

National Smooth Dancers

Dance Whispers

April 2014



Bakersfield Chapter



QUEEN SUE KIMBRELL'S FAREWELL

Wow, what a busy year it has been, where has the time gone? Representing the Bakersfield Smooth Dancers as Queen with my escort, husband Phil Kimbrell has allowed us to acquire many new friends and many great memories from each NSD Coronation and events throughout my reign, "Thank You" to each NSD Queen and their escorts for your warm welcome!

We would like to thank our entourage, Rose & Steve Peterson, Kay & Mark Boyer, Wendy and Ben Wilson and many BSD members who have attended the events this past year with us. Thank you to our family for your love and support! We would like to thank our entire chapter for giving me the privilege and the pleasure of representing Bakersfield Smooth Dancers as your Queen for 2013-2014.



An exciting feature of the fiftieth anniversary of the Bakersfield Smooth Dancers was the gathering and presentation of our past Queens pictured above.

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



Bakersfield Smooth Dancers celebrated their fiftieth anniversary this year,

so adding to the glamour of the Saturday evening events was the celebration of all our past Queens. It was a spectacular sight seeing all of our Queens dressed in white gowns with their lovely tiaras atop their heads. They came in with their escorts according to the year they reigned. Frances Hein, our long time serving charter member and twice serving Queen was escorted by Ken Silber who did a little waltz with her to the song "Thanks for the Memories." It was altogether very lovely! The past Queens then took their seats and the Coronation of Queen-elect Dorothy Vaughan began.

Dorothy was escorted by her dance teacher, Dan Goss. Dan choreographed a lovely waltz for them to dance to. Dorothy chose the music "Watermark" by Valzer Lento, it was a beautiful rendition.

The ballroom decorations for Saturday night were beautiful; each table had a different colored flower arrangement, of blues, bright pinks, oranges, purples, etc. They were placed on a gold edged mat over a cream colored tablecloth. Each vase had a big gold ribbon tied into a large bow, the gold to reflect the fiftieth anniversary theme. Dinner followed the coronation, and there was general dancing, competitions and the wonderful pro-dancers, Nick Cheremukhin and Viktorija, who wowed us with their beautiful dances!

It was a perfect weekend for the Boards starting Friday afternoon with picking up our packets and greeting old friends and new, then on to the evening festivities. Friday night was full of laughter and fun as we captured some of the best of the skits from the past. There was Charlie Chaplin, played by Jack Duffy, George Burns and Gracie Allan alias Jim and



Claudine Kephart, the Pointer Sisters and the “LA Cage” or “Bad Girls” played by Ken Silber, Ty Upshur, Steve Peterson, Dennis Acosta and TG Thomas, they all decided though to hang up their high heels for now! Could it be they are too hard to dance in, especially backwards? There were plenty of other skits to see, remember and laugh at; a wonderful trip down memory lane.

Saturday morning started with a wonderful continental breakfast, then on to the various meetings. From 11:00-12:00 they had a complimentary dance seminar taught by Nick Cheremukhin and Viktorija and there wasn't an empty spot on the floor!

The afternoon dance was from 1:00-4:00 and there was plenty of social dancing and competitions! There were also a couple more skits from the past to enjoy!

All good things come to an end but there is plenty to look forward to in our golden future, it's always sad though to bid adieu to our many friends, but not before the introductions to our Board of Directors and handing out the trophies to the dance competitors!

BAKERSFIELD SMOOTH DANCERS couldn't put on the Boards if it weren't for the collective talents of people like, Charlene Miller, Frances Hein, Judy Evans, Jan and Lyle Mills, Dennis Acosta, Ken Silber and Rich Gonzalez and the talents of our many members who have participated in our many skits and performances over these years! We salute them and we are looking forward to the next fifty!

Our April 26th dance is being hosted by JoAnn Georgio. The theme is 'Rock the Night Away.' You can dress in your favorite dance outfit.

The dance will be held at the Rasmussen Center 115 E. Roberts Lane from 7:00-10:30pm. Members are free; Guests are \$15 singles and \$25 for couples. Music will be played by Ken Silber.

Our May dance will be hosted by Steve and Jeanette Rogers. This dance is our annual dance that honors our past Queens and present Queen. I hope everyone will join us for this wonderful evening. The date is May 24th.

Dance Competition Results

Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Senior Waltz	Wen-shi and Tony Rodriquez, Bakersfield	Carla Hartunian, Fresno and Peter Hanson, Palomar	Donna Thornton and Steve Marsolf, Palomar
Beginners Waltz	Tony and Wen-shi Rodriquez, Bakersfield	Jane and Doug Hammond, San Fernando Valley	Bill Marey and Gee Gee Barden - San Fernando Valley
Beginners Cha Cha	Wen-shi and Tony Rodriquez, Bakersfield	Wendy and Paul Story, Visalia	Amante and Loudes Reyes, San Diego
Social Swing	Peter and Janice Imperial, Golden Gate	Amante and Loudes Reyes, San Diego	Les and Roberta Lazar, San Fernando Valley
Intermediate Smooth & Standard	Myra and Shane Neilson, Visalia	Andrea and James Gutman, Palomar	Les and Roberta Lazar, San Fernando Valley
Advanced Smooth & Standard	Greg & Barbara Uichanco, Visalia	Andrea and James Gutman, Palomar	Peter and Janice Imperial, Golden Gate



1st - Senior Waltz

2nd - Senior Waltz

3rd - Senior Waltz



1st - Beginners Waltz

2nd - Beginners Waltz

3rd - Beginners Waltz



1st - Beginners Cha Cha

2nd - Beginners Cha Cha

3rd - Beginners Cha Cha



1st - Social Swing

2nd - Social Swing

3rd - Social Swing



1st - Intermediate Smooth & Standard

2nd - Intermediate Smooth & Standard

3rd - Intermediate Smooth & Standard



1st - Advanced Smooth & Standard

2nd - Advanced Smooth & Standard

3rd - Advanced Smooth & Standard

Golden Gate Chapter

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



Coronation, as is the case in our chapter, was once again a grand affair, this time "From Russia with Love", celebrating Queen elect Svetlana Gites with her handsome husband Vlad (he almost looks like that Bond character). At Hospitality our members were wearing royal blue

T-shirts with the map of Russia on it surrounded by a heart. The food was wonderful, as usual, at the Crown Plaza hotel and the wine was plentiful. It was wonderful reconnecting with the members from the other chapters and to see many new faces in the visiting queens.

The entrance to the ballroom, as well as Svetlana's arch, was flanked by life size Matryoshka dolls (Russian stacking dolls) which were lovingly constructed by Chuck and Liz Talmadge and hand painted by our president and her husband Rita and Floyd Parma as well as Svetlana and Vlad. Most of the other details were handled expertly by Amy Ansaldi who made incredible Faberge eggs and coordinated all the details, and our outgoing queen Shulamit did amazing flower arrangements for each table.

Svetlana appropriately choose royal blue for her color and wore a "to die for" fabulous gown and gave royal blue evening bags, embellished with bling, as carrying gifts to all the queens. Hers and Vlad's Viennese Waltz was simply beautiful, complex and dreamy, expertly choreographed by Erin Pick of Pick studio in San Francisco.

Most of our members were wearing blue gowns to honor our queen and the one that Nadia Tillinin wore really stood out. The honor dance was performed by long time professionals and one of my favorite couples, Dima and Olga Sukachov who



did an incredible Paso Doble. Dinner was great as usual and the wine served complimented the food. Great music by our amazing team of DJ's Joe Malta and Gordon Robinson made the evening fun to dance to. June Long did her usual outstanding job as mistress of ceremony. Svetlana and Vlad are looking forward to their travels, now that the hard part is over. Thank you to all the volunteers for your hard work in making this another awesome coronation.



Bakersfield Boards. As I could not attend the boards in Bakersfield, we will have to rely on the reports of the other chapters for all the details. As I know Charlene Miller it was an amazing affair as usual. I do know however, that we had one couple of our newest members enter competitions and take home some wonderful and impressive trophies. Peter and Janice Imperial won 1st place in the Social East Coast Swing out of 7 couples, and took a third place in the advanced American Smooth division.

Considering this was their first time in this advanced category, we are duly impressed and so happy to have a competing couple in our club again.



Sunday Brunch, as we usually do in February, we have a wonderful brunch at the Crown Plaza which gives us the opportunity to connect to our members off the dance floor while having great food and honoring special members. This time an award was given to Joe and Elena Malta for 26 years of outstanding dedication and service to Golden Gate Chapter and NSD. So very well deserved!



Elizabeth Hage gave her husband Bill an amazing 90th birthday party at a famous Chinese restaurant in Millbrae in March. Bill does not look a day over 70 of course, and I had the privilege to sit next to their charming grandson Jonathan who

kept me entertained all night with his stories of his working life and his future plans. What an interesting young man.

George Dayeh and his wife Ana are still in need of support and prayers. He is not doing very well at this time.

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.

Queen's Reflections



Reflecting back on my attendance at Boards I can simply say "thank you" and "WOW!" to the Bakersfield chapter for putting on a wonderful event. This being a celebration of the 50th year I especially appreciated how previous themes and music from years past was incorporated into the weekend. For those that might not have been at past Boards it allowed a glimpse of seeing Boards gone past. What a great idea! I also enjoyed all the posters hanging throughout the ballroom showcasing all the past Queens. It was fun to read them all and see more of Bakersfield Smooth Dancers history.

The dance seminar and the professional entertainment were phenomenal. It was amazing to watch Nick Cheremukhin and Viktorija. They moved flawlessly across the floor. I loved Viktorija's costumes!!

I would also like to congratulate all the competitors and the winners. I know first hand what hard work it is to compete. Kudos to you all.

And last but not least, congratulations to Queen Dorothy Vaughan. You looked amazing on your special night. And to Queen Sue Kimbrell it has been fun getting to know you this past year. Once a queen always a Queen!

Thank you Bakersfield for such a wonderful event! I can't wait for next year!

Before I share my reflection of the Golden Gate Coronation held on April 12th let me say one word that comes to mind when I think of that chapter. Friendship. As I watched them throughout the weekend it was overwhelming obvious they are there for the friendship of dance. They all share a mutual joy of each other and of dance and it is obvious as they interact with each other as well as with other chapters. It was a heartwarming experience to observe.

As for the Coronation itself...it was absolutely lovely. The theme "From Russia With Love" was portrayed to the utmost care and came shining through. From the decor of the event (such as the nesting dolls and the Faberge eggs, all prepared by the members) to the lovely Queen Svetlana and her handsome husband. Queen Svetlana wore an amazingly blue gown adorned with jewels. She looked like royalty. Their Viennese Waltz dance was simply joyful as they danced to a song that is special to their native country. Their pride came shining through.

From the Saturday afternoon hospitality, to the Saturday evening Coronation Ceremony, to the Sunday brunch; it was all wonderful. The food was great. The honor dancers with their playful and excellent tango was great. Golden Gate you did an outstanding job and I thank you. Congratulations to Queen Svetlana on a year she will be amazing for you. And congratulations to outgoing Queen Shulamit who was an absolute pleasure to get to know.

-State Queen Barbara Uichanco



This was my first trip to a coronation since I was crowned Queen of the Bakersfield Chapter, everything was so exciting to me, and everything about the weekend was done so well, from the hospitality on Saturday afternoon to the wonderful dinner on Saturday night, and the Queen's brunch on Sunday! Best of all is Svetlana Gites, the new Queen of Golden Gate, she is so very lovely and gracious, just a wonderful asset to our Crown Circle! So I just want to welcome her, and say I am really looking forward to seeing her at all the coronations!

-Queen Dorothy Vaughan, Bakersfield



The evening was truly special, as all past Bakersfield Queens in attendance had donned their white gowns for a special appearance in celebration of the milestone event. From our vantage point in the hallway, we were unable to see the presentation of all of these lovely ladies, but seeing them all gathered in their beautiful gowns was an amazing reminder of how rich the history of this event is, and what a special role the Queen plays in the history of our group.

Queen-Elect Dorothy Vaughan was crowned by Outgoing Queen Sue Kimbrell, and then performed a beautiful waltz with her escort and instructor, Dan Goss.

The Coronation ceremony was followed by dinner and entertainment for the evening included a three dance performance by professionals Nick Cheremukhin & Viktorija. They performed a foxtrot, waltz, and tango and their movements were so effortless it was inspirational to watch.

The festivities wrapped up with a farewell breakfast on Sunday morning. It was a fantastic weekend spent reconnecting with friends, celebrating Bakersfield's history, and looking forward to the fun to come at this event in the years ahead.

-Amy Ansaldi, Golden Gate Representing Queen



As always, the Bakersfield Board weekend event was a roaring success.

I am grateful for the special Queen's luncheon provided by the chapter. It provided an added opportunity to develop a closer relationship among the queens. And the grilled chicken salad was delicious.

The coronation ball of Queen Dorothy Vaughan was elegant. To celebrate Bakersfield's first 50 years anniversary, their past queens also don their royal attire and tiaras for the event. There were so many white gowns and tuxedos that a hotel guest commented that there must be a mass wedding ceremony that night! I was very impressed with the professional dance demonstration of Nick Cheremukhin and Viktorija.

The music selection for the weekend dances was upbeat. The music team really did their homework and scored an "A+" rating.

Thank you Bakersfield, I really had a great time. We all did.

Golden Gate Queen Svetlana Gites coronation was a Royal Russian affair. Her event entitled "From Russia with Love" was very appropriate. The chapter queens were each given an elegant royal blue cocktail purse as their ceremonial adornment. Queen Svetlana wore an attractive royal blue gown with beautiful sparkles on the shoulder and back. Her queen dance with her husband Vlad was a vibrant Viennese Waltz. Four foot high cutouts of Russian dolls were prominently displayed everywhere, massive table settings of real flowers were very impressive. Our dinner entrees of beef or mahi-mahi were perfectly grilled. The chocolate and fruit cup dessert was decadent. With good food, elegant ambiance, friendly crowd and great dancing, I really enjoyed the evening and I am sure everybody did.

-Queen Debby Ku, Los Angeles



As I hurried down to Golden Gate Coronation's last April 12, 2014 I cannot help but feel overwhelmed how the Crowne Plaza's ballroom was transformed with Russian flair. The place had life size cardboard Russian dolls, a hint of the famous matryoshka (matryoshka) dolls. The tables had long stemmed blue bell flowers, calla lily, chrysanthemum and spider mums with a butterfly on one of the flowers blossoming from a clear see-thru vases. To top it all off, two magnificent Faberge blue eggs with each unique design were placed in between the flower vase. These decorative eggs evoke the style of the Romanov masterpieces. Each egg rests elegantly on a clear tall glass stand. Truly eggs-quisite!

The gracious Queen Svetlana showered the state and chapter queens with lovely royal blue purses as their holding pieces. As the queens marched down the center aisle these exquisite purses give them elegance and an air of royalty. Queen Svetlana with her adorable smile was escorted by her handsome husband Vladislav and danced to the music of Schubert's Waltz. Their son Boris was the scepter bearer and Lauren, Boris' fiancée, was the crown bearer. Everyone applauded. It was beautifully choreographed and splendidly executed.

-Queen Lou Reyes, San Diego



The Bakersfield Boards weekend began with a buffet dinner with dancing from 5:00 pm to midnight. Saturday afternoon Fresno's Carla Hartunian competed in the Senior waltz with Peter Hanson of Palomar, and they took second place.

Dorothy Vaughn was crowned on Saturday night at the 50th Anniversary Bakersfield Boards. My escort for the coronation was again Steve Martsolf, of the San Diego Chapter, who had also been my escort there.

At Golden Gate Coronation, Svetlana Gites was crowned

Queen of the Golden Gate Chapter on April 12, at her "From Russia with Love" Coronation Ball at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Foster City. She was wearing a stunning royal blue gown and was escorted by her husband Vlad Gites. My handsome escort for the ceremony was Golden Gate member Igor Tilinin.

The Ballroom was decorated with full size cutouts of Russian nested dolls, and the table were decorated with flowers and Faberge eggs, hand decorated by Golden Gate members. In the morning at the farewell breakfast, we all wore hats in the Golden Gate tradition.

-Queen Lorraine Tilton, Fresno



Dorothy Vaughan was a lovely incoming queen at the annual Spring Weekend (Boards), hosted for all of us each year so generously, competently, and with such flair and imagination by the Bakersfield chapter. The former Bakersfield queens in attendance and the reigning queens and their escorts were treated to a lovely Queen's Reception luncheon on a patio outside the hotel's Presidential Suite, preceded by some socializing and special drinks inside.

For the coronation ceremony, although Dorothy chose a traditional white gown for herself, her theme of bright colors was wonderfully reflected in the queens' carry-ons and in the beautiful huge fabric flowers in the table centerpieces. Her reported trepidation prior to performing her Queen's Waltz did not prevent her from beautifully dancing a challenging routine with her instructor and escort Dan Goss.

The Golden Gate coronation "From Russia with Love" was a most memorable event. Svetlana Gites, the incoming queen, was beautiful in a lovely royal blue dress. To music from a currently popular Russian movie she and her husband Vlad danced a delightful Viennese waltz that included some Russian folk dance elements. The huge bouquets of flowers in tall glass vases at the tables, arranged by and a gift from outgoing Queen Shulamit Rabinovich, were striking, with white hydrangeas at the base, yellow spider chrysanthemums and blue snapdragons next, and white calla lilies at the top.

-Queen Gee Gee Barden, San Fernando Valley



From Russia With Love, a royal affair was had by us all! One fabulous Coronation, every detail attended to. One after another placed together with love, patience and a few tears. Their Waltz was as graceful as Grace Kelly...as he looked into her face with a soft adorning smile, he lead her through the Queen's Waltz; so very romantic. The majesty of Royal Blue flowed throughout the evening adding to the European atmosphere and elegance; I fell in love with them both.

-Queen Darlene Drury, Palomar



As State Queen I have had the pleasure of attending several lovely coronations now.

The planning that goes into them all is phenomenal. I am always amazed at the creativity involved. I have enjoyed each and every Coronation attended. Each is unique and special in their own way. It is now with excitement that I, and Visalia Smooth Dancers, inform you

about our May 2014 Coronation. Our Queen Elect is VSD member Debbie Renfro. Debbie, a recent newlywed, will have her Coronation on Saturday, May 17 in Visalia. Please see the Visalia Smooth Dancer website for detailed information. Queen-elect Debbie has chosen "Dance Across the Seven Seas" as her theme. Her bio will tell you all about the basis for the theme! The Coronation will be in lovely shades of navy blue and represent travels across the seas in the name of family, friendship, and dance. Nathan Simler and Mireille Tuendemann, Rising American Smooth Champions will provide us with some great entertainment during the evening. We hope that you can join us to celebrate the community of dance! The coronation will be Saturday, May 17th at 6:00 pm with a hospitality held the same day starting at 1:30 pm. A breakfast will be held on Sunday May 18th in Visalia. Please call State Queen Barbara Uichanco if you have questions (559-733-5096).



Introducing Queen-elect Debbie Renfro. Two weeks after my birth in Missoula Montana, my parents and I moved to Oakland California and this began my life as a Navy "brat", wife, and mother. For the first thirteen years of my life, I moved eleven times, crisscrossing the country.

Our last cross country trip was from Pensacola Florida to Oak Harbor Washington. My brother, sister and I were squeezed together in the back seat of our car and I sat in the middle to keep my younger siblings from fighting. My dad hung an ugly green, rubber Tiki monster from the rear view mirror and every time we got out of hand, he would give that monster a whack and say "shut up green thing!" The shouts would turn to giggles and for a short time the stress and boredom of the trip was eased.

I moved to Oak Harbor Washington when I was in the eighth grade and settled for the first time in my life. It was the longest I had ever lived somewhere and I think of Oak Harbor as my hometown. It is where I went to high school, college,

got married for the first time and where my first daughter Heather was born.

After Oak Harbor, I moved three more times first to Manteca California, where my youngest daughter Melody was born. Next we moved to Japan. We were lucky enough to have made friends with some of the "locals" and were invited to participate in their festivals. They are similar to block parties only with traditional festival clothes and shrines - usually two - a small one that a group of boys would carry and a much larger one the men would carry that was so big a 10 year old boy could stand on it. His job was to clap and chant to keep tempo for the men. While we were stationed in Japan we were able to visit Thailand, the Philippines, and South Korea. During this tour my parents were stationed in Sicily and that meant my family was living on three different continents! When our tour of duty in Japan ended, we moved to Lemoore and I have been here ever since. My daughters grew up here and I think of Lemoore as home.

I am a federal employee at NAS Lemoore, Aviation Support Department and I am the Stock Control Officer. My branch procures replacement parts for the F-18 Hornet. This job has afforded me the ability to be a single mother, challenged me to learn and grow in business philosophies, and introduced me to my beloved husband, Jim.

My father retired from the Navy after 41 years, my brother enlisted in the Army for 4 years (my father hated that!) and my first husband served 20 years. Jim was in the Navy for 4 years and then was a civil service employee for 41 years and I have been in civil service for 24 years - a combined total of 134 years of military and federal service that my family has given to our great country. The Navy has been such a huge part of my life, of my families' life, and what I consider to be a part of my legacy.

Jim and I started taking dance lessons when Melody became engaged so we could dance at her wedding. Jim was skeptical but willing to try and was the start of our partnership and many lessons later we became members in the VSD. It is with honor that I will represent Visalia as Queen following the May 17th coronation.

The social dance which was held in April had a welcome to Spring theme. The hall was decorated as one would expect for Spring, with lovely plants, and with the surprise bowls of spring colored jelly beans at each table. Actually, licorice may not be a Spring color, but I didn't care. I seemed to be one of the few with a lust for licorice, so I took advantage of it. As always, the potluck table was overflowing with casseroles and salads and desserts and Matt Lott's famous deviled eggs. The crowd was a good one. Cheryl Levitan was the music person. A lesson and later entertainment was a West Coast Swing.

The June dance will be on the 14th and has a "J" theme--June being a "J" month, you know.

Fresno Chapter

Fresno Coronation guests update: The room block for hotel reservations at the Radisson is only guaranteed until May 16th. They will try to accommodate us after that date but it will be as space is available. Please contact Lynn Sanders, Fresno Social Chair (408) 220-4075 if you have any difficulty.

We are delighted to welcome more new members to the Fresno Chapter: Cindy Wegermann and David and Jennifer Morgan!



New Members: L-R Cindy Wegermann, Jennifer & David Morgan, Vice President Jim Escobar.

March 16's social party theme was "Tea for Two", hosted by Ginna Bearden. The centerpieces were so pretty with tea pots and flowers on floral place mats. It was a perfect backdrop for the tribute to our dear friend and longtime member, George Schmidt. His health has been failing for the last few years and he wanted us to gather his NSD friends. So the invitation went out by email and phone and the turnout was incredible, 99 members and guests!

Everyone enjoyed an Argentine Tango lesson taught by Guy Ashby and Kathy Page. Hostess Ginna did an incredible job of adjusting to the evolving plans and rapidly increasing attendance, and the Fresno members really stepped up to the plate and the resulting potluck was amazing.



Bob Dowell MC'ing tribute to George Schmidt.

Bob Dowell organized George's tribute, assisted by Sue Dowell and Cissie Vigen and Sarah Vigen. Sarah assembled a CD of George's favorite dance music for our evening's dancing, and members were asked to sign a huge poster for Norma to take to George.

Sadly, George was in the hospital the whole week and couldn't be there to dance and eat and hear all the fun and touching "George" stories told by friends and members from all over the state. Norma and her daughters left the hospital and joined us for story time and Norma joined in adding a few "interesting" details to some of the stories. Smiles and laughter and a few tears were all captured on video and with photos by Sarah Vigen. A sad ending to our evening came with the news of George's passing.

edited by Linda Bennett



Since the April 3rd Sunday falls on Easter this year, THERE WILL BE NO APRIL DANCE!

May's 3rd Sunday will be held on May 18, hosted by newlyweds, Cindy & Henry Wegermann. Their theme is "May Flowers", and they are promising us *surprise entertainment!*

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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!!

In Memoriam



George Schmidt

Pictured with his wife Norma

Dancing in Heaven

Carla Hartunian

George Schmidt is dancing with the angels!
He left the love of his life, Norma Schmidt,
on March 16, 2014.
For all those who knew him,
George was a blessing to Fresno Smooth Dancers.

December 13, 1932-March 16, 2014

George was born and raised in southwest Fresno. His father and mother, German Russian immigrants, helped found and build the German Church of God located on F and Los Angeles Streets where services were conducted in German. The younger members transitioned to The First Church of God located on First and Saginaw. George served on the board of trustees and was the president of the board. He was also the church choir director.

George began his banking career at Cocker Bank and worked there for 22 years. He was also President of Madera Valley Bank and Vice President of Bank of Fresno.

George was very active in the Fresno Smooth Dancers club. He loved ballroom dancing with his present wife, Norma.

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard



Thank you Bakersfield for all your hard work and another fun-filled weekend of great dancing, competitions, fabulous food and endearing friendships! We all agreed that the change in timing of hospitality and positioning it just before the Friday evening festivities works GREAT! Palomar Chapter had good attendance in support of the weekend and Queen Darlene. We are proud to have a couple of winners in the competitions! Congratulations Donna Thornton for her performance with Steve Martsolf, from San Diego Chapter, winning 3rd place in the Waltz and to Peter Hanson, dancing with Carla Hartunian, Fresno, winning 2nd place in Senior Waltz.



Congrats Donna Thornton & Steve Martsolf 3rd place Senior Waltz



Peter Hanson & Carla Hartunian give us a winning performance!



Palomar attendees at Bakersfield managed to gather for a group pic! (top-bottom) Peter & Marsha Hanson, Len & Peggy Lee, Patricia Burke, Fred & Geri Deutsch, Frank & Cathy Lombardi, Michael Mihos & Debbie Kincaid, Duane & Donna Thornton, Queen Darlene Drury & Rick Brunton.

Palm Springs 2014 Convention was very cleverly presented at breakfast in Bakersfield with a performance by Peter & Marsha Hanson taking us across "America the Beautiful", our theme for the event running Labor Day Weekend, August 29, 30, 31 & September 1. Convention brochures were distributed to each chapter Board of Director by Frank Lombardi (Uncle Sam) and Debbie Kincaid (Miss Liberty). Palomar looks forward to taking you on a fun-packed tour! Be

sure to register ASAP. Remember all of the forms to register are now online at: www.palomarsmoothdancers.org.

Our March Dance Social continued the trend of great attendance with 88 dancers enjoying the evening. The theme was "GO GREEN!" and many of the costumes showed great creativity in keeping with the spirit of St. Patrick. Our local dance professionals Irina & James Friedhof continued their instruction of the Samba. Later in the evening Irina & James answered a request for a "Showtime" by performing an energetic and fantastic Samba to the delight of the audience! Master of Ceremonies, Peter Hanson introduced two special guests, San Diego USA Dance President, Christene Bowling and her husband Michael, a part time teacher at Dancescence Studio in Carlsbad. A snack of pizza, spaghetti, salad and desserts was provided by members Joe & Melinda Letty and Iara Gregory. Yummy! Lots of dancing was enjoyed to the music provided by our music committee, chaired by Len Lee.

Special recognition to Sue Takamoto as all Palomar Chapter queens, past & present, voted to honor her as an "Honorary Queen". Queen Mary Anderson presented her with the honor at our monthly business meeting. Sue has been a long-time member (since 1991!) and was never able to be Queen. She contributed to so many events in so many ways. Queen Mary Anderson stated, "Sue is one of those people who never says "NO" and we are so fortunate to have had her loyal support over the years!"



Queen Darlene, Queen Debbie, Queen Mary, Queen Donna, Queen Marsha & Queen Peggy present Sue Takamoto as "Honorary Queen" of Palomar Chapter.



Uncle Sam & Miss Liberty welcome you as you tour across "America the Beautiful" at the Palm Springs Renaissance Hotel Labor Day weekend!

San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Debbie Bloom



A Celebration of Life Memorial was held on March 15th for Joy Michaels, who died suddenly a few weeks ago. SFV Board Members Bill Steeber, Barbara Greenlaw, and Gee Gee Barden attended the memorial. Joy Michaels was a three-time queen of the LA chapter. She and her long time partner George Zimmerman were faithful attendees at NSD events. Joy served as the home office secretary for NSD. In addition, Joy volunteered for several other organizations, including the Culver City Senior Center, where the celebration was held. It was very well attended, perhaps about 250 people were there, which reflected the love and high regard that so many friends and relatives had for her. Joy's sister, son, and partner George shared memories of their lives with her. Many attendees took the opportunity to say a few words about their admiration of this fine woman and their cherished memories of her. One man chose to honor Joy by playing the song, *You Are My Sunshine*, on his harmonica. Several people joined in to sing the words. It was touching and just perfect for the occasion. It happened to have been Joy's birthday; she would have been turning 73. With Joy and sadness in our hearts, we all sang Happy Birthday.

Queen Gee Gee Barden's Report on San Diego after the Coronation: Remaining in San Diego for an additional day, we (Gee Gee and Bill) took advantage of clearing skies on Sunday to attend a wonderful organ concert at the world famous outdoor organ pavilion in Balboa Park. We then enjoyed a delightful dinner at the nearby Prado restaurant, followed by watching an excellent production of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* at the Old Globe Theater. On Monday, the sun was shining. The day was perfect for outdoor activities. We visited one of our favorite spots, the Cabrillo National Monument at Point Loma. With persistence, we were able to locate the area of Liberty Station that includes a few interesting restaurants. We went to the Fig Tree and had a pleasant lunch. Afterwards, we enjoyed viewing a new show at the San Diego Watercolor Society. It was a delightful end to a wonderful weekend. Thank you to Lou and Amante and all the San Diego chapter members who helped make the coronation possible.



Four SFV couples competed at the Bakersfield Convention and placed in their divisions.

The Bakersfield Chapter took us dancing and singing down memory lane during the recent convention celebrating their 50-year anniversary. What an exhilarating ride it was. Some of my favorite vignettes were the comedy of George Burns and Gracie Allen, the antics of the Bad Girls, who couldn't be dragged off the stage even by some mean looking police officers, and the

music of Louis Armstrong. The wild costumes, as well as the enthusiasm of the performers, made for delightful entertainment. Bakersfield, you did it again. It was a marvelous weekend.

SFV chapter members were proud participants in the weekend festivities. We had 32 people in attendance. The following couples competed and placed in their divisions:

Doug and Jane Hammond, Les and Roberta Lazar

James and Andrea Gutman, Bill and Gee Gee Morey

You all practiced hard and danced beautifully. We're very proud of your achievements.



SFV members Jane and Doug Hammond dancing their first waltz at their wedding celebration.

Chapter members Jane Rollins and Doug Hammond got married on March 2, in a small outdoor ceremony with close family members present. To celebrate this wonderful occasion, Jane and Doug hosted a reception at the Ballroom by the Bay, a Wednesday evening dance they have been running for several years. It was a magical moment as the newlyweds came onto the floor to perform their lovely wedding dance. With each step of



Some members of the mini-flash mob dance who surprised newlyweds Jane and Doug Hammond with their performance at the couple's wedding celebration.

their waltz, their love for each other shone through. Later in the evening, several members of the SFV chapter surprised the couple with a mini-flash mob dance. With accomplished singer Bobbi Mapstone as lead voice, dancers gradually joined the mini-mob until nearly

everyone, including Jane and Doug, were doing a polka around the ballroom. It was great fun for all, including the astonished couple. We wish the couple love, happiness, laughter, and, of course, much dancing together.

Barbara Greenlaw, former SFV Chapter and State Queen, and current Secretary of the SFV chapter, has been appointed the Home Office Secretary. We're proud of your achievement, and we know you'll do a great job.

Welcome to new members, Merav Cohen and Angela Mosinkis. We're so glad you've joined us. We're looking forward to getting to know you and sharing many dances with you.

Los Angeles Chapter

Our March dance was titled "Copa Cabana". The table decorations were "Fern Trees" with blue tablecloths. Susan Lewis played some great music and the food was made and served by Ken and Betty Cheung. George Zimmerman brought a memorial cake for Joy Michaels. Victor and Debby taught several steps in nightclub two step. We were pleased to have some new dancers we met aboard a ship come and join us. We made up some business type cards that promote our club and pass them out when we go dancing. They really work!

The April dance theme was "Wild Sock Hop" and everyone was encouraged to wear their wildest socks. Ken and Marion Scholtz taught a class in East Coast Swing, the perfect dance for a wild sock hop! The table decorations were colorful tablecloths with a variety of wild socks as the centerpieces. Food was prepared for us by Sandy Wells and Tom Wells put together a playlist that set the mood for a genuine sock hop, renewing memories of dances past! We were also very happy to have Tina VanZandt join us for the dance.



Ken and Marion Sholtz taught the East Coast Swing at the April "Wild Sock Hop" dance. (From right to left) Victor Lee, Ken and Betty Cheung, Michael Chu and Doug Lindstrom watch as Ken and Marion demonstrate the steps to be taught.

Susan Lewis was in full fashion form at the Wild Sock Hop in her pink poodle skirt as club president Kyle Catterlin and she enjoyed a swing dance together.



(Left) George Zimmerman and guest Doris Ho and (Right) Sandy Wells and Victor Lee during the East Coast Swing lesson.



edited by Chuck & Susan Johnson

There is definitely something about cruising this year with the L.A. members. Sandy and Tom Wells celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary by cruising with Holland



Tom and Sandy Wells celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary by cruising around New Zealand and some of Australia. One of the highlights was visiting "Middle Earth" from the Lord of The Rings movie.

America, visiting New Zealand and Australia. They were able to dance quite a bit on board, and while touring were often greeted as "hi dancers!" from the other passengers! Visiting Australia and New Zealand was one of the bucketlist items they have now crossed off their list.

In February, Debbie Ku and Victor Lee and Chuck and Susan Johnson took a one week cruise with the Sapphire Princess from LA to Mexico and back to recover from Debbie's Coronation.

Liz Bradford and Roger Seastead took a 4 day cruise round trip from LA. aboard the Sapphire Princess.

Chuck and Susan Johnson just got back from a 15 day trip down the Irrawaddy river on the Viking Mandalay in Myanmar (Burma). The Irrawaddy river was low and the temperature was very high. The Viking Mandalay was not set up for dancing but they were able to dance a couple of dances to a western band that sang songs phonetically and didn't understand English. After a long illness, Susan's mother passed away two days before they left on their trip. She was 94.

Ken and Marion Sholtz explored Japan and China on a two week cruise starting out in Hong Kong and ending in Shanghai. They then spent another week in China. One of the things that Marion marveled at was the universal language of dance. On three occasions in China they got to dance with



the local Chinese people, for many it was the first time to see Caucasians dancing. On another occasion, Marion was invited to dance by a Chinese woman, who took the lead, and despite the language barrier they were able to enjoy the mutual appreciation of music and dance!

It was a pleasure to have Tina VanZandt attend the Wild Sock Hop dance this month. Her health has made it difficult to get out as often as she would like. George Zimmerman and Tina enjoy a foxtrot during our foxtrot mixer.

San Diego Chapter

NSD PRESIDENTS' GAVEL CLUB AWARD

By Vern Miranda

All Chapter Members' of NSD are encouraged to consider nominating a chapter member for the Presidents' Gavel Club Award for this ensuing year. The following rules are provided for your formation:

1. Membership - Membership in the Gavel Club is made up of all past and current presidents of any chapter of the Smooth Dancers, Inc.

2. Assessment - Membership in the Gavel Club is non-assessable. Voluntary donations are requested when necessary.

3. Purpose - The purpose of the Gavel Club, beyond the social aspects, is to, when appropriate, select a nominee and qualified member of The National Smooth Dancers, Inc. to receive the Presidents' Gavel Club Award.

4. Nominations - Nominations for this award must be in writing and submitted to the Chairperson of the Gavel Club by August 1st of the year that the nomination will be presented for consideration.

5. Nomination Letter - The letter of nomination must contain a description of the qualifications that the nominee possesses, and must reflect the criteria stated in the rule 6.

6. Candidate Qualifications - The candidate for the Presidents' Gavel Award must be a member in good standing and have performed OUTSTANDING service to the organization.

7. Candidate Member - Nominations must be for an individual member of the organization. Nominations for two or more candidates will not be accepted.

8. Nomination Period - A nomination period may be carried for two years only. If the nominee is not selected within the two-year period the nomination will lapse.

9. Voting Privileges - Only Gavel Club members, present at the time of voting, will be allowed to vote.

10. Balloting - Balloting will be conducted by secret ballot at the Gavel Club Award Brunch. ONLY Gavel Club Members can attend the Brunch (except as specified in Rule 13). Gavel Club members may attend the business session of the brunch without attending the brunch itself. All members present at the balloting will receive a packet, which will include the nominating letters for all candidates and a list of all past winners.

11. Vote Count - Three members assigned to this function by the Gavel Club Chairperson will count the votes. Only the Chairperson and the ballot counters will be made aware of the winner of the award. They MUST NOT reveal the winner to any other person. The Gavel Club Award Chairperson at the Awards Breakfast will announce the winner.

12. Declaring A Winner - To win on the first ballot a candidate must receive 50 percent plus one vote. If a second

edited by Vern Miranda



ballot is required, the two candidates with the highest number of votes will be placed on the second ballot. A simple majority will declare a winner.

13. Non-voting participants - Gavel Club Award winners, who are not members of the Gavel Club, are welcome to attend the Gavel Club Bunch and Meeting as non-voting participants.



Barbara Greenlaw - 2013-2014 Gavel Club Awardee.

Celebration of Life and a Grand Farewell for Wandalee Alice Dimond



Wandalee Dimond
2002 State Queen

Wandalee passed away peacefully at home on March 23rd 2014, after many years of Parkinson's and Dementia. She was born in San Diego, CA on October 30th 1938. She is survived by her loving partner of 30 years Al Folkman, her children David and Michele Dimond, granddaughter Mikayla Lee, and her stepchildren Jason (Victor Seguritan) and Paige (Jill Degnan) Folkman.

For over 15 years, Wandalee dedicated her life as the Social Chairperson for the San Diego Smooth Dancers Chapter. She practiced the principle that "a great leader is one who leads by example." During this period, Wandalee, with the help of Al Folkman and SDSD Members, produced and directed three successful NSD Annual Conventions (1996, 2002, & 2008).

In 1997, Wandalee and Al were awarded the Gavel Club Award for outstanding and sustained dedication and performance as leaders in the National Smooth Dancers Community.

As an Ambassador, Wandalee served and enjoyed being the SDSD Chapter Queen in 1992 and the NSD State Queen in 2002.

As Ballroom Dancers, Wandalee and Al enjoyed competing from 1994 to 2002, and won many trophies.

We celebrate Wandalee's life and greet her with a grand farewell for a fine job done. Everyone who knew and loved her will miss her.

VISALIA SMOOTH DANCERS

Cordially invites you to

DANCE ACROSS THE SEVEN SEAS

At the Coronation Ball for Queen-Elect **DEBBIE RENFRO**



Saturday, May 17, 2014

Exeter Memorial Building

324 N. Kaweah Ave, Exeter, CA 93221

\$45.00 per person

Wine reception – 6:00

Coronation 6:30

Dinner – 7:00

Dancing & Entertainment – 8:00-10:30

Entertainment by

Rising Star American Smooth Champions

Nathan Simler & Mireille Tuendemann



Hospitality and Lodging:

BEST WESTERN, EXETER INN & SUITES

805 S. Kaweah Ave, Exeter, CA 93221

Phone: 559 592-8118

Room price is \$89.00 + tax

Hospitality: 1:30 – 3:30 at the hotel

Hotel reservation deadline is May 2, 2014

Farewell brunch for Chapter Queen Barbara Uichanco

Sunday, 9:30 at Visalia Country Club, 625 N. Ranch St, Visalia, CA 93291

Reservations deadline is May 3, 2014

Please detach & mail to: Caryl Creason, 1623 N. Aspen Ct, Visalia, CA 93291

Questions call - Carolyn Richards 559 288-3654 or Caryl Creason 559 732-9827

Please make checks payable to: Visalia Smooth Dancers

NAME: _____ PHONE _____ Cell: _____

CHAPTER: _____ Pork # _____, Chicken # _____, Veggie # _____

BUFFET DINNER: # _____ \$45.00 ea QUEENS BRUNCH # _____ \$25.00 ea, TOTAL \$ _____

Fresno Smooth Dancers Cordially Invites you to...

An Evening in Paris

Coronation Ball for
Queen-Elect Angie Fae Garcia
Saturday, June 7, 2014

Honor Dance by
Kathy Page
and Guy Ashby

Entertainment by
Wendy Ju and
Tom Hicks

Formal Ball:

6:00 pm Champagne Reception
6:30 pm Coronation Ceremony
7:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm General Dancing
& Entertainment
11:00 pm Farewell

Social Hall of the
Holy Trinity Armenian Church
2226 Ventura St,
Fresno, Ca

Hotel Reservations
Radisson Hotel
2233 Ventura St, Fresno Ca
Call 800-333-3333
or 559-268-1000
Room Price \$105 + tax
Code: "Smooth Dancers"

Hospitality
2:00 to 4:00 pm
at the Social Hall
2226 Ventura St

Farewell Breakfast for
Queen Lorraine Tilton
Sunday June 8, 2014
Radisson Hotel
Open 8:30,
breakfast at 9:00

Vendors:
Couture New York
and
Dianna's Very Fine
Dance Shoes
& Nellie's Hidden
Treasurers



www.fresnosmoothdancers.org

Coronation & Breakfast Reservations - Please respond by June 4, 2014 - Payable to "Fresno Smooth Dancers"

Mail to: Linda Bennett Phone: 559-917-1815 (after 5)
5629 E Tarpey Dr, Fresno, CA 93727

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City, Zip _____
Phone _____

# _____	Fresno Members	\$45	\$ _____
# _____	Guests	\$50	\$ _____
# _____	Sunday Brunch	\$28	\$ _____
	Total Due:		\$ _____