

# *National Smooth Dancers*

## *Dance Whispers*

### *March 2014*



## **Los Angeles Chapter**

We started out year with our coronation of Queen Debby Ku at the Hilton Hotel in Glendale. A wonderful time was highlighted by a dance fusion performance by our Queen and her husband, and then followed by a Peabody/ free style dance performed by members of the LA chapter as their honor dance. This was followed by a delightful dinner, and then a dance presented by Joan Robinson and her dance teacher David Moutrey.

There were a number of us who had a good breakfast the next morning at the hotel.

There were eight members who attended the coronation in San Diego of Queen Lou Reyes. Most of us drove down in the rain, but it had somewhat stopped by the time of the dance. There were a number of wonderful dance demonstrations by two of Lou's dance teachers—both ballroom and latin.

Unfortunately we lost two of our members in February—Andy Anderson and our own home office secretary Joy Michaels. Andy had been ailing for sometime and we had not seen him recently. Joy had been to our Feb. 16 dance and passed away suddenly on Tuesday Feb. 18. She had been very active in all of our endeavors and had really enjoyed going to all the other coronations, board of directors meeting and the conventions. There will be a memorial service on March 15 (which would have been her birthday) in Culver City where she volunteered at the Senior Center.

Celebration of Joy's life  
on her birthday,  
3/15/2014 at 4:45 PM  
Culver City Senior Center

Tho her smile is gone forever,  
and her hand we cannot touch  
we shall never lose sweet memories  
of the one we loved so much.  
We hold you close within our hearts,  
and there you shall remain,  
to walk with us through our lives  
until we meet again.  
So rest in peace dear loved one  
and thanks for all you've done,  
we pray that God has given you  
the crown you've truly won.



*(Above) Joy Michaels enjoys a moment with Carla Hartunian and Mary Anderson.*

*(Left) Joy Michaels and George Zimmerman.*



*The hospitality was held in the presidential suite, offering an outstanding view of Glendale and the mountains.*



*Above (L to R) Susan Johnson, Susan and Roger Lewis worked on getting all the table decorations in their proper place.*

*(Left) Newer members Ken and Betty Cheung help put the finishing touches to what was a beautiful coronation and a wonderful evening of dancing.*



## San Diego Chapter

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014** - Mark, Kao, Lou and I joined forces in hosting the San Diego Smooth Dancers' New Year's Eve dance event to greet the New Year 2014. Without qualification and with great pride we all declared the dance event a whooping success. Kao purchased the food for the main party and Lou bought extra party favors and noisemakers to add sound and glee to the party. Lou received and managed the table reservations for the SDSD members and guests, organized the volunteer force and greeted the guests in the lobby together with Ann and Dave Soul, Maria Wilson and Brenda Gettig. Margaret Willete and Russell Jenkins led their joyful dance performance team - James Beaver, Susan Wells, Jeff Hudson and Bren Herman to a gliding and bouncy American Smooth Foxtrot. The Jack and Jill contest, organized and conducted by Mark Chapman, was received and participated in with great enthusiasm. For the Waltz, Al & Ji won 1st place, and for the Rhumba, William and Cheryl won 1st place.

**SDSD 2014 Social Chairperson** - Amante Reyes, the newly elected social chairperson of the San Diego Smooth Dancers organization has assumed his duties and responsibilities on January 1st, 2014. Dedicating time, money and effort to a worthy cause either for a civic or social institution is not new to Amante. Amante and his lovely wife, Lou, are blessed with two talented children and three 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. They joined the SDSD ten years ago and started to be involved in the activities of the organization, attending Sunday dance classes, dancing and performing for their monthly social events, supporting their various activities by donating time and effort, attending and competing in the National Smooth Dancers Conventions



*SDSD Queen Lou Reyes and Past Queen Been Kao with NSD State Queen Barbara Uichanco along with all other Chapter Queens and their respective "Carrier of the White Bag."*

edited by Vern Miranda



and Board of Directors Meetings earning awards and trophies. Amante is not new to the community of ballroom, Latin and social dancing. He will be a valuable addition to the officers and members of the SDSD. They can tap into his vast knowledge of dance routines, techniques and styling.

**Queen Kao's Farewell** - I find myself, for the second time now, facing the moment which every chapter Queen comes to at the end of her year of service: it is time for me to turn over the office to a new Queen, and to bid an official farewell to everyone who has supported me through- out this year. Although this moment must bring a variety of individual feelings for each Queen, I know there are many shared feelings for every Queen at this point: a sense of disappointment that the year is coming to a close; a sense of happiness in looking back on a stream of memories from a year very much enjoyed; a sense of pleasure from the many friendships that the year has either created or strengthened; certainly a warm satisfaction in being able to turn over the duties to another chapter lady. It has been a happy year for me, and I am so glad that I had this second opportunity to be your Queen. Each out-of-town trip to a chapter's coronation brought me an associated memory this year, thanks to the extra planning that my wonderful husband Mark put into our trips. So what can I say now other than, "Wow, it's been a great year (for the second time around!)"? I will never forget the trips, the people, the smiles, the laughter, the food, the shows, and the competitions—the general experience of seeing people all across our state all through this year. We all love to dance, we all love to party (in a dignified, ballroom sort of way, of course), and we all love seeing each other year after year, venue after venue. I thank my chapter for allowing me to be their Queen for 2013, and I thank all the other chapters for making this year so meaningful for Mark and me.





# Bakersfield Chapter

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



## Queen-elect: Dorothy Vaughan

I was married to my first husband, Frank McKay in 1959. We had three children together. My oldest son David, his wife Karen, and their three children live in Maryland. My son Todd and his wife Teresa have five children and I have a daughter, Holly who is currently

living with me.

My husband Frank and mother were killed in a car accident in 1979. I was working at the time for EDD. I decided to quit my job and stay home with my children for awhile.

By 1980, I started doing volunteer work in our community. I eventually went back to work and it was during this time I met my second husband, Jim Vaughan. We were married in 1988.

Jim and I both loved to dance. We discovered BSD in 2003. Thanks to a dance we attended in December of 2002, in which Norbert and Marietta Tan had also attended. Consequently, we became members of BSD in Jan of 2003. Sadly, my husband Jim passed away in May of 2010.

I'm very excited and feel so honored to be representing BSD for 2014.

**ATTENTION:** the 'Best of the Boards' weekend is fast approaching; we hope you have reserved your packages and hotel rooms! (See p 11 for a registration form) We plan to take you on a trip down memory lane. It's a time to recall old times and good times to come.

We will start off Friday night with a delicious buffet dinner, great music and dancing, also you can expect a few "skits" from the past!

Saturday, will be a full day, starting with a continental breakfast, served between 7:30 to 9:30am, then on to all the different meetings some of us will attend, there will be dances to be danced, competitions to compete in, maybe a few more skits to see, wow! So much to do and enjoy!

Saturday night is packed, starting at 6:00pm with our no host bar, our Queen's Coronation, which will also honor Bakersfield's past Queens, with special honors going to Francis Hein, who has been with our chapter from the beginning and has contributed so much through the years.

Following the coronation, in which Dorothy Vaughan, will become the Bakersfield Chapters' new Queen, our formal dinner will be served.

There will be social dancing throughout the evening, the wonderful professional dancers will perform, and the

competitors will wind up their performances for the evening.

Bottom line we hope you can come reminisce with your Bakersfield Smooth Dancer friends and family. It's exciting to look back on fond memories, but even more exciting to look forward to the next fifty years! We know that the best memories of the "Best of the Boards" have always been and will always be looking forward to seeing you our NSD family and friends!

See you on March 21st.

Our February dance 'Sweetheart's Ball' was held on Saturday February 22nd. The dance was hosted by Phil and Queen Sue, who had a wonderful committee to work with. Dennis Acosta spun the music, and they had a great "chili bar" with fixings, along with cookies available to eat throughout the evening. It was a wonderful dance and everyone had a good time.

January was our annual Presidents' Ball honoring our past and present Presidents. Rich Gonzalez did the music. There were several past Presidents in attendance, including Gene White. It's always nice to see Gene; he seemed to be enjoying himself. Our January dance was hosted by President Steve Peterson, and a great committee.

Our December dance "In your Wildest Dreams" was hosted by JoAnn Georgio and it was a really fun dance! Jo Ann had a good committee who helped her serve up some delicious baked apples, yum!

During the evening Steve Peterson announced our most improved dancers. Rich Gatewood was our most improved male dancer, JoAnn Georgio was our most improved female dancer and our most improved couple was Becky Rule and Paul Willow. Congratulations to all of you!



*During the President's Ball the most improved couple award was awarded to Becky Rule and Paul Willow, the most improved male dancer was awarded to Rich Gatewood, and JoAnn Georgio was awarded the most improved female dancer.*

We send get well wishes to Dee Anna Rubiy and Kay Boyer on their recent surgeries, and we send out heartfelt thoughts and prayers to Jim and Claudine Kephart who recently lost their son, Gregory.

## Queen's Reflections



It was pouring rain for the coronation of Queen Lou Reyes. However it did not dampen anyone's enthusiasm in attending the coronation. All the queens marched to the music of Star Wars and lo and behold the incoming queen wore a pearl beaded purple gown.

To everyone's surprise, Lou Reyes the incoming queen started her routine with a fiery Paso Doble, twirling her cape and mesmerizing all the audiences with it then going to waltz-foxtrot routine and ending in quick step. It was an intricate routine choreographed by all her 3 current instructors - Peter Edwards, Shanna Timms and Abby Pollock. All the instructors felt the couple did an amazing job and felt fortunate to have such diligent and promising students.

Ranch Caterer provided an excellent dinner with varieties of dessert especially the cake that's has two excellent flavors of lemon and combination of strawberry and chocolate.

All eyes on the honor dance performed by Francis Rotella and Linda Teng doing a waltz and foxtrot routine. The professional dancer exhibitions are truly breathtaking. Shanna and Brodie did International cha-cha, rumba and American Viennese Waltz. The twin professional brother and sister Ira and Abby Pollock performed standard Waltz and Foxtrot. The techniques were executed brilliantly. Allana and Madelyn, the crown bearers were so cute in performing their duties along with the flower bearer, Christy. The event ended beautifully and the guests will remember it to be one of the finest events of the year.

-Queen Lourdes Reyes



Debbie Ku's coronation at her Black & White Ball was a delightful blend of beauty, elegance, and fun. I had wondered if Debbie might possibly take advantage of the new rule that allows an incoming queen to wear the color of her choice, imagining a selection of a black gown as an edgy and

provocative fashion statement. Instead, however, Debbie was truly lovely in white, complete with a simple train fastened at her neckline with a pearl closure. She looked exactly like the beautiful picture in her program, and I especially admired her modern and very becoming

smooth hairstyle. Victor also wore white, and together they were a very handsome couple.

Entering the ballroom, the queens were introduced accompanied by the very lively Dancing Queen music, which set the tone for the fun to come. After Debby was crowned, Debby and Victor performed a very unusual queen's dance, which was a combination of foxtrot, rumba, bachata, and hula. It was a great success, and the beautiful arm movements of the hula section were especially wonderful. Also unusual was the honor dance, which was performed by a formation team consisting of Los Angeles NSD dancers and was danced with Peabody music choreographed by Victor. A big surprise was that Victor and Debby joined the group for the finale of the routine. The queens exited to There She Goes, Her Royal Majesty, another upbeat piece of music to end a ceremony which I don't think anyone could have complained was dull or boring. (I think those days are gone.)

In the middle of the evening we were treated to a beautiful exhibition waltz by our own SFV chapter's Joan Robinson and her instructor David Moutrey.

The weekend deluge, which made guests' arrival at the Champion Ballroom San Diego coronation venue, especially the walk from the parking lot, a challenging adventure for many, did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance. Lou Reyes' Impossible Dream coronation was memorable for the many wonderful dance performances during the evening, of which my favorite was an outstanding International Waltz done by professional twin siblings Ira and Abby Pollock, with Abby in a lovely gown in a gorgeous shade of green.

Queen Lou and her husband Amante's Queen's Dance began with a very innovative Star Wars routine that included dramatically swirling capes. Amante appeared to be inexplicably MIA when the Queen's Dance was announced, but after some anxious moments he appeared, having changed out of his tuxedo and into a Star Wars costume.

-Queen Gee Gee Barden



Debbie Ku was crowned Queen of the Los Angeles Chapter on January 25 at her "Black and White Ball". Escorted by her husband, Victor Ku, their dance was a beautiful combination of Rumba, Foxtrot, Bachata and Hula. After the reigning Queens' dance, they joined other LA members for the honor dance. Later, Joan Robinson, with her instructor David Moultry, entertained us with a wonderful Waltz.

My travel companions were Lynn Sanders and our Queen-elect, Angie Garcia. We arrived at the Glendale Hilton in time for the Reception in the Presidential suite, with plenty of wine and homemade selections by the LA members. Other Fresno members attending were Jim Escobar and Carla Hartunian, and her sister Deborah. My handsome escort for the ceremony was George Zimmerman.

I traveled alone to San Diego, flying non-stop, and was greeted by a hailstorm as I arranged for a rental car. The weather cleared as I made my way to the Marriott and the afternoon hospitality, but was pouring again as everyone arrived at the Champion ballroom. Lou Reyes was crowned Queen of the San Diego Chapter on March 1, at her "Impossible Dream" Coronation Ball. Escorted by her husband, Amante Reyes, their dance was a blend of Paso Doble, Waltz and Quickstep. My escort for the ceremony was San Diego member Steve Marxoff.

Breakfast was at the home of Al Folkman and Wanda Lee Dimond in the Mission Hills of San Diego. Their home has a grand view of the airport, the bay and Coronado Island. The rain kept us from enjoying their multilevel patios, but there was room enough inside. Later in the day I returned to the ballroom for a Viennese Waltz lesson, before my evening flight home.

-Queen Lorraine Tilton



What an exciting way to begin the New Year with the Coronation of Debby Ku of Los Angeles Smooth Dancers!

The Black & White Ball celebrating Debby and her husband, Victor, as they performed a four-part fusion of Fox Trot, Rhumba, Bachata and a "Smooth" Hula! How creative and stunning!

This evening was truly a compliment to dancers. I really enjoyed the Honor Dance which was performed by several L.A. Chapter couples as their formation team created a tribute to their new Queen Debby & Victor.

An absolutely beautiful Waltz performed by Joan Robinson raised the bar to exquisite lyrical and flooring style.

I thoroughly enjoyed watching San Diego Smooth Dancer's Queen Lou Reyes and her husband, Amante Reyes, perform many variations of dances from Paso Doble, Waltz, Tango, Cha Cha, etc! It was very inspiring to see the choices of smooth dancing.

Palomar Smooth Dancers showed a grand total of 21 members! We had three tables and an abundance of joy! The finale Breakfast/Brunch was unreal! Thank you Al Folkman for opening your beautiful home to us.

Each one of these Coronations is bringing Rick and I closer to the wonderment of friends near and far that truly warm our hearts!

Thank you all so very much for the opportunity to serve you.

Queen Darlene Drury



The weather was great even by the Southern California standards – sunny, but not too hot, warm and balmy, but not too humid, the day was perfect.

The L.A. Chapter's hospitality was in the president's suite on the 15th floor. There was guacamole and crackers and stuffed eggs, lovingly prepared by one of the members. And, there were boxes and platters of See's candies everywhere and there was no end to them – as soon as one box was emptied, another one was brought in – the supply seemed to be endless.

In lieu of the traditional waltz, Queen Debby prepared a dance medley that consisted of some rumba, some hula and some other interesting dance moves.

The Los Angeles chapter members, six couples, prepared an honor dance, which was very lovely. Exhibition dance was by Joan Robinson and David Moutrey. It was very good.

I was looking forward to the San Diego coronation hoping to see more of San Diego and become more familiar with this beautiful city. I knew it was known for its great weather, spectacular views and relaxed atmosphere, but nobody ever said anything about rain.

The theme of coronation was "Impossible dream" and we were given beautifully decorated fans and our escort wore matching boutonnieres. Newly crowned Queen Lou Reyes choose a "Paso Doble" for her queens dance which was very well done. Shanna Timms and Brodie Kaster as well as the twins Abby and Ira Pollock, two very tall couples, performed the showcase and both were very young and danced like Gods.

Beautifully wrapped and decorated presents were given to me and the brunch at Al Folkman's home was delicious. Unfortunately a curtain of rain obscured his beautiful view of the harbor.

-Queen Shulamit



## Golden Gate Chapter

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



*Queen elect Svetlana Gites*

### Queen elect Svetlana Gites

I grew up in the Ukraine (former Soviet Union) and as long as I can remember, I wanted to dance, which seemed like an unattainable dream to me. Only very talented children or very lucky ones would be accepted into the few available dance studios. Since I was neither, I put away my dream of dancing in the furthest corners of my

mind next to the fairy tales of my childhood of queens and knights and castles.

In 1994 we came as refugees to America with our parents and our young son, arriving in San Francisco late at night after two days of travel. When I woke up the next morning I saw the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge rising out of the white fog and I fell in love with San Francisco.

Both Vlad (my husband) and I were fortunate to be able to continue with our professional careers in the Bay area, he in his beloved printing industry, and I as a software engineer designing and creating new programs in Silicon Valley.

When our son left to go to the University we looked for dance studios and found Pick School of dancing only a few blocks from home. There we met Mila Vieraitis and Liz and Chuck Talmadge who introduced us to Golden Gate Smooth dancers. We were enthralled to meet all those wonderful, warm people and to finally dance.

It is such an honor to be elected a queen. My fairytales of queens and knights and castles to dance in, is coming true and I suspect this will be one of the best years of my life. Thank you Golden Chapter, from the bottom of my heart.

Patrick and I went on a fabulous cruise to the Caribbean for 10 days on Oceania in January. It was truly over top. Oceania has their focus on the food and along with taking cooking classes we had the most incredible food every day and danced every night to combat the effects of all that culinary splendor. We visited the islands of Tortola, Antigua, St. Lucia, Barbados and St. Bart's. What an incredible experience. Everything was flawless. It helps when your roommate is also your hair dresser and your taylor, which keeps you perfectly coiffed and mended.

At our first business meeting in January we swore in our new board and said good buy to last years officers. Phil Brown gave a great speech around "Bacchus", the God of wine and thanked all the outgoing officers with a bottle of the same. We also swore in our newest member Vera Harvey, who regularly drives all the way from Santa Rosa to South San Francisco to attend our dances and has attended a board of directors meeting as well as a convention.

After enjoying dancing with my new friends at GGNSD for more than a year, I finally made the leap of faith and decided to apply for membership in GGNSD.

I attended the monthly meeting on Jan. 6th and enjoyed the company of everyone there. The added bonus was a beautifully prepared meal! What a treat!



*Our newest member, Vera Harvey*

However, when it came time for me to leave the room while the officers conferred privately to determine my fate, I was a little nervous. Would I be accepted as a new member? Even with the knowledge that Gabrielle and Patrick were my sponsors, I paced in the hallway nervously.

A few minutes later, I was asked to return to the room where I was relieved and overjoyed to learn that I had been accepted as a new member! The hugs and smiles waiting in the room for me made the nervous pacing in the hall seem to vanish. It was all worthwhile!

All I can say now is thank you for accepting me as a new member and I look forward to many memory-making spins and turns around the dance floor! Illness in our family.

I am told that Donna Rosko is feeling better every day and George Dayeh had some positive news on his last doctor visit, but is still not out of the woods. John Sallaro and Elizabeth Hage are on the mend as well. We hope to keep this column of the newsletter empty for the rest of the year, as everyone will remain healthy.

We had a very slim turnout to our Sunday dance in January, probably due to the 49 playoff game (boooo) and the fact that it was a holiday weekend. Here is what some of the men were doing at the dance instead of dancing..... checking the scores, of course. Just wanted to mention...

Our corresponding secretary Elizabeth Li and her sweet husband Karl Chesbrough have been redoing our website. Please go take a look at [www.goldengatedancers.org](http://www.goldengatedancers.org) and see what an amazing job they have done. They are such a wonderful addition to our club, as they also print and mail whispers to those not on a computer yet and are in the process of redoing our roster. Thank you Elizabeth and Karl.

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.



*Our new board from left to right: Elena Malta (Corresponding Secretary), Liz Talmadge (Social Chair), Joe Malta (Treasurer), Vlad Gites (Vice President), Rita Parma (President).*

## Chapter Officers Updates

### GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER 2014 OFFICERS

President	Rita Parma
Vice President	Vlad Gites
Treasurer	Joe Malta
Corresponding Sec	Elena Malta
Queen	Svetlana Gites
Social Chair	Liz Talmadge
Editor	Gabrielle von Stephens

### BAKERSFIELD CHAPTER 2014 OFFICERS

President	Steve Patterson
Vice President	Ben Wilson
Treasurer	Jo Ann Georgio
Corresponding Sec	Kay Boyer
Recording Sec	Martha Florin
Queen	Dorothy Vaughan
Social Chair	Steve Rogers
Board Member	Bill Landry
Dance Rules	Janice Mills
Editor	Dorothy Vaughan

### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER 2014 OFFICERS

President	Mike Colishaw
Vice President	Mark Eskander
Treasurer	Kay Ryan
Recording Sec	Alberta Valentini
Queen	Lourdes Reyes
Social Chair	Amante Reyes
Board Member	Caron Schattel
Dance Rules	Cathy O'Harra
Editor	Vern Miranda
Smooth Talk	Mark Chapman
Webmaster	Al Folkman
Music	Rose Madrid

## Visalia Chapter

edited by Sallie Holden



As anticipated, the December Christmas ball was a great success. Great food, great formal clothes, great dancing, great entertainment. The annual awards were presented during the December dance. Those who received awards this year were:

Linda Guttierrez Lifetime membership  
Most Improved Female Dancer Myra Nielsen  
Most Improved Male Dancer Shayne Nielsen  
Most Improved Couple Wendy and Gary Paden  
Achievement Award John Guttierrez

During the January dance, club officers were installed. The dance was themed "Asian Fusion," with a Bachata dance lesson. Cheryl Levitan played the music.

The February dance was "Dance and Romance". Seventy people attended and most were in black and red dance clothes. Myra Nielsen danced with her instructor Alex Ortiz as part of the entertainment. Also dancing for the crowd were Paul and Wendy Storey. Vince Uichanco was the music man.

The "March Madness" potluck social will be held this month. Greg Uichanco will be the music man.

Long time member Lillian Lewis celebrated her 95th birthday in February, for which her son sent her 95 red roses.

Our members are beginning to think about Convention and will REALLY think about it after Boards. Labor Day may seem a long time away but anyone who has been a part of a formation team knows it's not long at all for learning and practicing something new. Everyone in VSD has been invited to participate When it is known who will be on the team the instructor will be chosen and the fun will begin!

# Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



## Queen-Elect: Angie Fae Garcia!

I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve and represent the Fresno Chapter of National Smooth Dancers as their Queen for 2014.

My passion is music and dancing; for me to live is to dance and to dance is to

*Queen-Elect: Angie Fae Garcia!*

live! I have been dancing since the age of 3 or 4. I started dancing to Latin music by Perez Prado for my father and all individuals who were at his fiestas. My father loved to entertain and was an excellent dancer himself, so all Latin dances are in my blood.

I graduated from Fresno State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology with Corrections emphasis. I was employed by and have now retired from Santa Cruz County as a Deputy Probation Officer, and was Officer of the Year in 1993. I was also employed with Fresno County and, for a short time with Madera County, as a Case Manager.

Once I retired, I relocated to Fresno where I took full advantage of many of the best dance instructors Fresno has to offer – individuals such as Dan Goss (my personal favorite), Guy Ashby, Ms. Mata and Alex Peiria, Mark and Andrea Novak, Franco and many more. I thank them for shaping and molding me so I would finally gain the confidence to join all of the great dancers in the Fresno Chapter of Smooth Dancers!

New Member!



*New Member: Lydia Flores (right), with VP Jim Escobar and Linda Bennett (left), hostess of the event.*

We are pleased to introduce our newest member, Lydia Flores, who was sworn in at our February social!

The 3rd Sunday parties for 2014 were kicked off in grand style at the “Winter Dancing in the Cold January Nights,” hosted by President Carla Hartunian. Snowmen were everywhere from the entrance to the table centerpieces, buffet table, dishware and door prizes. The evening began with a beautiful Waltz lesson by Dan Goss. 34 dancers attended, 23 of whom were guests, and 4 were there for the first time! We enjoyed a yummy potluck and lots of dancing to work off some of the calories.

The February 3rd Sunday party “Romance and Dance” was hosted by Linda Bennett, Corresponding Secretary and Whispers Editor. The tables were decorated with pretty white doilies and red cutwork hearts and a vase with chocolate cookie lollipops! The evening began with a romantic Rumba lesson by Franco Peraza. Once again our guests outnumbered the members. The potluck had nice variety of hot dishes, great salads, veggies and tempting desserts. Lucky for our waistlines we got in plenty of dancing.

On March 16th, “Tea for Two”, hosted by Ginna Bearden, will be a special tribute to long time member George Schmidt. George met his wife Norma at NSD and they have been married for 25 years. The lesson will be Argentine Tango taught by Kathy Page & Guy Ashby. We would love to see you at this very special event!

\* \* \* \* \*

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](http://www.fresnosmoothdancers.org) for flyers. We would love to see you there!!



*(Top Left) Guests Bart and Nancy Ramentas with Member Tahani Elhag*



*(Top Right) Queen Lynn Sanders and Recording Secretary Ann Phillips, with Guest Blaine East.*



*(Bottom Right) L to R: Rick and Myra Wenzel, Orie and Dolores Reed and Bob and Sue Dowell.*



# Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard

Palomar Chapter has had a busy few months as we welcome in the New Year! Plans are in full "swing" as we approach this year's Convention hosted by The Palomar Chapter in Palm Springs, August 29, 30 & September 1, 2014, at the beautiful renovated Renaissance Hotel. Please mark your calendars as we foresee a fun filled weekend!

The New Year also brought 5 new members to join us in January & February. And! We had two very successful socials. And! Our Monday night dance classes are packed! Good news spreads fast in this little dance community of ours.

In January we welcomed new members Elliot



*Palomar V.P. Dane Gilkey swearing in Elliot & Linda Lum and Si Osgrove*

& Linda Lum and Si Osgrove. Elliot & Linda Lum are excellent dancers but still have many other interests that fill their busy lives! They also love golf, tennis, snorkeling, scuba diving, ukulele, guitar, singing, sewing, cooking, travel and photography. Elliot especially loves technology and always has the latest gadgets. Elliot & Linda have been working their "Bucket List" and have traveled to Asia, Africa, Grand Canyon rafting and most recently Galapagos, Machu Picchu & the Amazon. Elliott is an Electrical Engineer who retired from Motorola and Qualcomm in 1998. Linda is a Registered Nurse who retired from a research job at UCSD in 2010. Elliott was born in Honolulu, and Linda in Escanaba Michigan. They met at the University of Michigan and have been married for 47 years! They have 3 daughters in Honolulu, Miami & New York, and one granddaughter. Elliott said, "We are enjoying the chance to learn and practice our dancing with Palomar Smooth Dancers!" Welcome Elliott & Linda!

We also extend a welcome to Si Osgrove. Si has been taking dance classes on and off since he moved to Menifee 4 1/2 years ago. His fiancé, PSD member Carol Guttman, brought him to Palomar's November and December 2013 socials and he decided to join us! Si is originally from Riverhead & Syosset (Long Island), New York. He was an instructional designer and a professional portrait & pet photographer. He taught photography at UCLA Extension for 7 years. For the past 6 years he has been a professional artist displaying his works at The Wine Country Art Gallery. Besides painting in acrylics & oils, he enjoys skiing, gardening and listening to classical music.

Our January social, hosted by Antonia & Jesus Quinene and Peter & Marsha Hanson, was quite a success!

We honored the 2014 Olympics with our theme. Pizza and salad was gobbled up and desserts were fantastic as always! George & Miriam Mozes offered an



excellent class in Rhumba that we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Our February Social was great fun; the theme was "Celebrating Chinese New Year". Eighty-nine dancers attended which included several member from San Diego chapter and many friends from the Taiwanese Center and The Carlsbad Chinese Club, some of which are regulars now! Thanks for your support. We had a delicious Chinese Food Dinner! Table settings were well provided by hostesses Marion Semler, Mary Anderson and Sue Takamoto. The evening began with a remarkable



*Mark & Queen Kao Chapman (San Diego Chapter) joined in the Olympic themed festivities with Palomar Queen Darlene Drury & Rick Brunton. And! Check out those Olympic circle table decorations compliments of Antonia & Doris Quinene. Brilliant!*



*Great turnout for the Samba class led by James & Irina Friedhof!*

Samba lesson by local dance professionals Irina & James Friedhof. It was intriguing how the two teachers skillfully took the 60 "students" through a basic, yet colorful pattern! Following the lesson and dinner, was open dancing with music provided by our music committee chaired by Len Lee.



*Queen Darlene Drury and Merilee & Jack Ragland "in costume" at our Chinese New Year Social*

Keep dancing Jack & Merilee Ragland! Jack & Merilee are using the dancing patterns that they have learned from the past two years as part of the Palomar's Formation Team. They have been performing "Grease" and "Baby Elephant Walk", using the original music from CD's provided by teacher Marsha Hanson. In the past year The Ragland's have given seven performances to various groups and clubs. They continue to receive requests for their shows and are enjoying every minute!

## San Fernando Valley Chapter

Welcome to new members Sam Billimoria, Pam Au, Kathleen. We're so glad you've joined us. We're looking forward to seeing you at our parties and on the dance floor.

Christmas has come and gone. But fond memories linger from our holiday dance in December. Our Dance Now Team treated us to an adorable Christmas performance, complete with whimsical costumes and



*The Dance Now Team entertained us with a whimsical Christmas routine.*

choreography. They really brought out our Christmas spirit. So much so that we dancers were actually convinced to have a sing-off. "We don't sing; we dance", we protested. But we all participated and had jolly good time. When it was over, there was general agreement that we should stick to dancing.

Typhoon Haiyan, the largest tropical cyclone ever recorded, devastated the Philippines when it struck land on November 7, 2013. Edna Coe graciously sponsored a dance to raise money for those who were affected in her native country. Many members of



*Smooth Dancers try their voices at Christmas caroling.*



*Edna Coe sponsored a benefit dance for survivors of Typhoon Haiyan.*

edited by Debbie Bloom



Smooth Dancers attended the dance and donated money for this vital cause. The survivors of the disaster are in our hearts and prayers.



*Suryany Misrayim and Ron Parker performed a lithe and poised rumba at the USA Dance showcase.*

The Los Angeles Chapter of USA Dance had an exciting showcase in December. In addition to spectacular performances by couples and dance teams, there was open dancing to some of our favorite songs. SFV Smooth Dancer member, Suryany Misrayim, and her partner, Ron Parker, wowed the audience with a lithe and

poised fox trot. Artemis and Juia, professional partners who often teach and perform at Smooth Dancer events, did a striking rumba. Those two can move joints that the rest of us don't even know we have!



*Joan Robinson and David Moultray performed a beautiful waltz, which was a highlight at the Los Angeles Chapter's coronation of Queen Debby Ku.*

The Los Angeles Chapter's Black and White Ball was held on January 25, for the coronation of Debby Ku. SFV chapter members were filled with pride when our own Joan Robinson and her longtime instructor, David Moultray, were introduced as the showcase performers. Their lovely waltz, beautifully danced, was a highlight of the evening.

Joan reported that she and David had worked strenuously on the routine for months. The results certainly reflected and validated their efforts. The audience showed their appreciation with hoots and hollers during a sustained standing ovation.

To get in the mood for Valentines Day, our February dance started out with a line dance to – what else – Achy Breaky Heart! Our DJ for the night, James Woo, played songs from movies inspired by love. It was a fun and romantic evening.



# Bakersfield Smooth Dancers

Registration  
March 21, 22 & 23, 2014

## "The First 50 Years"

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (To Confirm your registration)

### Golden Weekend Dance Package

Please indicate how many persons will be attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$179.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Our Fabulous Deluxe Dance Package includes admission to all weekend events:

Friday Evening	Buffet Dinner & Evening Dance
Saturday Morning	Buffet Breakfast
Saturday Afternoon	Group Lesson & Afternoon Dance
Saturday Evening	Formal Dinner & Dance
	Professional Entertainment
Sunday Morning	Buffet Breakfast
	Awards Ceremony

### The Party Package

Please indicate how many persons will be attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$75.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Our Value Dance Combo: Friday & Saturday Casual Dances (No Formal Dinner Dance):

Friday Evening	Buffet Dinner & Evening Dance
Saturday Afternoon	Group Lesson & Afternoon Dance

### The Formal Package

Please indicate how many persons will be attending: \_\_\_\_\_ @\$95.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

A La Carte for just the Formal Events:

Saturday Evening	Formal Dinner & Dance
	Coronation Event
	High Level Competitions
	Professional Entertainment

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED = \_\_\_\_\_  
PAYABLE TO: Bakersfield Smooth Dancers

☐ Vegetarian Meals \_\_\_\_\_

PAYABLE TO: Bakersfield Smooth Dancers  
Mail Event Registrations to:  
Frances Hein  
6302 Broadmoor Ct.  
Bakersfield, CA 93306  
661-378-0655  
[amandagracey@aol.com](mailto:amandagracey@aol.com)

Hotel Reservations  
RATE: \$110 per night (+tax)  
CUTOFF DATE: Please Book by February 21, 2014  
  
Double Tree by Hilton, Bakersfield  
3100 Camino Del Rio Court., Bakersfield, CA 93308  
Phone Reservations: (661) 323-7111 or (888) 779-4694  
Under group code enter: C-BSD (Bakersfield Smooth Dancers)

#### Legal Disclaimers:

- CANCELLATIONS before March 10th, 2014 will receive a prorated refund.
- After March 10th, 2014 - No Refunds can be made.
- OUTSIDE FOOD & BEVERAGES: Due to State Law, you may not bring alcoholic beverages into the Hotel Ballroom
- The Hotel must approve all other food or non-alcoholic beverages brought in from outside sources.