

National Smooth Dancers

Dance Whispers

December 2014



San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Debbie Bloom



Queen Andrea and husband Jim performed a lovely waltz to the song "Liebestraum".

The Enchantment of Dance – What a wonderful theme for Andrea Gutman's recent coronation ball. There was, indeed, enchantment in the air throughout the evening. Queen Andrea and her husband James performed a lovely waltz to the song, "Liebestraum". The honor dance was a rumba, elegantly executed by Leanne and John Wong. To top it off, we were entertained by professional dancers, Matt and Kelly Chambers. Their dancing was exquisite, bringing the audience to a well deserved standing ovation. Adding to the enchantment of the evening, our favorite deejay, Mark Emanuelli, spun some great dance music and eloquently emceed the coronation proceedings.

Queen Andrea put her own personal touches on this unique coronation. The centerpieces, which she put together herself, reflected Andrea's love of gardening and the outdoors. The coronation ceremony flowed like a carefully choreographed routine. The reigning queens and their escorts fox-trotted in to pay their respects to Queen Andrea. At the end of the coronation, the couples quick-stepped out, wowing the audience with their own creative flourishes. All of the current and former queens, with their handsome escorts, participated in The Crown Circle Dance. It was a beautiful sight as these esteemed couples gracefully waltzed around the floor.



The queens enjoyed a delicious breakfast and warm camaraderie the morning after the coronation.

The enchantment continued the next morning as the guests enjoyed a delicious breakfast and warm camaraderie. Outgoing Queen Gee Gee Barden wanted to recognize the important role played by the escorts. To that end, she presented Queen Andrea's husband James

with a plaque that appropriately read; "When the Queen is Happy There is Peace in the Kingdom". Now there's some regal wisdom that deserves respect.

In lieu of gifts, Andrea requested that donations be made to a local group that provides dance lessons to children who would not otherwise have that opportunity. We applaud this magnanimous gesture by our generous queen. The San Fernando Valley Chapter of National Smooth Dancers is fortunate to have Queen Andrea, a shining star, as our ambassador. We wish you an exciting, meaningful year as you perform your regal duties.



Edna Banc sponsored a Black & White Ball to raise funds for a local pet shelter in memory of her beloved pooch, Matthew.

In other news, in September, Edna Banc sponsored a Black & White Ball to raise money for the Shelter Hope Pet Shop. Edna held this successful fundraiser in memory of her beloved pooch, Matthew, whom she dearly misses. Many Smooth Dancers were in attendance to enjoy the festivities and support this worthy event. Professional dancers, Artemi and Yulia, performed a stunning rumba that left the crowd cheering for more.

Shelter Hope Pet Shop is a volunteer run organization located in Thousand Oaks. They have adopted out more than 800 pets since they opened in November of 2011. Their mission is to find homes for sheltered animals, abolish puppy mills, and educate the public on how to reduce the future shelter population. This fine organization was grateful for Edna's support.



Joan Robinson and her teacher David Moutray entertained the crowd with a lovely waltz at Joan's birthday party.

On November 29, San Fernando Chapter Member and 2014 NSD Gavel Club Holder, Joan Robinson, celebrated her birthday at the "Gotta Dance, Gotta Love It" monthly dance. Joan has been a terrific supporter of dance in Southern California. Nearly 100 dancers were in attendance to wish Joan a happy birthday and thank her for her tremendous efforts. Joan and her teacher, David Moutray, performed a smooth and polished waltz. Of course it was smooth – We're Smooth Dancers!

Los Angeles Chapter

Introducing our 2015 Queen's Elect, Jodene Catterlin and Sandy Wells:



Jodene Catterlin was born in the San Fernando Valley, and has lived there most of her life. She graduated from UCLA with a BA in Education, and a teacher's certificate, and taught for 34 years in the LA City School system. As a Master Teacher, she trained new teachers. She also served as summer school principal.

Jodene married her husband, Kyle, in 1952, and they have had 62 years sharing their lives together. They have three children and four grandchildren. Dancing has always been part of their life. They enjoy all kinds of dancing, including square dancing, round dancing and ballroom dancing. They danced for several years on a formation team, making appearances at square dance and round dance events, and have done some ballroom competing at the senior level with NSD, winning some of their contests.

Jodene was previously a Queen for LANSO, and a State Queen. She wants to thank the LA Chapter for selecting her to share the privilege of serving as one of their Queens for the coming year, and she is eagerly looking forward to again representing the LA Chapter, and seeing old friends and making many new friends.



Sandy Wells has been retired for 5 years, enjoying a stress free life away from the 29 stress filled years of being an anesthetist.

She now enjoys the many simple pleasures in life: working out at the Torrance YMCA, yoga, celebrating her Italian heritage as a member of The Garibaldina Italian Society, playing bocce ball with her fellow Italians, relaxing with her 3 cats, and of course enjoying every dancing opportunity she can squeeze into a busy schedule.

Sandy serves as a volunteer at the Bob Hope USO at LAX. She grills, bakes and has even mastered the chili-cheese dog. Sandy finds it a wonderful reward to be of service for our active military personnel.

Sandy has been married to Tom for 30 years and enjoys not only dancing, but travel and adventure too.

Chocolate is a wonderful mood booster, according to Dr. OZ. For Sandy, it is being Queen for the NSD, LA chapter (Chocolate does assist). Being the LA ambassador to other Chapter's Coronation as Queen, somehow adds a thrill, like eating a good piece of See's candy. M-M-M delicious, exciting and demonically satisfying. Well, as close as it gets without getting into trouble.

Sandy thanks the LA Chapter for allowing her to represent them. Sandy will endeavor to be on her best behavior and if not..., well, "It's good to be Queen"...

edited by Chuck and Susan Johnson



You are getting this from Abu Dhabi onboard ship. There aren't many people who can say that.



Victor Lee and Debby Ku leads the the club in a spirited Samba line dance during our Halloween Social Dance.

Our Halloween dance in October was a big success with very "spooky" music from Susan Lewis, and food supplied by Liz Bradford and Roger Seastedt. Members participated in costumes. New member Michael Chu taught a dance lesson, and all had a good time. Table decorations were in theme by Chuck Johnson.



November was our Black and White ball with very pretty decorations of black and white roses in black and white vases by Chuck Johnson. Music was by Tom Wells and food by Michael and Sheri Chu. Debby and Victor taught a Charleston dance that they learned onboard their last cruise done as a line dance or a couples' dance. Roger Seastedt showed off his new helicopter drone toy.



(Top) Doug Lindstrom and Susan Johnson enjoying a waltz mixer during our Black and White Dance.

(Bottom) Michael Chu and Sandy Wells at our Black and White Dance.

Ken and Marion Scholtz returned from four weeks of traveling. They taught ballroom dance to beginners on a Royal Caribbean transatlantic cruise from Barcelona to New Orleans that was preceded by a stay of several days in Barcelona. They report that the dance classes were full and enthusiastic. They were also asked to choreograph and lead a swing dance number with three other couples for the guest show that was enthusiastically received. They stayed in New Orleans for a week after the cruise to celebrate Thanksgiving with their children and their families and came home ready to diet.

San Diego Chapter

November 1, 2014 was the night of our **Black & White Anniversary Ball**. A wonderful time was had by all. The men looked dashing in their black tux or black suit. The ladies, dressed in black and white, were in simple elegant to over the top designer, such as Ines Plikshe with a form fitting black dress, sequins and white ruffled at the shoulders. We enjoyed Champagne punch,



edited by Vern Miranda



lots of good music for dancing (thank you Rose Madrid), and a nice selection of fruit salad, lumpia, meatballs, quiche, and more. The tables were decorated with black top hats, silver streamers and sparkle arrangement sitting inside the hats.

SDSD Annual Christmas Dance – As expected SDSD Members and Invited Guests



enjoyed this cheerful and festive event, which commenced the 2014 Holiday Season in San Diego. Everyone dressed as celebrities out-bursting with enthusiasm and with much happiness to start off with this warm and caring holiday season for their families, relatives, friends and ballroom dance partners. Have a warm and safe holiday season, take care, and keep on dancing!

SAVE THE DATE

SD NSD New Years Eve Dance: December 31st 2014, Wednesday, at Champion Ballroom Academy in San Diego, is our New Year's Eve Dance Party. Please do come and enjoy the evening with dancing, performances, Jack and Jill dance contest, refreshments and music. Reservations Not Required. For more information, see the attached flyer at the end of this Dance Whispers issue.

In order to reserve a table, we must have the names and it must be paid in full.

Hope you can make it! May your family and friends have a warm and safe holiday, and take care.

San Diego Smooth Dance Social
New Years Eve Celebration 2014
Wednesday, December 31st, 8-12:00?
 Dress: New Years Eve Appropriate Cost: \$25 Members \$20
 Your own Masks / Costumes-welcome! Jack and Jill Contest & Champagne Toast
 Refreshments: Easy Eats & Pot Luck Hosts: Mike Cowlishaw
 Lou and Amante Reyes
 Reservations not required Questions: Lou 858.652.9374

Queen's Reflections

State Queen Miriam Mozes



Attending my first Coronation as State Queen was a special event, an event made even more special by the hard working organizers of the San Fernando Valley Chapter. The Planning Committee did an outstanding job by incorporating into the arrangements a number of innovations that enhanced the viewing and dancing pleasure of attendees. My husband

and I always considered Andrea and James Gutman as one of the most accomplished dancers at NSD. Their polished and flawlessly executed performance certainly reinforced our belief. The Hospitality was a joy for foodies and just simply hungry and thirsty travelers. Roberta and Les LaZar opened their wonderful house as well as their hearts giving a new meaning to the word "hospitality." The dinner was delicious and plentiful, the music was great, and the dancing was engaging. The entire affair came to symbolize the theme of "The Enchantment of Dance". Very well done San Fernando Valley!

Love,
Miriam



As the outgoing queen, it has been my great honor and privilege to represent the San Fernando Valley chapter of NSD. I have learned that the NSD tradition of queens is a unique and very worthwhile experience for those involved. It is an important aspect of our NSD organization, serving very successfully in bringing the different chapters together. My year as queen was truly wonderful, and I have special memories of each and every coronation that I attended, beginning with my own and ending with the coronation of our new SFV chapter queen, Andrea Gutman.

Perhaps the most memorable coronation of those Bill and I traveled to, in part for what it represented, was Fresno's coronation of Angie Fae Garcia. To me her coronation demonstrated what NSD is all about, a big family whose members always support each other. The Fresno chapter members all pulled together to make Angie Fae's dream to be queen come true for her, which was something very special. There will forever be a big hole in my year as queen because of missing Visalia Queen Debbie Renfro's coronation in May in order to attend my 50th college reunion. It was wonderful, but I occasionally think wistfully about what I missed.

I have been asked how it feels now that my reign as queen has ended. I am somewhat surprised, but pleased, to find that I don't feel any different. The wonderful NSD Crown Circle opens to admit each new queen when she is crowned and then holds her close forever. I still feel warmly embraced by this lovely association of queens, former queens, and escorts, and I

look forward to continuing the friendships begun during my year as queen.

-Queen Gee Gee Barden, San Fernando Valley



Vlad and I flew to LAX on Friday afternoon on a surprising roomy Delta Connection flight. By the time we got to our rental car (small aircraft are not as important in LAX, and we had to wait for about 20 min for a gate to deplane), and braved LA evening traffic, I was ready for a drink.

Next morning we did a little shopping (I could not miss this opportunity), and then went to a hospitality event held in the beautiful home of Les and Roberta LaZar with breathtaking views overlooking both Los Angeles and Glendale. Good wine, good company, beautiful settings – time flew...

After the hospitality all reigning Queens and Queen-elect Andrea (with our escorts, of course) went to Hollywood Dance Academy for a coronation rehearsal. For this coronation event, "The Enchantment of Dance" we were asked to dance our way in (and out) at the tune of "Some Enchanted Evening" (we were asked to dance a Foxtrot).

When we arrived at the studio for the coronation, the ballroom was transformed into true enchanting magical place with light show on the background, and origami butterflies, cranes and lotuses on every table. All the reigning Queens wore bracelets with origami butterflies, and our escorts had similar butterflies as their boutonnieres. Each royal couple danced their own version of slow Foxtrot to our designated spaces. Queen-elect Andrea wore beautiful lilac airy dance gown. Leanne and John Wong performed dance medley in honor of the newly crowned San Fernando Valley Queen Andrea Gutman. Then Andrea, and her husband danced romantic and enchanting waltz full of passion, lifts, and swirls. After the Queens' Waltz, the Royal Court was dismissed, and we danced our way out at the peppy music (Vlad and I elected to dance Charleston). Afterwards, we all came back for a photo op.

General dancing commenced at the expertly selected music by event D.J.s Jane Hammond and Mark Emanuelli.

Dinner was catered (but served buffet style), and "to die for": chicken with wild rice, steamed veggies, and spinach and strawberries salad. Desert was divine – fruit tarts. Thankfully we danced the whole evening.

Later in the evening Matt and Kelly Chambers, 2014 Emerald Ball Amateur Smooth Champions, showcased Waltz, Foxtrot and Tango. It was truly an Enchanted Evening!

Next morning, at 8:30 AM, we assembled for a Queens' breakfast on the terrace of the Airtell Hotel. Some of us needed coffee badly that early in the morning.

Queen Andrea was presented with Queen's trophy by outgoing Queen Gee Gee Barden. Gee Gee had reflected on her year as a Queen, and offered some useful insights to the newly elected Queen Andrea.

After visiting my relatives we flew back on the same Delta Connection airline, which pleasantly surprised us with healthy snacks (veggies & dip), and free wine and beer.

-Queen Svetlana Gites, Golden Gate



The San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers coronation is truly unique in many ways. The first thing the guests and members of the chapter observed was the way the current queens and State queen entered the ballroom. Instead of the formal walk of the queens and escorts, each couple entered dancing the foxtrot to the music of "Some Enchanted Evening". They stopped in front of the queen, proceeded to their designated seats and remained standing. Only when the queen-elect Andrea Gutman and her escort and husband James curtsied and bowed did they then curtsy and bow and were seated. Each couple at the recession exited dancing the quick-step. Another change was the combining of the photo sessions after the coronation while every queens and escorts were still seated and the ones outside the ballroom after they left the hall into one photo session. I will reveal the third change after I give an enticing report on the hospitality, coronation and Sunday brunch.

The hospitality was held at the residence of Les and Roberta LaZar. Several snacks were served along with a wide variety of drinks. As one entered the house one could not miss the vast collection of rocks, minerals and precious metals. What caught my attention were the 160 million year old fossils embedded in a piece of rock. That was ancient history by itself.

The playlist has a wide variety of songs. The caterer did an excellent job of serving nutritious meal. The dessert was delicious. I sneaked back in for a second serving.

The coronation was truly another night to remember as I usually quote in every report I prepare. You can see all the smiles on everyone and the joy as they watched the coronation, the various performances and the dances they themselves performed.

It is a night to remember in a funny context. The San Fernando Valley coronation was held on November 1st, the day after Halloween. On the way to the coronation venue, I had to detour to the CVS Pharmacy to purchase a pair of pantyhose. All dressed up in my white queen's gown and crown I waited my turn to be called by the cashier. While standing there, a guy waiting his turn behind me commented, "Lady, are we kind of late for Halloween?"

The Sunday brunch was an event to remember too. Queen Gee Gee gave her farewell address, handed over the San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers queen's trophy to the newly crowned queen, Queen Andrea, and presented a gift to her husband. James opened his gift and showed it the circle of queens, escorts, members and guests. Everyone started laughing and clapping for the gift, a plaque, says "When the Queen is Happy There is Peace in the Kingdom."

Now for the final observation, an innovation in itself: Queen Andrea requested that instead of the traditional gift giving to honor the new queen, she requested that donation be made to the Dance Force Youth Ballroom Program, a wonderful non-profit dance program for youth in the Antelope Valley. Truly, Queen Andrea is fulfilling the spirit and objective of the club - create and encourage greater interest in smooth dancing that extend beyond the boundary of the club.

-Queen Lou Reyes, San Diego



The San Fernando coronation night for Queen Andrea was a fun event; I found myself fondly reminiscing about when I first fell in love with dance during my High School Prom. I was dazzled by Queen's dance which was a waltz with a lot of lifts. Fortunately, this was not a "Dancing with the Stars" competition. Carrie Ann Inaba will definitely deduct several points. I am so glad that Andrea Gutman finally accepted the Queenship role. Her sweet and inviting personality and her dancing prowess makes her a great ambassador for the San Fernando chapter.

-Queen Debby Ku, Los Angeles



Coronation for the San Fernando Chapter Andrea Gutman was The Enchantment of Dance.

The Enchanted weekend began on November 1, 2014 with Hospitality at the beautiful home of Les and Roberta LaZar. Their home overlooks the Ventura foothills and is fabulous. We had a chance to get reacquainted with old friends and to make some new ones too.

The outgoing Queen, Gee Gee Barden and her husband, Bill, led the ceremonies with a foxtrot into the ballroom followed by each chapter dancing to the song "Some Enchanted Evening". The song has special meaning to Incoming Queen Andrea Gutman and her husband James. They met at a disco, the song was playing on the juke box, their eyes met across the room. James walked over to Andrea and asked her to dance - it was love at first sight.

The Queens wore handmade gold, silver and beaded bracelets from the Trade Alternative Reform Action (TARA) program in Northern India. Attached to the bracelet and the matching boutonniere for the escort was an origami butterfly, the symbol of joy and longevity.

VSD Chapter members Yvette Haworth, Joan Dewey and Lotti Carr also attended the Coronation. Thank you for your support.

The Queens brunch was at the Airtel Plaza Hotel. Outgoing Queen Gee Gee gave a beautiful speech about her year as queen and thanked us for our support during her rein.

Another innovation Queen Andrea requested was instead of gifts was to please make donations to the Dance Force Youth Ballroom Program in Antelope Valley. Since there was not a request of "no gifts" for James (Andrea's husband), Gee Gee presented him with a plaque stating "When the Queen is Happy There is Peace in the Kingdom." Everyone one had a good laugh about the quote and the Queens declared that they all needed the plaque for their homes too.

As we were walking out of the Airtel Plaza Hotel Jim found a 1962 Cargo VW with an old rotten surfboard strapped to the top and of course we had to stop for pictures. It may have been the highlight of his trip!

-Queen Debbie Renfro - Visalia

Bakersfield Chapter

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



I can't believe the Christmas season is upon us already! I've been so focused on finding a new home that the season promises to slip on by me!

Adding to that, I had an unusual Thanksgiving this year as I spent it in Las Vegas with one of my grandsons. He's involved on a football team that was playing in the "Pigskin Classics". So there I was, in Vegas on Thanksgiving!

So now that I stop and look around, I realize that Christmas is definitely around the corner and with it our Chapter Christmas dance. This year it's being hosted by Susan Salvucci and her great committee. The theme is 'Snow Ball'. It is being held on Saturday, December 13th at the Rasmussen Center, 115 E. Roberts Lane, from 7:00-10:30pm. Members are free, guests are \$25 a couple and \$15.00 for singles. I hope everyone will attend this holiday event!

On the heels of that dance is our annual New Year's Eve Dance. JoAnn Georgio is chairing this dance. She has formed a great committee to help her, and the theme of the dance is "Evening in Paris"! This dance is held at the Women's Club. The address is 2030 18th street. Doors open at 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm. The price is \$55.00pp. This includes two drink tickets. Reservations are required by December 21st. You can mail checks to 14035 Rosedale Hwy, Sp#10, Bakersfield, CA 93314. Make checks payable to Bakersfield Smooth Dancers. This dance is formal, so with great food, great music and wonderful friends to surround yourself with what better way to spend New Year's Eve!

Our November dance was chaired by James Schmitz, and it was a wonderful event! James assembled a great committee, had some wonderful food prepared by several of our members, some really great music was played from the Big Band era and everyone had a great time!

IN MEMORIAM:

It's with great sadness that I report the loss of long time member Jeanne Leong. Jeanne was an avid golfer, a member of the Chinese Women's Club and a very active member of Smooth Dancers! If you were lucky enough to have her serve on one of our monthly dances with you, then you know what a dependable worker she was! Jeanne will be missed by all who knew her!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Charlene Miller

Article Submitted by: James Schmitz

Lights, Camera, Action! Charlene Miller, A director/teacher and dancer is in our spotlight as we salute her for her participation and contributions to the National Smooth Dancers and especially our Smooth Dancers Chapter.

Charlene blossomed early, taking tap dance lessons, playing piano, performing in the high school chorus and cheerleading for the Hot Springs, Arkansas High Trojans.

Hearing the call, "California here I come," Charlene moved to the Golden State where she continued her education

at Sequoia College, Bakersfield College, and Fresno State University and earned her BA degree. In the process of completing her education she met and married Dr. Carl Miller. In addition, Charlene earned a Teaching Credential and her MA in Creative Dramatics, Readers Theater, and Dance Movement.

Twenty-seven years a teacher, Charlene mentored student teachers, taught American History, was honored by the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, and was nominated by her Greenfield School District colleagues to be 'Teacher of the Year.'

Charlene and Dr. Miller had four children, each of them a success in their own right!

Retiring in 1993, Charlene and Dr. Miller, (who was considered a Professor Emeritus of Education at CSUB) journeyed around the world for many years. They began working on their goal of learning and competing in Ballroom dancing! They helped start the Dancesteppers Dance Club with Charlene serving as the first President. They also helped start the Bakersfield Chapter of the National Smooth Dancers. Eventually, Charlene served as a Bakersfield Smooth Dancer Queen and Carl was there to escort her.

Following Carl's passing in 1996, Charlene decided to continue their goals in ballroom dancing. She competed in the Las Vegas Holiday Classic with instructors, Robert Allgeyer and Franco Peraza of Fresno and won many awards.

The dance floor is not the only place Charlene's skills are exercised. Based on her diplomatic skills, she was chosen to represent our Chapter as Queen of the NSD Bakersfield Chapter a second time. For years now Charlene has been deeply involved in the planning and execution of our annual Friday night 'gala' for the Board of Directors Meeting.

Charlene's partner, Dennis Acosta, one of our talented Targets, brings his own blend of talents into the mix as together they are always testing out new dance music that will appeal to everyone.



Besides being an accomplished dancer, Charlene is also known as our own red headed ball of fire not afraid to tackle any task. She is also considerate, thoughtful and a constant source of encouragement to anyone new to Ballroom Dancing and our Smooth Dancers Club!

Thank you Charlene!

Golden Gate Chapter

October was a fun month for us at Golden Gate as we had the most creative decorations at our Sunday dance, courtesy of Rita and Emma Steed. Emma being a Austrian native, knows



how to put on an Oktoberfest complete with all the right colors, flags and even body enhancing aprons for an unusual cast of characters serving us our dinner. I think there was even a Polka played at the dance with a few brave souls hopping across the dance floor. It is always wonderful to see our core group of members such as Rosalie Wolf, Barbara and Ben Cardinally and Elizabeth and Bill Hage, as well as Norma Hall and Donna Rosko. Though they do not dance much anymore, they still enjoy coming to our dances and getting kissed and hugged by everyone. We really appreciate the efforts of our queen Svetlana Gites in making wonderful baskets for our raffle to augment our income and the large group of people coming to our dances most Sundays courtesy of Nora Ling. They are very skilled dancers and a joy to watch.

Getting to know our long time members, Joe and Elena Malta. The dream began when a sailor came to town in 1958 and Elena's brother and Norma Hall (already a member of NSD) planned a blind date for Elena and Joe. It was love at first sight for both of them and only 6 month later they were married in June of 1958. Their family started with their son Vincent who is today 55 and a partner and vice president at the Malta&Co. Inc and also soon to be president of the National

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



Association of realtors. Daughter Debra came next who is today 50 years old and after being a buyer for Nordstrom for 10 years, she is now in charge of the property management department at Malta&Co. Inc.



Son Vincent and daughter in law Julie blessed them with 3 grandsons, Kevin 23, Stephen 21 and Andrew 18, all now in college.

Their dear friends Bob Fragemoni and Rosalie Wolf invited them to a dance at Golden Gate chapter and after initial intimidation, they learned to dance and the rest is history. Elena and Joe worked together in the real estate business and in getting involved in their parish they became Eucharistic ministers and marriage counselors.

Joe has been our president and treasurer numerous times and became the recipient of our gavel award. He is also one of our awesome music man at the dances. Elena was State Queen in 1997, president and recording secretary and is now our corresponding secretary. They love classic car collecting, opera, music, golf and good food. When you see them dance to "Remember when" you will know that the dream is still very much alive.

We are having our December dance on Sunday, December 14 and our wonderful New years Eve, Eve dinner dance on December 30th at the Crown Plaza hotel in Foster City (where we have our coronation). Special room rates are available. Contact Liz Talmadge (415-265-7063) for more information, or check our website. Have a wonderful holiday season everyone.

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.



Joe and Elena Malta are long time members of the Golden Gate Chapter of the National Smooth Dancers.

Visalia Chapter

Visalia Christmas Formal 2014

Held at The Sons of Italy Lodge, Visalia, CA

On Dec. 6, 122 members and guests enjoyed a night in Paris. The theme was reflected with unique Eiffel Tower centerpieces. The stage was covered with Christmas trees and gifts. The steady dinner was followed with a presentation of most improved female, male, and couple awards: Margaret Moholt, Paul Storey and Jim and Debbie Renfro respectively. There was plenty of time for general dancing. We enjoyed a waltz, a tango, and a foxtrot performed by David & Lee-Mei Moutry.



Waino Peterson and Hartune Neffian pose in front of the beautifully decorated stage filled with Christmas trees, gifts and a majestic Eiffel Tower, keeping in theme with the evening.



During our Christmas Formal, awards were handed out for: (Top Left) Most Improved Male Dancer - Paul Storey, (Top Right) Most Improved Couple - Jim and Debbie Renfro and (Bottom Right) Most Improved Female Dancer - Margaret Moholt.



(Below) Margaret Moholt and Greg Uichanco were awarded with the honor of becoming life members of the Visalia National Smooth Dancers.



Mr and Mrs. Claus explained exactly what "naughty" means!



We were pleased to have Floyd and Rita Parma with Queen Svetlana and Vlad Gites from the Golden Gate Chapter join us for our Christmas Formal 2014.



(Right) John and Linda Gutierrez take a beautiful photo in front of the Eiffel Tower backdrop.



Professional dancers David and Lee-Mei Moutry entertained us with a waltz, tango and foxtrot.

Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



September. Rookie party hosts, Janice & Larry Kebo, did a bang-up job their first time out, along with committee members Jim & Jan Mitchell and David & Jennifer Morgan. The party theme was "Wine Stomp", and delicious Italian food was the menu complemented by three kinds of wine. Spaghetti and lasagna and French bread abounded with green and pasta salads and all the usual sides and desserts. Table centerpieces were bottles of wine and mounds of fresh red and green grapes, all of which served double duty as door prizes.



Mikael & Anastasia teach International-style Tango at our September Social

Mikael & Anastasia, the fabulous young pros who have been visiting Ballroom Live for the last few weeks, taught a fun and challenging pattern of International-style Tango. Everyone enjoyed their playful manner and lively humor.

President Carla said a few words about the memorial service for Queen Angie Fae Garcia. The service was a very moving ceremony with an amazing turnout of the local dance community, including Fresno and Visalia Smooth Dancers and Golden Gate's Queen Svetlana and her husband, Vlad, from San Francisco. There were dancers from all parts of our local dance scene where Angie loved to dance and had many friends. Carla presented Angie's family with a beautiful photo in a sparkling frame showing Angie at her coronation sent by the Palomar chapter. Carla also presented the crown pin that would have been Angie's chapter keepsake gift that will be passed along to her daughter. There was a moment of silence in Queen Angie's honor.



Golden Gate members Vlad and Queen Svetlana Gites attend our October dance.



October. The October 3rd Sunday party theme was Dance the Night Away, hosted by Rick & Kathy Constantino, Bob & Sue Dowell and Ann Phillips. The dance lesson was West Coast Swing by Stacy O'Neill; her son and competition partner Ben assisted her.

The table centerpieces were (Left): KISS Rocker/Treasurer Sharon Crisp welcomes newest member Leslie Rouse.

friendly scarecrows placed on orange place mats decorated with jack-o-lantern cutouts and candy corn and pumpkins. Our own Sharon Crisp treated us to a Kiss style rocker costume to the amusement of all. We welcomed our newest member, Leslie Rouse!

November: The November 3rd Sunday party theme was Leaf Peeping and Waltzing, hosted by Ginna Bearden and her committee: Kathy Sachse, Sharon Crisp, Jim Escobar, Steve Moore and Lynn Sanders. Leaf peeping is the easterners way of referring to all the tourists that show up to enjoy "peeping" at the fall colors. Alex Ortiz, assisted by Leslie Rouse, taught a pretty



Alex Ortiz and Sharon Benes entertain at our November dance with an Interpretive Waltz.

waltz pattern followed by some excellent technique tips that had something for everyone, beginning and advanced dancers, alike. The table centerpieces were beautiful fall arrangements in clear vases filled with colorful nuts and seeds. We were entertained with a beautiful interpretive waltz routine provided by Alex Ortiz and his student, Sharon Benes.

December: Our annual Christmas party will be held on December 21, starting at 6:00 pm with champagne and a catered dinner at 6:30 pm. Reservations are required. Please visit our website at www.fresnosmoothdancers.org for the flyer and details.

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

* * * * *



We are sad to report that Dorothy Webster passed away Wednesday, November, 26, 2014 at the age of 94. Dorothy was born in Montana, but moved with her parents to Southern California, and grew up in San Bernardino, where she graduated high school and attended college. Dorothy retired after a very rewarding career as a Medical Records Administrator. She loved ballroom dancing and was a member of Central Coast Smooth Dancers for many years until the chapter closed, when she became a Fresno Member. She was queen several times for CCSD. She will be greatly missed as a member of NSD.

Cards can be sent to 6099 Webster Road, Creston, CA 93432.

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard

Convention video party at the Lums! Thank you Elliott & Linda Lum for opening up your home to Palomar Chapter in order to present the collage of amazing videos you so skillfully put together from the Palm Springs Convention. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed reminiscing that fun-filled weekend while eating pizza and salad.



Our October Social was in a "Spooky Ballroom". Dancers were especially creative in their selection of costumes. Debbie Kincaid, in her special make up as a cheetah, passed out ballots allowing the group to vote for their favorites. A parade of characters marched around the dance hall when it came time select the winners. Donna Thornton won the prize for the best costumed woman and husband Duane won the prize for the best costumed man. The balloting for the best couple ended in a three-way tie for first place: Elliott & Linda Lum as "Ghost of Elvis" and "Rickety Skeleton"; Duane & Donna Thornton as "1/2 Man and 1/2 Woman"; and Joe & Melinda Leddy as "Mad Hatter and The Queen of Hearts"!



Duane & Donna Thornton made everyone take a second look at their creative winning costume!



Joe & Melinda Leddy as Mad Hatter & Queen of Hearts joined by Ralph & Mary Anderson.



The Ghost of Elvis & Rickety Skeleton, Elliot & Linda Lum, haunted our Spooky Ballroom!

A creativity acknowledgement went to Jack and Marilee Ragland for their 'Big Bad Wolf and Goldilocks' costumes. Teachers Irina and James Friedhof continued their instruction of the Waltz from last month teaching a twinkle followed by a chasse, which was well received by the 45 dancers. Hosts Debbie Kincaid, Don Hubbard, Sharon Tate, Miriam Mozes and Mary Anderson provided the table decorations and a fine meal of pizza and salads.

Our November "Holiday Social" was a semi-formal affair with over 100 dancers, the ladies dressed in their beautiful gowns, the gents in black ties and suits. The event was highlighted by

a "Showtime" which included dancers from San Diego NSD. Four Star Dancers, Kao and Mark Chapman, performed their excellent Two-Step. Sandy Long danced with her



Duane & Donna Thornton begin their romantic Waltz routine.



Mark & Kao Chapman perform – Wow! Is that Kao on the floor?!

teacher John Rivers a Fox Trot and a lively Latin medley. Palomar's Four Star couple, Donna and Duane Thornton, performed an elegant Waltz, technically perfect with Donna in her flowing yellow gown. Former California State Champions, Marsha and Peter Hanson, danced a Night Club 2-step in a style that took them twice around the entire dance floor. All of the performances were enthusiastically received. Cai's restaurant of Vista catered an excellent meal, offering two entrees, turkey and salmon, with all of the trimmings. Decorations reflected the season and were planned by Miriam Mozes with help from Cathy & Frank Lombardi, Fred & Geri Deutsch, Peggy Lee, Darlene Drury, and Patricia Burke.



New Palomar Member Penny Elliot

Welcome new member Penny Elliot! Penny joined us in October and jumped right in with much appreciated helping hands. Penny has always loved dance and as a small girl took ballet for 10 years and then moved on to Ballroom Dancing in High School. Recently, she enrolled in Ballroom Dance Classes at Mira Costa College where she heard about Palomar's Monday night classes and gave us a try! Born in Newhall, CA and raised in Thousand Oaks she ended up in San Diego due to her time in the Navy. She now works for the Post Office and lives in the area with her daughter. Besides dancing, Penny loves crossword puzzles, gardening and refinishing "un-loved" furniture to give it a second life!



Condolences to Amiel Sharon and family. Dana Sharon, wife of Amiel, passed away September 30, 2014 after a long illness. Dana was our Queen in 2005. She and Amiel joined Palomar Smooth Dancers in 2002 and were great contributors to the activities and service to our club. Her "Celebration of Life" service was held in Carlsbad and attended by sixteen PSD members.

San Diego Smooth Dancers Social

New Years Eve Celebration 2014

Wednesday, December 31st, 8-12:00??

Dress: New Years Eve Appropriate Cost: \$25 Members \$20
 Your own Masks / Costumes-welcome! Jack and Jill Contest & Champagne Toast
 Refreshments: Easy Eats & Pot Luck Hosts: Mike Cowlshaw
 Lou and Amante Reyes
 Reservations not required Questions: Lou 858.652.9374

 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM - General Dance
 9:00 PM - Waltz Mixer
 9:15 PM - Special Dance Performance
 10:00 PM - Jack & Jill Dance Contest
 10:30 PM - Fox Trot Mixer
 12 Midnight - Toast

Reservations not required but encouraged
 - we cannot guarantee admission / seating if you just show up at the door
 - in order to reserve a table, we must have the names and it must be paid in full

~ New Years Eve Dance Reservation ~ **the friendliest dance in town**

Please make your check payable to: San Diego Smooth Dancers
 Your reservation must be received by December 24th
 Name (s) _____
 Address / City / Zip _____
 Number of Persons _____ Total Amount _____ (Members \$20 per person Non Members \$25)
 Open seating - or - Reserve a table of eight? ____ Yes/No
 Detach and mail to: Lou Reyes 2359 Trellis Street, Chula Vista, Ca 91915

Champion Ballroom 3580 Fifth Ave, San Diego, 92103

**Foxtrot
Waltz
Cha Cha
Tango
Samba
Night Club
2 Step
Viennese Waltz
Quickstep
Rumba
Swing
Bolero
Three Mixers
& Merengue!**

“SAVE THE DATE” scheduled for Saturday Evening, March 7, 2015 in San Diego for the Coronation of San Diego Smooth Dancers Queen–Elect Caron Schattel. More information will follow regarding the reservations for this event.

Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc.

Proudly Presents Our New Year's Eve Party

Tuesday, December 30, 2014



**Crowne Plaza Hotel
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, California
650.570.5700**

Room Rate \$129.00 Plus Tax, Booking Code (GS3)

No Host Bar

Cocktail Reception: 6:00 PM

Dancing: 6:30 PM

Dinner: 7:30 PM

Dancing: 8:30 PM to 11:30 PM



To Make Reservations: Please make check payable to "Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc.", \$75.00 per person and mail **before December 16, 2014**, the stub below with the following information to Liz Talmadge, 759 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080 (telephone 415-265-7063):

Please Check Choice of Entrée and complete the following information and mail to Liz Talmadge to reserve your tickets for the New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance:

____ New York Steak	NAME: _____
____ Grilled Mahi Mahi	ADDRESS: _____
____ Vegetarian Wellington	CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Rita Parma, President

LA'S 2015 Mardi Gras Coronation Ball

Featuring Queens elect:

Jodene Catterlin

(G.G., Convention, Visalia, SFV)

Sandy Wells

(Palomar, S.D., Bakersfield, Fresno)

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](mailto:sstacco@ca.rr.com)

Names _____ Chapter _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Email _____

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

Queen's Breakfast included with room rental