

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
September 2014



America The Beautiful!
2014 NATIONAL SMOOTH
DANCERS CONVENTION
Hosted by The Palomar Chapter
A MESSAGE FROM PETER & MARSHA HANSEN

A lot of thank you's are in order for the success of 2014 NSD Convention that was held in Palm Springs over Labor Day weekend, but with your indulgence, we would like to start with a huge thank you to the members of the Palomar Chapter. We think it was evident to all in attendance that the Chapter put together a terrific team effort in all aspects. We had a lot of learning on the job, as it had been 14 years since the Palomar Chapter had hosted a Convention; most of our current members were not even members at that time. We couldn't be prouder of the job that our members did and hope you all will join us in applauding a job well done.

Some of the other thanks that we need to acknowledge are due to the largesse of our sister chapters, namely:

- Members of the Visalia Chapter who hosted the Convention in 2013 were generous with their support of our team including not only good advice, but also the loan of decorating materials.

- We hope you all can appreciate the marketing support that Joan Robinson and other members of the San Fernando Valley Chapter gave us. There is no doubt that their efforts generated anywhere between 30-40 more attendees than we otherwise could have expected. A number that helps make the weekend a terrific success.

- Congratulations Joan on a well-deserved Gavel Club Award!

- Joan was also helpful in helping us continue a tradition that was started by the San Fernando Valley Chapter in 2012, the use of dance hosts to help make the weekend more enjoyable for the single ladies.

- Thanks to the Bakersfield Chapter for paving the way for a

different hospitality experience. We gladly copied their model of starting the weekend with a full-fledged dinner that not only allowed more people to enjoy a welcoming experience but which also added nearly 3 hours of dancing to our opening evening.

- Thanks also to Mike Cowlshaw of the San Diego Chapter and Dennis Acosta of the Bakersfield Chapter for agreeing to provide the music for 2 of our sessions. Their smooth expertise was very welcome.

- Thanks to the Southern California chapters (San Diego, San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles) for hosting our post dance hospitalities.

- We enjoyed watching the competitors and formation teams who entertained us throughout the weekend and we appreciate the time and effort they spent in preparation for these events.

- Many dancers also participated in the Jack & Jill contests which were of a high quality; we would thank Bill Steeber for agreeing to be our third judge for these contests on Friday night.

We were pleased to have Michael Kiehm's presence throughout the weekend as head judge, teacher and impromptu performer with Sue Fries. Wasn't it interesting to learn that Sue not only danced on American Bandstand, but even won a car in a hustle contest? Besides their judging and teaching duties our two professional couples, Melissa Dexter & Giacomo Steccaglia and Selena & Marcus Johnson, were spectacular in their show performances.

Congratulations to Miriam Mozes, our new State Queen. We enjoyed a coronation that started with a "cool" entrance in a fur coat and topped with a great tango/rumba routine with her husband George. Miriam is a most deserving State Queen and we look forward to her ambassadorship throughout the upcoming year. Thanks also to Miriam and George for allowing us to perform your honor dance.

We hope you will all agree that the Renaissance Palm

Springs was a great venue for our Convention. We can tell you that all of the hotel staff was very accommodating and easy to deal with. They went out of their way to satisfy any request that we made. We especially heard very positive comments on how the San Jacinto Room made the late night hospitalities a great experience for all.

It is hard to believe that it is over – we look forward to returning next fall as guests of the San Diego Chapter who gave us a very entertaining preview of next year's Convention. All of them looked suspicious!



State Queen Miriam & her Court



Lighted table decoration designed by Miriam Semeler bejeweled each table



Queen Miriam shows off her fox coat!



Tony Woods invites us for a ride on the Orient Express!



The suspects look over the crime scene

The Orient Express on the move



Vern Miranda presents Joan Robinson the much deserved Gavel Award



Alannah Clark (Flower Bearer) looks at her big brother Jaeden Clark (Crown Bearer) in excitement!



George Mozes presenting State Queen Miriam Mozes.



Jaeden waits for the big moment.



Parents, Jessica & Albert Clark look on anxiously as the evening unfolds.



Our Newly Crowned Queen.



(Top Left) L-R, Queen Debbie K., Queen Debby K., Queen Shirley M., Queen Kay B., Model Escort Mark Boyer (missing Floyd Parma), Business Owner Fern Helms, Queen Rita P., Queen Lynn S., Queen Barbara U. & Queen Donna T.



(Top Right) Queen Darlene, Queen Peggy & Queen Miriam enjoying the luncheon.

(Bottom) Beautiful Name Cards at each place setting by Adrienne Curiale.



Extraordinary thanks are in order to Elliott Lum and his wife Linda (what a support she is!) for filming hours of video (with 2 camera angles!) of the many different events throughout our entire convention. Listed below are “links” to some specific events that Elliott recorded, edited and posted on YouTube!! Just

“click” on the link and it will take you to YouTube. Or type in the address in your browser: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Coronation+Of+NSD+State+Queen+Miriam+Mozes. If you have any questions, comments, or special requests please direct them to Elliott at: ellindalum@gmail.com or give him a call at 760-929-0333.

1. [Coronation of Miriam Mozes](#)
2. [Honor Dance by Peter and Marsha Hansen](#)
3. [Entertainment by Michael Kiehm and Sue Fries](#)
4. [Palomar Formation Team Performance](#)

At some point all formation team videos will be on YouTube.
– Thank You Elliott!!

OVER-THE-TOP PERFORMANCES BY ALL FORMATION TEAMS!



(Left & Middle) Close up pics of trophies.
(Right) Len Lee (Competition Chair) & Peggy Lee

Congratulations to ALL Formation Teams for everything you put into the performances we all experienced throughout convention. What a challenge! But, your time, energy and endurance triumphed! How do you choose a winner? We are all winners in this category – after all the voting one team was voted #1 – GOLDEN GATE CONGRATULATIONS!



San Fernando performing Route 66 from Chicago to LA!



Bakersfield performing Welcome to Burlesque!



Los Angeles performing to New York New York!



Palomar Chapter performing to Proud To Be An American!



San Diego performed as The San Diego Paso Doble Team!



Golden Gate performing Battle of the sexes Rock n' Roll Style!



Golden Gate receiving their trophy!

State Queen Miriam Mozes



WOW! This was one of the best days in my life. It is such a great honor to be The National Smooth Dancers State Queen and having the attention and friendship of so many people is simply overwhelming. I am reading and re-reading the cards I received and in some cases I think they were addressed to someone else...there is so much affection expressed

in them that I am afraid it would take me a lifetime to truly earn it. I am grateful and, most of all, humbled by the heart-warming reception my husband George and I received in Palm Springs.

I also thought that the "Alaska" theme that Marsha Hanson suggested was a welcome relief to the scorching heat outside the hotel. It certainly helped me to think, "freezing cold" while wearing that gorgeous (borrowed!) full-length shadow fox coat (...of course I was sweating bullets: not because of the coat, but because of the anxiety due to the upcoming Queen's Dance!).

This indeed was a grand affair, made outstanding as a result of the very hard work of all the members of The Palomar Chapter and the sister chapters who helped us. Most of all the evening was a huge success because of the wonderful NSD members and guests who contributed to it with their presence, enthusiasm and love of dance.

So, thank you all from the bottom of my heart for making my Coronation an event that my family and I will cherish for the rest of our lives!

Stay Calm and Keep on Dancing,

-2014 State Queen Miriam Mozes



Outgoing State Queen

Barbara Uichanco



What a wonderful year! I want to thank everyone in NSD for the honor of allowing me to serve as State Queen 2013. It was an honor and a privilege. I met so many wonderful people along the way. Each coronation I attended was special and unique and showed the true character of NSD. The commitment to dance and friendship by all the members we encountered was phenomenal. I am so glad to be a part of this organization. I now wish State Queen Miriam Mozes a year full of friendship and fun. She will serve beautifully in her role.

Thank you to all. And may you all continue to dance.

-Barbara Uichanco, State Queen 2013



The state queen coronation of Queen Elect Miriam Mozes, one of the grandest events in the chapter's history, was held at Palm Springs on August 30, 2014. Miriam Mozes was proudly escorted by her husband George Mozes. The royal court was adorned with the presence of the queen's two grandchildren Jaeden and Alannah Clark as the crown bearer and flower bearer respectively.

For the Queen's Dance, her highness and her escort danced a beautifully tango routine. Peter Hanson and wife Marsha did the Honor Dance to night club two step choreographed by our very own Michael Kiehm. The dance, the lyrics, the music all fused into one. A dance performance to be remembered and talked about for a long time and across all NSD chapters. It was breathtaking. I am most positive every guests and NSD members present that evening were mesmerized as I was.

The evening was also filled with other wonderful and memorable events. There was the sumptuous dinner followed by general dancing, competitions and professional dance performances. Several San Diego Smooth Dancers competed in the one star, two star and three star events. Steve Martsof, Ann V. Jackie Yu, Shirley McCloskey, Amante and I participated in these exciting events. Each one won and brought home plenty of unique trophies – statue of an American eagle flying above two American flags spread out side by side.

The evening did not end there. There was a hospitality night (evening snacks) after the Alaskan Coronation Ball. San Fernando Valley chapter hosted and it did an outstanding job. The evening was an inspiring moment to cherish and remember.

-Queen Lou Reyes, San Diego

Queen's Convention Reflections



The Palomar State Convention was so exciting to me! I was so awestruck to be a part of the Crown Circle Luncheon for the first time! I found myself among all those beautiful women and couldn't believe I was a part of that elite group of women. I'm so privileged to serve as Bakersfield's Chapter Queen for this year! It just humbles me.

It also made me realize how fast the year is going and that my reign is almost over!

I truly enjoyed being a part of State Queen Miriam Mozes Coronation, it was so lovely, and when she walked in to the ballroom, with that stunning full length fur coat, I was blown away! I absolutely loved the honor dance performed by the Hanson's. I love night club 2 step and they did a fantastic one!

I want to offer my condolences to the family of Angie Fae Garcia, and to the Fresno chapter who lost their lovely Queen.

Angie recently passed away, and although I only briefly met her at her coronation, I was so impressed with her spirit, strength, determination, and her grace, that I won't soon forget her!

-Queen Dorothy Vaughan - Bakersfield Chapter



I had a great time at the Palomar convention. In keeping with the theme "Alaska Coronation Night", we were given white furry bags for our Chapter Queen's presentation march.

I expected the bag to "bark", for at first glance, it resembles a white shaggy puppy. Miriam Mozes wore a fitted and fully-beaded elegant dark blue evening gown. We were pleasantly surprised when she donned a long white fur coat when she was introduced as State Queen. A fur coat in sizzling hot Palm Springs!

Queen Miriam and husband George are such a friendly and caring couple. On that coronation night, there was a snafu in the table arrangements. My husband Victor and I did not have seats with our LA chapter. I told George our dilemma. He immediately arranged that we joined their family table, "the VIP Section". We felt very welcomed and had a great time with the Mozes. This act of hospitality truly impressed us.

-Queen Debby Ku - Los Angeles Chapter



Another wonderful convention weekend flew by in a blur of dancing, competitions, chapter formation team skits, and more. The excitement began immediately with a delightful surprise in our room of a bottle of wine on ice with a grapes, cheese, and crackers plate from the hotel management, apparently a special

perk of being a queen.

Some of the memories of the weekend that will remain with me include the beautiful coronation of Miriam Mozes and the chilly Alaskan theme that she chose, arriving in a white fur coat for a very unusual queen's entrance

Our SFV "Route 66" skit/formation team routine was enhanced by the enthusiastic participation of Mark and Sally Emanuelli's two children, Juliana and Johnny, who at designated intervals zoomed by in a little electric car waving a Route 66 flag. We were all proud of what we thought was an amazing routine that was directed and produced by Joan Robinson, a monumental job as it turned out. A delightful camaraderie developed among the dedicated participants during the many practices that were necessary. We may be taking this show on the road!

My favorite performers were Marcus Johnson and Selena Morano Johnson, newlyweds and new partners, who generously performed 4 different dances for us on Sunday night. They were superb - beautiful and very elegant with wonderful lines - amazing art in motion.

San Diego Chapter's "Murder on the Orient Express" skit, complete with a moving train of a large locomotive and several cars, previewed what it appears will be a very fun, entertaining, and exciting 2015 convention, which will include big prizes to those who first correctly guess the murderer!

-Queen Gee Gee Barden, San Fernando Valley

Thank you to our Fresno Chapter for giving Rick and me the opportunity to represent Fresno at the State Convention in Palm Springs. Rick and I did our best to try to fill Queen Angie's elegant dancing shoes for the Labor Day weekend. The theme for the coronation was "North to Alaska." The tables had fiber optic decorations that made the room glow in changing colors. The Queens and their escorts gathered together and were introduced by telling each Queen's favorite place in the USA. Queen-elect Miriam's grandchildren were precious as they entered the ballroom. Three year-old Alannah made the decision to take off her silver shoes and go barefoot. Ahhh, the wisdom of the young! Queen Miriam and George did a terrific rumba/tango that they choreographed themselves! The honor dance was presented by Peter and Marsha Hanson. They did a lovely nightclub two step to "Remember When". It was so beautiful; it conjured up memories, for everyone, of the wonderful times we have all shared over the years.

On Sunday the fun continued. The Queen's Brunch had a fashion show and our own Lynn Sanders did a lovely job modeling a gorgeous ball gown. The tables were decorated with large origami roses that were amazing. With music provided by a harpist, delicious food and many door prizes, it was a special time of friendship and sharing.

**-Queen Kathy Constantino, Fresno Chapter
Substituting for Queen Angie Fae Garcia**

Dance Competition Results

THANK YOU Len Lee and your team for taking on this complex and important mission! The participation was overwhelming this year!

"I would like to give thanks to all competitors", commented Len, "especially Jacky Yu, Lynn Sanders and Joan Robinson who through numerous e-mails with Peggy helped to fill the competition events." Len continued, "Also, special thanks to Bill and Lona Dolan for a beautiful exhibition. We could not have done it without the help and guidance from John & Linda Gutierrez and the hard work from Jan (our Scrutineer!) & Lyle Mills. I don't want to forget the music men George Mozes, Peter Hanson & Mike Cowlshaw who made the competition events successful." "One more thing," exclaimed Len, "How about those trophies procured by Marsha Hanson!"

Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
One Star Smooth	Don Hubbard and Christian Lannes Palomar	Joseph Hildago and Deanne Stanton SFV	Steven and Rose Peterson Bakersfield
One Star Standard	Karl Haarburger and Shirley McCloskey San Diego	Steve Martsolf and Ann Vutisaksatit San Diego	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego
One Star Latin	Len and Peggy Lee Palomar	Tom and Sandy Wells Los Angeles	Antonio and Wen-Shi Rodriguez Bakersfield
One Star Rhythm	Doug and Jane Hammond SFV	Paul and Wendy Storey Visalia	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego
Senior Waltz	Duane and Donna Thornton Palomar	Jerry Engel and Debbie Bloom SFV	Chuck and Susan Johnson Los Angeles
Senior Cha Cha	Jerry Engel and Debbie Bloom SFV	Duane and Donna Thornton Palomar	Chuck and Susan Johnson Los Angeles
Two Star Smooth	Shane and Myra Nielsen Visalia	Greg Checketts and Roberta LaZar SFV	Doug and Jane Hammond SFV



1st - One Star Smooth



2nd - One Star Smooth



3rd - One Star Smooth



1st - One Star Latin



2nd - One Star Latin



3rd - One Star Latin



1st - One Star Standard



2nd - One Star Standard



3rd - One Star Standard



1st - One Star Rhythm



2nd - One Star Rhythm



3rd - One Star Rhythm



1st - Senior Waltz



2nd - Senior Waltz



3rd - Senior Waltz



1st - Two Star Smooth



2nd - Two Star Smooth



3rd - Two Star Smooth



1st - Senior Cha Cha



2nd - Senior Cha Cha



3rd - Senior Cha Cha



Bill and Lona Dolan
4 Star Exhibition

Thank you to the Dolan's for their exquisite 4 Star exhibition. Despite there being no other 4 Star competitors, we were delighted by their performance.

Dance Competition Results

Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Two Star Standard	Karl Haarburger and Shirley McCloskey San Diego	Ken and Marion Scholtz Los Angeles	Steve Martsolf and Ann Vutisaksatit San Diego
Two Star Latin	Brian Yip and Keiko Isshiki SFV	Len and Peggy Lee Palomar	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego
Two Star Rhythm	Greg Checketts and Roberta LaZar SFV	Steven and Rose Peterson Bakersfield	Doug and Jane Hammond SFV
Three Star Smooth	Greg and Barbara Uichanco Visalia	Peter and Janice Imperial Golden Gate	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego
Three Star Standard	Igor and Nadia Tilinin Golden Gate	Brian Yip and Joan Robinson SFV	Jacky Yu - San Diego Lynn Sanders - Fresno
Three Star Latin	Jacky Yu - San Diego Lynn Sanders - Fresno	Brian Yip and Keiko Isshiki SFV	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego
Three Star Rhythm	Les and Roberta LaZar SFV	Peter and Janice Imperial Golden Gate	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego
Four Star Standard	Igor and Nadia Tilinin Golden Gate	Brian Yip and Joan Robinson SFV	Jacky Yu - San Diego Lynn Sanders - Fresno



1st - Two Star Standard



2nd - Two Star Standard



3rd - Two Star Standard



1st - Two Star Rhythm



2nd - Two Star Rhythm



3rd - Two Star Rhythm



1st - Two Star Latin



2nd - Two Star Latin



3rd - Two Star Latin



1st - Three Star Smooth



2nd - Three Star Smooth



3rd - Three Star Smooth



1st - Three Star Standard



2nd - Three Star Standard



3rd - Three Star Standard



1st - Three Star Latin



2nd - Three Star Latin



3rd - Three Star Latin



1st - Three Star Rhythm



2nd - Three Star Rhythm



3rd - Three Star Rhythm



1st - Four Star Standard



2nd - Four Star Standard



3rd - Four Star Standard



Farewell from Queen Darlene Drury...



(Left) Queen Darlene ready to be presented at Convention.



(Right) Queen Darlene with Rick Brunton Celebrating the Wild West Theme at Convention!

What a year it has been. My fantasy come true. It was never planned. Thank you for the honor of being your Queen of Palomar Smooth Dancers 2013-2014. It only took one shoe to be Cinderella – can you imagine when you have two? Here is my chance to share the impression you made on my rainbow. Each person reading this page has shared a color of the rainbow to make this year wonderful and you are each so special to me. I am so grateful to each and every one of you. All my friends in the Palomar Chapter and NSD, you are the people who made an impact on my coronation year. You are part of me for knowing even a little piece of who I am. Thank you ALL for sharing one of the most beautiful rainbow years of my life.

A special thank you to Rick Brunton, the man who holds a place in my heart like no other. You were my Prince Charming, my Waltz Choreographer and that special Mister Wonderful. Thank you for every special bottle of wine, all the dance practices, lessons, dresses and my crown.

Thank you to everyone who has seen my smile, I saw yours also. You made it all possible. I am going to miss you and all of the wonderful friendships made in so little time.

Always smile. Keep dancing.

Your Queen, Darlene Drury

Our July Social was a lively affair. Festivities with over 60



Inira & James Friedhof skillfully dancing at the July Social.



Costume contest winners Jack Ragland & Kristin Wilson.

dancers enjoying a NIGHT CLUB 2 STEP lesson taught by our local professionals Inira & James Friedhof. Next came an excellent meal hosted by Jean & Dave Turner and Marion Semler. Geri Deutsch made a beautiful wedding cake for newly married members Sy & Carol Osgrove, the July 5 marriage was announced that night! The theme, "Join a Parade", was followed by many dancers out on the floor marching to music and following Marilee Ragland in her drum majorette costume. Winners of the costume contest were Jack Ragland as Abe Lincoln & Kristin Wilson

in her cheerleader's outfit. We enjoyed lots of dancing with music



Tom Foy & Rosemary Creedon Jack & Jill contest winners.

provided by Len Lee. There was a special "Jack & Jill" Waltz contest in which 18 couples competed and the winners were Tom Foy & Rosemary Creedon. Congratulations!

August's social theme was "Toga Party". Many couples enjoyed the excellent

Tango lesson under the direction of our teachers Inira & James Friedhof. Thank you's go out to Fred & Geri Deutsch and Kelly & Carol Kimmett for a delicious antipasto Salad and marvelous desserts! The special event of the evening was a performance by the Palomar Smooth Dancers Formation Team. They entertained us with a Night Club 2 Step routine to "Proud to be An American" which they planned to perform at the upcoming NSD Convention.. The dancers drilled and danced with precision that was appreciated by the audience. Marsha Hanson directed the dance with the assistance of her husband Peter. The winner of the costume contest was Rick Brunton. Recognition was given to Queen Darlene as she performed her last club duty as reigning Queen before



Jack & Marilee Ragland dazlingly represented the theme!



Costume winner Rick Brunton with Queen Darlene Drury.

Convention.

Palomar's Smooth Dancer's Crown Circle gathered for a celebration luncheon of Queen-Elect Miriam Mozes. Queen Darlene Drury hosted the elegant luncheon at The Aviara Hotel in La Costa. It all could not have been more perfect! What an afternoon we all had reminiscing our fondest memories of Queen-Elect Miriam! We had stories that brought on tears of joy & laughter to caring & heartwarming smiles. Thank you Queen Darlene!



Palomar's Crown Circle enjoyed a luncheon at The Aviara Hotel in La Costa.



San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Debbie Bloom



NSD and USA: What a brilliant combination! Palomar, you've combined these two revered entities to make one fabulous convention. Dancing across America was packed with fun, fanfare, and friendship. The San Fernando Valley Chapter is grateful to all of the wonderful Palomar members who made this memorable convention happen.

One of the most moving events was the salute to our country's past and present military men and women. We're keenly aware that your dedicated service to our country makes it possible for Americans to enjoy a multitude of bounties, including the amazing Labor Day weekend convention. Palomar's formation team performed a well-executed and inspirational tribute to members of our armed forces, dancing to Lee Greenwold's iconic song, God Bless the USA.

The NSD competitions brought out the best in all of the dancers - those who participated and those who cheered them on. The San Fernando Valley chapter was well represented among the competitors. Our Route 66 Formation Team, from Chicago, through Oklahoma, to L.A., was a rousing success. Juliana and Johnathan Emanuelli skillfully maneuvered an eco-friendly car across the ballroom floor as the provocative girls from Chicago, the enthusiastic couples from Oklahoma, and the surprise guest stars from Hollywood danced their hearts out. This intricate routine was brilliantly choreographed by the

multi-talented Joan Robinson. Further kudos to Joan as she was given National Smooth Dancers highest recognition – The Gavel Club Award.

The Gavel Club Award was conferred upon Joan Robinson of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, a member who is certainly deserving of this honor. Joan is unquestionably one of the strongest advocate of dance in Southern California, a tireless worker for all NSD events, and an amazingly elegant dancer. We, of the SFV chapter, are beaming with pride at Joan's achievements in the world of dance. We are fortunate to have this shining star in our chapter.

With convention behind us, San Fernando Valley is now looking forward to our next coronation. On November 1, Andrea Gutman will become our new queen. We know that Andrea will be a wonderful ambassador for our chapter. Her strong convictions regarding social justice and human relations, as well as her love of nature and commitment to the environment, will make Andrea a uniquely regal presence. The theme of the night will be "The Enchantment of Dance". There will be a beautiful honor dance and a uniquely choreographed ceremony, which we hope will heighten the joy of the evening. I hope your interest is piqued. We'd love to have everybody come out and witness the crowning of the lovely new queen Andrea.



San Fernando Valley Chapter

Continued from p.11

Introducing Queen-Elect Andrea Gutman



Incoming San Fernando Valley Chapter Queen, Andrea Gutman, has been enjoying ballroom dance for the past 25 years. Her passion for dance began when she was a teenager, while watching the movie, *The Red Shoes*. She was captivated by the beauty of the dance movements and became motivated to continue her ballet lessons with a newfound zeal. But in the back of her mind, Andrea harbored a desire for partner dancing. That dream started to take shape when she found the love of her life, Jim Gutman. Their fated meeting took place in the raunchiest bar in Pacoima while listening to one of the most romantic and elegant songs ever written. The words came booming over the loudspeaker - "Some enchanted evening, you may meet a stranger". Andrea looked across the room and her eyes locked on a stranger, that perfect stranger, Jim Gutman, who was destined to become her life partner.

Jim and Andrea have been enjoying life together for the past 42 years. In addition to dancing, these avid outdoor enthusiasts love hiking and horseback riding in the bucolic hills near their mini-ranch in Sunland and in the High Sierras. Throughout the year, Andrea lovingly tends her garden. The beautiful landscape surrounding their home is testament to Andrea's dedication to cultivating plants and vegetables organically.

Since she was a child, Andrea always hoped to live in a rural area with a loving husband and lots of animals running around. Andrea has accomplished her dream. She and Jim bask in their mini-ranch home with canine companions Sully and Misty, equine companions Ridge and Bella, cockatiel Timmy, two chickens and a rooster.

Jim and Andrea have been actively involved in the SFV Chapter of National Smooth Dancers for the past nine years. During most of that time, Andrea has been the Social Chairperson, a position that certainly befits this wonderfully gregarious and generous lady. For the past eight years, Jim and Andrea have been performing with the Dance Now Formation Team. This talented group has entertained people in nursing homes, senior centers, retirement venues, and other dance clubs.

As Queen of the SFV Chapter of Smooth Dancers, Andrea wants to share the enchantment of dancing that has so enriched her life. She hopes her coronation will reflect the gratitude she feels for all the blessings she's experienced both on and off the dance floor. Above all, she'd like to share the important lesson that has strengthened her life: If you keep dancing, learning, and loving those around you, life's pleasures will be bountiful.

Visalia Chapter

edited by Sallie Holden



Thanks to Convention in Palm Springs, we dancers have been able to meet, greet and reconnect with others from around the State. The purpose of Whispers, of course, is to keep that connection going until the next Convention.

Dances that the Visalia Chapter sponsored since the last Whispers report include the annual July Luau, "Hot Town, Summer in the City" in August, and the most recent, another Western themed event.

The luau is always a crowd pleaser, not to mention an opportunity to wear colorful Hawaiian shirts and skirts and mumus and leis. The dinner was catered by members Linda Gutterrez and Margo Giles. The music was played by member Cheryl Levitan. A night club 2-step was taught by Franco Peraza and the entertainment was Tahitian dancing by a group called "Island Style Productions".

The August dance attracted a good number of people, despite the hot Valley weather. Which, when one thinks about it, was appropriately titled. Music was by Vince Uichanco and a cha cha lesson was offered by Dan Goss.

The committee for the Western dance in September took a slightly different approach to food. Typically there is a pot luck dinner. This time, it was desserts only. Stan Medina, on the committee, wrote an after dance report for the club's newsletter and he said "Cakes, cookies, and ice cream decorated the dessert table and invited all to partake. Some of us made more than one trip!" I'll bet. Susan Morelock, from Hanford, taught two line dances, the "Tush Push" and the "Watermelon Crawl". Tim Inouye was the music person for the evening.

Now, for what is coming up. The club's anniversary dance will be held on October 18, at the Exeter Memorial Building. The theme is "Lavender and Lace," which lends itself to probably excellent decorations. A wine reception will begin the evening, at 6 p.m. The dinner, at 7, will be catered by The Wildflower Cafe in Exeter. Music will be by Greg Uichanco. Dinner music will be provided by member Kathy Taylor at the piano. Entertainment will be members Bill and Lona Dolan. A note on the flyer says: ladies are encouraged to wear lace and gentlemen to wear lavender or purple. I missed the Western dance with all the desserts and was, as a dessert person, unhappy about that. Now I'm thinking I'll be even more unhappy missing seeing all our men in lavender. Might be even better than cowboy hats.

Los Angeles Chapter

There were fourteen of us who attended the Palomar convention in Palm Springs. We all had a wonderful time dancing, competing and eating. We are very proud of our



(Top Left) L-R: Victor Lee, Debbie Ku, Chuck and Susan Johnson, and Ken and Betty Cheung.
(Top Right) L-R: Chuck and Susan Johnson, Don Russell and Patty Rohrer.
(Bottom Left) Jodene and Kyle Catterlin.
(Bottom Right) L-R: Sandy Wells, Ken Scholtz Marion Scholtz and Tom Wells.

couples who competed. Ken and Marion Scholtz won second place for 2-Star Standard; Tom and Sandy Wells for second place for 1-Star Latin; and Chuck and Susan Johnson for third place in both the Senior Waltz and Senior Cha Cha.



(Top Left) Ken and Marion Scholtz accepts their trophy for second place in the 2-Star Standard competition.
(Top Right) Sandy and Tom Wells took home the trophy for second place in the 1-Star Latin competition.
(Bottom Left) Chuck and Susan Johnson Placed third in both the Senior Waltz and Senior Cha Cha.
(Bottom Right) Our beautiful Queen Debbie Ku is presented at the coronation by her beaming husband Victor Ku.

edited by Chuck & Susan Johnson



Our chapter was in charge of the hospitality on Sunday night, and it was well received. We were just about cleaned out in record time.



The Sunday night hospitality went smoothly, thanks in a large part to the enthusiastic team work of the entire club.



The New York with West Coast Attitude formation dance team comprised of (L-R) Jodene Catterlin, Kyle Catterlin, Sandy Wells, Tom Wells, Susan Johnson, Chuck Johnson, Debbie Ku, Victor Lee, Betty Cheung, Ken Cheung, Marion Scholtz and Ken Scholtz.

We had a lot of fun performing our formation dance routine. Once again we want to thank Victor Lee for choreographing the routine.

Kyle Catterlin had carotid artery surgery Sept. 19 and is doing very well.

Tom and Sandy Wells travelled to Connecticut for Sandy's 50th High School reunion. They were delighted to catch the beginning of the Fall foliage change. For Sandy, it was the first time she had seen many of her classmates in 50 years, so it was a fun event for her. There was a dance floor and DJ taking requests, so as you can imagine they spent quite a bit of time on the dance floor!

In July, Ken and Marion Scholtz spent four glorious days in Istanbul, Turkey, before boarding the Oceania Riviera for a 10-day Black Sea cruise (minus Ukraine, of course). Upon disembarking in Athens at the end of the cruise, they immediately boarded an Aeroflot flight for St. Petersburg in Russia where they spent a full week touring all the sights, including most of the Russian palaces and the Hermitage Museum.

Then they boarded another flight for Berlin, Germany, where they spent an additional week seeing the sights. While there, they spent an evening dancing at the Clarchen Ballhaus, the oldest ballroom in Berlin.

The Johnsons will be taking a short one-week cruise on Princess roundtrip LA to San Francisco.

Chuck and Susan Johnson will be moving to Duarte next month into a CCRC (continuing care retirement community) which includes independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing and memory unit. Their new address will be 1420 Santo Domingo Ave., Duarte CA 91010.

Golden Gate Chapter

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



I know all our chapters will write about the convention, but I feel compelled to keep this issue pretty much about just that, as it was one of my favorite conventions, with so much going on and so many wonderful positive experiences, I cannot keep quiet about it.

It was an incredibly arduous 9 hour drive from Sonoma to Palm Springs to our convention, but Vera Harvey and I decided to take the car, as we could not possibly imagine getting all of those gowns, shoes and accessories onto a plane. As we found out later one could take 2 free suitcases each on North West airlines, fly for an hour, rent a car and be in Palm Springs in another hour, rested and refreshed. Guess what we will do next year? But wait, then there is this story, Floyd and Rita Parma who flew Alaska airlines had, shall we say a little incident with their luggage. It appears that a conveyer belt out of San Francisco decided to eat Floyd's suitcase, which contained all of what he needed for this convention with the exception of his costume for the formation team, which was in his carry on. Three tuxes with accessories (studs, bow ties ect.), all of his every day clothes, toiletries, underwear, I think you get the gist. Though the airline was very apologetic and promised to replace everything, this proved to be a bit difficult on a Friday late afternoon, in a strange town, no car and all the stores closing at 6 PM for the long weekend.

When a private car was provided for them and they finally arrived at the mall (4 towns away), they had exactly 8 minutes to closing time. After much searching they found a Mens Warehouse that was open till 9 and they were able to replace the most basic of items, underwear, shoes, every day clothes and a tux. But as all of you know, we do get attached to certain things in our wardrobes and some of them simply could sadly not be replaced.

Unfortunately they missed all of Friday and some of Saturdays activities and dinners and could not really relax till Sunday.

So what do we do next year? Perhaps we should check into chartering a bus with some of the other more northern chapters, where we can party on the way there and just sleep on the way home, after all that dancing.

The hotel was simply wonderful, if you got a room close to the elevator and the pool was awesome at 6AM when there



was nobody in it and the outside temp was only 85. We loved the different arrangements, with a buffet on Friday night, instead of a buffet in the afternoon. All the Jack and Jills where so well attended , they had to be danced as semi finals.

Thank you to Joan Robinson for arranging for the dance hosts for us single ladies and the many mixers, gave us all a chance to dance till our feet hurt.

The formation dances were wonderful, very well rehearsed and beautiful to watch. Until Monday we were not sure where

we stood in the ranking, as the chapters were certainly all contenders for the top spot.



Well, we are proud to say that we did win the top spot again and by now all of you at our chapter were able to see the crazy performance at our Sunday dance. Thank you to

Dan and Amy and our teacher Erin Pick for all the hard work.

Many Trophies were won by our dancers Peter and Janice Imperial and Igor and Nadia Tillinin.

Janice and Peter won 2nd place in Three Star American Rhythm and 2nd place in Three Star American Smooth.

Igor and Nadia Tillinin won 1st place in Three Star



Standard and 1st place in Four Star Standard

We are proud of your performance and your winnings.

All of us queens were treated to a marvelous luncheon where our president was one of the models in a gorgeous teal colored creation by "Save on dancewear", a dancer's dream site for inexpensive dance clothes.



The food was wonderful and of course it is always such a pleasure to reconnect with our sister queens.

All in all it was a wonderful convention and even the nine hour drive home could not take away from the experience.

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.

Bakersfield Chapter

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



Our upcoming September 27th dance "An Enchanted Evening" is being chaired by Kay and Mark Boyer and Irene and Paul Leung.

They have engaged the Shafter Jazz Band to play their wonderful music for us. We will also enjoy the music of one of our Targets.

This dance will be held at the Rasmussen Center, 115 E. Roberts Lane from 7:00 -10:30pm. Members are free; guests are \$15 for singles and \$25 a couple. The attire for the evening is party dressy.

I hope all of you will join us for this evening of dance and music.

A brief summary of our upcoming events and their chairpersons: the October dance will be chaired by Sue Kimbrell, last year Sue hosted a delightful Halloween party and I'm sure this year will be as fun!

November's dance is chaired by James Schmitz and if it's anything like the one he hosted last year will be wonderful! Susan Salvucci agreed to host our December dance, and it should be a lot of fun, think Christmas and all the great decorations, and food! Also happening in December, our New Years Eve dance! This year JoAnn Georgio is chairing it, and she has been busy getting her committee together! The theme is "Evening in Paris", and I know it will be wonderful! Tickets will go on sale later so make sure you get one! This dance is always held at the Women's Club on 18th street. All our other dances are held at the Rasmussen Center, 115 E. Roberts Lane.

I have been struggling as usual, to get my thoughts together as to what to write about the wonderful Palomar State Convention! What a whirlwind week-end! From the time we checked in on Friday afternoon until we checked out on Monday morning, it seems like we were on the go!

We were left breathless and exhausted starting with the Friday night American Bandstand dance party into Saturday morning with meetings and dance seminars, on into Saturday afternoon as we passed through the Southern Plantations and the Bayous and by evening we were headed up north to Alaska, and the lovely coronation of State Queen Miriam Mozes. Stopping long enough to enjoy the wonderful competitions, and the Professional dancers that performed for us Giacomo Steccaglia and Melissa Dexter, and of course, enjoying some good general dancing.

By Sunday afternoon we had headed out West. Stopping to enjoy more dance competitions, and dancing the afternoon away! Sunday evening we were back ready to celebrate our Military, and we have a lot of NSD members that have served our great country! Sunday evening was also a great evening to watch more competitions and that great professional dance couple Marcus and Selena Johnson.

By Monday morning, bleary eyed and tired we were ready for a good breakfast and sadly to say good-bye to our NSD friends. But not before finding out who won the dance competitions!

Our chapter produced some winners in the persons of Steve

and Rose Peterson who won a bronze in one-star American Smooth and silver in two-star American Rhythm! Also Wen-shi and Tony



Rose and Steve Peterson who won a third place and a second place in their dances!



Wen-shi and Tony Rodriguez who won a third place in one star Latin.

Rodriguez won a third place in one-star Latin. Congratulations to them and to the winners from all the chapters!

Although the Bakersfield Burlesque Babes didn't win for our team dance, we had a lot of fun performing it for everyone!

All in all it was a wonderful trip across America, thank you Palomar for the journey!



Our August dance was a great success! Hosted by Bill and Sue Landry, it had a great baseball theme and members were encouraged to wear their favorite sport team shirts. The committee served up hot dogs, nachos, potato chips and cookies!

The Bakersfield Burlesque Babes performed their dance routine for the audience and everyone was sworn to secrecy for the team dance! It was a great time to put on the complete costume and perform it in front of our members.

Our July dance hosted by Wen-shi Rodriguez and Anna Fourie had a patriotic theme, "Salute to America". There were 72 people in attendance, the food was delicious, Dennis Acosta played the music, and Rose Peterson led us in the song God bless America, need I say more? It was a fantastic dance!

Member News:

Several of our members faced surgeries this summer and we want to send our get well wishes out to them and hope they all have a speedy recovery! We hope to see them out on the dance floor soon.



Walk-In by San Diego Smooth Dancer Chapter

"The Orient Express" for the 2015 NSD Convention to be held on September 4 – 7, 2015, at the Renaissance Hotel in Palm Springs, California. More details will be provided soon.

October SDSD Social – "The Friendliest Dance in Town"

San Diego Chapter Social to hold "The Harvest Festival" on Saturday, October 4, 2014. For more details, contact Social Chair, Amante Reyes at 619-829-9949 or amante2540@att.net.



2014 NSD PRESIDENT'S GAVEL CLUB AWARD

The annual 2014 NSD President's Gavel Club Luncheon was held on August 30th at the Renaissance Hotel, President Peter Hanson of the Palomar Smooth Dancer's Chapter.

27 Presidents and Past Presidents, including 5 new members and one non-member attended the luncheon and the meeting.

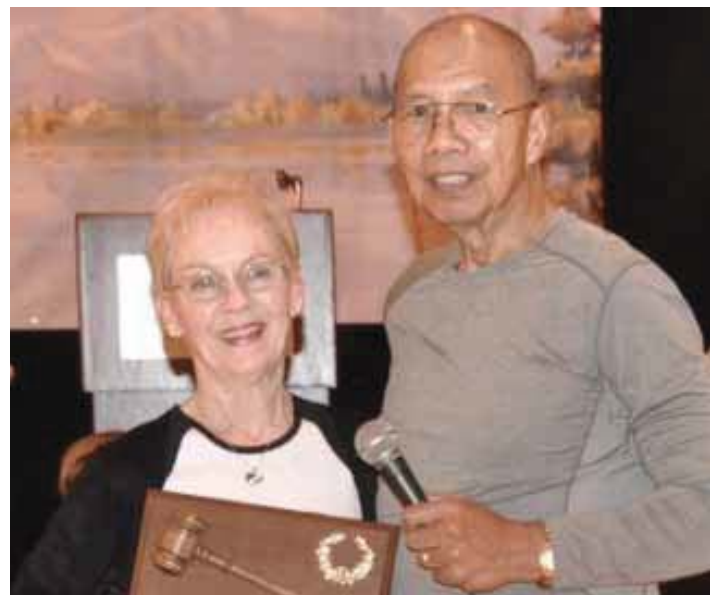
The Chair, Vernon Miranda of the San Diego Smooth Dancers Chapter, called the 2014 meeting to order and addressed the Gavel Club's history, the past awardees, the membership, the rules, and the current financial status.

Also, the Chair addressed the procedure for voting on the nominee(s), and selecting an awardee, which resulted in a well-qualified recipient for 2014.

Before closing the meeting, Vernon Miranda of the SD Smooth Dancers Chapter, was nominated and elected as the Chair for the NSD President's Gavel Club for the 2014-2015 period.

On Monday morning, at the NSD Breakfast, Ms. Joan Robinson, a member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, was presented with the 2014-2015 NSD President's Gavel Club Award. On behalf the National Smooth Dancers, congratulations and well-wishes to Joan for outstanding dedication and performance to NSD.

The permanent 2013 President's Gavel Club Award was presented to Ms. Barbara Greenlaw of the San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers for outstanding dedication and performance to NSD. Congratulations and well-wishes to Barbara.



The permanent 2013 President's Gavel Club Award was presented to Barbara Greenlaw of the San Fernando Valley Chapter.



Joan Robinson of the San Fernando Valley Chapter was presented the 2014-2015 NSD President's Gavel Club Award.



Monthly Socials

July. The July 3rd Sunday party theme was “At the Drive In”, hosted by Queen Lorraine Tilton. The centerpieces were cute little scenes made from miniature Hot Wheels cars borrowed from her grandson’s collection. They were assembled on a square “black top” with a Drive In Movie scene on stand-up cards for the miniature car passengers to watch and a little box of real popcorn. The committee was Lorraine’s granddaughter, Isabelle Plumb, Janice & Larry Kebo, Ann Phillips and Henry & Cindy Wegermann. Music was provided by Leslie Rouse. Alex Pereira taught a lively East Coast Swing lesson. He’s still going strong after celebrating his 80th birthday on July 5th. Congratulations, Alex!

We had a nice turnout with 26 members and 13 guests. There was plenty of dancing and just the right amount of food and fun. Jerry Baldwin, who moved back to the area from South Dakota, attended in spite of a recently broken toe which kept him off the dance floor. He definitely gets the good sport award for driving down from Turlock just to help out with the party.

August. “Hot Salsa Nights,” was the theme for our August social, hosted by Lynn Sanders. The centerpieces were made by Lorraine Tilton; orange daisies in glass vases on bright gold paper napkins warmed up the hall. Lynn’s committee was Tony & Nancy Palazzo, who greeted guests at the front desk, Lydia Flores and Linda Bennett. In addition to the usual buffet, Tony and Nancy and Lynn threw in together to set up a Taco/Nacho bar which was a big hit with the crowd. Think salad bar with taco & nacho ingredients, kindly added to by David and Jennifer Morgan with the crowning touch, guacamole, yummy!

We had a very nice turnout with 23 members and 18 guests. Alex Ortiz taught a challenging Salsa pattern, assisted ably by Andria Radmacher. Our music man for the evening was Van Oosbree, who delighted us all with a surprise announcement that he and his sweetheart, Patty Harris, are getting married in September! A celebration is planned at the 509 Club in October. More details to follow, but congratulations to them both!

September. Please be sure to come and support Janice & Larry Kebo as they make their debut as party hosts at the September 3rd Sunday “Wine Stomp,” on Sunday, September 21.

* * * * *

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

QUEEN ANGIE FAE GARCIA

March 12, 1949 - September 5, 2014



Our dear Queen Angie passed away on September 5, 2014. She was so proud to have been a part of Smooth Dancers and, most especially, to serve as our Chapter Queen.

Angie graduated from Fresno State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminology with Corrections emphasis. She was employed

by and retired from Santa Cruz County as a Deputy Probation Officer, and was Officer of the Year in 1993. She was also employed with Fresno County and, for a short time with Madera County, as a Case Manager.

Angie began dancing at an early age with her father at his fiestas. After retirement, she relocated to Fresno where she took full advantage of many of the best dance instructors Fresno has to offer – individuals such as Dan Goss (her personal favorite), Guy Ashby, Ms. Mata and Alex Peiria, Mark and Andrea Novak, Franco, Mario and many more.

Angie’s memorial service was held Saturday, September 20, and was well-attended by members of her dancing family from the many dancing venues in which she participated. Family members spoke of how much Angie loved singing and dancing. President Carla spoke beautifully about Angie’s journey with Fresno Smooth Dancers and presented her family with a lovely photo, which had been Angie’s gift from outgoing Palomar Queen Darlene Drury at the recent Convention coronation, and Angie’s Queen’s pin from Fresno’s outgoing Queen, Lorraine Tilton. Hinds Hospice Chaplain Dr. Michael Fisher shared his Hospice journey with Angie; we all appreciated hearing how she lived to the end with dignity and grace. Various members of the dancing community spoke fondly of memories with Angie over the years, we were all treated to a delicious luncheon provided by the People’s Church community, and members of this wonderful dancing family further enjoyed sharing their own stories and experiences with Angie. She



would have loved being a part of this gathering; her spirit was certainly strongly felt. We will miss you, Queen Angie Fae Garcia. We know you are absolutely dancing with the angels!

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SMOOTH DANCERS

cordially invite you to the

QUEEN'S CORONATION BALL
"THE ENCHANTMENT OF DANCE"

Honoring Queen-Elect

ANDREA GUTMAN

Saturday, November 1, 2014

Hollywood Dance Academy

6615 Valjean Avenue

Van Nuys, CA 91406

Semi-formal or Formal Attire

CORONATION: \$58 per person

CORONATION BALL

6:00 p.m. Door Open

6:30 p.m. Coronation

7:00 p.m. General Dancing

7:30 p.m. Dinner

8:30 - 11:00 General Dancing

Mixers and Showcases

FAREWELL BREAKFAST

BUFFET

At the Airtel Plaza Hotel

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

\$16 per person

Complimentary to Airtel

Guests (limit 2 per room)

HOSPITALITY

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

At the home of

Les and Roberta Lazar

4417 Bergamo Drive

Encino, CA 91436

LODGING

Airtel Plaza Hotel

7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406

(818) 997-7676

(Reserve by Oct 10 and mention Smooth Dancers

for the special rate of \$109 plus tax/night)

Hotel Parking \$10.00

.....NOTE: Map and Directions on Reverse.....

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Please Detach and mail to be received by Oct. 21 to Sally Emanuelli,
5716 Graywood Ave, Lakewood, CA 90712 Phone: (323) 547-6073 email: SallyLin@yahoo.com

NAME _____ CHAPTER _____
NAME _____ CHAPTER _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Please Indicate how many of each:

Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Dinner () x \$58: _____

Breakfast for non-Airtel Guests () x \$16: _____

TOTAL: _____

Make Checks payable to San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers

LA's 2015 Mardi Gras Coronation Ball

Featuring Queens elect:

Jodene Catterlin, Susan Lewis, Sandy Wells

(GG, Conv, VIS) (Fres, SFV) (Pal, SD, Bak)

Saturday, January 31, 2015

The Glendale Hilton Hotel

100 W. Glenoaks Blvd.

Glendale CA 91202 818/956/5466

Hospitality 2:30-4pm Presidential Suite

Reception 6pm

Presentation of Queens 6:30pm

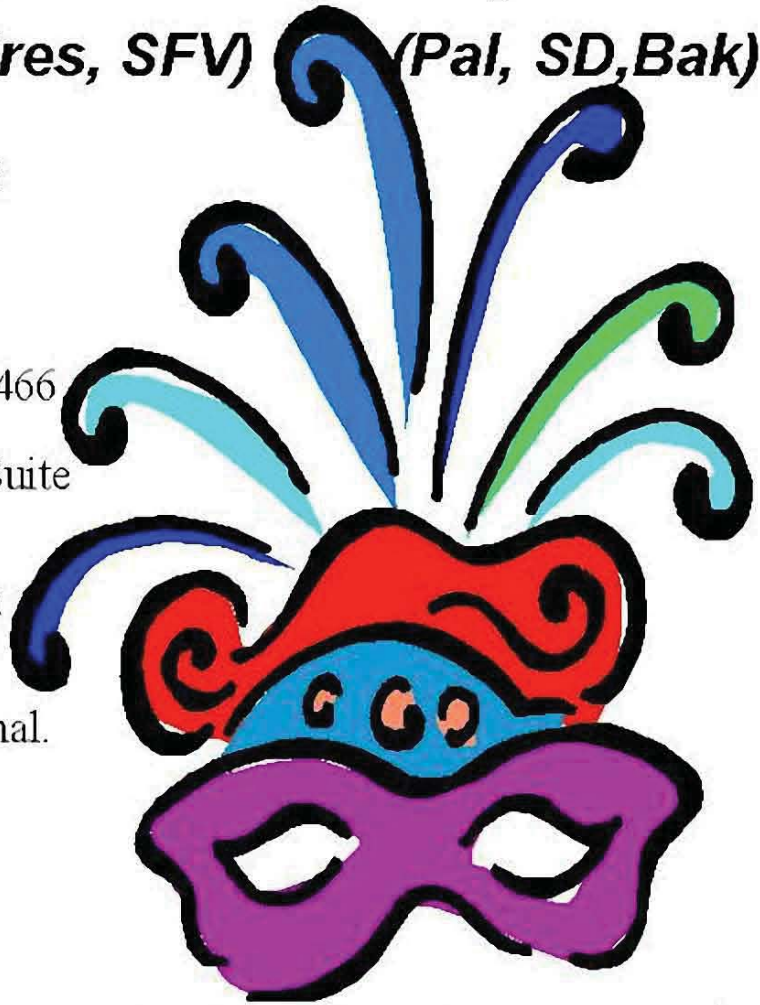
Dinner 7pm

Dinner Dance \$65 black tie optional.

Breakfast for two included

with room NSD rate \$119

self parking \$10



Please Detach and Mail. RSVP By Jan.15, 2015 to:

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

Make checks payable to LA NSD Email ssticco@ca.rr.com

Names _____ Chapter _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Dinner Choice: Chicken _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian _____ Dinners@ \$65 _____

Queen's Breakfast included with room rental