our convention packets from Visalia's band of dashiki clad members, speeches were given, presentations were made, contestants received their trophies and Debbie Bloom from SFV was the lucky winner of the free convention package deal. Congratulations to Bakersfield Chapter and all the participants for a great weekend. See you on the dance floor! - Queen Lynn Sanders.

Los Angeles. The "Race to the Winner's Circle" at Bakersfield was wonderful. Charlene, Ben and their committee did another fabulous job putting on the weekend. Bakersfield Chapter is having a difficult time financially having the "Boards" there every year. Hopefully, the NSD "family" will be able to solve that and a few other obstacles. Bakersfield has consistently put on an outstanding weekend every year and with a bit of luck, will be able to continue having a "spring dance" weekend in the future. - Joy Michaels.

Palomar. Bakersfield Race to the Finish! What a fabulous race to the finish for those who attended the Bakersfield Board of Directors weekend! Thank you Bakersfield crew for another job well done and a brilliant theme. Director Duane Thornton raved, "I was pleased to see attendance by some of our newer members as we grow our chapter!" Palomar Chapter not only had 17 members in attendance but we had 9 members, in racing form, who participated in the competitions. Good work Len & Peggy Lee (first time competitors!), Jack & Marilee Ragland (first time competitors!), Darlene Drury & Rick Brunton (first time competitors!) Don Hubbard & Sharon Tate and Don Hubbard & Debbie Kincaid. It was a memorable weekend for all, who can forget the crowning of Bakersfield's beautiful new Queen Sue Kimbrell. Thanks to Rich Gonzales for escorting Queen Debbie for the evening. Palomar Chapter had so much fun dressing up for each themed event. We all agreed that the Friday night buffet was a success – thanks for trying it out! Duane Thornton felt positive about the Director's meetings that he participated in: "Our organization has a lot of challenges in order to change with the times. I'm sure we will resolve them and stay vibrant as the family we have become for many years!" - Queen Debbie Kincaid.

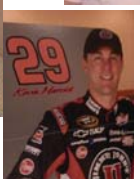
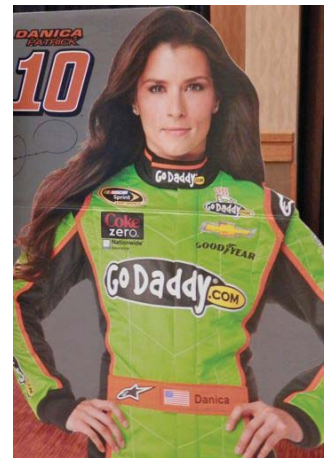
San Diego. Many thanks, and "Job Well Done" to the Bakersfield Smooth Dancers for the "Race to the Winners Circle" under the leadership of Charlene Miller and Ben Wilson and the Bakersfield Race Team members, relatives, friends and supporters. We plan and encourage all members to attend the next annual NSD Boards in 2014. The San Diego Smooth Dancers enjoyed this event, and had a great time and a safe and warm trip. - Vern Miranda.

**Bakersfield chapter news.** Our April dance 'Around the World' will be hosted by Marietta and Norbert Tan, and their committee. This dance will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Rasmussen Center, 115 E. Roberts Ln. Dance will be from 7:00 to 10:30pm. Members are encouraged to dress in any international costume celebrating the traditions of their heritage. A surprise vocal solo and a surprise spotlight dance performance will be featured. Please join us for what promises to be a wonderful evening.

**In memoriam.** Long time charter member Elsie Sorenson has passed away. Elsie was 96 years young. Elsie at one time or the other served in all offices of our club. Elsie served as our queen in 1981. She went on to serve as our chapter president in 1987 and 1988. She was awarded the NSD Gavel Club Award and also served as the Master of Ceremonies at the 1974 NSD Board Meeting. Ballroom dancing was her passion and joy. She was very instrumental in the development of ballroom dance clubs in Bakersfield. Elsie will be missed by all who knew and loved her.



It seems there's never enough room for all the good pictures. So here are some from Board meeting weekend that didn't have a home, but had to be seen. Thank you Bakersfield chapter. DH, ed.





# Golden Gate Chapter

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



## Another beautiful coronation

"When you wish upon a star, dreams come true" was the coronation theme of Queen elect Shulamit Rabinowich.

I've just arrived back home from our magnificent coronation and here I am trying to capture all the magical moments.

Hospitality found the Golden Gate chapter members wearing eggplant colored T-shirts decorated with silver stars to reflect the theme. It was a chance to renew friendships with the traveling queens from other chapters and a chance to get to know Shulamit and Boris in a more relaxed setting before the evenings festivities.

The tables in the ballroom were decorated with huge vases filled with Calla lilly's, white hydrangeas, purple lilly's and lavender sprays of orchids, arranged by Shulamit, Boris, Dan, Floyd and Sue Robinson. The arch was adorned in white tulle with purple flowers and a lavender backdrop for the queens chair covered in her favorite color, while lavender napkins on white tablecloth completed the picture.



Shulamit & Boris

Shulamit's daughter Liya carried her scepter and her grandson Zander the crown and she looked a regal queen in her white gown on the arm of her handsome husband Boris. Their first waltz was beautifully danced and brought a standing ovation. All the chapter queens in their white gowns carrying white fans decorated with lavender and purple flowers followed in the queens waltz and the tables were soon emptied as all the queens and their escorts were on the dance floor.

Igor and Nadia Tillinin, our accomplished dance members, did a sensuous Rumba for the honor dance and were followed later in the evening by a most amazing performance of an Argentine Tango danced by a couple from their dance studio (Pick school of dancing) Rose Vierling and Jessie Dishart.

The music was awesome especially since Floyd Parma was able to save the stereo equipment from failure at the very last minute. Altogether it was an exceptional coronation event with great pageantry, a beautiful (and smart) new queen, lots of good friends, great food and wine and an absolutely gorgeous setting.

During her speech at our Queens' brunch Sunday morning, Shulamit talked about the amazing occurrences that have opened her eyes since she has been elected queen. As she was searching for a hat store to purchase her hat for the brunch, she was directed just around the corner and up the street a bit from her office to a hat store that had been there for 20 years. She had never noticed it before and wonders what other wonderful things she might now discover and notice now that she is queen.

**A queen's good bye.** Rosalie Wolf, our last years queen, would like to say thank you to all her sister queens who took to the road to represent her at the other chapters during her reign.



Queen Rosalie

Mary Crosat went to Visalia, Maurine Brown to Los Angeles, Donna Rosko to Fresno, Ana Dayeh to San Fernando Valley, Liz Talmadge to Bakersfield, Amy Ansaldi to Palomar, and I went to San Diego. She was able to relive vicariously the memories of visiting all the coronations through the reports her sister queens gave at our monthly meetings, remembering when she and her beloved Bob would travel to our sister chapters to coronations during her many years as queen representing Golden Gate., never missing any coronations during her reigns.

**New members.** We welcome our new members Janice and Peter Imperial. They met at a local dance club in 1975 and were married a year later. When their two sons were raised and on their own they went back to dancing after 24 years and are now performing in showcases and participating in some competitions. They are excited to be part of our NSD family and want to thank Rosalie Wolf for introducing them to our chapter where they have now found their new dance home. We are delighted to have you in our chapter, welcome.

**Other news.** I just heard Joe Malta, bought himself another classic car (#7), a 1954 convertible Packard. Now we know who has some extra cars if ours is in the shop....

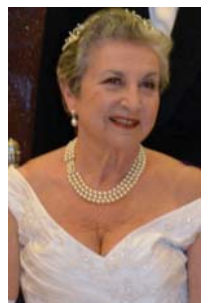
As always, dance first, thinking can wait.



Queen Shulamit



Shulamit & Boris



Queen Shulamit

# Visalia Chapter

edited by Sallie Holden



## A lovely coronation approaches

**Chapter news.** The second annual Bollywood Bash was held in March, hosted by Carolyn and Karl Richards. The pre-potluck dinner event was a dance lesson by Eileen Chavez.

More often than not, VSD monthly social dances include a dance lesson by local teachers, enhancing the entire dance-potluck-socializing-door prizes event. The social dance in April is called April Showers bring May Flowers. It will be held on the 13th and is hosted by Dorothy Sims. There will be a dance lesson from Susan Morelock of Hanford. Our sister chapters members, Fresno and Bakersfield, often attend our dances and they are most welcome. We hope to see them at the April and/or May socials.

**Coronation.** The May social is the special social called Coronation. It will be held on May 18. It's always an exciting event with all California queens and their escorts attending. Our queen-elect has had to withdraw, so the current queen, Barbara Uichanco, will be crowned until a special election is held to elect the next queen. The party will be spectacular and Barbara and her escort, husband Greg Uichanco, have represented the club well for the past year. Barbara writes: The theme was chosen for no other reason than "isn't it all about dance?" No matter life's ups and downs, JUST DANCE! The color is purple should you want to dress the part. The theme is carefree as portrayed by butterflies. The price is \$45, which includes a sit down beef dinner with a vegetarian option. The entertainment will be awesome. Scheduled to entertain are Dora Campbell and Angus Sinclair. They have been dancing together since 2006 in the Senior (over 35) Amateur Standard and the Open Amateur Standard divisions. They are currently ranked in the top three couples in the United States. They were also US National Senior Standard Champions in 2007. The honor dance will be performed by Bill and Lona Dolan. Please call Carol Creason at 559-732-9827 for ticket information.



Queen Barbara

**Convention 2013.** Convention planning goes on and we hope to see many chapter members during the Labor Day weekend. Visalia is not exactly East Africa, but it may seem like it at the Convention Center.



## NSD 2013 Statewide Event Calendar

May 18	Visalia Coronation
June 1	Fresno Coronation
July 27	Palomar Coronation
August 30	Convention - Visalia
November 2	San Fernando Valley Coronation

Only 3 weeks until the Visalia coronation.

Check the date for Palomar.

# Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



## Coronations; theirs and ours

**Golden Gate coronation.** What a difference this coronation was from the last three trips I made. No long trip driving to and from and no Carla as my wing-man and mentor. It felt so different until we were both there with all the other reigning sister queens and then all was well.

At the afternoon hospitality the Golden Gate members greeted us in purple T-shirts embellished with rhinestone stars. They provided a delicious spread of fruit and snacks, sandwich fixings and beef & chicken skewers.

My friend, Golden Gate member, Patrick Jude, was my escort and guided me skillfully through the short afternoon rehearsal. We retired to our rooms for a rest and then to ready ourselves for the evening.

The coronation ceremony was presided over by Queen Rosalie Wolf. Queen Shulamit Rabinovich and husband, Boris performed a beautiful waltz to With You I'm Born Again. Their early lives and difficult experiences that led up to emigration to the U.S. are truly inspiring. A perfect fit for the theme "When You Wish Upon a Star ... Dreams Come True", though in their case it was a lot of hard work and determination as well.

Breakfast the next day included the Golden Gate traditions of pretty hats, the presentation of a perpetual trophy to Queen Shulamit and the opening of gifts. Unfortunately, I had to leave before the end but it was fun to be in attendance as Queen Shulamit gradually became accustomed to being the center of attention. Welcome to the sisterhood, Queen Shulamit! - Queen Lynn Sanders.

It's not only good but really fun to be Queen!

**Introducing Queen-Elect Lorraine Tilton.** I was born in Alexandria, Virginia and grew up in Springfield, Virginia, near Washington D.C. In the 70's I traveled to northern California in search of alternative lifestyles, and then to Central California for a better place to raise children.

My first jobs were in bookkeeping, but when I was able to go back to school I studied architectural drafting, and then pursued a career designing fire sprinkler systems. One of my last projects was the new Fresno City Hall, where I later found a job as an Engineering Technician. I continue to work there maintaining digital maps of the City's sewer and water systems.

Now my two children and five grandchildren all live in the Fresno area. My son, Alec Plumb, is a programmer. He and his wife Amanda have three children, Isabelle, Jacob, and Alexis. My daughter, Sarah Samuelian, teaches sixth grade in Clovis. She and her husband Bryce have two children, Madison and Ben.

I have always loved dancing, but had few opportunities and little training until, finding myself suddenly single in 2000, I began taking dance lessons and attending local dance events. I discovered Fresno Smooth Dancers, and have been an active member ever since. I have been treasurer, president, social chair, state board member, and have been webmaster since 2004.

I am honored to represent our club, and look forward renewing my acquaintance with other chapters.

**Social report.** March. Our third Sunday social was a Tribute to Queen Barbara Stickler. We honored Barbara and husband, Bob, for their dedication to our club. They danced a special Foxtrot and the club members danced around them. The Fresno NSD chapter sends our thoughts and prayers for Barbara during this time.

The tables were decorated for St. Patrick's day. Carla Hartunian was the hostess, assisted by an amazing committee: Kathy Sachse, Janice & Larry Kebo and Ann Phillips. Queen Lynn Sanders and Kevin McCready greeted the 48 members and guests attending. Alex Peiria was our dance instructor for a Waltz lesson. Those participating were able to add a beautiful waltz pattern to their repertoire.

April. April's 21<sup>st</sup>'s dance is a Spring Fling, hosted by Queen Lynn Sanders. Franco Peraza will be teaching a Tango Lesson starting at 4:00 p.m. Jeff Jackson and Heidi Hagopian will offer special entertainment for the evening.

**Third-Sunday dances** are all at the Clovis Senior Center, 850 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Clovis, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 for members with a potluck dish and \$15 for members without a dish, and guests. See [www.fresnosmoothdancers.org](http://www.fresnosmoothdancers.org) for flyers!

**Sunshine.** Kathy Sachse and Kevin McCready visited long-time member Ted Oba recently and thought he could use some sunshine from his NSD friends. He has been in declining health, and recently received a grim diagnosis. He is at Willow Creek Health Care Center, 650 W. Alluvial Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611, No. B16-2; Phone 323-6200. I am sure he would appreciate cards or calls (however, "thinking of you" is more appropriate than "get well", sadly).



Queen Elect Lorraine



# Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid & Don Hubbard



## Travel, around town and around the world

**Queen's report.** Michael and I had the honor to travel to San Francisco for the lovely coronation of Queen Shulamit Rabinovich. We arrived a day early so we could walk the Golden Gate Bridge as neither one of us had ever done, and we are both native Californians! It was a perfect day and ended with a great dinner with Carla Hartunian, Fresno, and Queen Barbara & Greg Uichanco, Visalia, at The Fish Market near our hotel. It's such a pleasure getting to know everyone from our other chapters! The next morning brought more sunny weather and a lovely walk on the beach at Half Moon Bay before we started getting ready for rehearsal! The coronation was soon upon us and it was amazing! Golden Gate really went all out. The flowers on each table took my breath away! They were put together by Queen Shulamit herself. As Queen Shulamit was presented we were in awe of her very touching story of how she came to this country and the sacrifices she made. Now she has a wonderful husband and family! Her coronation was followed by dinner and dancing through the night! It was wonderful being with our new friends once more at the Queen's breakfast the next morning. I just loved all those beautiful hats! Thank you Golden Gate for your hospitality and exceptional work done by the coronation committee bringing it all together!



Queen Debbie

**World travelers.** Carol Milne, Palomar and Glenn Thomson, San Diego, are dancing themselves around the world! They began by dance hosting on a cruise to Hawaii and then another to Australia/New Zealand. With 10 days rest they decided to embark on a 64 day Grand Mediterranean and Black Sea Cruise on the Holland-America MS Prinsendam. Their schedule is to teach a one hour class each day at sea. The first 7 days of the cruise are at sea crossing the Atlantic! They started with the rumba and the cha-cha-cha the first four days. Glen prefers to teach a class one hour a day to dance hosting at night which involves 4-6 hours. Teaching allows their evening to be free! On the tenth day out they encountered a storm of 50 mph winds and swells of 22 feet. Their swing dancing class went from a usual 32 people to 21 hearty dancers who could handle the pitching ship! Summing it all up for Carol & Glenn, they are grateful that dance has proved them with the opportunity to see the many wonders that the world has to offer. As of the time that DW has gone to press our dancing colleagues have completed just half their trip. They just left Istanbul Turkey and are headed for Athens, Greece having the seen the wonders of the Pyramids and the Holy Land. Bon Voyage!



Glenn Thomson

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NSD Means Never Stop Dancing

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## Chapter news and reports

**Board member Joan Robinson** reported that SFV Smooth Dancers is reclaiming its position as THE place for dancers in the Valley on the first Saturday of the month. We've recently had 65 – 75 dancers in attendance. We have added two DJs into our rotation – Jane Rollins & Michael Donovan, giving Mark Emanuelli a needed break. Mark will return to the DJ table in June.

Our venue, the Hollywood Academy, continues to make improvements and has become a great place to dance. Hope you can join us soon!

**In other chapter news**, the San Fernando chapter held a fun-filled Saturday Night Fever dance on April 6. Our DJ and teacher for the evening, the always-popular Michael Donovan, taught a lovely fox trot pattern that included a fall-away, develope, and swivel.

**Update on Sally Emanuelli & her mom.** All final reports indicate that Sally's surgery was 100% successful. Sally's mother appears to be responding positively to her chemotherapy treatments. Her family is helping her cope with the ordeal, and Sally will be returning home in late April. Mark has kept the home functioning (with the help of HIS mom) and the kids are doing fine. Mark and Sally are very grateful for the strength they have received from all your good intentions.

**Ode to the Bakersfield Bash.** (You didn't think we'd let this rest did you? Really?)

Over the Grapevine and up the Five  
To Bakersfield we drive.  
Smooth Dancers will meet  
And dance to the beat  
Of the waltz, the rumba, and jive!

The Boards will convene; we'll crown a new queen  
While enjoying the Nascar theme.  
We'll have competitions  
And watch exhibitions.  
The weekend will seem like a dream.

**Board member Joan Robinson** writes: SFV held "Dancing Through the Holidays" last year. Did we promote a "Convention?" No, we stayed away from our old name. Visalia is holding "Out of Africa", another great innovative, creative theme but the name "Convention" still stays with the promo so far, as does "Board Meeting" at Bakersfield.

All board members and presidents have agreed that we are marketing wrong names for the wonderful events that we put on for the pleasure of all members, friends and guests. Convention = a place where workers go to congregate to work very hard. Board Meeting = an even worse place where workers go to congregate to work very hard.

So, on behalf of all our "workers who work very hard" let's present to our presidents new names for our two great annual events, shall we? "Spring Weekend" could replace "Board Meeting" but maybe new words could be created to go along with the theme? Let's also take the "labor" out of our fall event.

So put on your thinking caps and help your chapters come up with creative, exciting names that will actually present to everyone the fun dance weekends that we actually put on. And then, pass on the names to the Board - yes, the ones who work very hard. We could vote on the best ideas and help future chapters wrap their themes around it!

Let's encourage every new dancer to think about joining our chapters in the future because they can understand what we actually do on those weekends.



# Los Angeles

edited by Joy Michaels



## Comings and goings

**Club news.** The April Fool's dance was a success with several guests joining the members in enjoying the music furnished by Chuck Johnson, and the hot dogs, chips and cupcakes furnished by Susan Johnson. The Johnsons also sponsored the dance honoring Susan's birthday and their 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Scholtz's gave the dance lesson on cha cha (breaking on the "2" beat). Due to the Golden Gate coronation being held on the same date, Queen Sandy and Tom were unable to attend our dance.



Lee Jin

**New members.** Two new members were sworn in at the dance, Kim Fleck and Lee Jin. Kim has been attending our dances for several months with her grandfather, Don Russell, and we're pleased that she joined. Lee is a senior systems analyst and enjoys recreational dancing in her free time. Welcome Kim and Lee!

**Other news.** On their last working cruise, Ken and Marion Scholtz met a group of 88 line dancers on their way to a convention in Singapore. They were known as "NuLine Dancers", a type of line dancing based more on ballroom technique and terminology than country-western dance. They also had a group of New Vogue dancers onboard. New Vogue is Australia's version of English sequence dancing, where couples memorize short routines that they



Kim Fleck

dance like round dancing. Back stateside, Ken and Marion are traveling up to Bellingham, WA to see their 15-month old grandson who is walking/running up a storm. Keeping in touch via skype is an advantage when they can't physically be with the family.

Jodene Catterlin had her second back surgery in as many months – which was a success. She even made it to the April dance (although not yet ready to get on the floor). Hopefully she'll be back dancing soon.

Mike Bilotta had open-heart surgery and is recovering at a nursing home across the street from their home, making it easy for Donna to visit.

The Johnsons and Lewis' are off on a two week cruise to Hawaii this week, while John and Genevieve Lucas are traveling to Massachusetts to attend the graduation of their granddaughter from Wellesley College.

Renee and Don Haight are retiring, and later this year will be moving to Arizona. They are having a home built, which is already underway, and which should be ready at the end of the summer.

**Upcoming socials.** The Tea Dance, scheduled for April 22, is sold out. Wow! Another is scheduled for June 23 and hopefully it will be as successful. The regular May dance – "Flower Power" will be held on May 5 at the San Gabriel Elks Lodge, 1373 East Las Tunas Drive San Gabriel, CA 91776 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$12. See [nationalsmoothdancers.com](http://nationalsmoothdancers.com) for flyers.



## Coronations and socials

**Queen's report.** Been Kao and husband Mark traveled to Golden Gate coronation and returned safely at the end of a relaxing weekend. Instead of flying to the bay area this time around they made the trip by car, spending a delightful evening with Bakersfield chapter friends Helen and Peter Wong and son Chris on the way up. Kao and Mark made the quick trip into San Francisco Friday evening to enjoy fish and chips at Fisherman's wharf and to take in the magnificent view of

the bay from Coit Tower. Saturday afternoon found them enjoying the intimate, relaxed hospitality for which Golden Gate has become known, with friends from all chapters roaming continuously from one small group to the next. Later that evening, everyone enjoyed the beautiful coronation, filled as always with music and dancing. Shulamit and Boris performed a beautiful waltz, which they both seemed to enjoy as much as their audience did. A late evening eventually finished as a very satisfying success for Golden Gate.

**Monthly socials.** The Spring Fling April social was hosted by Polly McDonald and the members of the social hosting team. A full house of members and guests in attendance, including first time visitors Gary Wyko and Joyce Richard, cheerfully danced to wonderful music by our excellent DJ, Jacky Yu. Entertainment was an outstanding international latin performance by two young promising dancers, Morgan Johnson & Laird Mooney, and two grand team Argentine tango performances by Susan St. Martin & Ernie Rodriguez and Bren Viage & Mike Carella.

The Mardi Gras social is scheduled for May 4. This colorful event will be hosted by Ines Plikshe and members of the social hosting team. We will be dancing to the music played by Ann V. Have a happy!

**Dance classes.** For those interested, our Sunday dance classes at Champion Ballroom will begin May 5 and end June 30. They will feature international waltz and you can enjoy three hours of excellent professional instruction by Carrie Kloss. Have a happy!

**Well wishes** and a quick recovery from surgery to SDSD vice president Ken Graham. See you on the dance floor soon!

**New members.** San Diego Smooth Dancers congratulate Carol Thomson and Steve Martsholl, who are excellent dancers. They are attending this coming NSD Annual Convention in Visalia.

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