

*National Smooth Dancers*  
**Dance Whispers**  
*February 2015*



## Los Angeles Chapter

We had a wonderful Christmas potluck party in December with plenty of food and music from Tom Wells. Everyone was dressed in the holiday spirit and fun was had by all.

The coronation of our two Queens—Jodene Catterlin and Sandy Wells—was a spectacular event the end of January. We had a delicious hospitality in the afternoon with a lot of food. There was plenty of dancing, mixers and exhibitions. The queens' dance was done in perfect union of the two queens on opposite sides of the ballroom dancing to "Rainbow Connection". We had a wonderful honor dance by one of our member couples, Ken and Marion Scholtz, doing a jive. Later in the evening we had Artemi Okunev and Yulia Dragina doing cha-cha, jive and rhumba. We had another hospitality after the dance since there was still food left over and we all visited again.

Chuck and Susan Johnson went on a 35-day trip in November, starting with a 30-day cruise from Dubai to Capetown and then to Johannesburg for a five day safari, and now they are enjoying their new home.

Our February Valentines dance followed the next weekend after the coronation, as if we didn't already have enough partying! We were very pleased to have 5 guest join us. The music was provided by Chuck Johnson, reservations were done by Susan Johnson and food was provided by Victor Lee and Debbie Ku; who all were leaving for a 30 day cruise in Asia the next day! We are very lucky to have such committed members willing to be of service to our chapter. We are looking forward

edited by Chuck and Susan Johnson



to hearing about their travels and the troubles the get in.

On the health front, Kyle Catterlin will be having surgery on February 20th, so please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.



# San Diego Chapter

edited by Vern Miranda

## Introducing our 2015 Queen Elect, Caron Schattel



Caron Schattel was born in Chicago, IL, moved to San Diego as a girl and has lived here most of her life. She graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in psychology and a certification in Business Management and a certification in Facilities Management from UCSD. Caron worked for the

County of San Diego for 30+ years as a Social Services social worker, supervisor and manager as well as a manager for the Departments of Health Services and General Services. She is an accomplished cook and completed bronze, silver and gold level courses at a local cooking school and in New Orleans and other classes with well known chefs including Jacques Pepin.

Caron has always thought that she was born too late in time because she missed being able to dance during the Big Band Era like wonderful dancers such as Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Cyd Charise and others. As a girl she dreamed of being like Cinderella (her favorite movie), wearing beautiful ball gowns and dancing at a ball. Unfortunately, her strict Lutheran upbringing allowed only polkas, schottisches and square dances. Although she and her husband danced socially, it wasn't until her son, Michael, was grown and out of the home that she began West Coast Swing dancing. (Thank you, Ann Meador.) This led Caron and her husband, Paul, to American Smooth lessons. Unfortunately, Paul's sudden death in 1994 ended her lessons and dancing.

Thanks to an invitation from dance "fairy godmother", Ann Meador, to attend Ann's coronation in 2006; Caron returned to dancing. Because she had not been on a dance floor in more than 10 years, she raced to the nearest dance studio and enrolled in a beginning ballroom class. Realizing how much she missed dancing, Caron has been taking private lessons and attending group classes ever since.

Caron thanks the San Diego Chapter for the honor of electing her their 2015 Queen and looks forward to representing them at SDSD events, other chapter coronations and making new friends among the wonderful people in NSD.

**The 2014 New Year's Eve party** was a great success and lots of fun for the 113 guests who danced into the New Year. The DJ for the evening was Al Folkman who played some great music. There was a vast assortment of food from cold items to pasta followed with delicious fruits and desserts.

There was a Samba line dance followed by a Waltz & Cha Cha Jack & Jill. The winners are shown in one of the last photos. It was all a fun evening and many thanks go to Amante & Lou and their crew for hosting the party.

## Images from our 2014 New Year's Eve Party



# Bakersfield Chapter

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



## Introducing Queen-elect Susan Salvucci



Sue Johnson Salvucci moved to California from the Midwest in 1979 and entered Whittier College School of Law graduating in 1984. She married her late husband Frank S. Salvucci, Sr. in 1991 and they relocated to Bakersfield in 1994. After several years as a senior associate at Borton, Petrini & Conron, she opened a solo practice and is now winding down her law practice after 30

years. She began dancing in 2007 with the Bakersfield Chapter and continues the process of retiring. In the meantime she continues to mediate litigated civil lawsuits, real estate, business and family law matters as well as acting as a divorce coach. She enjoys her three step children, 7 step grandchildren and 2 great grandsons as well as 2 nieces a nephew and his wife and their three children. She enjoys ballroom dancing, golf, gardening, arts and crafts, architecture, following NFL football, traveling, music, movies, dining out, and visiting friends in Hawaii. She looks forward to the opportunity to visit the other chapters in 2015, meeting their Queen and making new acquaintances.

### TOP SECRET

**It's all happening on March 20th-22nd.** Aliens are known to be gathering at Bakersfield's Area 51! The results are that all in attendance could have a close encounter with smooth dancers and a variety of unknown intergalactic visitors. The rumor is that from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Friday night there will be a gathering at hanger X to feast on delicacies to tempt our taste buds and fill us up and our visitors who came from Galaxies far away. Later there will be lots of music to gyrate and space out to.

Saturday morning there will be a chance to intermingle with our visitors to discuss the various rules and regulations of the many galaxies. Also Saturday the reigning and past Queens of the galaxies will meet at a special luncheon for them.

On Saturday afternoon there will be a close encounter of our earthlings with beings from the alien worlds from 1:00-4:00pm. This should foster goodwill and promote cultural exchanges among us. We should expect much competition among our earthlings and visitors.

Saturday night we will have our Space Ball! Our intergalactic party of the universe will begin with the opening ceremony honoring the royalty of our visitor's home worlds and crowning our own new queen!

Following dinner we will have lots more dancing and competitions involving certain visitors.

On Sunday morning we will have a final feast, hand out

awards and wish our visitors a safe journey home.

All of us earthlings and aliens already here hope to see you at Area 51 On March 20th!

**Our January dance was our annual Presidents Ball and was hosted by President Steve Peterson.** There were several past Presidents in attendance. President Steve introduced each of them. A cha cha snow ball was played and we also had a Jack and Jill contest. All in all we had a wonderful evening.



**Our December Snowball dance was so much fun!** Hosted by Susan Salvucci and a wonderful committee. Sue chose red and green tablecloths with feather Boas and lots of snow balls for the tables. There was a lovely buffet provided by Frances Hein and a waltz snow ball dance which was led off by Queen Dorothy Vaughan and Dave Woodle.



**Our December dance is also when we award our most improved dancer awards.** President Steve Peterson had the honor of announcing the most improved couple who were John and Sandy Sierks, they have been really working on their dance skills, winning the most improved male was Robbie Cronin and most improved female was Bernice Fiolle, all well deserved honors,

*(Top) Our most improved couple award went to John and Sandy Sierks.*

*(Bottom) Bernice Fiolle took home the most improved female dancer award.*

congratulations to all of you.

**Mark you calendars for the Area 51 Close Encounters  
2015 Board Meeting.**

**Find the Registration Form on page 15**



# Queen's Reflections

## State Queen Miriam Mozes



Congratulations LA Chapter for an excellent Coronation! Very nice venue, lavish hospitality and flawless Coronation proceeding (if you don't take into consideration our - George and Miriam's - "faux pas" of not bowing to the two lovely Queens). We are so happy that this event was a Mardi Gras and not a French Coronation, and thus

escaped the guillotine... Jodene and Sandy were radiant, lovely and queenly and being part of their Court was truly a great privilege and a wonderful event for me. I did miss though the presence of Susan Lewis and would like to take this opportunity to wish her a speedy recovery and a quick return to the dance floor. We enjoyed very much the synchronized Queens' dance, the creative honor dance by Ken and Marion Scholtz and the impressive performances of Artemi Okunev and Yulia Dragina. All in all, this was a classy affair and our thanks go out to the entire LA Chapter, the Queens, the organizers and all the members who made this Coronation so successful. I would also like to thank all the Palomar Chapter members who came to support me and the LA Chapter.

Love, Miriam



As I am writing my Thank you notes to my fellow Queens, I realize how lucky I am..The LA chapter has again taken a chance on the rebel in their mist... My Chapter has blessed me with a dancing arena that befits a queen..I loved the music, and the atmosphere we created to celebrate the event. The hospitality parties were the

secondary celebration...fun, food and of course, Sees candy. My fellow Queens are so gracious and generous...I would like to say..."Thank you ". I am looking forward to representing my chapter and having a devilish good time..

**-Queen Sandy Wells, Los Angeles**



Many thanks to the LA Chapter for putting on a spectacular Mardi Gras Coronation. Coming back as queen after five years brings special feelings, and reminds me how special it is to be an ambassador for the Chapter. The beautiful honor dance was performed by our own Chapter couple, Marion and Ken Scholtz.

Then at 9:00 o'clock we had a professional exhibition by Artemi Okunev and his partner Yulia (he was a dance judge when I was State Queen). Hospitality was provided by the LA Chapter,

and maintained the Mardi Gras theme.

I want to thank all who attended, and especially my family, who traveled quite a distance to give me their support.

**-Queen Jodene Catterlin, Los Angeles**



It was Mardi Gras time in Jan. at the L.A. Coronation Ball held at the beautiful Glendale Hilton. All decked out in Mardi Gras finery, with table decorations of tall rotating vases of pink and red feathers, masks, and silver stars, the ballroom was lovely.

The coronation ceremony was especially notable for the Queen's dance, which was performed by two couples, Sandy and Tom Wells and Jodene and Kyle Catterlin. Sandy and Jodene will share the queens' duties this year. Their waltz, especially choreographed for the two couples to the music "Rainbow Connection," was performed with elegance and grace. The honor dance, a stylish swing, was performed by Ken and Marion Scholtz, who incidentally had choreographed the Queen's Waltz.

With gorgeous face masks for the Queens and a "hankie" for the men to flash (emulating the styling of a real Mardi Gras Ball), the coronation ceremony ended as each of the royal couples strutted from the ballroom.

Later in the evening, the Exhibition Dance was performed by Artemi Okunev and Yulia Dragina. They danced 3 dances for our enjoyment, a rumba, a cha cha and a jive. With lots of general dancing, including two mixers and line dances, led by Victor Lee and Outgoing Queen Debby Ku--who could help but have a fabulous time?!

**-Queen Andrea, San Fernando Valley**



We went to LA to attend a fabulous Mardi Gras coronation ball in honor of two Co-Queens Jodene Catterlin and Sandy Wells. We stayed at the Hilton Glendale, where the hospitality was held in the Presidential suite with breath taking views of the surrounding hills. Hors d'oeuvres and wine were delicious and plentiful.

The Mardi Gras Coronation Ball was truly a Royal Affair! The ballroom resembled Venetian Masquerade with festively decorated masks in tall skinny black vases slowly turning as if following the Sun, or the Moon, or maybe the Queens. Every visiting Queen was given a white decorated mask as the carrying piece. Outgoing Queen Debby Ku's mask was done in black and white, and Co-Queen Sandy Wells' mask was in purple and teal. All the Queens wore white dresses during the ceremony, except Co-Queen Sandy Wells who had a white royal robe (duster) with a train atop of her wonderful deep purple Adriana Papell gown. Queen Debby crowned both Co-Queens, who then performed their intricate Waltz routine together; charming the audience. Ken and Marion Scholtz entertained the Royal Court with their Swing. After the Queens' tribute waltz, we all danced out of the ballroom with our escorts to get our royal

court pictures taken. George Mozes was concentrating so hard on his dance that he almost forgot to take his leading lady (our State & Palomar Queen Miriam Mozes) to bow to the newly elected LA Co-Queens. He rushed back with Miriam to ask for a Royal Pardon (readily given, of course).

The food was superb (at least my fish was) . Wonderful music compelled everybody to dance (superb music selection by Chuck Johnson, Susan Lewis and Tom Wells). Artemi Okunev and Yulia Dragina bewitched the audience with their fabulous exhibition Rumba, Cha Cha and Jive. Nobody wanted the evening to end, so after 11 pm everyone moved back to the presidential suite to finish the hors d'oeuvres and wine(as if we did not have enough to eat and drink at dinner).

**-Queen Svetlana Gites, Golden Gate**



As suddenly as it came, my reign as the San Diego Smooth Dancers 2014 Queen, is almost over. There is only one coronation left for me to attend, enjoy and relish forever. January 31st I traveled to Los Angeles to witness the coronation of the new queens of the Los Angeles chapter. I feel I have more to accomplish and I needed more time to do these things. Thinking back over the year that just past, I amazingly experienced wonderful things. With tremendous support from the officers and members of San Diego Smooth Dancers and the coronation committee, I would say my coronation was a magnificent one. One cannot deny how elegantly it was prepared and presented. I think everyone especially my family truly felt that exciting and meaningful event.

All power to all the past queens and future queens.

**-Queen Lou Reyes, San Diego**



Our trip started out on a bright and sunny day oh wait; we live in the valley and it's January. We finally saw blue skies when we reached the Grapevine. Hospitality, Coronation and Queens Brunch were all held at the Hilton in Glendale. I walked into the hotel lobby and the first person I saw was Queen Dorothy Vaughn of Bakersfield. Before we could check in and get to the elevators we greeted at least 10 more Smooth Dancers. Many of the past Queens told me that the best part of being Queen is getting to know so many people and that is so true. Hospitality was in the Presidents suite where we had time to talk and to eat See's Candy. If you read Queen Sandy's bio you will notice she talked about chocolate for an entire paragraph – my kind of lady!

Mardi Gras was the theme for Coronation. Both incoming Queens did a lovely Waltz. Queen Sandy asked us to do a Second Line dance as we left the ballroom and State Queen Miriam and her husband George were having such a good time dancing they forgot to bow to the new Queens so they turned around, danced back to the Queens and bowed then did an encore dance - one of the "most memorable" moments of the

ceremony.

This time Jim was eager to get on the road so we would be home in time for the Super Bowl game. He was rooting for the Patriots and I watched half time, go Katy Perry! The next coronation will be in San Diego on March 7th. See you there!

**-Queen Debbie Renfro - Visalia**



Oh what a fun coronation! I loved the decorations and the beautiful masks the Queens got to carry in. Sandy and Jodene are lovely queens and I'm sure will represent Los Angeles well.

I really enjoyed the professional dancers Artemi Okunev and Yulia Dragina.

I truly enjoyed being in the crown circle with Debbie Ku and her husband Victor. And I will miss them. This was a bittersweet coronation for me, as I am nearing the end of my reign also.

**-Queen Dorothy Vaughn**



Friday, January 30, I traveled to Bakersfield to meet Kay & Mark Boyer. The three of us went to Bakersfield's Friday night dance at the Grange, where Dennis Acosta plays fantastic music. What fun I had dancing almost every dance! Saturday morning Sue Kimbrell and Queen-elect Susan Savucci from Bakersfield picked Kay and me up to drive to LA's double coronation of Sandy Wells and Jodene Catterlin.

The Coronation Ball theme was Mardi Gras. Each Queen carried a beautiful white jeweled mask on a stick with white feathers. Every table was decorated with tall black vases filled with white feathers and decorated masks which rotated. They were created by Victor Lee and Chuck Johnson, and were simply gorgeous.

Once Sandy and Jodene were crowned they both danced a lovely waltz with their husbands. The honor dance was performed by Ken and Marion Scholtz. Artemi Okunev and Yulia Dragina from Dance With Me Studios in Sherman Oaks provided the entertainment for the evening; their exhibition performances of Cha Cha, Jive and Rumba were breathtaking.

I want to thank my escort Michael Chu, who is an amazing dancer and escort. He made sure the three Bakersfield ladies were dancing too. There was so much food left over from hospitality that we had a second hospitality after the dance was over!

The fun really started when the Bakersfield girls shared my room consisting of one king bed and one rollaway. Sunday we had a delicious brunch at the hotel for outgoing LA Queen Debbie Ku. This was a great trip for me and one that will be remembered because of the three beautiful ladies from Bakersfield.

**-Queen Carla Hartunian, Fresno**

# Golden Gate Chapter

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens

## Introducing Queen elect, Gabrielle von Stephens



I was born in Heidelberg Germany, of a German mother and an American Indian father who was serving in the US Military. As a young girl I was drawn to anything related to dance and watched endless ballet rehearsal, hiding between the seats of a theater.

I pursued a medical education at the University of Heidelberg in the esthetic field and received the title of Medical Esthetician. I emigrated to the US in 1974 and came to San Francisco via New York in 1976 and established my business "Skin Concepts" in San Mateo in 1981, where I still practice my profession, as well as in my new place of residence in Sonoma, California.

My grandfather, being a trained Jazz musician, influenced my childhood with the greats of Gene Krupa and Lionel Hampton which were blasted through the house while he played along on his drums and Marimba, much to grandma's dismay. To this day, I much prefer the music I grew up with.

I have one beautiful daughter who lives in Germany with her sweet husband and my awesome grandchildren, Jenny 16 and Simon 14. After a divorce in the late 80's I started dancing and got the bug for training and competing. I performed as an Amateur with two different partners and then with pro Bill Milner for 5 years in the Pro/Am open gold Standard. Truly the best years in my life.

After joining Golden Gate chapter in 2006, I was elected their queen in 2007 and was introduced to the wonderful world of being Queen. I so look forward to my second term as Queen, as I have learned much in the last 7 years about: our organization, the people and the workings of being Queen, the importance of all the friendships made in this time and connection with the other chapters. My darling escort Patrick Jude is going to make this term as queen even more special with all of his incredible talents of tailoring, creating and building and of course his wonderful dancing.

### Our Christmas dance was a wonderful affair

with festive decorations by Elena Malta who made wonderful Santa Clauses sitting on top of a bottle of wine; which were won by one of the people at each table. The raffles we have every month are nicely augmenting our income and this time Patrick Jude contributed two hand crocheted and knitted cardigans which were won by



Ana, Norma and Maurine at New Years dance.

both Elena Malta and Liz Talmadge. They are now snugly held warm by Patrick's creations.

### Also at our Christmas dance we have been giving out the "Rosalie Wolf/Bob Fragomeni Spirit of Service award"



This year's recipient of the "Rosalie Wolf/Bob Fragomeni Spirit of Service Award" is Ben Cardinalli.



Amy, Dan and Queen Svetlana enjoy themselves at our New Years Eve, Eve Dance.



Our newest member, Robert Polo.

Chow, who have had some health challenges as of late.

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.



to an individual who has gone beyond the call of duty in service and dedication to our chapter. This year the award was given to Ben Cardinalli, a much deserving long time member who built many of the props used at our conventions and dances, as well as holding the position of Sergeant at Arms and bartender for many years.

**Our New Years Eve, Eve dance at the Crown Plaza hotel in Foster City was very well attended this year** and even Ana Dayeh came for a little while leading the group into her favorite line dance. We were all happy to see her and Maurine Brown (both recently widowed) and they even had a few dances. It's good to be with your dance family when your heart aches.

**We are welcoming our newest member Robert Polo**, who had been coming to our dances for a while now and decided to join this wonderful group of people. We welcome you and I just know all the singles ladies are delighted to have another accomplished dancer available at our dances.

All of us are looking forward to our members brunch this February and I, in particular, am looking forward to my incoming queens luncheon. I pray "ALL" our former queens will be able to come, especially Elizabeth Hage, Barbara Cardinalli and Bea

# Visalia Chapter

edited by Melody Mar



## Hearts, Wine, and Roses



**The Visalia Smooth Dancer celebrated Valentine's Day early with a romantic dance.** The hall was covered in red and pink hearts and cupids, with red roses on the entry and dessert tables. Each table had a lovely collection of painted wine bottles, hearts, and red roses, with a just enough crystal and sparkle

to make any girl sigh.

Dan Goss taught a sensual Bolero that was very well received by people both familiar with the dance, and those learning for the first time. We are always glad when Dan, and other instructors, are able to join us and share their expertise.

We had a large turnout with almost every seat filled and so many main dishes that we nearly ran out of table! Every dish was delicious and there were very few leftovers. It was exciting to see such a large turnout with a good number joining us



from other chapters, especially our sister chapter, Fresno.

After dinner (and dessert), Greg Uichanco provided an eclectic selection of songs that kept us up and dancing for hours. The floor was bursting with people, but there was

room for everyone to show their skill and have a great time.

During our intermission, Domie Aville and Dan performed a spectacular Bolero, complete with lifts, spins, and sensuality that left the crowd gasping. It is amazing that Domie has only been dancing for five years, and yet she displays so much grace and talent. She and Dan are a pleasure to watch and we were all glad that they shared their performance with us.



Queen Debbie was the MC and introduced and thanked everyone for their contributions to making that night happen. Maria Helm was the chairperson and she shines when using all of her knowledge and leadership when planning this event. It helped that she had a large and dedicated crew: Joan Dewey, Lona and Bill Dolan, Debbie and Jim Renfro, Melody Mar, Wendy and Garry Paden. Each put in their top effort planning, decorating, providing door prizes, working in the kitchen, and of course, cleaning.

Pictures were provided by Russell Mar (who is practicing for his role of photographer during Queen Debbie's Re-Coronation).

### President's Address:

Last year ended with our fantastic Christmas dance. 2015 begins with the January's dance "Stepping out" and February's dance "Hearts, Wine and Roses". At the January dance, we had our installation of officers. The officers for 2014 will remain for 2015 with the exception of Board member David Bixler will be replaced by Paul Storey.

Visalia Smooth Dancers is comprised of members with complicated, busy lives. However, they always find time to serve as officers, dance committees, take dance lessons, and extend their friendship and love to each other and dance guests. I feel blessed to be a part of such an impressive group.

**-Karl T Richards -President**

## Visalia Coronation is May 16

**The Exeter Best Western has only 30 rooms available due to remodeling. Smooth Dancers were unable to get a block of rooms and the rate is \$99. Book early to guarantee a room. 559 292-8118. Hospitality will still be in the Lobby of the Exeter Best Western.**

# Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



## Monthly Socials

December:



President Carla at our annual semi-formal Christmas Party.

**The December 3rd Sunday party was Fresno's annual semi-formal Christmas Party.** The Senior Center's beautifully decorated Christmas tree and the lovely green centerpieces were waiting for the guests to appear and start the celebration. The evening began with champagne and we were off to a great start. Nearly 80 Smooth Dancers joined together for a lovely dinner provided by Central Valley Caterers.

After dancing and mixers and a lively samba line dance, we took a short break for some chapter business. President Carla Hartunian presentation gifts to each of the 2014 officers and thanked them all for their service. Then the 2015 officers were installed, with new members David Morgan and Lydia Flores joining the returning officers from 2014.



2015 Officers: L to R: Carla Hartunian, President; Lorraine Tilton, Social Chair; Jim Escobar, Vice President; Linda Bennett, corresponding secretary; Lydia Flores, recording secretary and David Morgan, Treasurer



(Top) Margaret Molholt and Dan Goss perform a lovely Viennese Waltz.

(Bottom) Sharon Crisp and Dan Goss entertained us with a charming Foxtrot.

Sharon Crisp was at the DJ table doing a fabulous job of treating us to danceable Christmas music. Our entertainment featured two talented NSD members, the first a lovely Viennese Waltz by Visalia member, Margaret Molholt, with Dan Goss. This dance was planned for our November party and was postponed but well worth the wait. Next,

Fresno member Sharon Crisp also danced with Dan Goss, a charming Foxtrot with little of this and a little of that thrown in for spice and fun.



Members (L to R) all dressed up and enjoying the party: Van and Patty Van Oosbree, and Henry and Cindy Wegermann.

We went back to enjoying our own dancing until we paused again for announcements and door prizes. Names were drawn and the lucky winners were allowed to choose either a pretty rosemary shrub or a cute poinsettia to take home. More dancing finished another wonderful evening spent with NSD friends.

**January: Carla Hartunian brought all of her snowmen to decorate for the "Winter Dancing in the Cold January Nights" party.** She had help from her committee of Jim Escobar, Steve Moore, and Lynn Sanders. Vitaly Tarasor and Natia Kuprava from Step2Dance taught a Foxtrot lesson and Jim Escobar played the music.



We welcome our new member, Alicia Criado (center), with Sharon Crisp and VP Jim Escobar.

We are pleased to introduce our newest member, Alicia Criado, who was officially instated at our January event. I'm sure she will be a familiar face to many of you, having attended several Smooth Dancers' events over the past couple of years.

**February: Sharon Crisp will host Mardi Gras on Sunday,**

**February 15, 2015.** Alex Ortiz will begin the afternoon at 4:00 with a Cha Cha lesson, a pot luck dinner will follow at 5:30, and social dancing from 6-8 p.m. Alex and Leslie Rouse will offer special entertainment!

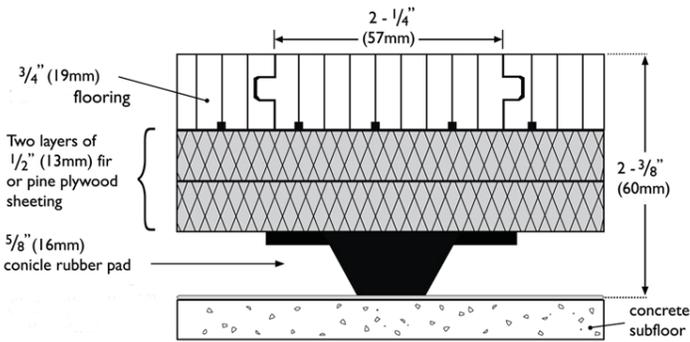
**March: Linda Bennett will host our March event, Look to the Rainbow, on Sunday, March 15, 2015.** Dan Goss will teach a Tango lesson at 4:00 p.m., which will be followed by a potluck dinner and dancing until 8:00 p.m. Please join us!

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

# Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard

Our January Social Dance was held at a new venue due to alterations being made at the Ocean Hills Country Club's main clubhouse. The new venue, Dancessense Studios of South Carlsbad, was pleasing to all dancers because of particularly one feature, their 'State of the Art' dance floor. In addition to a beautiful and well prepared hardwood floor, that makes good dancers better dancers, lies a special understructure that gives to the floor a vitality which limits stress on feet and joints, (see picture).



When asked about the construction of the largest dance studio in North County, Co-owner Melisa Dexter replied "we put our largest investment into the floor". Melissa's husband and professional dance partner, Giacomo Streccaglia, stated "we were pleased that the Palomar Smooth Dancers enjoyed our studio. We take pleasure in seeing so many dancers of that level dancing with such enthusiasm!"

Hosts Fred and Gerry Deutsch, and Frank and Cathy Lombardi provided excellent refreshments and managed the party. Peter and Marsha Hanson provided the music and professional teachers Irina and James Friedhof taught a lively samba. Our next Social is also scheduled for Dancessense, February, 22.

**With the end of the year upon us, we elected and swore in our officers as follows:**

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| President            | Peter Hansen    |
| Director             | Duane Thornton  |
| Vice President       | Fred Deutsch    |
| Treasurer            | Frank Lombardi  |
| Recording Secretary  | Marion Semler   |
| Corresponding Secty. | Patricia Burke  |
| Social Chair         | Antonia Quinene |
| State Queen          | Miriam Mozes    |



"Palomar's new team of 2015 Officers."



**Welcome new member Bobbi Selvig!** Bobbi joined us in December. She danced with her husband for over 20 years but never



As one of his last VP duties, Dane Gilkey swore in Bobbi Selvig during our December meeting.

took lessons until she was invited to our Monday night dance class. Then she was hooked! Born in New York, 6 years in Santa Monica, 6 years in Guatemala, 4 years in Ohio & her last move was to San Diego. She is a widow with two children. Bobbi is very versatile and loves dancing, tennis, volunteering, traveling, tutoring, gardening, movies and just having fun!

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
**PALOMAR'S CORONATION IS NOW SET FOR**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2015**  
**Flyers with additional details will be handed out at**  
**The Boards!**



10 Palomar members enjoyed the LA Chapter Coronation – nice job LA!



Celebrating LA's Mardi Gras Coronation!

# San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Debbie Bloom



**It's been a season of celebrations.** San Fernando Valley chapter had an early holiday party on December 6th. The evening started with a challenging, but fun, tango lesson taught by Natalia Lind. Then we danced the night away to holiday themed songs spun by one of our favorite DJs, Jane Hammond.

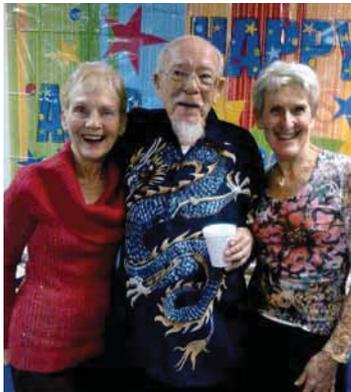


*Debbie Bloom celebrated her upcoming retirement from the Los Angeles Unified School District. The theme of the evening was Turning to the Next Chapter.*

**That same evening, I celebrated my upcoming retirement.** This is my 30th and final year working, first as a teacher and then as a school psychologist, for the Los Angeles Unified School District. My boyfriend, and favorite dance partner, Jerry Engel, brought a yummy cake decorated with the theme, "Turning to the Next Chapter". I was treated to a "gang dance" by several male dancers. I chose a snappy version of the song "I Made it Through the Rain" because the lyrics so accurately express my sentiments about my career.

I felt fortunate to share this occasion with my dear friends from National Smooth Dancers.

**Queen Andrea, James, Bill, and Barbara had a wonderful time at Len Vanderhoof's 90th birthday party.**



*Smooth Dancer Len Vandefhoof celebrates his 90th birthday down in San Pedro. Many of our members attended the party and were excited to be part of Len's momentous occasion.*

**Here's what they had to say about it:** Our long time San Fernando Valley member, Len Vanderhoof, celebrated his 90th birthday in great style with a festive dinner party for family and many friends. This is a man who loves driving snazzy, fast cars - "Len's Toys" - and has owned and sailed his own vessels and is a wealth of knowledge so on many topics. Bill and Barbara and James and Queen Andrea made the drive to San Pedro to help celebrate this milestone with Len. We so much enjoyed meeting his family members and friends and sharing stories and memories.

Len's dear friend, dance partner and travel companion for 33 years was our SFV member and 2001 Chapter Queen, Martha Rhodes, who passed away in March of 2014. Martha's

jolly and special presence was very much missed this evening. Len and Martha sailed and hiked and danced and explored all around the world together traveling to just about every destination you could name. You should see his World Map with colored pins designating all the places they have traveled - let's just say that there are way more pins than map showing. Whether "roughing it" or in "luxurious surroundings" they enjoyed it all. Len, we sincerely wish you many more birthdays to celebrate and many more adventures.



**In February, Smooth Dancers decorated the studio with red and pink balloons and flowers to celebrate Valentines Day.** A lovely waltz was taught by acclaimed teachers, David and Lily Mourtey. We spent the rest of the evening dancing to romantic, and some not so romantic songs. The ladies' choice dance brought out the Valentine spirit in everyone.

**Smooth Dancers, Deanna Stanton and Joseph Hidalgo, have been diligently practicing their newest showcase number.**



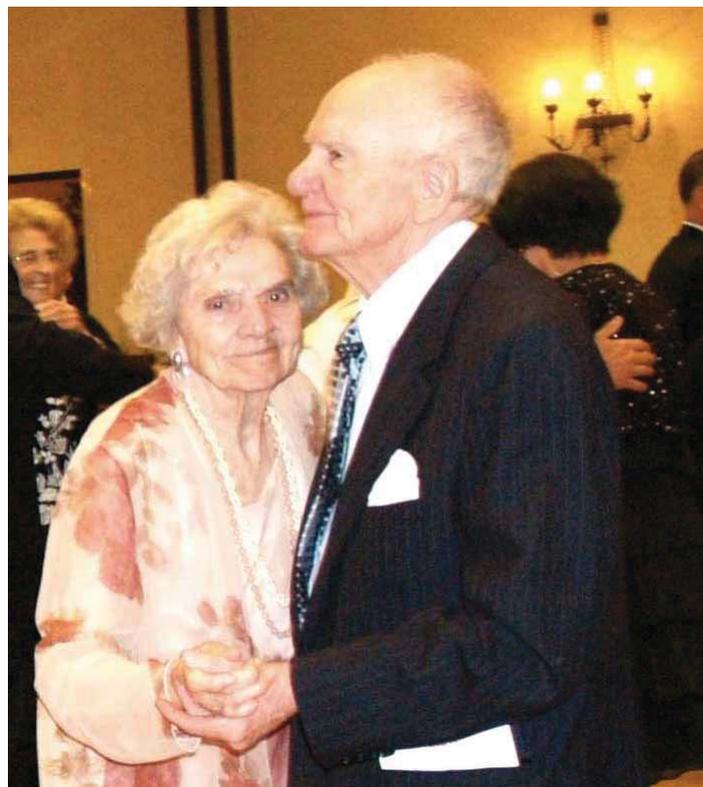
*Deanna Stanton and Joseph Hidalgo are practicing their Viennese Waltz showcase routine.*

It's a Viennese Waltz danced to the song "The Black Pearl", from the movie Pirates of the Caribbean. Deanna and Joseph enjoy performing showcase routines that are entertaining and have a story line. Typically, they come up with ideas together, which they then share with their teacher and choreographer, Debra Perez. In a collaborative effort, Debra helps the couple create their vision in dance.

**Deanna and Joseph have been taking lessons from Debra Perez for eight years.** In that relatively short amount of time, they've

become accomplished dancers. They've performed showcase routines at various venues, including USA Dance and SFV Smooth Dancers. They've successfully competed as an amateur couple and with their teachers in Pro-Am events. Deanna and Joseph have put a lot of time and effort into refining their dance skills. They admit to being nervous when they perform, but they always manage to overcome their jitters and entertain the audience with their unique routines. Their dedication and perseverance make Deanna and Joseph an inspiration to all amateur dancers.

## IN MEMORIAM



**It is with great sadness that I report the passing of long time member Gene White.** Gene was an avid dancer and any chance he could he would be out on the dance floor! For the longest time Gene would bring his music to the Veterans Hall on Norris Rd. so that all of us could practice our dance moves. He earned the Gretchen Garretson Award for his outstanding service to our club in 2000. He also served as our club president during 2001-2002. Gene was also a member of Dance steppers. He was known as “Gene, Gene, the Dancing Machine” and was my dance partner for several years, when my husband could no longer dance.

**We also lost long time member and former queen Joyce Campbell.** Joyce was a life member of our club. She served as our queen in the years 1976 and 77. Joyce was very active in our club until health problems prevented her from dancing.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends.

Dear members,

Our very first Queen of Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Marty Oscarsen, passed away on February 8th. She was Queen in 1952. I met Marty 10 years ago though we had been neighbors since 1968. I invited her and her husband Erik to our Brunch and then we brought them to the dances until about 3 years ago when it just became to much for her. She dearly loved being part of the group again and she did love to dance.

There will be no services but if you care to send a card to Erik and to Marty's daughter, Claudia, the address is in the roster as Marty remained an honorary member.

-Maurine Brown

## Los Angeles Chapter Officers

Coronation - January 31, 2015

President	Victor Lee	Dance Rules	Ken Scholtz
Vice President	Kyle Catterlin	Dance Whispers Editor	Chuck and Susan Johnson
Treasurer	Roger Lewis	Dance Whispers Publisher	Tom Wells
Board Member	Ken Scholtz	Music Coordinator	Chuck Johnson
Board Member	Roger Lewis	Publicity	Chuck Johnson
Board Member	Tom Wells	Queen	Jodene Catterlin
Corresponding Secretary	Susan Lewis		Sandy Wells
Recording Secretary	Marion Scholtz	Webmaster	George Camilton
Social Chairman	Debbie Ku		

## San Diego Chapter Officers

Coronation - March 7, 2015

President	Mike Colishaw	Dance Rules	Chuck DiSessa
Vice President	Ann Meador	Dance Whispers Editor	TBD
Treasurer	Kay Ryan	Music Coordinator	Rose Madrid
Board Member	Alberta Valentini	Queen	Lou Reyes
Corresponding Secretary		Queen-elect	Caron Schattel
Recording Secretary	Denise White	State Queen-elect	Kay Ryan
Social Chairman	Lou Reyes	Webmaster	Al Folkman

## Palomar Chapter Officers

Coronation - July 25, 2015

President	Peter Hansen	Dance Rules	Len Lee
Vice President	Fred Deutsch	Dance Whispers Editor(s)	Don Hubbard / Debbie Kincaid
Treasurer	Frank Lombardi		
Board Member	Duane Thornton	Music Coordinator	Music Committee
Corresponding Secretary	Patricia Burke	Publicity	Debbie Kincaid
Recording Secretary	Marion Semler	Queen & State Queen	Miriam Mozes
Social Chairman	Antonia Quinene	Webmaster	Peter Hansen

## Golden Gate Chapter Officers

Coronation - April 11, 2015

President	Vlad Gites	Dance Rules	Igor Tilinin
Vice President	Carl Chesbrough	Dance Whispers Editor	Gabrielle Von Stephens
Treasurer	Joe Malta	Music Coordinator	Joe Malta
Board Member	Dan Ansaldi	Queen	Svetlana Gites
Corresponding Secretary	Elena Malta	Queen Elect	Gabrielle von Stephens
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Li	Webmaster	Carl Chesbrough
Social Chairman	Liz Talmadge	Parliamentarian	Rita Parma

## San Fernando Valley Chapter Officers

Coronation - November 7, 2015

President	Bill Morey	Dance Rules	Mark Emanuelli
Vice President	James Gutman	Dance Whispers Editor	Rachel Seward
Treasurer	Bill Steeber	Queen	Andrea Gutman
Board Member	Joan Robinson	Webmaster	Bill Steeber
Corresponding Secretary	Gee Gee Barden		
Social Chairman	Andrea Gutman		

## Bakersfield Chapter Officers

Coronation - March 21, 2015

President	Steve Peterson	Dance Rules	Janice Mills
Vice President	Ben Wilson	Dance Whispers Editor	Dorothy Vaughan
Treasurer	Jo Ann Georgio	Queen	Dorothy Vaughan (2014)
Board Member	Bill Landry		Susan Salvucci (2015)
Corresponding Secretary	Sue Kimbrell		
Recording Secretary	Ben Wilson (Acting Secretary)		
Social Chairman	Steve Rogers		

## Visalia Chapter Officers

Coronation - May 16, 2015

President	Karl Richards	Dance Rules	John Gutteriez
Vice President	Jerry Bailey	Dance Whispers Editor	Melody Mar
Treasurer	Myra Nielsen	Music Coordinator	Greg Uichanco
Board Member	David Bixler	Publicity	Jim Renfro
Corresponding Secretary	Shane Nelson	Queen	Debbie Renfro
Recording Secretary	Shane Nelson	Webmaster	Dee Petereson
Social Chairman	Carol Abeyta/Sally Bailey	Sunshine	Caryl Creason/Dorothy Sims
Parliamentarian	David Bixler	Sgt of Arms	Garry Paden

## Fresno Chapter Officers

Coronation - June 6, 2015

President	Carla Hartunian	Dance Rules	Kathy Constantino
Vice President	Jim Escobar	Dance Whispers Editor	Linda Bennett
Treasurer	David Morgan	Music Coordinator	Bauke "Van" Oosbree
Board Member	Lynn Sanders	Queen	Past Queens Sharing Duties
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Bennett	Webmaster	Lorraine Tilton
Recording Secretary	Lydia Flores	Historian	Nancy Palazzo
Social Chairman	Lorraine Tilton	Sunshine	Dolores Reed

San Diego Smooth Dancers  
Cordially invites you to a Coronation Ball

*"A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes"*

Honoring Queen-elect

**Caron Schattel**



**Saturday, March 7, 2015**

**CHAMPION BALLROOM ACADEMY**  
3580 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, CA  
6:00 Doors Open -- 6:30 Coronation

Followed by Buffet Dinner  
Coronation \$50.00 per person  
Black Tie Optional

**Exhibition Dance**

**Courtyard Marriott**

8651 Spectrum Center Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123  
Room Reservations - 888-236-2427 Phone 858-573-0700  
Hotel Booking Code: **San Diego Smooth Dancers** Room Rate \$109.00

**Hotel Reservations deadline is February 16, 2015**

Hospitality on March 7th at Courtyard Marriott 2:00-4:00  
Queen's Brunch at the home of Al Folkman  
Sunday, March 8, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. \$25.00

Please make checks payable to San Diego Smooth Dancers & mail to:  
Been Kao, 7637 Rustico Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92009  
*For more information, please call Been Kao at 760-753-5009  
or Judy Miranda at 619-994-9833*

**CORONATION RESERVATION deadline is February 25, 2015**

**Please detach and mail on or before 2-25-2015 to:**  
**Rservations: Been Kao, 7637 Rustico Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92009**  
**Checks payable to : San Diego Smooth Dancers**

Names(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ (Non-members leave blank)

Buffet Dinner: \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Queen's Brunch: \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be staying at the Marriott Hotel: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_



# Area 51

## Close Encounters

March 20, 21 & 22, 2015

**Packages and Tickets Registration**

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

**Weekend Dance Package**

Our Fabulous Deluxe Dance Package includes admission to all weekend events.  
(Queens' Lunch Not Included)

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Friday Evening</b>     | Buffet Dinner & Evening Dance  |
| <b>Saturday Morning</b>   | Buffet Breakfast               |
|                           | Group Dance Lesson             |
| <b>Saturday Afternoon</b> | Afternoon Dance & Competitions |
| <b>Saturday Evening</b>   | Coronation Ceremony            |
|                           | Formal Dinner & Dance          |
|                           | Professional Entertainment     |
|                           | Competitions                   |
| <b>Sunday Morning</b>     | Buffet Breakfast               |
|                           | Awards Ceremony                |
- Please indicate how many persons will be attending. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$179.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**The Party Package**

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Friday Evening</b>     | Buffet Dinner & Evening Dance  |
| <b>Saturday Morning</b>   | Group Dance Lesson             |
| <b>Saturday Afternoon</b> | Afternoon Dance & Competitions |
- Please indicate how many persons will be attending. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**The Formal Package**

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Saturday Evening</b> | Coronation Ceremony        |
|                         | Formal Dinner & Dance      |
|                         | Professional Entertainment |
|                         | Competitions               |
- Please indicate how many persons will be attending. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$95.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**The Queens' Lunch**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday @ 11:30 am</b> | Luncheon is open to all former<br>Queens from all Chapters |
|----------------------------|--|
- Please indicate how many persons will be attending. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Meals \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **Bakersfield Smooth Dancers.**

**CANCELLATIONS** before March 10th, 2015 will receive a prorated refund.  
After March 10th, 2015 - No Refunds can be made.

**OUTSIDE FOOD & BEVERAGES:** Due to State Law, you may not bring alcoholic beverages into the Hotel Ballroom  
The Hotel must approve all other food or non-alcoholic beverages brought in from outside sources.

Mail Event Registrations to:  
**JoAnn Georgio**  
14035 Rosedale Hwy. #10  
Bakersfield, CA 93314  
jgeorgio@bak.rr.com

**Hotel Reservations**  
CUTOFF DATE: Please Book by February 20, 2015  
**Double Tree by Hilton, Bakersfield**  
3100 Camino Del Rio Court., Bakersfield, CA 93308  
**Phone Reservations:** (661) 323-7111 or (888) 779-4694  
Under group code enter: **C-BSD** (Bakersfield Smooth Dancers)

To find all the registration forms and information online click or go to:  
[www.fresnosmoothdancers.org/BakersfieldBoard.html](http://www.fresnosmoothdancers.org/BakersfieldBoard.html)