

National Smooth Dancers

Dance Whispers

June 2014



Visalia Chapter

edited by Sallie Holden



Outgoing Queen's message. For those that were able to attend the Visalia coronation held on May 17th I hope you enjoyed yourself as much as I did. And I am not just saying that as the hosting Chapter. It truly was a magical event. It was yet another NSD function pulled off by a group of GREAT people (and awesome dancers!). As outgoing Chapter Queen, I am blessed to have obtained the trust of my chapter to

represent them as a NSD Queen. I thank them from the bottom of my heart. I have had such an enjoyable time as Queen, meeting many new people along the way. The best part about it is as serving as State Queen; I am not quite finished! I look forward to the wonderful Palomar Convention later this year where I will be crowning the lovely Miriam Moses. The role of Queen is important to NSD. It represents a friendship and camaraderie among Chapters. I am glad to be part of it and I thank you all.

As for Queen Debbie Renfro's coronation. It was fabulous. Her idea of bringing in her Navy heritage as the theme was great. It truly represented well who she is. Chapter members came together to create a wonderful evening with great decor, wonderful food and FABULOUS entertainment.

To entertain us, first we had our own newly crowned Queen

Debbie dance a Viennese waltz as her Queens dance with her instructor Dan Goss. It was fabulous. I know Debbie was nervous as we all are when we perform, but she sparkled out there and did amazing. Her husband looked on with love, unable to perform the routine due to knee injury (he was on the dance floor performing in heart!). Next we had as honor dancers our very own Margaret Moholt and her dance instructor also Dan Goss. They performed an outstanding tango that pleased the crowd. Margaret was lovely and showed her wonderful talents as a dancer. Last, we had as our entertainers, rising star American Smooth Champions, Nathan Simler and Mirelle Tuendemann. They wowed us with FOUR dances (waltz, tango, Viennese waltz, and fox trot)! They were amazing. And better yet the couple was down to earth and joined us for food and dance afterwards.

I am thankful for the friends I have met as Queen and am more thankful these friendship will continue.

Thank you to everyone! - **State Queen Barbara Uichanco**
For those of you who haven't already, look at the Visalia Smooth Dancer's website for pictures from our Coronation 2014 dance. You may see pictures of yourself; webmaster Dee Peterson gets around with that camera of hers.

On Saturday the 14th of June Visalia held its monthly social, which had a western theme. As usual, good decorations, great food brought by members, an interesting pre-meal dance lesson, and creative music by Tim Inouye. It's amazing what a cowboy hat can do for a man.

The annual Luau is set for July 19, at the Exeter Memorial Building. It will begin with a night club 2-step lesson, followed by a catered dinner. Music will be played by Cheryl Levitan. Tahitian Dancing by Island Style Productions will be the entertainment. To register or for additional information, contact Carol Abeyta at 590-740-8017.

What else is going on with VSD? Members who have signed up for the formation team performance during Convention are practicing diligently. Sign ups for the bus to and from Palm Springs are already being taken. Members continue to use the Grange once a month for general dancing.



Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



Angie Garcia was crowned Queen for the Fresno Chapter on June 7 at the social hall of the Holy Armenian Church. The walls were draped and the ceilings were swagged with white fabric, making a stunning backdrop for the Eiffel Tower table decorations and the "Evening in Paris" theme. Preceded by her good friend and flower bearer, Craig

Armi, and her sister and crown bearer, Sally Mincks, Angie was radiant as she was crowned. She then waltzed with her escort, Dan Goss. After the Queens' waltz, her friends, Kathy Page and Guy Ashby, performed an Argentine Waltz honor dance.

We began the evening with a champagne reception and the piano stylings of Rick Wenzel. Carla Hartunian opened with the President's welcome, and Sue Dowell introduced the Queens. Sharon Crisp played the music and was Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening. Later in the evening we were entertained by wonderful performances by Alex Ortiz and Sophie Velasquez, as they danced a Waltz and a Bolero.



(Top) Angie Garcia and her court.

(Bottom Left) the elegance of the ballroom decoration was the perfect backdrop for the Queen's Waltz.

(Bottom Right) Alex Ortiz and Sophia Velasquez entertained us with wonderful performances of the Waltz and Bolero.

Earlier in the day the hospitality, hosted by Carla Hartunian, provided a bountiful spread in the side room for arriving guests. After the rehearsal we raced back to the hospitality room, just in time to see California Chrome lose the Belmont Stakes. The next day the Chapter and Queens said Goodbye to Queen Lorraine at the Queen's brunch, in the Sequoia Room of the hotel formerly known as Radisson.



Queen Lorraine with her escort Steve Moore.

Queen Lorraine's Farewell: This year has been full of challenges for me. I started out thinking that my knee would be a problem, but that resolved

quickly, and then my eye problems began.

I want to thank all of the friends and escorts who literally helped me find my way around. It's been a wonderful and fulfilling year, and I am so proud that Fresno let me have this honor.

Monthly Socials

April: For the first time (and hopefully last), our 3rd Sunday landed on Easter Sunday, so no dance was held.

May: Cindy & Henry Wegermann hosted "May Flowers" and did a bang-up job. From the beautifully wrapped drawing gifts to the pretty floral table decorations, everything was picture perfect. They brought lots of extra food for the potluck and were ably assisted by committee members Patty Harris and Dennis & Lorrie Drew. Ann Phillips debuted at the DJ table and did an excellent job.



Our May social was attended by 27 members and 26 guests. We welcomed 4 new first-time guests and 5 Bakersfield chapter members. The social included a challenging Foxtrot lesson taught by Dmitriy Kochkin.

Voices United, a Barbershop-style choral group of 16 ladies. Such beautiful voices! The songs were performed with great emotion and some of the ladies even joined in the dancing. We shared our bountiful potluck and still had leftovers.

The surprises continued as a Tango formation group performed a routine choreographed by Alex Pereira.



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afternoon and evening. We all left tired but happy!

June: The theme for our June 15 social is "Father's Day Dance", and will be a tribute to Kevin McCready. It will be hosted by Lynn Sanders, and Dmitriy Kochkin will offer a Bolero lesson. Please join us for this special event!

July. Our July social will be held on Sunday, July 20, hosted by Lorraine Tilton. "At the Drive-In" is the theme, and Alex Pereira will teach an East Coast Swing lesson. Please join 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!!

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard



The PSD Sunday Socials continue to be popular with 80-90 dancers in attendance each month! April's theme was the Roaring Twenties and with many people in costumes which called for a competition. Marion Semler was the ladies winner in a beautiful white 20's gown. Ron Horton was the men's winner in his 'Al Capone' gangster suit. Providing refreshments were Joe and Melinda Leddy, Donna Thornton and Eleanor Moore.

The theme of the May Social was 'May Flowers' and the ladies responded with many beautifully flowered dresses; the men in flowered shirts. Hosts were Rose Guererro, Christiane Lannes and Dane Gilkey who provided an excellent curry as the main refreshment. Excellent dance music was provided by Len Lee and his committee for both socials. Lessons for both Socials, were taught by local professionals, Irina and James Friedhof, and continued to be popular as 60 members and guests took to the floor and learned to improve their technique in a Smooth Rumba.

The local USA Dance Social was attended by many of the Palomar Chapter Dancers which is held the third Saturday of each month at the Dancesense Studios in South Carlsbad. The Dance is hosted by USA president Christine Lys. Refreshments were served and an excellent Foxtrot lesson was given by instructor Michael Murphy.

Convention, made a special announcement inspiring all members to sign up to compete in Palm Springs. Len has CD's for contestants to practice. It's such a fun event and a great way to improve your dancing abilities! Please go online at www.PalomarSmoothDancers.org for an application!!



George & Miriam Mozes, Darlene Drury & Rick Brunton in Visalia



Thank you Carla for all you put into the evening!



Debbie Kincaid, Kay Boyer & Marsha Hansen enjoying the SD Social!

Len Lee encouraging competitors to sign up for 2014 Convention in Palm Springs!



Thank you San Diego Chapter for a "hip hoppin" June Social. Palomar attendees, Peter & Marsha Hanson, Debbie Kincaid & Michael Mihos, and Len Lee were joined by Mark & Kay Boyer visiting from Bakersfield. We all thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment and great dance music of the evening. Len Lee, member of NSD Rules Committee AND Competition Chairman for upcoming 2014



*(Above) Debbie Ku & Victor Lee lead the Samba line dance under waves of Chiffon!
(Left) Phil Kimbrell & Queen Darlene Drury kidding around!*

Queen's Reflections



An Evening in Paris

An evening in Paris it was.

On Saturday June 7th Fresno held their coronation for Queen Angie Fae Garcia. The evening was very classy. When walking into the ballroom a sense of peace overcame me. The decor was simple with lovely white fabric floating from atop the ceiling to the walls, combined with a simple white arch at front and the Eiffel tower displayed throughout. The calmness of it all created an memorable elegance.

Angie was lovely in her white gown and during her dance with instructor Dan Goss. It was great to watch. The argentine tango performed by Kathy Page and Guy Ashby as the honor dancers was fun and sassy. The entertainment by Alex Ortiz and Sophie Velasquez was equally delightful.

Good food and good friends and great dancing sums up the weekend. Fresno put on, again, a great coronation and made everyone feel welcome. Greg and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and the company of fellow Smooth Dancers. Once again, a coronation that will make lasting memories.

-State Queen Barbara Uichanco, Visalia



Debbie Renfro was crowned Queen of the Visalia Chapter on May 17, at her "Dance across the Seven Seas" Coronation Ball in Exeter. Debbie wore a navy blue gown and was escorted by her husband, Jim. Debbie danced a beautiful Viennese Waltz with her instructor, Dan Goss. Dan also danced the honor dance with Margaret

Moholt, and served as my escort at the same time.

I traveled with Carla and Lynn, arriving in time for the hospitality at the Exeter Best Western, and the rehearsal at the Exeter Memorial Building. The following day the breakfast for Barbara Uichanco was held at the Visalia Country Club.

-Queen Lorraine Tipton, Fresno



Across The Seven Seas and indeed it was...Rain, Sleet, Snow or Fire we will go through for our new Visalia Queen Debbie Renfro! As we headed Northeast to Visalia traveling across the Grapevine we viewed the fires that brought us to a stand still and then 20 miles an hour for 45 minutes! All was worth the circumstances to be a part of Queen Debbie's Coronation. The Rising Star American Champion gave bright warm smiles of love and tenderness as they performed two gorgeous dances, truly a spectacular Waltz and Tango!

An Evening in Paris and Yes!! It was to be! I was amazed at the ballroom as it had yards and yards of chiffon draping from the ceiling that waved with a flow of calmness as new Fresno Queen Angie stood to begin her Waltz. She appeared serene and Waltzed with ease as gentle turn of her dress circled around her. Quite the majesty of movement as her gentle smile created

an atmosphere of praise and serenity. A truly beautiful Waltz. The excitement raised as all of the Queens joined her on the floor.

-Queen Darlene Drury, Palomar



What a lovely time the Visalia coronation was, welcoming new Queen Debbie into the Circle of Queens. Queen Debbie selected a Viennese Waltz for her Queen's dance. She and her instructor, Dan Goss, moved gracefully and, may it be said, "regally", proving that if there were any pre-dance nerves, they were surely dissolved by

her beautiful presentation.

Queen Debbie is a world traveler, and the interesting maps and memorabilia on display showed her connection to all things Navy. Similar images and sentiments were reflected in the theme chosen for her place cards and program.

The Honor Dance was performed by Margaret Moholt and Dan Goss. The touching and poignant backstory is that this tango routine was originally to be performed by Margaret and her husband Tom. It was a heartfelt tribute on many levels and every bit a professional exhibition.

Later in the evening, professionals, Nathan Simler and Mireille Gineste, who are Rising Star American Smooth Champions, entertained us with a waltz, tango, viennese waltz, and foxtrot. What an outstanding and exciting showcase performance that was!

Queen Debbie and Jim now join the wonderful world of NSD Royalty.

-Queen Barbara Greenlaw, San Fernando Valley



Angie Fae Garcia had a dream. When she recently found herself in the hospital battling a serious illness, we learned that during that ordeal the thought of fulfilling her dream to become queen of the Fresno chapter was what kept her going. Her fellow chapter members supported her in her decision to continue as queen-elect and worked very hard to make her coronation the very special event that it was.

Beginning with the warm welcome and fabulous hospitality food on Saturday afternoon, everything was thoroughly enjoyable for those of us fortunate to be in attendance. The ballroom was transformed with white fabric panels hung vertically against the walls of the room and in long beautifully draped loops from the ceiling. Each table had a large Eiffel Tower topped with a bow as a centerpiece, reflecting very wonderfully the "An Evening in Paris" theme.

Angie didn't participate in the practice for the coronation ceremony, and later as we waited for the ceremony to begin she was quietly seated apart with her feet up in another chair. Her favorite dance instructor Dan Goss was her very attentive escort. Angie was crowned by outgoing Queen Lorraine Tilton, and Angie and Dan danced a beautiful waltz. She looked very lovely in a traditional white gown. After the ceremony, as Angie and Dan left the ballroom to cheers from the other queens and their escorts, her eyes were brimming with tears as

she told us that we all looked so beautiful.

It became clearer that night and the next morning at breakfast from questions asked and answered what resolve and grit it must have taken for Angie, clearly not feeling well, to hold fast to her dream and to carry on through the ceremony and for part of the evening afterwards. During Angie's reign the Fresno chapter members will continue to support her, including filling in for her at coronations if necessary. Their support and love is a shining example of the wonderful caring family that is the National Smooth Dancers. I am so touched and happy that Angie's dream came true.

-Queen Gee Gee Barden, San Fernando Valley



Namesake Queen Debbie Renfro has such a warm and comforting personality. She will be a great ambassador for Visalia. Her coronation event was delightful. Her Queen dance was an elegant waltz. Dance instructor Dan Goss was busy that night, dance partner for queen dance and honor dance. For dessert, cupcakes and marshmallows were offered; all baked by queen Debbie's oldest daughter Heather. They were sinfully delicious, I have to control myself from consuming too much.

To be crowned queen for Fresno was a dream of Angie Fae Garcia. On June 7, that dream came true. Last January she attended my coronation. She mentioned that she does not want a simple tiara, but a crown for the coronation. She did wear a gorgeous 2-toned headpiece, her flowing gown was a fashionista's statement. Her table centerpiece was a 17-inch tall replica of the Eiffel tower which was also given to the reigning queens was a token of her appreciation. It will be my constant reminder of a truly emotional evening.

-Queen Debby Ku, Los Angeles



Debbie Renfro chose the military theme for her coronation for it is a part of her heritage and wanted it to share with us. Her family has had the opportunity to travel extensively because of her father being in the Navy. I instantly felt a kinship with her. I too had the Navy as part of my heritage as a daughter to a World War II and Vietnam navy veteran and later as a wife to a Vietnam and Gulf War navy veteran.

Debbie's coronation was indeed a memorable event with her honoring the veterans who had shed their lives for our country. Two of her guests were retired vets who served during WWII and Vietnam War. The event venue was also very appropriate. The coronation was held in Exeter Memorial Building. I, with my husband Amante, had the opportunity to tour the place and viewed the pictures and memorabilia of some veterans and heroes of the past world conflicts and wars.

To sum it all up, Visalia's coronation is truly an event to remember and a memorable salute to the US Armed Forces.

-Queen Lou Reyes, San Diego



The Visalia Coronation was very lovely. Queen –elect Debbie Renfro is a wonderful new Queen! I loved the professional dancers that performed for us. But, I'm always impressed by a Queen-elect who can dance a great Viennese Waltz, which Debbie did with her teacher, Dan Goss! WOW, way to go Debbie! I also welcome you to the Crown Circle; it should be a great year for all of us. Did I forget to mention I was escorted by Bill Dolan? Wow, how lucky am I!

The Fresno Coronation was a terrific event. Angie Garcia is a very lovely Queen and my heart just goes out to her, knowing how ill she was; and still is battling the effects of her illness. Despite it all she danced a lovely and very graceful waltz with her teacher Dan Goss. It just goes to show how the human spirit can carry on if you want something bad enough and are determined enough to go for it! I have to also mention how impressed I was with Dan who was so solicitous of her, caring and gentle and making sure she was comfortable before her coronation.

-Queen Dorothy Vaughan, Bakersfield



We were warmly greeted by members of Visalia Smooth Dancers setting up the hospitality. Fabulous finger food prepared by members of Visalia Chapter, and a margarita what could be better on the hot Saturday afternoon! We met Queen Elect Debbie Renfro and her younger daughter Melody. Melody and her mother-in-law prepared pot stickers for hospitality from scratch!

While preparing for the coronation, I got a touching call from Shulamit and Boris Rabinovich wishing me good luck on my first Coronation event.

Vlad and I were so surprised and touched when we saw Golden Gate's own Liz and Chuck Talmadge, who drove to Visalia to support me in my first Coronation event. Chuck even worked as special events photographer with Vlad's camera.

It was a great event. All the Queens carried white candle with American flag and white rose tied together with a white bow. Queen Debbie wore beautiful "Pizarro Nights" sleeveless beaded sequin gown in navy with sapphire and diamonds necklace sure to come from the Crown Jewels of Britain. She was escorted by her proudly beaming husband of one year Jim Renfro. Her daughter Melody was a crown bearer, and her daughter Heather served as a flower bearer. Debbie's dance was a beautiful Viennese Waltz with her teacher Dan Goss.

Queen's Honor Dance was a tango performed by Margaret Moholt and Dan Goss. Margaret started working on this dance with her late husband, so it was very close to her heart.

Rising Star American Smooth Champions Nathan Simier and Mireille Gineste performed four dances for our enjoyment. On Sunday we arrived at Visalia Country Club for a farewell brunch for a Visalia Chapter Queen Barbara Uichanco. It was a grand affair, best brunch I have had in the long time. After the brunch, and a few group photos we said good bye to everybody and drove home.

-Queen Svetlana Gites, Golden Gate

San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Debbie Bloom



Newlyweds, Jane and Doug Hammond, reprised their nuptial dance at our May event.

San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers sprang into spring with some joyous occasions to share. Jane and Doug Hammond were our spotlight dance couple, as they gave an encore performance of their Wedding Medley. With wit and grace, they used dance to tell the story of their courtship, love, and ultimate marriage. Their wedding dance included West Coast Swing, Viennese Waltz, and Night Club Two-Step. Jane looked elegant in her homemade (that's right ladies, homemade) white wedding dress decorated tastefully with lace and beads. Doug looked sharp in his wedding suit. They are a beautiful couple, on the inside and out. We wish them many happy years of happiness and dancing.

We celebrated Sally Emmanuelli's birthday with a "big bang dance". Because Sally has two beautiful and lively school aged children at home, she can't get to all our dances, but she does a lot of work for NSD behind the scenes. We know you're there, Sally, helping out in my ways. We appreciate your efforts, especially in light of all of the other demands being placed on you. We're so glad you came to the dance last month. Happy Birthday from your NSD family.



Sally Emmanuelli, pictured with husband Mark, celebrated her birthday at our May event with a "big bang dance".

From our reigning Queen, Gee Gee Barden: Bill and I had a wonderful time at the Golden Gate coronation last weekend. We stayed in the area a few extra days to visit some sights and see a college friend and her husband in Palo Alto. After the coronation brunch on Sunday, we went to the wonderful Golden Gate Park. We enjoyed the Science Museum and the outdoor sculpture garden at the DeYoung Museum of

Art. On Monday we enjoyed a delightful day on the coast at Half Moon Bay and Pescadero, visiting some of the beaches, a marsh, a goat farm, a lighthouse, and the Purissima Creek Redwoods State Park. The park features magnificent coastal redwood trees, great hiking trails, and a beautiful creek. Splendid forget-me-nots, *Oxalis*, and ferns carpet the ground. It was all so lovely and peaceful with the sun appearing in dappled patches and occasional shafts of light through the trees.

SFV members, Les and Roberta Lazar, are as passionate about travel as they are about dance. During this year's



World travellers, Les and Roberta Lazar, enjoyed the beautiful vistas and unique animals in Skippers Canyon, New Zealand.



One of the many exotic animals that Les and Roberta Lazar had the opportunity to see during their trip through New Zealand.

trip, they enjoyed the natural wonders of New Zealand. They saw the stunning scenery of Skippers Canyon in the back country of Queenstown. They enjoyed seeing many animals that are unique to the area including kiwi, penguins, and sheep, lots and lots of sheep. It was an exhilarating trip.

Maya Angelou (1928 – 2014) In addition to being a renowned poet, novelist, memoirist, filmmaker, and civil right activist; did you know that Maya Angelou was an aspiring dancer? As a teenager, she won a scholarship to study dance and acting at the California Labor School in San Francisco. She pursued dance as a career for a few years, until her life meandered in many different directions. There are many brilliant quotes attributed to this remarkable woman. Here are two of my favorites:

- Everything in the universe has rhythm. Everything dances.
- Nothing can dim the light that shines from within.

Los Angeles Chapter

We had a wonderful May Day dance sponsored by Don Russell for his 95th birthday Sherri Chu for her 63rd birthday and Chuck and Susan Johnson for their 40th anniversary. Ken Scholtz played the music.



Chuck and Susan Johnson look on with awe at the magnificent home made cake Sherri Chu created in celebration of her 63rd birthday, the Johnson's 40th anniversary and Don Russell's 95th birthday.



Don Russell celebrates his 95th birthday dancing with his granddaughter Kim Fleck during our May dance.



Our May dance was quite a celebration as we all posed for Don Russell's "facebook" 95th birthday group selfie (to be posted by his granddaughter Kim Fleck)! In addition to Don's 95th birthday we also celebrated Chuck and Susan Johnson's 40th anniversary and Sherri Chu's 63rd birthday.

edited by Chuck & Susan Johnson



The Johnsons accompanied Victor and Queen Debby to the Fresno coronation. They had to leave early Sunday morning to get back for the chapter's dance Sunday afternoon. We had a very nice Vintage dance which was sponsored by Roger and Susan Lewis for their 49th anniversary with some "vintage" music by Chuck Johnson and good old vintage mac and cheese provided by Sandy Wells.

The Johnson's just returned from a trip to Burma which they classified as more of an "adventure" than a vacation. Tom and Sandy Wells just returned from a trip to Texas to see Tom's family. Roger and Susan Lewis traveled to Susanville to attend their granddaughter's graduation.

Our members are saddened with the passing of Tina VanZandt. She was a long time member of National Smooth Dancers and served for many years as the Home Office Secretary for NSD. We will miss her immensely



Tina VanZandt attended our April dance, which thrilled us all. (Left) Tina participated in our waltz mixer, (Right) enjoying a waltz with George Zimmerman.

From Tina's Children, Jill & Bryan

Dear Family and Friends,
Our beloved Mother, Tina, passed away Peacefully on Tuesday, May 27th at home With us at her bedside.

As you already know, she cared deeply for you, and your love and friendship nourished her throughout her 91 years.

In whatever form your generosity of spirit was demonstrated; sending her cards or letters, participating with her at the many dances, delivering food, dropping in to see how she was doing, or offering support, condolences, and prayers – please know that we are so very

grateful.

Sincerely,
Jill & Bryan



San Diego Chapter

‘At The Hop’ SDDS June Social Dance – The SDDS Members and their Guests enjoyed having a grand time dancing at Champion Ballroom Academy in San Diego on Saturday, June 7, 2014.

Judy and Vern Miranda successfully hosted this dance with the help and support of many club members (i.e., Bill Mackenzie, Jeannine & Doug Holmes, Melvin Mesa, Larry Knost, Al Folkman, Pat Winter, Anthony Montalto, Gina Dronet, Ashley Chu, Mike Colishaw, Karl Haarbarger, Carol Milne, Betty Halvin, Russell Jenkins, Glenn Thomson, Margaret Willette, and those I left out.) and their continued supportive Guests.



(Left) Judy and Vern Miranda hosted the June Social Dance, themed ‘At The Hop’, held at the Champion Ballroom Academy in San Diego. It was a hopping success due to all the support and help from the many club members.

(Right) The ‘At The Hop’ team show off their poodle skirts, adding flair and fun to the June Social Dance.

Russell Jenkins was the “Cool DJ” interjecting a lot of 50’s and 60’s Hop musical pieces. Thank you Russ! Judy and the Kitchen Group fed everyone a lot of healthy snacks and drinks.



At the June SDDS June Social Dance, we were entertained with a dreamy and memorable Waltz performed by a dance team of 10 ballroom dancers. The performance was choreographed by Selena Johnson.

edited by Vern Miranda



We were also entertained by a group of ten Ballroom Dancers, choreographed by Selena Johnson, with a dreamy and memorable Waltz.

Again, thank you everyone, who attended, and we’ll see all of you folks at the July Social.

San Diego DanceSport Championships – A “Job Well Done” for the following SDDS Members, who competed and placed, this past weekend at the Manchester-Hyatt Grand Hotel in San Diego.



(Left) Marcia Rainey and John Selby show off the “hardware” they won competing at the San Diego Dancesport Championship.

(Right) Mike Cowlshaw and Selena Johnson look graceful during their competition at the San Diego Dancesport Championship held at the Manchester-Hyatt Grand Hotel in San Diego

Marcia Rainey partnered with John Selby in Adult Pro-Am Latin Closed & Open Freestyles, Pro-Am Closed Bronze Latin Scholarship, and Senior Open Championship International Latin.

Mike Cowlshaw partnered with Selena Johnson in Adult Pro-Am Smooth Closed & Open Freestyles, Silver Smooth Closed Multi-Dance Championships, and Pro-Am Closed Silver Smooth Scholarship.



Margaret Willette partnered with Chris Harrison in the San Diego Dancesport Championship held last weekend, June 13th-15th.

Margaret Willette partnered with Chris Harrison in Amateur Novice International Ballroom and Amateur Open International Ballroom.

As we all know, many many hours are expended with private lessons and practices to participate and to do well at these competitive events. Again, all the attendees at these events enjoyed your performances.

Bakersfield Chapter

Our upcoming June dance, "A June Luau" will be held on June 28th from 7:00 to 10:30 at the Rasmussen Center 115 E. Roberts Lane. This event is being chaired by Queen Dorothy and her great committee! The dress code will be summer casual or Hawaiian. Members are free; guests are \$25 a couple or \$15 for singles. We hope to see all of you there to kick off the summer fun!

Our May dance was a tribute to our entire Queen's past and present. It was chaired by Steve and Jeanette Rogers. What a wonderful evening it was, starting with the beautiful decorations, right down to all our Queen's in attendance in their white gowns and tiaras. Each of whom were escorted by their partners. Frances Hein was escorted by Ken Silber who danced a little waltz together, followed by all the Queen's dancing with their escorts.



Queen Dorothy presented past Queen Sue Kimbrell with a lovely gift from the chapter and the Crown Circle in appreciation for her service to the club. The May dance is also when we present our Gretchen



This year's Gretchen Garretson award went to Larry Johnson and James and Claudine Kephart, recognizing their outstanding service to the club.

Garretson award to a member who has done an outstanding service for the club. This year the honor went to three outstanding members, Larry Johnson and James and Claudine Kephart. Congratulations to all of you!

Our April dance "Rock the Night Away" was chaired by JoAnn Georgio. This was a fun evening. A snowball dance was held which started with the hosting committee and eventually had everyone on the floor dancing. There were about 68 people in attendance.

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



SPOTLIGHT ON DAN GOSS

Article submitted by James Schmitz

The Bakersfield Smooth Dancers are very fortunate. We have a great facility, the Fairfax Grange Building, which we are constantly improving. What is more important, we have a professional teacher who gears our lessons to our needs and requests. He prepares us to get the most from our family events, weekly and monthly dances, and especially for our annual Board of Directors Meeting.



Someone we can count on for expert Ballroom dance lessons and guided instruction is Dan Goss. Dan was born on October 27, 1954, in Butler, Pennsylvania. In the early 70s, while attending Purdue University, a friend invited him to a party at the Midwest Dance Club. He signed up for their Guest program, and then bought a ten lesson package. No sooner had Dan completed that, than the owner of the Dance Club was in need of a teacher, and asked Dan to join his staff.

In 1974 he left the snow of the Midwest to soak in the sunshine of California. **He continued his training at the Arthur Murray Studios in San Jose and Fresno. Dan taught dance for Dance City USA, CarPell Studio and Dianna's Studio of Dance.**

In March of 1997, at the request of Bakersfield Smooth Dancer Frank Amato, Dan began teaching in Bakersfield. We were in desperate need of a dance teacher who would provide us with professional instruction on a scheduled basis. We also wanted to develop our skills to the point where we could compete with the other Smooth Dance Chapters. Thankfully, Dan has done that and more.

At Studio 65 in Fresno where he teaches Ballroom, Swing, and Latin styles, Dan is also the owner/operator/teacher. His students range from 18 to 100 and from social dancers to competition level. Some of his students have competed and won awards in the **US Pro Am, the Holiday Dance Classic, the Emerald Ball Dance, the Sapphire Ball DanceSport, the California Open DanceSport Championships, and the USA Grand National Dances.**

As you can see, Dan is very supportive of the Dance Arts in our central valley. He is the Grange Master of the West Visalia Grange where he also holds classes. He has choreographed, escorted and danced with several Queen-elects in the NSD Coronations in Visalia, Fresno, and Bakersfield.

Just recently, Dan choreographed a waltz and danced it with Queen-elect Dorothy Vaughan at the Bakersfield Boards for her Coronation. He also managed after much effort to find the rendition of the music she wanted to dance to on a German website.

To Dan, the most exciting thing about teaching dance is the moment when his student(s) "gets it" and can perform what they are attempting. His goal is to share the feeling of "good dancing," when two people move as one!

Golden Gate Chapter

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



Our beloved George Dayeh left this world on Friday, June 6th. George was born on February 23rd 1948 on the land of Palestine, 2 month before the State of Israel was created. George and his beautiful Ana met while they attended the University of Zagreb in Croatia.



Travel News. Evelyn Gavallo had an incredible birthday celebration. First she and her daughter went to New Orleans and then boarded a cruise ship for 7 days to Cozumel and Grand Caymen. This is where it got interesting. The night before they were to arrive in Jamaica the captains voice came over the speaker to let everyone

know that he was going to stop the ship because they needed to do a search and rescue. With that being said, we all thought someone had fallen off the ship. They immediately went back to their room to look over their balcony. They learned that there were 39 Cuban refugees floating in the middle of the sea on a raft made of trees and rubber tires. 34 men and 5 women were rescued with no casualties. Two days later they stopped the ship so that the US Coastguard ship could come and pick them all up and take them to Miami were they would have temporary citizenship and would not be sent back to Cuba as the outcome would have been very bad for each of them.

Then, back in San Francisco, Evelyn's daughter took her to a Giants game on her actual Birthday. What a way to celebrate! They are looking forward to a cruise to Alaska next year.



Barbara and Ben Cardinalli went once again on a cruise to Alaska, and they absolutely loved it!

Barbara and Ben Cardinalli went once again on a cruise to Alaska and once again they absolutely loved it. **Amy and Dan Ansaldi** embarked on a cruise around the Hawaiian islands while **Mila and Bob Vieraitis** spend 3 weeks touring India.

Getting to know our long time members.

June and Richard Long met 23 years ago, at a senior dance in Santa Clara. Both were ballroom enthusiasts, and the connection was almost immediate. Richard was a union representative at the USPS in Palo Alto, and June a Principal in a school district in Mountain View.



June and Richard Long met 23 years ago, at a senior dance in Santa Clara. On their first New Years Eve together, they met Bob Fragomeni, Rosalie Wolf, and Lytton and Marcia Hetland, all members of the Golden Gate Chapter of NSD, who invited them to one of their Sunday afternoon dances. There they found their dance "home", and have been members for 21 years.

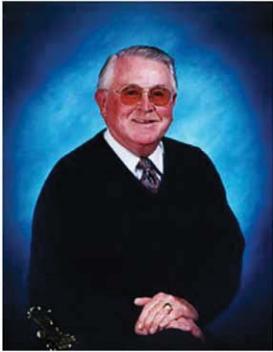
On their first New Years Eve together, they met Bob Fragomeni, Rosalie Wolf, and Lytton and Marcia Hetland, all members of the Golden Gate Chapter of NSD, who invited them to one of their Sunday afternoon dances. There they found their dance "home", and have been members for 21 years. In 1993, they celebrated their marriage, with many NSD friends in attendance. Both having had previous marriages, they combined their families, 3 daughters and 1 son, all grown.

They are now retired, their family expanded by 6 grandchildren, and 9 great grandchildren. Although dancing is limited due to physical limitations, they are still devoted to NSD, Richard having served as both State Board Liaison and State Board President, and June, for the past 18 years as Mistress of Ceremonies at all Coronations but her own.

Richard is active in the community as Past Exalted Ruler of his Elks Lodge, in his SIRS Branch, and as Facilitator of the Diabetes Support Group at the Senior Center. He enjoys reading, Zen practice, and playing tournament Cribbage. June is active in the PEO Sisterhood, volunteers weekly at a resale shop which funds scholarships for women, and is on the Board of the Bender Scholarship Foundation. She enjoys Tai Chi, small gardening, and cooking with their youngest granddaughter.

As always dance first, thinking can wait.

In Memoriam



KEVIN D. MCCREEDY
March 15, 1931 – May 8, 2014

Kevin was born in San Francisco. Following high school he enlisted in the United States Navy from 1951 to 1956. Following his honorable discharge he enrolled in college and graduated from the University of San Francisco with a Degree in Accounting and entered the work force as a CPA which spanned over 50 years.

Kevin moved to Fresno in 1985. Friday Tea Dances were held at the downtown Holiday Inn Hotel where the Frank Wells Orchestra played and that is where he met Kathy Sachse and her group of dancing friends. He joined Fresno Smooth Dancers in 1986 and at his first meeting he was elected Treasurer and remained in that position for many years. Other leadership roles he held were President, Vice President, Board Member, Whispers Editor, and Chairman of Fresno's first NSD Convention in 1999. He was also Co-Chairman for the Conventions in 2006 and 2011. Kevin also received from the Fresno Chapter the highest recognition as a "Life Member.

Kevin was also nominated State Gavel Club Chairman 1998 through 2000 and was the Home Secretary for many years. He received the President's Gavel Club Award in 2001.

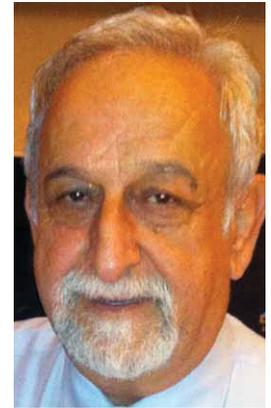
What can't be left out were those wonderful weekends on Catalina Island at the Casino dancing in that beautiful ballroom. This is where kudos go out to Liz Bradford and Ray for the most memorable weekends we all enjoyed. It was like a fantasy to dance to live music from the 30's and 40's. This was one exciting experience that Kevin talked about all the time.

Kevin made so many friends; both men and women. He was well respected not only for himself, but also the wealth of knowledge he had about National Smooth Dancers. He will be missed by so many, but truly by one who was his loyal friend and dance partner, Kathy Sachse.



**VALENTINA
(TINA) VANZANDT**
May 27, 2014

Valentina (Tina) VanZandt passed away in May at the age of 91 after a long battle with cancer, surrounded by her family. She was a long time member of National Smooth Dancers, Rondeliers, Pandoras and Garibaldina. She was also Home Office Secretary for NSD for many years. She attended all the Board of Directors meetings and the Conventions whenever possible. She will be sorely missed.



GEORGE DAYEH
February 23, 1948 -
June 6, 2014

It is with great sadness that I have to report that our beloved George Dayeh left this world on Friday, June 6th after a devastating illness. George was born on February 23rd 1948 on the land of Palestine, 2 month before the State of Israel was created. He met his beautiful bride Ana while attending the University of Zagreb in Croatia and together they have two tall and handsome sons Elias and Mihael and 5 grandchildren. George was an awesome architect who contributed many hours before his illness to his beloved Golden Gate chapter. He set up and printed most of our fliers and did all the printing for our convention in 2010.

Who can forget his performance as the "Biker dude" complete with tattoos in our production of YMCA and in his explorer outfit in the jungle number at convention last year. He came up with ideas about how to raise money for our chapter and we implemented many of those, making us more financially stable. He regularly served dinner at our Sunday dances and he was a wonderful dancer, who competed at our conventions with his wife Ana. We loved his sense of humor and his many contributions for lively discussions at our meetings. George was a true "character" and when we could get him to smile, he lit up the room. He and Ana had the kind of relationship and marriage, lots of us can only dream about. We will all miss him so much and I particularly will miss my special friend.

To Those I Love And Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me in tears.
Be happy that we had so many years.
I gave you my love, you can only guess,
How much you gave me in happiness.
I thank you for the love each of you has shown,
But now it's time I traveled on alone.
So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for awhile that we must part,
So keep the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away, for life goes on.
So if you listen with your heart, you'll hear all of my love
around, soft and clear.
And when you must come this way along,
I'll greet you with a smile, and say,
"Welcome Home"

Palomar Smooth Dancers invite you to join us as we tour

America, the Beautiful

NSD CONVENTION 2014
Package and Ticket Registration



| | Gentleman | Lady |
|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Name | _____ | _____ |
| Address | _____ | _____ |
| City | _____ | _____ |
| State/Zip | _____ | _____ |
| NSD Chapter | _____ | _____ |
| Tel | _____ | _____ |
| E-mail | _____ | _____ |

| ORDER | QTY | | |
|-------|-----|---|-------|
| | | Package Plans @ \$189 each (\$209 after June 15, 2014) | _____ |
| | | Gavel Club Luncheon (Saturday) @ \$45 each | _____ |
| | | Crown Circle Luncheon (Sunday) @ \$45 each | _____ |
| | | Dance Seminars - Saturday (2 seminars - \$5 per person per seminar) | _____ |
| | | Dance Seminars - Sunday (2 seminars - \$5 per person per seminar) | _____ |
| | | Single Event Tickets as shown on reverse side (please place total here) | _____ |
| | | Total | _____ |

| |
|--|
| Saturday Night Dinner Selection |
| Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Beef <input type="checkbox"/> Veg <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Notes re: Special Dietary Needs |
| |

Deadline for Package Plan is June 15th to be eligible for Early Bird rate of \$189 and to be automatically entered into the drawing for a free 2014 Convention package.

Meals will be deducted from any refunds requested after August 15, 2014

Make checks payable to Palomar Smooth Dancers and mail to:
Geri Deutsch, 5016 Nighthawk Way, Oceanside, CA 92056. For questions, call (760) 630-3402 or e-mail fredgeri@cox.net.

Hotel Reservations
See separate page for reservation information for the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel located at 888 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA. Tel (888) 682-1238

GO TO WWW.PALOMARSMOOTHDANCERS.ORG FOR A "FILLABLE" REGISTRATION FORM AND ALSO A SEPARATE LINK FOR HOTEL REGISTRATION

Tour America the Beautiful in a weekend of dance and fun!



HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

Click here to [visit our website www.palomarsmoothdancers.org](http://www.palomarsmoothdancers.org) to find the following aids to help you register:

1. A fillable form for registration for the weekend long event.
2. A fillable form for competitors who want to register for dance competitions.
3. A direct link to the hotel's reservation system to book your room reservations.

The first two items can be filled out online but need to be printed and mailed in along with related registration fees as instructed on the form. The hotel reservation is directly submitted to the hotel.

KEY DATES

June 15 - Deadline to qualify for Early Bird rate of \$189 for event registration (\$209 after June 15) - also receive automatic entry into the drawing for a free 2014 convention package.

August 8 - Deadline to register at hotel at group rate.

August 9 - Deadline for receipt of competitor registrations.

WARNING: REGISTRANTS WILL HAVE A "WICKED GOOD" TIME!

To register on line click or visit here: www.palomarsmoothdancers.org