

National Smooth Dancers

Dance Whispers

December 2013



San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Debbie Bloom



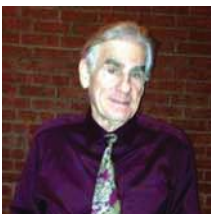
Newly crowned Gee Gee Barden began her reign with a lovely dance to the song, Dark Waltz, which inspired the theme for the coronation.

Dancers – The Lucky Ones was the theme of our recent coronation of the newly crowned Queen Gee Gee Barden. Surrounded by dazzling colors, including beautiful centerpieces handmade by our new queen, Gee Gee Barden was crowned in style. Inspired by the lyrics to the song “Dark Waltz”, Gee Gee and her husband, Bill Morey, performed a lovely waltz to this song. As the lyrics, written by Hayley Westerra, go, “We are the lucky ones, we shine like a thousand suns, when all of our colors run together”.



Barbara Greenlaw is kicking up her heels with dance partner Bill Steeber!

At the coronation, we enjoyed an amazing professional showcase by Youriy Pavlov and Anna Shahbazyan. It was like watching art in motion. Their dancing was filled with elegance, grace, and intensity. Thank you, Youriy and Anna, for adding such beauty to our special night. Throughout the evening, we had great music by our very own deejay, Mark Emanuelli, for open dancing and fun mixers. A great time was had by all, and the San Fernando chapter is proud to have Queen Gee Gee represent us.



New member Edward Craig, loves Smooth Dancers because they have no rough edges.

In other chapter events news, we held a fun-filled well attended dance at the beginning of October. New member, Edward Craig, danced the night away. He said the he always enjoys our monthly events. He loves the large dance floor, great music, and the opportunity to dance with “smooth dancers” because they have no rough edges.

Veteran members, Jane and Doug Rollins, are always a bright presence on our dance floor. You never know when Jane will break into a spontaneous song and dance. Before long, others join her and there’s riotous merriment all around. In addition, Jane knows how to spin a song. She’s one of our favorite deejays at our monthly dances.

Joan Robinson and her teacher, David, are currently working on a carefully choreographed waltz routine, which they will perform in January at the Los Angeles chapter coronation of Debby Ku. They are sure to perform with grace and grandeur. It looks like the Los Angeles chapter will have a wonderful coronation.

Speaking of Joan, she is proud to report that her first granddaughter was born on November 14 via C-section. Little, well maybe not so little, Ariana Griffith, came into the world weighing ten pounds. Joan told the doctor that Ariana already looked several weeks old. The doctor replied, “Hmm...I think she’s almost ready for high school!” It’s not clear whether Ariana has blond or sandy colored hair. Joan’s two year old grandson takes after Joan with his definite red hair color. Time will tell whether the children will be blessed with their grandma’s amazing dancing talent.



Joan Robinson holding her precious new granddaughter, Ariana Griffith

Joan was actually in the delivery room assisting her daughter and son-in-law. She said it was an awesome experience to be there and hear Ariana’s first cry. Everyone, even Dad, cried along with Ariana when they heard that beautiful sound. You see, the couple’s first child was born with fluid in his lungs and they didn’t get to hear him cry for three days. So the sound of Ariana crying filled the family with infinite joy. For now, well for at least a couple of weeks, Joan has quit dancing so she can take care of her daughter.

The San Fernando Chapter wishes our entire dance family a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season. Enjoy the parties, dances, gifts, and delicious food that are sure to come your way. Hope to see as many of you as possible at one of our dances or yours.

Whispered Words of Wisdom: “Dance is the hidden language of the soul.” - Martha Graham

Los Angeles Chapter

edited by Joy Michaels



Club News - The Black & White Ball was held on November 10. A nice turnout but was a sad reminder of how the NSD Black & White Ball used to be with a live band and a floor crowded with dancers....times have changed but the camaraderie and friendships continue. Debby Ku and Victor Lee hosted the dance, furnishing Chinese box lunches and an exciting cha cha dance lesson. They also were celebrating their birthdays, hers on 11/11 and his on 11/12. The decorations were a preview of what's to come at the January coronation. Tom Wells did a great job with the music. The dance was sponsored by Ken & Marion Scholtz to celebrate their 47th anniversary.



Tina Van-Zandt received a life membership at the November meeting in recognition of her many years of service.

Tina Van-Zandt was voted a life membership in recognition of her many years of services to the Los Angeles Chapter as well as at the State level as Home Office Secretary.

Queen-Elect Debby Ku is truly honored to represent the Los Angeles National Smooth Dancers Chapter as their Queen Ambassador for 2014. Debby is a workaholic businesswoman. She has been involved in the Import/Export Trading business for 30 years, since her graduation from the National Taipei University in Taiwan. She had worked for the U.S. Top Leading Furniture Importer 11 years as Sales Manager and 4 years as President. She eventually started her own Import/Export Company "From Factory To You, Inc." that deals only in direct container shipments of Home Furniture and Hotel lighting. Containers are shipped weekly from Asia to customer's warehouses, now 13 years strong. On their first cruise together, Debby and her husband Victor Lee saw several couples dancing beautifully and having a great time. They decided to take dance lessons



Queen-Elect Debby Ku will be crowned during the Los Angeles Coronation on January 25, 2014.

and they enrolled in their Temple City Community Center classes. Their dance instructress was Virginia Morrow, who was a long time member of Los Angeles NSD. After 2 years of being her students, Virginia asked them to join her dance staff. So started an exciting dance adventure. Presently Debby and Victor are guest dance instructors for Princess Cruise Line and

Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. Debby is looking forward to meeting and bonding with all the chapter Queens and their members.

Other News - Another sad notice that we lost Mike Bilotta to complications from his heart surgery. A full military funeral was held at the Miramar National Cemetery. A memorial service will be held in December when family members from out of the area will be able to attend. Mike and Donna were longtime members and Mike was NSD President a few years ago. We will miss both of them but hope Donna will keep in touch.

Genevieve Lucas tells us that she is recovering from a fall that kept her from dancing for awhile. She's nearly back to her feisty self and plans to attend the Holiday dance.

Liz Bradford and Roger Seastedt enjoyed a four-day cruise on the Carnival Inspiration, docking at Catalina and Ensenada. Jon Gatyas was the organizer and did a great job.

Allan and Leslie Scott are recovering slowly from recent setbacks. Leslie informs us that Allan is getting along better after several short stays in the hospital.

Chuck and Susan Johnson had a wonderful time on their cruise, but are glad to be home. They flew to Frankfurt then to Istanbul for a couple of days, then visited 5 countries, Turkey, France, Italy, Greece and Spain. 6 if you count the Vatican. They were aboard the new Rivera ship on the Oceania line, 1200 passengers and a great dance band in the Horizon bar. They met 7 couples and the dance band that they had sailed with before. Oceania is known for its food, fresh berries each morning and lobster tail and filet mignon every night if you want. From Barcelona they flew to New York and then to LA.

Victor and Debby will miss our next dance as they'll be teaching "country" line dancing on a Caribbean cruise.

Upcoming Socials - The potluck Holiday dance will be held on December 8 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 with a holiday potluck dish or \$20 without. See nationalsmoothdancers.com for flyers. Sandy Wells is collecting sign ups for the potluck Holiday dance. Please contact her with your contribution.

Coronation of Queen-Elect Debby Ku - Will be held January 25, 2014 at the Glendale Hilton Hotel, 100 West Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91202. 818-956-5466. Book hotel reservations and mention National Smooth Dancers for the special rate (\$109 + tax). [See registration form on page 11]



Victor Lee and Debby Ku lead us through an exciting cha cha routine during the dance lesson at the annual November Black and White Dance.

San Diego Chapter



Introducing Queen-elect Lou Reyes

Lou grew up in a family where community service and involvement is a common household activity. Lou's involvement in the community dates back to her childhood days. Both of her parents were active members of the community, both in the Philippines and in San Diego. Her papa placed a strong emphasis on education and legacy, dreaming of making it big here in California. He served 20 years in the military. Following retirement, he then took a civil service job with the State of California. Her mama was a beauty queen in her high school days, having won the title of Miss Sagala during the town fiesta. In addition, she was a stay-at-home mom who took pride in serving great Filipino dishes to her family and friends. Lou has inherited this culinary skill and creates baked goodies for every dance party.

Lou and Amante met during her college years and were married in 1976. They enjoyed their wedding dance lessons with Arthur Murray so much that they continued taking lessons and dancing socially after the wedding. Eventually they would compete and perform, becoming avid supporters of ballroom dancing. They have competed in various regional dance sport competitions as amateur couple and with their professional dance instructors. Both have completed DVIDA (Dance Vision International Dance Association) student examination for international style rumba, cha cha and samba and for american style waltz and fox trot.

As involved as they are in the ballroom world, Lou and Amante also have non-dancing lives. Lou is now retired after working for the San Diego Superior Court for 30 years. And after retiring from 20 years of military service, Amante obtained a master's degree in mechanical engineering and is a project manager for a Caterpillar dealership in San Diego, Samoa and Hawaii. He is currently building up his small business on providing computer aided design services to mechanical and electrical companies and industries.

This couple is blessed with two talented children and 3 adorable grandchildren. Their daughter Lorylynn and son Alvin became interested in ballroom dancing in their teen years and in their own rights garnered recognitions and awards in local and regional ballroom competitions.

Dancing has become a passion for both Lou and Amante. It's for this reason that they hold monthly ballroom parties at Synergy Dance Studio. They are excited for the opportunity to pursue their passion for ballroom, to meet talented dancers across all genres, as well as to provide a venue for these dancers to showcase their talent. Several Smooth Dancers and other individuals and groups have performed at these parties. Lou and Amante are appreciative of the ballroom community's support for their ventures.

Lou has always been a strong supporter of the San Diego Smooth Dancers, and feels that her ballroom accomplishments to date have embodied Smooth Dancers' three objectives: encouraging interest in ballroom dancing, establishing friendliness and goodwill between dancers, and providing outlets for dancing and performance. She is proud to represent the San Diego Smooth Dancers and looks forward to an exciting year.

SDSD Black and White Anniversary Ball

The ballroom was beautiful with decorations of black and white feathers, along with Venetian masks, in tall black vases.

edited by Vern Miranda



Attendance was great and most of the attendees did dress in black and white. It was truly an elegant affair. Our evening DJ - Jacky Yu - played some great music. He included two mixers, as well as a line dance, which got lots of dancers onto the floor. There was a good selection of food, enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to the Four Musketeers for another wonderful evening of dancing fun.



Harold Thoman and Carrie Kloss performed a wonderful waltz, originally choreographed long ago by Mary Murphy for Harold and his beautiful.

Harold Thoman Brings Back a Lovely Waltz from the Past

Harold Thoman performed a wonderful waltz with Carrie Kloss; it was nice to see him back on the performance floor after so many years. This waltz was choreographed by Mary Murphy, long ago for Harold and his beautiful wife, and he and Wanda performed it many times together. A few months ago, Harold asked Carrie to help him bring the routine back to the dance floor. The results were truly outstanding, and we look forward to seeing this performance again. Thank you, Harold, for giving us this special number for our anniversary ball.

SDSD Loses Doug Wray



SDSD member Doug Wray passed away on November 13th after a very long battle with cancer. We will miss him greatly.

After a very long battle with cancer, Doug Wray passed away on November 13th at home with wife Betty Halvin. He was active and busy right up until the end, refusing to remain in the hospital for further treatment and choosing instead to spend his final days peacefully at home. He visited with family and friends, and actually completed some last minute errands around town during his last couple of days. Doug passed away at home around 4:30 in the afternoon. As we understand it, Doug successfully pushed his fight for several years beyond the original prognosis established by his doctor. We had the pleasure of traveling with Doug and Betty on a cruise to Alaska last year, and he was a delightful traveling companion. Our hearts go out to Betty and to all of Doug's family and friends; we will all miss him greatly.

Instructor Scott Dodson - Major loss to the San Diego Ballroom Community



On November 29, 2013, Scott Dodson, well known for his International Ballroom Dance instructions, past quietly and peacefully at his families home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Scott provided both International and American dance instructions to the San Diego Smooth Dancer members for over 12 years. He is survived by his Sister, Jan Banhart. Please send your condolences and prayers to his family: Jan Barnhart, 10713 Griffith Park Drive, Albuquerque, NM 87123-4858. Scott was under medical treatment for cancer for over 2 years. Scott was a wonderful person and a great dance instructor. The dance community and his many friends will certainly miss him. SDSD and friends intend to schedule a memorial for Scott in the near future.

Queen's Reflections

It was a magical evening for me, a special night with wonderful memories to treasure always. I was so pleased with how everything came together to reflect the thoughts expressed in the first line of the Dark Waltz that Bill and I danced to - We are the lucky ones, we shine like a thousand suns, when all of our colours run together - and I am very grateful to everyone who helped to make it all possible.



Special thanks go to our outstanding DJ and Master of Ceremonies Mark Emanuelli, who accommodated all my musical and other requests, including the very upbeat music to which each queen, carrying the color(s) of her chapter, entered the ballroom. The music was Handel's Entrance of the Queen of Sheba (!), the volume adjusted down for each queen's comments as to why she felt lucky to be part of the world of ballroom dancing. The lovely Pennies from Heaven honor dance performed by our good friends and amazing outgoing Queen Barbara Greenlaw and Bill Steeber was a most delightful treat.

The friendly, happy, supportive people in attendance were in large part what made the event special. I was greatly appreciative of those from other chapters besides the queens and their escorts who traveled some distance to attend. Most of all, I was so touched by the very generous applause and cheers given to Bill and me after we finished our Queen's Waltz and then again as we left the ballroom at the end of the ceremony, including passing through the line of cheering queens and their escorts just outside the ballroom.

The queens' breakfast the next day, very graciously arranged and hosted by Barbara and Bill, was another delight. The tables were placed in a U formation very conducive to conversation, and I was surprised and so pleased to find that they were decorated with multi-colored curling ribbons, extending the theme from the night before. Barbara and I each shared some thoughts with those present while we waited for our food, which I thought was excellent. A big surprise was a large trophy engraved with the names of all the SFV queens which Barbara presented to me.

Opening up my lovely gifts, hearing back from some of the attendees how much they enjoyed the evening (even my non-dancing friends had a ball), watching the videos of the ceremony and all the dance performances, including those of the wonderful professionals, Youriy Pavlov and Anna Shahbazyan, viewing some of the pictures that were taken, and reliving so many sweet memories have all left me feeling so welcomed and so very lucky indeed to be the Queen of our SFV chapter in this outstanding NSD organization. Thank you to everyone for a wonderful, truly memorable beginning to what I know will be a very special year ahead.

Queen Gee Gee Barden

"It's time to go now..." from being the San Fernando Valley chapter queen that is! It has been a wonderful and privileged year and quite a gift to have served with such dedicated and fun ladies from each chapter. There is always laughter and happiness to be found among us and a great feeling of camaraderie.



Our newly crowned Queen, Gee Gee Barden, is now commencing her royal reign and she brings her talent and charm as the ambassador from the San Fernando Valley chapter. Queen Gee Gee, best wishes for the joy of new friendships, a year of great fun and much dancing – all things that will make memories for you to cherish. With Love and Friendship,

Queen Barbara

The Coronation of San Fernando Valley Chapter Queen Elect Gee Gee Barden on Saturday, November 2, 2013 was attended by BSD Members Phil and Sue Kimbrell, Bong Anderson, Joanne Georgio, Rose and Steve Peterson and Ben and Wendy Wilson. Her theme was, "Dancers-The Lucky Ones" with the quote, "We are the lucky ones, we shine like a thousand suns when all of our colours run together." Gee Gee gave each reigning queen a beautiful fan to carry in and escorts wore a buttoner representing their chapter color (BSD color was Lime Green and White). The reigning queens were asked to give an introductory comment. Mine read, "We have been dancing for six years and are very fortunate to have made many great new friends through our involvement with the BSD. We are continually meeting many new people and are acquiring more friendships at each coronation. Great music by Mark Emanuelli. The Honor Dance to "Singing In the Rain" was beautifully performed by Barbara Greenlaw and Bill Steeber. Queen Gee Gee Barden and Escort Bill Morey danced to "Dark Waltz". Their dancing was exquisite. The evening was topped off by a fantastic Professional Showcase featuring Youriy Pavlov and Anna Shahbazyan. Queen Gee Gee Barden asked each reigning queen to choose a Watercolor Giclee Print Limited Edition from her paintings and I choose "Baby Giraffe and Mother". Thank you Queen Gee Gee! SFV did a wonderful job hosting this gala evening. We are looking forward to attending the LA Chapter Coronation on Jan 25, 2014 when Queen Elect Debbie Ku will be honored. We hope to see many members from the BSD joining us in LA.

Queen Sue Kimbrell

Ooooh My!!! As we walked into the Moose Lodge the team of decorators were completing the flower arrangements, Hospitality had prepared the much welcomed table of



refreshments. We turned around and there sat Peggy and Len Lee, Mary and Ralph Anderson, Queen Kao and Mark! We pulled a table to join them and as were about to sit down, in came Frank and Cathy Lombardi – needed a another table! My heart felt warm, we began to sit and in came Fred and Geri Deutsch! My heart was bursting with joy and their eyes were twinkling at us what a great support from all! Uh-oh! Here comes George and Miriam Mozes! WOW! There is no “I” in TEAM! I’m so appreciative of Palomar Smooth Dancers camaraderie! Queen-elect Gee Gee introduced herself and presented each current Queen with a beautiful fan, with flowers and ribbons, depicting the colors of each Chapter. We were also thrilled to be able to individually select one of her very own Giclee paintings! A very generous gift!! I was enthralled with her elegant royal blue gown as she was presented to all in attendance as the San Fernando Valley Chapter’s new Queen. Gee Gee and Bill performed a beautiful Queens Waltz followed by a lovely tri tip dinner with all you could ever want to eat. When Rick And I finished the first waltz with all the Queens, we returned to our table and I almost fell off my chair,,, there was Peter And Marsha.. What a fabulous turnout of the Palomar chapter,,, my heart continues to pound with excitement,,, memories that come from dancing. We Are The Lucky Ones, Congratulations Gee Gee!

Queen Darlene

Gee Gee Barden is an accomplished artist, her beautiful watercolors that she gave as the presents to the visiting queens prove it.

Her dress was sapphire blue

Hand carried pieces for the queens were all different colors according to the chapter’s colors and consisted of the fan and bow combo.

Our escorts boutonnieres were color coded too according to the chapter’s colors.

Colorful minimalistic center pieces completed decoration.

The honor dance was by Barbara Greenlaw and Bill Steeber – lovely as usual.

A professional showcase was by Youriy Pavlov and Anna Shahbazyan.

We danced till the end of the party and my feet hurt – but it’s OK.

Queen Shulamit

The day began with an easy drive from Fresno to Glendale, followed by a warm reception at the Glendale Moose Lodge, where we were treated to an array of food and drink. The rehearsal followed, where I met my escort for the ceremony, James Gutman.

Gee Gee Barden was crowned as Queen of the San Fernando Valley



Chapter with a theme of “*We are the lucky ones, we shine like a thousand suns when all of our colors run together*”. In keeping with her multi-color theme, we each carried fans decorated with bows of our chapter colors, to the surprise of some, who did not know that chapters had colors. Mine, of course, was pink. The visiting Queens dressed in the traditional white, while Gee Gee wore a lovely royal blue gown. The honor dance was performed by outgoing Queen Barbara Greenlaw and Bill Steeber. Later that evening professional entertainment was provided by Yourty Pavlov and Anna Shahbazyan, originally from Bulgaria and Armenia.

On Sunday the breakfast was at the Glendale Days Inn, where we ordered from the menu. Both the Days Inn and the Moose Lodge are within blocks of the Glendale Hilton, where the LA Coronation will be held in January.

Queen Lorraine Tilton

What a wonderful time we had at San Fernando’s coronation for their new Queen, Gee Gee Barden. Gee Gee involved all of the other chapter Queens in her preparations by asking us for a few words about why we feel we are lucky to be involved in the world of ballroom dancing. She took the reasons we provided and incorporated them into our introductions during the coronation ceremony. Queen Gee Gee wore a very striking blue gown for her coronation, which was set off perfectly by our white gowns. The colors we carried with our fans harmonized very nicely with her dazzling blue. In closing, I must mention the beautiful water color prints that Gee Gee presented to each of the visiting Queens at her Coronation. She painted them herself, and they were absolutely lovely pieces of art. Thank you for such a thoughtful gift, Gee Gee, and for a really wonderful evening with our NSD friends.



Queen Kao Been

To quote Frank Sinatra “And now the time has come to say”...Ahhh! My last coronation as Queen of the L.A. Chapter. Queen Gee Gee Barden’s coronation in San Fernando Valley was accomplished with style and grace. Queen Gee Gee glided onto the floor with Grace Kelly elegance . The environment was warm and festive. The music got our feet moving and the rest of our bodies followed. Thanks to Queen Gee Gee, I now have an original water color print of hers to hang in my office... (One of the perks of being a visiting Queen). We are now planning my Debby Ku’s coronation. The Hotel, food, decorations, music, etc. The team is getting ready. Hope to see ya’ll on January 25, 2014.



Queen Sandy Wells

Bakersfield Chapter

Our upcoming New Years Eve dance, can you believe it's that time of year again? It will be here before you know it! This years' theme is "Let's Dance" and will be sponsored by our dance club's 129 members. This is in celebration of our upcoming 50 years of dancing anniversary!

This dance will be held at the Women's Club of Bakersfield, 2030 18th St. the doors will open at 6:30p.m., a buffet dinner will be served at 7:00p.m. Then it's on to dancing!

We will have a champagne toast at midnight, and Lyle Mills will serve as our Master of Ceremonies.

Our fabulous music will be presented by The Targets. Formal attire is requested. Tickets for this event are \$50 and can be purchased from Francis Hein. Mail checks to 6302 Broadmoor Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93306, phone 661-871-3270-or- 661-378-0655.

This is one event you don't want to miss, a chance to celebrate the New Year with all your Bakersfield Smooth Dancer friends! Save the date, December 31st and "Let's Dance".

Our regular monthly December dance will be held on Saturday, December 14th. This dance will be at the Rasmussen Center 115 E. Roberts Lane from 7:00pm. To 10:30pm. Members are free, single guests are \$15 and couples \$25. The theme for this dance is "In your Wildest Dreams". Members are encouraged to wear something red! JoAnn Georgio is our chairperson for this dance and it should be a lot of fun.

Our November dance was held on Saturday, November 23rd. This was a wonderful dance hosted by James Schmitz. The theme was "I Want You", which was based on World War Two, and the old Hollywood Canteen era.

Members who served in the military were encouraged to wear their uniforms or similar gear. Others were encouraged to wear 30's or 40's dresses or suits. James went all out with the decorations, which were in keeping with the theme, along with all the big band music assembled by Dennis Acosta!

There were wonderful refreshments served throughout the evening, reminiscence of the Hollywood Canteen.



Gene White at our "I Want You" theme dance, based on World War Two and the old Hollywood Canteen era. Members who served in the military were encouraged to wear their uniforms or similar gear.

A spot light performance was featured with Paul and Irene Leung, who danced a great cha cha!

James was our Master of Ceremonies and introduced a lot of our members, who had served in the Military. A special highlight of the evening was when Janice and Gene White came in for awhile.

It was nice to see Gene and I think he enjoyed all the attention from his smooth dancer friends!

Our October dance, "The Masquerade Ball" was a

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



wonderful evening; everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy themselves. There were some wonderful costumes worn by our members. The decorations Queen Sue used on all the tables were lovely.

We had a great Rumba Snow Ball dance that got everyone up on the dance floor to rumba.

Prizes for best costumes were awarded to Antje Huckenbeck, third place, as a lady-in-waiting, Ty Upshur and Jill Calcaterra, as a pirate and his wench, took home second place and Kay and Mark Boyer took home a first place prize as the Mad Hatter. Great Costumes!



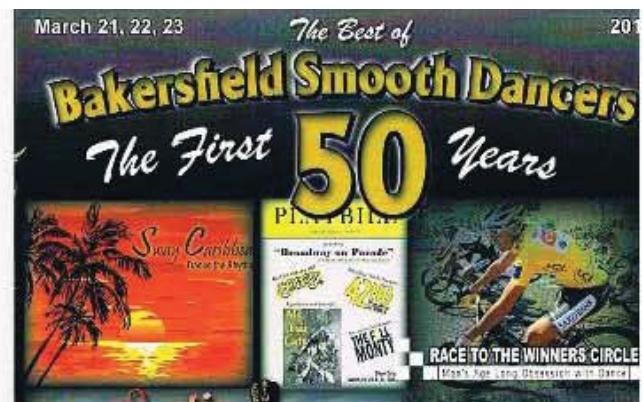
Queen Sue Kimbrell joins Kay and Mark Boyer took home a first place prize as the Mad Hatter, Antje Huckenbeck, third place, as a lady-in-waiting and Ty Upshur and Jill Calcaterra, as a pirate and his wench, took home second place. Great Costumes!

COMING ATTRACTIONS - THE BOARDS

Coming March 21, 2014, come take a journey with us through the first 50 years. Starring "The Best of the Boards".

Get your reservations in early, mark your calendars and be prepared to take this journey with the Bakersfield Smooth Dancers! Remember the date, beginning March 21st and ending March 23rd, 2014. We hope to see all our NSD family and friends, at our upcoming chapter's 50th anniversary celebration!

I do want to take this opportunity to wish all our members and our NSD family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Golden Gate Chapter

So many things to be thankful for this holiday season for most of us, yet there are those in our dance family who are facing incredible health challenges at this time. It is to those I will dedicate this issue, hoping to bring a smile to their faces and continue the hope for better days to come and perhaps even a miracle or two.

Our darling George Dayeh, my special friend, has been diagnosed with a brain tumor, but that's just what the doctors say. All of us are hoping and praying for a miracle, which, when considering the time of year, is entirely possible. We are asking you to join us in prayer and hope.

Special thoughts and greetings go to our members Irene Borelli and Alda Romero, Mary and Ray Crosat, as well as Elizabeth and Bill Hage who all had various health issues which kept them from attending our dances or meetings. It's very different when we don't see our beloved familiar faces, who were always at all our functions.



Please keep in your thoughts and prayers: (Left to Right) Irene Borelli and Alda Romero, George Dayeh and Elizabeth and Bill Hage along with (not pictured) Mary and Ray Crosat.



Barbara and Ben Cardinalli just returned from a two week trip to Hawaii, sailing through the Golden Gate.

Elena and Joe Malta went to Italy for two weeks where they visited Venice and Naples. Joe related an interesting story to me about the ancient Romans that to this day affects tourism in Italy. Approximately 80AD when the Roman Emperors were holding court at the Colosseum, they would allow the common folks in free of charge and even gave them food and drink, but they did charge for the use of the toilets. At that time, 65 cents each time you wanted to relieve yourself. At a capacity of 55,000 spectators this was not small change. Modern day Italians have adapted this tradition and today you can expect to pay 1,5 Euros (\$2.) each time you need to use a bathroom. The big difference, you also have to



Elena and Joe Malta went to Italy for two weeks where they visited Venice and Naples.

Travel News

Barbara and Ben Cardinalli just returned from a two week trip to Hawaii, sailing through the Golden Gate. Of course they had a wonderful time.

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



pay for your food and drink. I guess that's called progress.

On a recent trip to Puerto Vallarta Patrick Jude was sitting in the airport waiting for a replacement plane to take him home, as his plane was hit by lightning and as he looked up from his he was greeted by our Queen Shulamit and her husband Boris who were in Puerto Vallarta at the same time and waiting for the same plane back to San Francisco. It is truly a very small world.

Speaking of Patrick, he is next in the alphabet in my:

Getting to know our members: Patrick Jude



On April 15, 1946 Patrick was born in a small farm town in Minnesota as the second of four children. After spending his high school years in a cloistered seminary, it was time for a little more excitement and so he attended Beauty College after graduation.

Working as a hair stylist he was able to put himself through the Minnesota Institute of Art in his spare time, before joining the Navy for 4 years. He spent two years in Guam and two years in Japan where he also studied pattern drafting.

He moved to Southern California for 5 years and then to Napa where he still resides. He studied at the SF Institute of Fashion for two years. Patrick then opened a custom clothing business for ten years, while studying interior design at UC Berkeley, which he then practiced for another ten years. It's hard to decide what to do when one has so many talents and interests.

He also spent ten years as an Ambassador Host, dancing with the single ladies on Crystal Cruises.

Today he spends his time using most of his talents as a hair stylist, making dresses for me and dancing.

We are indeed lucky to have such a nice and talented person and dancer in our group.

Holiday dances:

We are having our regular Sunday dance on December 8th where we are also collecting toys which will be distributed by our local fire department to children in need.

Our New Years Eve-eve dance (December 30) will take place for the second time at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Foster City, because it was so great last year. Rooms are available for only \$109 plus tax and the booking code is GG8. The cost for the evening with dinner is only \$70 and you need to send your check to Liz Talmadge for your reservation.

We also still have raffle tickets available for \$1 ea or a book of 12 for \$10. You can win a cool \$1000, and you do not have to be present to win. The proceeds will go for the purchase of new stereo equipment for our dances.

Wishing you a blessed Holiday Season, whatever you may be celebrating. Precious time spend with family and good friends. Stay well and happy everyone and enclose those less fortunate in your daily prayers.

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.

Visalia Chapter

edited by Sallie Holden



Well, I missed all the dances again this month; My younger son's 40th birthday (egads) and a quilting retreat. Thankfully, Myra Nielsen wrote a report about the November dance which I can plagiarize, and there's news to report, and the December dance to promote. Good thing the Visalia club members are active and cooperative.

The November social, said Myra, was "a fun-filled occasion. We added a twist to our evening with a live song performance by a close friend of mine, Elizabeth Havens. She serenaded us with two wonderful songs during dinner." Bill and Lona Dolan were back on the dance floor, after Bill's recuperation from knee surgery. "The highlight of the night was the Night Club Two Step Jack and Jill competition judged by Eileen and Greg Uichanco. Eight couples participated and the winners were Bart Ramentas of Fresno and Margaret Moholt from Visalia. "

The December social will be held on the 7th and is a formal, catered dinner affair. Members will bring appetizers and desserts. The theme is "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and members will be decorating the tables in theme. It should be a pretty spectacular event and certainly a busy one. There is general dancing, of course. There is entertainment by Argentine Tango World Champion Marcelo Molina and his partner Carolina Vasquez. There will be the annual presentation of the Achievement Award and recognition of the most improved couple and most improved female and male dancers. There will be formal gowns to look at and men in tuxedos. There will be a Christmas tree and those members who choose to will be bringing toys for Christmas for Kids to put under that tree.

Officers for 2014 have been elected. Karl Richards will be replacing Greg Uichanco as President. Myra Nielsen will be replacing Margaret Moholt as Treasurer. Sally Bailey and Carol Abeyta will be the Social Chairs, replacing Wendy Storey and Carol Bixler. David Bixler was elected to serve as Board Member. Debbie Renfro is Queen-Elect.



Karl Richards has been elected as president. Myra Nielsen has been elected as treasurer. David Bixler has been elected as Board Member. Debbie Renfro has been elected as Queen-Elect.



Sally Bailey and Carol Abeyta will serve as the Social Chairs.

Speaking of Margaret Moholt, at our last business meeting, she gave a detailed, extensive report on the club's finances, along with recommendations for future money issues. I don't even balance my checkbook, so mostly I just paid attention to Margaret's professionalism and marveled at how conscientious she is. Margaret has served as the club's Treasurer

for thirteen years, as well as twice as convention treasurer. She has done an outstanding job and will be missed in that role. Margaret is stepping down, as well as taking a leave of absence from dancing to have time to pursue other interests.

A lot of you knew Dorothy Shoemaker, as she served as queen. She passed away, as did long time members Hiroshi Mayeda and Alex Jasmann. On a happier note, Paul and Wendy Storey are anticipating their fourth grandchild, as am I, only it is only my third grandchild.

At the same meeting when new officers were elected and the queen-elect chosen and Margaret made her last financial report, members voted to stop hosting monthly Sunday tea dances. The reasons were many, but primarily financial and dwindling attendance.

Curtain Call happened in late October in Fresno, hosted by instructors Dan Goss and Robert Algeyer. A number of VSD members performed, as well as the Formation Team. Jim and Debbie Renfro performed a waltz. Greg and Barbara Uichanco performed a Viennese waltz, complete with a couple of floor spins. Myra Nielsen danced a rumba with Dan. Dean and Cheryl Levitan danced a waltz. Agnes Jaymalin performed a mambo with Dan. Paul and Wendy Storey reprised their bolero. Domie Aville performed, with Dan, a W.C. swing.



Jim and Debbie Renfro performed a waltz at Curtain Call in October.



Myra Nielson danced a rumba with Dan at the Curtain Call held in Fresno this past October. Other VSD members performing there included: Dean and Cheryl Levitan dancing a waltz, Agnes Jaymalin performing a mambo with Dan, Paul and Wendy Storey with their bolero, and dancing a W.C. swing was Aville dancing with Dan.



In late october at the Curtain Call in Fresno, Greg and Barbara Uichanco performed a Viennese waltz, complete with a couple of floor spins.

Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



Social Report - Carla Hartunian:

GINNA Bearden hosted November's *Autumn Leaves* dance, together with her committee of Sharon Crisp, Angie Garcia, Carla Hartunian, Lorraine Tilton and Eugene Carlson. Members were greeted by beautiful fall decorations, and enjoyed a samba lesson taught by Dan Goss. Dan extended his stay beyond the lesson to participate in the delicious potluck dinner and social dancing, and provided entertainment with his student, Sharon Crisp, dancing a tango. We were also treated to another spicy tango, this one danced by Bart and Nancy Ramentas. Attendees numbered 46!!



A sample of Ginna's beautiful decorations!



So great to see familiar faces again! L to R: Patty Taniguchi, Kathy Sachse, Shirley Pietrzyk, Bob Strickler and Bill Hirata



Left Photo: Dan Goss teaches a samba lesson



Middle Photo: Bart and Nancy Ramentas' tango finale!



Right Photo: Dan Goss and Sharon Crisp's tango

Christmas Party!

Please join us on December 15 for our Christmas Party! **NOTE:** There will be no 4:00 lesson; the evening will begin at 6:00 pm with a champagne reception followed by a catered dinner. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!!** (Contact Carla Hartunian for information: 559-259-8953). We will enjoy special entertainment by US Champion Tom Hicks, dancing with Sharon Crisp and again with Melanie Reno, and back by popular demand, our own Bob and Sue Dowell!

We would love to see you there!

* * * * *

We are pleased to welcome our newest member, Jeannine Geare! Jeannine has been on the local dance scene for approximately 5 years, dancing at the various ballroom and Latin studios in Fresno. We're glad she finally found us!

All third-Sunday dances are at the Clovis Senior Center, 850 4th Street, Clovis, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 for members with a potluck dish and \$15 for members without a dish, and guests. See www.fresnosmoothdancers.org for flyers. We would love to see you there!!



Dan and Sharon an awesome husband and wife team!



For those of you who are wondering, the Chapter colors, represented by the Queen's fans are:

Los Angeles

San Diego

Golden Gate

Palomar

San Fernando Valley

Bakersfield

Visalia

Fresno

royal blue and white

teal and peach

red

aqua and white

powder blue and white

lime green and white

yellow and black

pink



Vice President Jim Escobar with new member Jeannine Geare.

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard



Our **HOLIDAY DINNER/DANCE** turned out to be quite a gala affair! With over 100 attendees enjoying dining, dancing and fabulous entertainment performed by our own Palomar and San Diego Chapters; it was an energetic evening at the beautiful Ocean Hills Country Club. We started the evening with a delicious traditional turkey dinner; thank you Miriam Mozes for coordinating! We all enjoyed perfect music organized by our newly formed "Music Committee", Chaired by Len Lee. The highlights of the evening were of course the performances!



Duane & Donna Thornton performed an elegant waltz during this year's Holiday dinner and Dance held at the beautiful Ocean Hills Country Club.



Kelly and Carol Kimmett performed a hot tango during this year's Holiday Dinner and Dance.

As they had done previously, Carol and Glenn paid for part of their cruise by teaching ballroom dancing.

Thank you all for your preparation: Duane and Donna Thornton for your elegant waltz, Kelly and Carol Kimmett for your hot tango, Mark and Kao Chapman for your powerful and perfectly executed Viennese waltz, Chuck DiSessa and Cathy O'Harra for your sensational number to "All That Jazz", and Lou & Amante Reyes for your sultry Bolero! At the end of the evening Mary and Ralph Anderson, on behalf of the Chapter, presented George & Miriam Mozes with a beautiful engraved clock in appreciation for their years of service to the Chapter as our Monday night dance teachers. George said, "Miriam and I are grateful for this meaningful award!". Thanks to Cathy Lombardi for coordinating the gift. We were also excited to have a visit later from Len Lee only 9 days after his knee replacement surgery! What a great way to end the year!

World Travellers

Carol Milne and Glenn Thomson starting from Barcelona, Spain on the 'Carnival Sunshine' a newly refurbished cruise

Their first stops were Mallorca Island in the Mediterranean and on to Malaga, Spain, then out to sea. Our travelers assignment was to teach two classes a day when the ship was at sea. Their rumba classes of 60+ people out grew their room and they were moved to a bigger room.

Carol celebrated her birthday at sea and was given bottle of wine and chocolate strawberries by the cruise director. They had no day off, however, as they started their cha-cha-cha classes.

After leaving the Canary Islands, they headed for Grand Turk in the Caribbean. The six days at sea required four waltz and two tango days, while averaging 50 dancers a lesson.

The Atlantic crossing was described by Glen as 'very smooth'. They were excited when they entered the Mississippi Delta, not realizing that New Orleans was still eight hours away, however, it was worth the trip because of the enjoyable time spent there.

Continuing on to the Cayman Islands, Carol and Glenn were required to teach only three classes. The Grand Caymans were a treat with the Seven Mile Beach, Sting Ray City, and Dolphin Discovery where people could swim with the Dolphins and for \$25 get a kiss from a dolphin. The tour ended with a trip through "Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville".

Isn't dancing great!



At the end of the Holiday Dinner and Dance Mary and Ralph Anderson, on behalf of the Chapter, presented George & Miriam Mozes with a beautiful engraved clock. This was to show our appreciation for their years of service to the Chapter as our Monday night dance teachers. George said, "Miriam and I are grateful for this meaningful award!".



All of our Holiday Dinner and Dance performers take their final bow for the evening.

Los Angeles NSD Cordially Invites you to a Black & White Ball Celebrating the Coronation of Queen Elect Debby Ku

Saturday January 25, 2014

Hilton Los Angeles North/ Glendale

100 West Glenoaks Blvd.

Glendale, CA 91202

(818) 956-5466

Hospitality (Presidents Suite) 2:00-4:00pm

Reception 6:00pm

Coronation 6:30Pm, Dinner/Dance 7:00pm

Special Exhibition Dance by Joan Robinson and David Moutrey

Attire: Formal - Black Tie Optional

Queen's Breakfast: Sunday Jan. 26, 9:00am (at Hilton Hotel)

Hotel Booking at Hilton Los Angeles North/Glendale

(818) 956-5466 (mention NSD room rate of \$109.00+tax)



PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL RSVP BY JAN. 15, 2014 to:

Queen Sandy Wells, 6251 W. 78th St., Los Angeles, CA 90045

310-649-2573 ssticco@ca.rr.com

Please make checks payable to LA National Smooth Dancers

NAME(S) _____ CHAPTER _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

DINNER CHOICE CHICKEN _____ FISH _____ VEGETARIAN _____

DINNERS @\$65 _____ QUEENS BREAKFAST @ \$25 _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

**Remember to save the date for the
San Diego Smooth Dancers
Coronation of Queen-elect Lou Reyes
March 1, 2014**

