

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
April 2015



Bakersfield Chapter

QUEENS FAREWELL: It seemed like a blink of an eye and it was over! My journey as Queen went by so fast; I keep thinking what just happened?

I enjoyed and loved every moment, every friend I made every joy I experienced!

I thank my friend Jo Ann Georgio for traveling with me on the first half of my journey and my sweetheart Dave for being with me on the second half. I also want to thank the various chapters who provided me with some wonderful escorts along the way. Most of all I thank the Bakersfield Chapter for allowing me to serve as their fiftieth year Chapter Queen.

Congratulations to our wonderful new Queen Susan Salvucci. May your reign be everything you could hope and wish for!

BOARDS: Area 51 proved to be a big success and I'm happy to report that no one was abducted on alien abduction day, March 20th. Maybe it was because the "Men in Black" were on duty to keep everyone safe. It's a good thing because there were several alien characters present. But as it turned out they were of the friendly sort, or it could be because the buffet for Friday night was so tasty!

Saturday, the Queen's reception was well received and who knows, could start a precedent!

Our Saturday afternoon competitions were exciting to watch and we had some great Jack and Jill competitions also!

Saturday evening was the Coronation of our lovely new Queen Susan Salvucci. Susan did a great job on her choice of decorations, which was very elegant; she used tall white vases with white feathers on a mirrored background along with white tablecloths.

Susan gave each of the Queens lovely white scarfs to wear and beautiful bouquets of fresh white Calla Lilly's and a long stemmed white rose to carry.

Susan was escorted in by her dear friend Frank Trimble. They performed a lovely waltz to the music *Nothing to Prove*. The Queens court was then invited to join in.



edited by Dorothy Vaughan



During the evening there were several more competitions, along with our wonderful professional entertainers, Selena and Marcus Johnson. They are beautiful dancers.

This year our chapter decided to sell raffle tickets for some wonderful gift baskets and yours truly was the lucky recipient of two of them!

This year's 'Boards' was the first year that Steve Peterson and Ben Wilson were in charge of putting everything together, and if I must say so myself they did a fantastic job! So Kudos to them and all those who helped behind the scenes.

Although Bakersfield's chapter didn't have any competitors this year, I want to congratulate all the winners from the other chapters. They all did a fantastic job! This year we tried something different; we had our past queen hand out the medals, and then the winners had their picture taken with our new queen. It seemed to speed things up a little and worked rather smoothly.

All too soon it was time to say goodbye to everyone, and so another successful 'Board' is added to all the other memorable ones.

Our April dance will be chaired by JoAnn Georgio. Her theme is Spring Fling. The dance will be held at the Rasmussen Center 115 East Roberts Lane. The time is 7:00-10:30pm. The date is April 25th. I hope all of you will join us for this dance. Members are always free; guests are \$15.00 singles and \$25.00 a couple.

Our upcoming May dance is our annual Queen's dance honoring all our past and present queens. It is also when we present our Gretchen Garretson award. This dance will be chaired and co-chaired by Dorothy Vaughan and Kay Boyer. We are still in the planning stages and hope everyone will be able to join us. Mark the date, May 23 on your calendar and we will see you there!



Dance Competition Results

Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Senior Waltz	Peter & Janice Imperial, Golden Gate	Amante & Lou Reyes, San Diego	Bill Morey & Gee Gee Barden, San Fernando Valley
Beginners Waltz	Doug & Jane Hammond, San Fernando Valley	Stan Medina & Marivel Villarreal Visalia	Paul & Wendy Storey Visalia
Beginners Cha Cha	Jeff & Jenny Durling, San Fernando Valley	Tom & Sandy Wells, Los Angeles	Amante & Lou Reyes, San Diego
Social Swing	Don Hubbard & Penny Elliot Palomar	Stan Medina & Marivel Villarreal Visalia	Amante & Lou Reyes, San Diego
Intermediate Smooth	Jeff & Jenny Durling, San Fernando Valley	Doug & Jane Hammond, San Fernando Valley	James & Andrea Gutman, San Fernando Valley
Advanced Smooth	Jeff & Jenny Durling, San Fernando Valley	James & Andrea Gutman, San Fernando Valley	Peter and Janice Imperial, Golden Gate
Advanced Standard	Igor & Nadia Tillinin, Golden Gate	Mark Chapman & Been Kao, San Diego	Ken & Marion Scholtz, Los Angeles



1st - Senior Waltz



2nd - Senior Waltz



3rd - Senior Waltz



1st - Beginners Waltz



2nd - Beginners Waltz



3rd - Beginners Waltz



1st - Beginners Cha Cha



2nd - Beginners Cha Cha



3rd - Beginners Cha Cha



1st - Social Swing



2nd - Social Swing



3rd - Social Swing



1st - Intermediate Smooth



2nd - Intermediate Smooth



3rd - Intermediate Smooth



1st - Advanced Smooth



2nd - Advanced Smooth



3rd - Advanced Smooth



1st - Advanced Standard



2nd - Advanced Standard



3rd - Advanced Standard



Golden Gate Chapter

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



(Top Left) Elizabeth Li and Carl Chesbrough competed in their first competition at the Boards in March, competing in the Beginning Waltz. Elizabeth and Carl were awarded the "Most Improved Couple" on the dance floor during our February dance.

(Top Right) Janice and Peter Imperial place 3rd in the Advanced Smooth division and 1st place in the Senior Waltz. (Right) Igor and Nadia Tillinin won 1st place in the Advanced Standard division and also showcased a Viennese Waltz. Congratulations to all our competitors.



I was told Bakersfield Boards were fabulous as always and all who went from our chapter had a wonderful time. We had Elizabeth Li and Carl Chesbrough venture out on the competition floor for the first time in a Beginning Waltz, Janice and Peter Imperial placed well taking 3rd place in the Advanced Smooth division, and 1st place in the Senior Waltz (after proving their ages). Igor and Nadia Tillinin took first place in the advanced Standard and also danced a Viennese Waltz showcase dance. A great showing from our chapter.

Getting to know our long time members, Rita and Floyd Parma. Floyd Parma sports an impressive resume including the United States Air Force, being a jet engine technician during the Vietnam War. A B.S. in accounting, USF Law School receiving his Juris Doctorate in 1975. He also received a Master of Science in Taxation in 1981. He is a Certified Specialist in Family Law and



served as Judge Pro Tem. He obtained his Black Belt in Karate, learned how to play the organ and piano, as well as the guitar. His love of dancing started when he observed similarities in the martial arts and ballroom dancing. He and Rita competed on many levels during Conventions for NSD. He does lapidary and electroplating, as some of his many hobbies, which includes studying the Bible, Physics, Spanish and Italian. Floyd served as President of Golden Gate Smooth Dancers and remains active serving as one of the DJs at the monthly dances and is always ready to serve whenever and wherever needed. **Rita Parma**, his beautiful wife, whose first language is Spanish has studied Tagalog and Italian. Born in Baja, but raised in San Francisco, Rita has worked in the legal field for 40 years and worked herself up from file clerk to secretary/office manager/paralegal, working with the San Mateo County Superior Court where she was a courtroom clerk for several judges. After she joined Golden Gate National Smooth Dancers, she has served as their Queen, State Queen, Queen's Coordinator, Recording Secretary, Reservation Chairman, Vice President and President. Rita also makes beautiful jewelry.

A few of our long time members have had some health challenges these past few months and we are hoping and praying that all will be well for our upcoming coronation. Speaking of which I must report about my awesome Queens luncheon given



by our outgoing queen Svetlana and her amazing husband, our president Vlad Gites. They turned their beautiful home into Cafe de Paris and Vlad cooked every one of the 7 courses. It was incredible. If you are ever invited to their home for dinner, do fast a week before and a week after. As always, dance first, thinking can wait.



Liz and Chuck Talmadge were given the presidents achievement award for their amazing contributions to our chapter.

Queen's Reflections



Even though I was Chapter Queen three times and now State Queen, I thoroughly enjoy every Coronation, Convention and Board I attend. For me, these events have a bittersweet aspect to them. On the one side, I am saddened because I have to say goodbye to the outgoing Queen with whom I had many good times. On the other side, I am happy to meet the incoming Queen whom I hope to befriend and continue to have a good time. And so it was at the last Coronation in San Diego and the Boards in Bakersfield. I had the great pleasure to serve and become friends with Lou Reyes (San Diego) and Dorothy Vaughn (Bakersfield), two lovely ladies whom I hope to see at many more events. I am also looking forward to strengthen my friendship with Caron Schattel (San Diego) my immediate neighbor to the South and to forge a friendship with Susan Salvucci (Bakersfield).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of the San Diego Coronation and the Bakersfield Boards for putting on such great events. I would also like to thank the members of the Palomar Chapter who came to support me, in great numbers, at both events.

What can I say! Life is good, and friends and dancing make it even better.

-State Queen Miriam Moses, Palomar



I REALLY ENJOYED THE San Diego Coronation very much. The weather was perfect!

Caron choose a very lovely pink gown to waltz in.

Her granddaughter and partner did the honor dance and they were delightful!

For me what made the coronation special though were my crown circle friends. I had such bitter sweet moments knowing that this was my last official coronation before the 'Boards'. Oh yes, and seeing Mark Chapman and his lovely wife, Kao, dancing again with the looks of pure joy on their faces. Mr. Happy Hips!

What can I say about the "Boards", my last official duty as queen! I was happy that I could "crown" my friend Sue as queen! My feelings, emotions were so mixed; I know I was smiling, maybe just relishing the final moments of being queen, enjoying the "spotlight" for those last moments before it ended.

-Queen Dorothy Vaughn, Bakersfield



For the San Diego Coronation, Vlad and I flew to San Diego for the "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes" Coronation of Caron Schattel. Hospitality was held at the Presidential Suite of Courtyard by Marriott, where we were staying. Taking the

pink cocktail napkin with "2015 SDDS Coronation Queen Caron Schattel" silver stamping (pink and silver were the event colors), a glass of wine, we all enjoyed fabulous food and good company. Queen Caron wore a beautifully made hot pink dress adorned with red and white stones, truly a coronation gown. Queen Caron danced a beautiful waltz with her teacher Stephen Showers. Queen's granddaughter, Morgan Johnson, and her dance partner, Richard Bobiljov, performed Rumba to honor the newly elected Queen Caron. Later in the evening we all were treated to their passionate Paso Doble. Queen's friend, and fellow NSD member, Sheryl-Anne Phillips danced Tango and Samba with Kurt Popp (both will be partnering in Pro-Am competition this spring). The evening was too short! The next morning we went to a fabulous Queen's Breakfast at the house of Al Folkman with its wonderful terraces and breathtaking views. All too soon the weekend was over.

We went to Area 51 (nee Bakersfield) to check out the Extra Terpsichoral Activities reported there. We encountered numerous aliens during the fun weekend. Some of them were petrified in clusters of 3 or 4 (maybe because they could not dance), and so were used as ballroom decorations. Others were dancing the weekend away, competing in various events, and enjoying themselves immensely. "Men in Black" (some of them were women) entertained the audience with their clever routine. Queen Susan Salvucci performed a beautiful waltz with Frank Trimble. Marcus and Selena Johnson enthralled the NSD audience with their stunning performance! The whole weekend was spent dancing – what could be better!

-Queen Svetlana Gites, Golden Gate



Being Queen is like being abducted into a whole new dimension of dance!!

Queen Susan Salvucci was not an alien at her coronation...She was a beautiful swan, dancing and entertaining us in Bakersfield.

Queen Caron Schattel, San Diego Chapter, was a shining example of "How to have fun and be regal at the same time".

Both coronations had wonderful dance music and yummy food. Al Folkman's breakfast in San Diego was at his home with a spectacular view of San Diego's bay. Homemade food with Costco supplies were on the menu. For a moment.., I forgot I was on Weight Watcher's. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Queen Susan and Queen Caron...I will see you soon.

-Queen Sandy Wells, Los Angeles



It seems like San Diego has it all: beautiful predictable weather, exciting and interesting hiking and biking trails, an accessible ocean view, and last, but not least, a great ballroom dance studio. The Champion Ballroom Academy was perfectly

appointed by the San Diego Chapter for a coronation ball. Queen Caron expertly performed the queen's waltz with her escort Stephen Showers and, in keeping with the theme "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes", looked on as her granddaughter Morgan Johnson and partner Richard Boboljov entertained us all for the honor dance. Morgan at 15 is an accomplished competitor and performed both a sizzling rumba and a striking paso doble with Richard. Later in the evening we were treated to a pro/am showcase routine by Cheryl-Anne Phillips and her coach Kurt Popp. I don't want to forget to mention the scrumptious breakfast the following day at Al's house where we all took advantage of that "accessible ocean view" and selected the balcony seat of our choice to enjoy brunch at his lovely home.

This was my first Bakersfield's weekend getaway representing the San Fernando Valley Chapter as queen. Being queen made it look very different. One thing, and of special mention, was the beautiful Crown Circle Brunch arranged by Wendy Wilson and her attentive crew. Admittedly it was my first time, but from what I've heard of past events this was especially nice, as invitations brought out both reigning and past queens to celebrate the occasion. How lovely.

There was opportunity as well to discuss with new acquaintances the history of the coronations in order to understand and appreciate their significance. There was interest in entertaining new ideas and suggestions from several so that the club might build on and improve what has been a great tradition over the years.

On behalf of our chapter I would like to thank their hard-working beavers/bees/great people all. The professional performers were fantastic, giving us a Tango, a Foxtrot, and a Waltz. And, if you are interested, know that SFVNSD was well represented on the competition floor. Our club took away medals in nearly every category. If you weren't there, you missed a great time.

-Queen Andrea Gutman, San Fernando Valley



New Queen Caron Schattel tells us that the theme for her coronation, "A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes", describes her situation as a girl: she wanted "to learn to dance, wear a beautiful ball gown, dance all night and be the 'Queen' of the event. It took me awhile to get to the ball but it sure was worth the wait to be so honored."

Regarding her coronation Caron relates that, "Upon arrival at the ballroom I was overjoyed by the beauty of the setting and decorations. The hot pink arch and tablecloths and gorgeous silver centerpieces were incredible. . . The ceremony itself was truly special because all my family were participants: Michael, my son, as my escort; Lisette, my daughter-in-law, as the crown bearer and Morgan, my granddaughter, as the flower bearer. . . The highlight for me was the Honor Dance rumba performed by Morgan, and her partner, Richard. The

All Queens' Waltz was beautiful and it was my honor to be on the floor with so many wonderful dancers. . . . I do not have enough space to thank all of you individually for what you did to make this event so special for me." San Diego salutes Caron as the latest lovely addition to our Crown Circle.

-Queen Caron Schattel, San Diego



It was such a pleasure to be able to represent Fresno at the recent San Diego Coronation for Caron Schenttel. It was so good to be with great friends, who took care of me since I had no car, make new acquaintances, and meet the reigning queens. We started the weekend with a lovely reception Saturday afternoon and again I saw many friends and was able to meet new members. Caron's coronation was beautiful. It was the first time I had attended a coronation in which the queen did not wear a white gown; Caron was beautiful in her pink gown, and the chapter queens carried pink fans with silver flowers to match her gown. Caron's 15 year-old granddaughter and her partner did an honor dance and entertained and were absolutely fabulous. I know Caron had to be very proud. The evening event as I said was beautiful with a great dinner, super music and dancing. Sunday morning breakfast was prepared by the San Diego members and held at Al Folkman's home. His home is gorgeous in the hills with an outstanding view, and the weather could not have been better for enjoying a fabulous breakfast on the deck. Super weekend!

-Queen Ann Phillips, Fresno



What a wonderful weekend that we had at the Bakersfield Boards! The Top Secret theme made the entire weekend a little mysterious with close encounters of Area 51. It was my pleasure to represent the Fresno Chapter as Queen this weekend and to welcome the Bakersfield queen-elect Susan Salvucci into the wonderful sisterhood of NSD Queens. The coronation was not only very beautiful with the white on white theme but you had a feeling of walking among clouds of soft white feathers knowing that there must be a strange creature watching from behind wanting to be part of such beautiful and elegant festivities. Watching Queen Susan and her escort do their Queens Waltz made me appreciate the fact that Bob and I are so fortunate to part of such a wonderful organization; also that we are so very lucky to be able to participate in such a redeeming activity such as dance. Queen Susan made us all feel so welcome and very happy that we were part of her coronation. It was a pleasure getting to know Queen Susan and I look forward to attending several more coronations with her as well as all the other Queens represented.

-Queen Sue Dowell, Fresno

Visalia Chapter

edited by Melody Mar



Re-Introducing Visalia's Queen Elect: Debbie Renfro



Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend. Wow, what a great idea for a theme (thanks Carolyn Richards!), anyone who knows me will say that it is perfect for me. My family tells me that I must have been a ferret in a previous life because I like bling!

I have been blessed with a wonderful husband and two daughters. My husband grew up in San Diego where he spent most of his time surfing. Today he spends his free time dancing and playing golf. Heather is my oldest daughter and she loves to go to the movies and is famous in VSD for baking cupcakes. She doesn't cook but she makes amazing baked goods. My youngest daughter, Melody, is also a member of VSD and has been dancing for years.

I did the typical "soccer mom" routine when the girls were school age. Heather loved soccer and at one time was on a traveling team, and of course I had to drive her to practice and the games. Every spring, she played Little League baseball and she was the only girl on the team. I sat through a lot games over the years and that was hard because I have never been interested in sports.

Melody started baton lessons when she was 10 and we both loved it. She entered competitive baton when she was 12 and I found myself driving from Lemoore to Tulare twice a week for private lessons, then there were the costumes - I tried making one for her but that was a disaster! Melody performed in the Main Street parade at Disneyland twice, once with her baton team and once with her High School Band and Color Guard, and of course I went with her. It is an amazing feeling to get to share an experience like that with your daughter and we got to see areas of the park that the typical guest never gets to glimpse. How cool was that! Thanks Melody!

As I begin my second term as VSD Queen, I want to thank everyone who helped me during the past year. The former Queens of VSD all told me that the Coronation would be the most difficult part of the year and once I got through that, it would be lots of fun and boy were they right! We have traveled all over the state for Chapter Coronations and the best part is all the new friends we made - an opportunity we would not have had if Jim and I had decided not to do this.

Most importantly, I want to thank my husband Jim for all his support. When I agreed to take on Queen, it was a major commitment for both of us. Not only did he have to get me through all the craziness of preparing for coronation (twice), but he had to attend 8 more during the year. Let me tell you, a man who wore swim trunks or jeans and a t-shirt most of his life and now finds himself owning and wearing a Tuxedo almost monthly, is a wonderful man.

President' Message:

Great attendance at the St Patrick's and Bakersfield Board Dances. Our next events are the April Dance and Coronation Ball in May. Thanks to all, who work so hard to make things happen. Visalia Smooth Dancers is a dance club but after the passing of my mother, I further realize it's more about friends, caring and the love for one another. Thanks to all for your comments and cards.

-Karl T Richards



Svetlana, Al and Debbie at the Queens Luncheon after San Diego Coronation.



Queens Debbie, Svetlana, and Caron at the San Diego Coronation.

Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



Monthly Socials

March: Linda Bennett hosted "Look to the Rainbow," our St. Patrick's celebration, with help from her committee of Alicia Criado, Steve Moore, Patty Tanaguchi, and Van and Patty Van Oosbree. Dan Goss' Tango lesson provided new variations on standard patterns. Our large turnout enjoyed the lesson, a delicious potluck meal and an evening of social dancing, which started off with a Waltz mixer of Irish music. Door prizes included the live shamrock centerpieces.

April and May Tea Dances: We are trying a new 3-month format beginning with our April social! Afternoon tea dances will begin with a lesson at 2:00 p.m., followed by general social dancing from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Drinks and refreshments will be served. April's event is on April 19, and May's falls on May 17. Please see our website for flyers: www.fresnosmoothdancers.org*

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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!!

FRESNO QUEEN-ELECT

Coronation – June 6, 2015

Fresno Smooth Dancers' 30th Anniversary Celebration!

The Fresno chapter has decided to honor our 30th anniversary with the theme "Once a Queen, Always and Queen" and have eight past queens share the duties for the upcoming year. Here are our eight Queen-Elects:

Continued on page 7

Fresno Chapter (Continued from Page 6)



Kathy Constantino: Queen Kathy Constantino started dancing when her husband Rick presented her with dancing lessons for Valentine's Day. They soon realized dancing opened up a whole new chapter in their lives, filled with new friends, fun and travel. Kathy had the honor of being Queen for Fresno in 2000 and in 2010. They also competed in NSD and were 4 Star Champions for 3 years. Kathy is a retired school teacher and Rick is a Veterinarian. They have two children, 2 grandchildren and one due next month!



Sue Dowell: My husband, Bob, and I joined Fresno Smooth Dancers in 1988. We had just been introduced to dancing and were loving the fun and camaraderie that it brought us socially. We both became very involved in the organization holding many offices for our chapter. After attending a convention we knew we wanted to expand our horizons and started working to become competitive dancers. We competed many times in NSD and enjoyed the fruits of our labor. I represented the Fresno Chapter in 1991 as chapter queen and again in 1999 as State Queen. Bob and I have two lovely daughters and four beautiful grandchildren. I am a former School Nurse and worked for the Fresno Unified School District for 26 years. After retiring in 2003, Bob and I have traveled extensively; we just recently returned from a 17-day cruise to the Mediterranean.



Tahani Elhag: Born in Egypt, I earned a chemistry and geology B.S. degree from the University of Cairo and later a microbiology M.A. degree from Fresno State. I taught at Fresno City College a few years, then worked as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist for two Medical Centers in Fresno, until I retired. Dancing is my favorite activity. I started lessons in 1992 and, with my teacher's encouragement, competed a few times at Holiday Classics in Las Vegas. In 1995, I joined Fresno NSD where dancing, friendships and social activities, particularly traveling to Conventions and Board, are amazing. My past activities include being Sunshine Chair for five years, hosting a Hospitality Reception for a Fresno Convention, assisting the hostess a few times for Coronation Hospitality Receptions, and hosting a few Third Sunday dances. I was elected Queen in 2006.



Carla Hartunian: I am a native of Fresno, California. I have retired from being in Education for 37 years as a teacher, Vice Principal and Principal. The most important things in my life are my loving family, my dear friends and my belief in God. I have been ballroom dancing for 22

years; I joined NSD in 1993. I have had the pleasure of being Fresno's Chapter Queen in 2004 and State Queen in 2011. Thank you Fresno NSD, it is an honor to represent our chapter in this capacity. It is going to be a pleasure to reign with seven other past queens for our 30th anniversary year.



Ann Phillips: After raising 4 children I went back to college for a degree in Health Science and Respiratory Therapy. Following graduation I worked at Fresno Community Hospital for 17 years, retired from there and 4 years later went to work at Kaiser for 14 years before finally retiring 4 years ago. I love spending time with my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. We seem to find a reason for frequent family gatherings. My love of dancing gave me the courage to attend a studio for lessons 24 years ago and I was hooked. It has given me the opportunity to meet wonderful people and make new friends. I have been a member of Fresno NSD for 23 years and was honored to be Queen for 2 years. I look forward to the coming year and serving with the other queens.



Lynn Sanders: I joined Fresno NSD after attending the 1987 coronation. Group lessons with friends were fun but my progress was too slow. Private lessons led to studio showcases, which led to NSD competitions. After work took me to the Bay Area, I continued competition as an amateur where I ultimately made a National Final with James Kleinrath before retiring in 1997. In 2012 he graciously coached me and performed with me when I finally became Queen. If I'd had any idea how much fun it would be, I would have done it so much sooner!



Lorraine Tilton: I have always loved dancing, but had few opportunities and little training until, finding myself suddenly single in 2000, I began taking dance lessons and attending local dance events. I discovered Fresno Smooth Dancers, and have been an active member ever since. I have been treasurer, president, social chair, state board member, and have been webmaster since 2004.



Myra Wenzel: I was born in Bakersfield after which my parents moved to the Sanger area when I was one year old. I attended Sanger schools and worked as a real estate broker in the Fresno/Sanger area opening my own office in 1991. I am married to Rick Wenzel, and we have a combined family of two sons, one daughter, five granddaughters and one grandson. Rick and I have been members of National Smooth Dancers since 1995 and I had the honor of representing the chapter as its queen in 2004. Rick and I split time between our homes in Tivy Valley and Palm Springs.

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard



The February Social was again held at the Dancesense Studio in South Carlsbad. Again, dancers marveled at the quality of the specially constructed dance floor. Ralph and Mary Anderson and Sue Takemoto were hosts and put forth a lot of effort making those hand made sandwiches. Thank you for a wonderful buffet. Peter Hanson introduced each dance and provided the music for the evening. All current and past Queens donned their crowns adding to the festivities.

meeting that combined the Directors with the Presidents, each with their own agenda. “Substantial progress was made and we will continue with this combination this coming convention,” said Thornton. 14 Palomar members attended led by State Queen Miriam Mozes and husband George.



The Queens gather together at our March Social!



Palomar members in attendance at The Boards.

The March Social returned to Ocean Hills Country Club, which was unavailable for the past two months due to remodeling. St. Patrick’s Day was the theme and Master of Ceremonies George Mozes looked splendid in his Irish kilt. Host and Chief Chef Joe Leddy prepared an excellent Irish chicken stew which was favored by all.

All of the Palomar Queens, present & past, thoroughly enjoyed a beautiful Queen’s luncheon while wearing their stylish & festive hats. Thank you Sue Kimbrell & Kay Boyer for coordinating the special occasion. What a great idea it was to open the luncheon up to all Queens, present AND past this year!

According to wife and Hostess Melinda, Joe spent the better part of Saturday creating this savory dish. Melinda provided the lovely table decorations in a stylish Irish manner along with a fine selection of desserts. Our teachers, Irina and James Friedhof taught an excellent lesson of the ‘night club two-step’, which was timely and coordinated with the Monday night lessons being taught by Marsha and Peter Hanson.

Thank you Bakersfield for another fine event! The Palomar Chapter made itself known early at the ‘Board of Directors Meeting’ at Bakersfield. Palomar ladies won the first two events. Penny Elliot won the Jack and Jill cha-cha-cha with partner, Dance Host Danny Caraza from Rancho Cucamonga. Donna Thornton won the Jack & Jill Waltz competition with partner San Diego’s Jacky Yu. Penny Elliot won a second gold, pairing with PSD Don Hubbard in the Social Swing. “Bakersfield NSD are perfect hosts; they again did a fantastic job” said president Peter Hanson.



Our Swing Champions Penny Elliot & Don Hubbard enjoy the Coronation.



Bonding friendships during the Queens Luncheon, (L-R) Queen Debbie Kincaid, Queen Kay Boyer, Queen Lynn Sanders, Queen Carla Hartunian & Queen Shirley McCloskey.

Director Duane Thornton was pleased with the new format initiated at the Board

San Fernando Valley Chapter

BAKERSFIELD ACADEMY AWARDS... AND THE WINNERS ARE..... Our San Fernando Valley Chapter ran away with the Oscars at the recent Bakersfield competitions.

Heading the highest award winners were Jeff and Jenny Durling, who took first place in both Intermediate Smooth and Advanced Smooth, as well as Beginners' Cha Cha. They were followed closely by our Queen and hubby, Andrea and James Gutman, with Advanced Smooth 2nd place and Intermediate Smooth's third place. They were ousted in the intermediate by Doug and Jane Hammond who snatched up the second place win, as well as taking first place in Beginners' Waltz. Our past Queen, Gee Gee Barden (with husband, Bill Morey) took third place in Senior Waltz. All right. All right. There were many other lovely dancers and competitors from the other chapters but I'm sure you'll be reading about them on their pages!

Bakersfield put on a professionally-run weekend. The SFV members take their hats off to their great ability to run



Here celebrating the awards are most of our winners (except for Gee Gee Barden) with a few other attendees (left to right) as follows:

Back Row: Leanne Wong, Jeff Durling, James Gutman, Doug Hammond, Bill Morey **Middle Row:** Jenny Durling, Andrea Gutman, Susan Potoff **Front Row:** John Wong, Jane Hammond. Those with medals hanging around their necks give you a clue as to the winners!

a wonderful event that kept us moving, shaking, hip swaying, and exhausted with sore feet. The energy throughout the weekend was great and it was only great because the Bakersfield chapter made it so.

Our Whispers' Editor, Debbie Bloom, is retiring from her duties due to an injury which is preventing her from attending our dance events. After all, it's difficult to write about people



Interim Editor Joan Robinson – a little upside down maybe?

(Photography courtesy of Jane Hammond. Dip, courtesy of SD President, Mike Cowlshaw.)

you haven't seen. Debbie, we hope to see you back soon. We are delighted to say that one of our newest members, Rachel Seward, has offered to step into Debbie's shoes or, should I say, nose dive into the deep end!

Rachael hails from the gorgeous desert of Phoenix, Arizona and now lives in Sunland, CA. She has more

edited by Joan Robinson

Photography by Jane Hammond than 25 years of experience in client relations, event services, marketing and nonprofit fund development. She currently leads community



Incoming Editor Rachel Seward.

engagement efforts for Seward Real Estate & Financial, Inc. in Shadow Hills. As a hobby she enjoys the magic of ballroom dancing and desires to become a better dancer. She has already done three showcases and wants to continue her longtime passion and interest in ballroom dance.

The Presidential Ball was a splendid night on March 1st at the USA Dance Orange County's extravagant ball in the Nixon Library's East Room Ballroom - a replica of the same room in the White House. SFV members, Joan Robinson, Kathi



Cliff Nathanson and Gerri Cook are looking like "a couple of swells" at the recent Nixon Library Presidential Ball.

Renman, Cliff Nathanson, Gerri Cook, John Wong, Leanne Wong and Angela Mosinskis, all shared a table together, courtesy of Kathi who picked up the additional costs for the VIP table as a donation to the Alzheimer's Association, which was the reason for the fund raising event. Kathi's mother had suffered from the disease so she was happy to be able to gather up friends and make a donation, combining two good reasons.

The VIP tables were served food with elegance, china, crystal, etc. Those not so lucky to be a friend of Kathi's, however, enjoyed an excellent buffet dinner. The music was superb and there were many wonderful dance hosts. If you had gone to the USA Dance Orange County Chapter's website recently you would have found our Bakersfield event splashed all over the home page. Such good friends and allies in supporting our world of dance.

USA Dance and NSD are the only two non-profit dance organizations and the SFV chapter continues to work with USA Dance to promote our great world of dance.



Clowning around at Bakersfield in SFV fashion are (left to right) Gee Gee Barden, Bill Morey, Bill Steeber & Barbara Greenlaw. Yes, folks. I have it on good authority they are all married – and to each other.

Los Angeles Chapter

We had a very nice Valentine's Day dance in February with hearts and bears as decoration, Chuck Johnson played the music and a nice snack was provided by Victor Lee.

In March we had our St. Patrick's day dance with green shamrocks and green table cloths. Again Chuck played the music and Victor provided the food.

In March there were ten of us who attended the Boards in Bakersfield. Lots of dancing, lots of meetings, good food Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning. Our Queen Sandy and Tom Wells won second place in the beginners cha-cha and Ken and Marion Scholtz won third in the advanced standard. Congratulations to both couples.

We are very happy to report that Kyle Catterlin's procedure went well and it was a pleasure to see them back up on the dance floor at the Boards.

Chuck and Susan Johnson traveled with Victor Lee and Debby Ku to Taiwan in February. Debby was born there and her family still lives there so we had a personal tour of most of Taiwan. It is nice to travel with someone who can speak the language and read the signs. After touring Taiwan, the foursome flew to Singapore and took a cruise of Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia and then three of them came home, and Debby went back to Taiwan to spend time with her family.

Our next dance is on April 19th at the San Gabriel Elks Lodge, 1373 E. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel, CA 91776 from 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

edited by Chuck & Susan Johnson



(Left) Tom and Sandy Wells are excited about taking 2nd place in the Beginning Cha Cha competition. (Right) Ken and Marion Scholtz celebrate their 3rd place in the Advanced Standard competition. We are all very proud of you.



(Left) Tom and Sandy Wells hang-out with a few of the other aliens at the Area 51 dance party. (Right) Debbie Ku & Victor Lee with Susan and Chuck Johnson visited Taiwan in February and then cruised Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia.

When I first joined Palomar Smooth Dancers in 2010, Anthony Wood was the current President. I became friends with his wife, Barbara. They invited Michael & I to dinner at their house. During dinner Tony was telling us about the President's Message that he submitted for the March issue of San Diego's Smooth Talk. It really touched me and now that I have served a year as Queen I understand it even more! Just thought it would be good to RE-PRINT the article for all National Smooth Dancers! - Debbie Kincaid

HAVE YOU HUGGED YOUR QUEEN TODAY?

BY: ANTHONY WOOD

Published in Smooth Talk – March, 2010

March is arguably one of the busiest months of the year for the San Diego Smooth Dancers. We have our regularly scheduled dance classes, Board of Directors meeting in Bakersfield and our Annual Coronation all appearing on our menu of dance choices for this month. In this month's Presidents Message I would like to spotlight one of these events.

With all of the time and effort that goes into our annual Coronation you may be wondering just what this whole "QUEEN" thing is all about. To the uninformed it would appear to be just an archaic ritual that serves little purpose.

Once a year our regular monthly social is transformed into an elegant, tradition-laden, ceremony that is dripping pomp and circumstances. Visually, it can only be described as a symphony in black and white. The previous Queens get together to celebrate the "passing of the crown" to a lady whom they had nominated and was later voted on by the general membership.

But this is a rather simplistic view and from my standpoint this is what having a Queen means to me.

Look around you; the past Queens are very recognizable to all of us because of the dedication and work each of them gives to their chapter. The thankless hours that they spend setting up socials, organizing entertainment, spearheading conventions, chairing

committees, taking attendance, holding chapter office positions and, most importantly, making sure the rest of us are always having a good time, should be recognized more often than once a year.

Our chapter has the appearance of a sleek, smooth running machine because of the sacrifices each of these ladies have made – and we should never forget to thank them for their commitment to our chapter.

These Queens are the ambassadors of our club. They spend the year traveling to all of the other chapters in NSD and, through the sisterhood that develops; they bind us all together into a cohesive organization that shares a love for ballroom dancing. If it were not for the Queens and their commitment to our chapters we would not have a National Smooth Dancers. All we would be is just another local dance club. These ladies are not just Queen for the year. They are Queens for life. They are recognized at every Coronation and the "Boards". Our annual Coronation shines the spotlight on each Queen in attendance – as well we should – with a Queen's dance.

The SDSD have celebrated over 60 years as a club. How long do you think we could have lasted if it were not for the inexhaustible efforts of these fair ladies?

And to all of you gentlemen – if you're asked to be an escort at a coronation I suggest you jump at the chance. It is truly an honor and privilege you will never forget.

In conclusion I ask one final question – **Have you hugged your Queen today?**

San Diego Chapter

edited by Mark Chapman



Meet San Diego's New DW Editor, Mark Chapman. I enjoyed performing this service for San Diego several years ago when Liz Bradford was the Editor-in-Chief for *Dance Whispers*; it will now be my pleasure to work with Tom Wells and the editors of the other chapters to provide all our NSD members with regular accounts of our chapter's events. On behalf of San Diego, I want to send out a hearty "Thank You!" to Vern Miranda for all the work he did for us during his tenure as our most recent *DW* editor.

Our outgoing Queen

Lou Reyes tells us that,

"Reminiscing over all the coronation events I participated in as one of the Queens of 2014, I cannot help but remember vividly and with glee each one of the coronation gala nights. Each coronation stood out in its own way. Each had its own flavor and seemed even more exciting than the previous one. You cannot help but be full of anticipation before you walk into the center of the dance floor with the other reigning Queens from the different NSD chapters. I still remember how Debbie Ku and Victor Lee danced their rumba fusion dance, and how Barbara Uichanco, the NSD State Queen of 2014, guided the other reigning Queens. I remember Gee Gee Barden's beautiful art prints, now fully framed and hanging in my master bedroom. I remember Dorothy Vaughn, who usually had a gift for me at each coronation. I will never forget Darlene Drury, my seatmate in the Queens' Row, who always had a funny joke or two for me during the coronations.



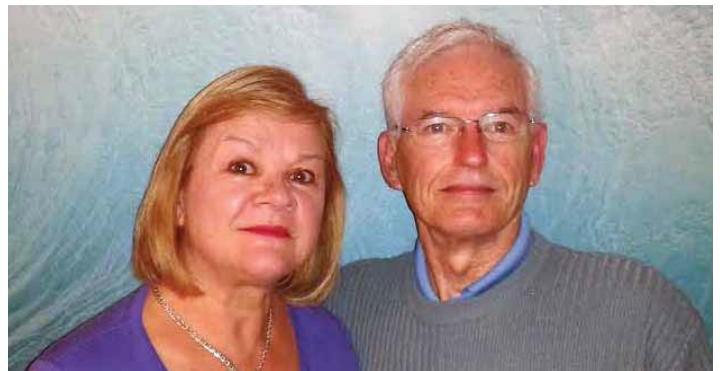
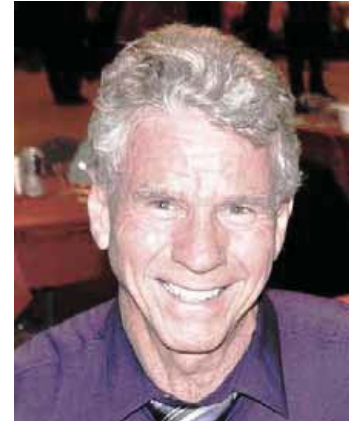
"I know [Caron] too will feel all the blessings and the wonderful things I have experienced over this past year. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity this past year to share in this wonderful dimension of our Club."

On behalf of our chapter, I congratulate Bakersfield on a very successful Boards this year and I thank them for a relaxing, very enjoyable weekend. Kao and I haven't been to the Boards in a couple of years, due primarily to various health issues that have all been remedied now. (I had my right hip replaced in July 2014, and I am extremely grateful to a medical system that has given Kao and me back our most precious pastime together as a couple.)

San Diego had 29 members and one guest in attendance at the Boards this year, and it felt great as a chapter to fill up three tables in the ballroom. We were pleased to see so many participants in the various competitions, and on a personal level it was great to be back out there in a comp ourselves. We hope to see all the same competitors participating at our Convention this year, along with many, many more! Thank you to Steve,

Rose, Ben, Wendy, Sue, Larry, and all the many other Bakersfield members who gave us such a wonderful weekend!

We have four new members in San Diego whom you may meet soon at an NSD event:



We are pleased to introduce our four newest members: Cindy Perry (top left), John Hatch (top right) and Thomas and Linda Hammerton (bottom).

Cindy Perry is a retired officer from the Navy, where she served as a supervising nurse.

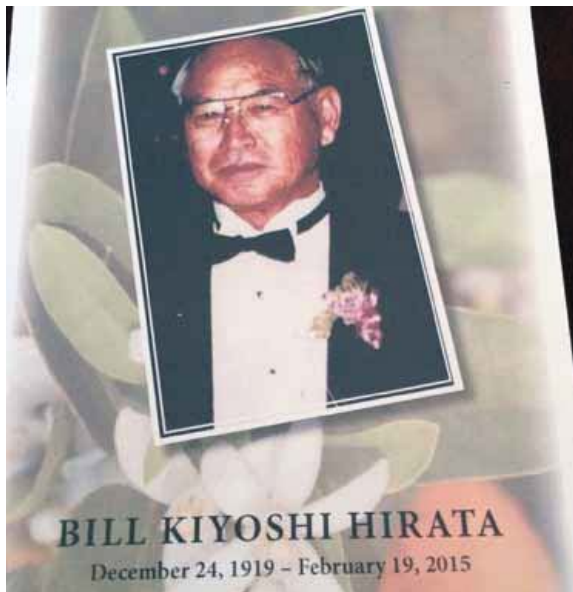
John Hatch is new to our chapter but has a long history with NSD, transferring to us now from the San Fernando Valley chapter.

Thomas & Linda Hammerton: Tom spends a great deal of time as a volunteer teaching young children to dance at their elementary schools.



Congratulations to Amante & Lou Reyes (left) who placed 2nd in the Senior Waltz, 3rd in Beginning Cha Cha and 3rd in Social Swing competitions; also Mark Chapman & Been Kao (right) who place 2nd in the Advanced Standard competition at this year's Boards.

IN MEMORIAM



Bill Kiyoshi Hirata
December 24, 1919
– February 19, 2015



Bill Hirata died peacefully on February 19, 2015 with his family by his side.

He was a farmer in Reedley. He married Mary Kubo and they just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

He is survived by his three sons: Steve and his wife Joyce, Phil and his wife Jane, Art; and daughter Annette and husband Clement Lew. Bill was a grandfather to nine grandchildren: Ryan and wife Erica, Tiphonie, Brent, Andra, Garin, Jared, Brandon, Anise, Autumn; and one great granddaughter, Taylor.

Bill loved fishing. He taught his sons and grandsons how to fish. He also loved playing poker. Bill and Mary loved to Ballroom dance together. They were Lifetime members of Fresno's Chapter of National Smooth Dancers. Bill and Mary were very active members in our chapter; Mary served as a past Queen with Bill as her handsome escort. Bill will always be remembered by bringing fresh fruit to all of our chapter events and hospitalities at conventions throughout the years. Bill will be deeply missed. He will live in our hearts forever.

Dancing in Heaven

*Bill Kiyoshi Hirata is dancing with the angels!
He left the love of his life, Mary Kubo Hirata,
On February 19, 2015*



Lucia Edwards and her husband Duke were members at Golden Gate for many years. They could be found on the sidelines of the dance floor swaying to the music. Lucia brought Kira Eldemir and Daniel Lapin to our club to be members. She always had a smile on her face and we will miss her very much. Lucia passed away on March 23rd at 10 am. She had been in intensive care for a while, her heart had been failing for a long time and she had contracted pneumonia. It seemed to improve, she was to be taken out of the ICU unit only to die before that happened. Her last couple of years were dominated by poor health. It was a wonder that she lived as long as she did, she always had heart problems. Duke, her husband, 92 year old, is now alone, has no family members, all his old friends are long gone, and he is very, very lost. He has help 24/7. He is so alone, his mind and body are failing as Lucia had been taking care of EVERYTHING for many years. No memorial service are planned.

**Golden Gate Smooth Dancers
Invites You To Our Coronation Ball**



Honoring Queen-Elect
Gabrielle von Stephens

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Crowne Plaza Hotel
1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404
Hotel Reservations: (650) 570-5700
Room Rate: \$139.00+Tax, Booking Code: SDD
(Rooms available at this rate until March 28, 2015)

Hospitality 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Coronation & Ball: \$75.00	Dress: Formal
5:30 PM Cocktail Hour	Ladies: Evening Gown/ Cocktail Dress
6:30 PM Coronation Ceremony	Gentlemen: Tuxedo/ Dark Suit & Tie
8:00 PM Dinner	
9:00 – 11:30 PM Dancing	

For information & reservations call Liz Talmadge @ (415) 265-7063

Queen's Champagne Brunch: \$35.00

Date: Sunday, April 12, 2015
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel
Time: 9:00 AM

Reservations must be received by April 4, 2015

Make checks payable to: Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc.

**Mail to: Liz Talmadge
759 Grand Avenue
So. San Francisco, CA 94080**

Saturday, April 11, 2015 Coronation Ball _____ @ \$75.00 = _____

Sunday, April 12, 2015 Queen's Brunch _____ @ \$35.00 = _____

Total: = _____

Please check choice of entrée:

- New York Steak
 Petrale Sole
 Vegetarian Wellington

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Visalia Smooth Dancers

Cordially invites you to a Coronation Ball

“Diamonds are a Girl’s Best Friend”

Honoring Queen –elect: **Debbie Renfro**

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Exeter Memorial Building 324 N. Kaweah Exeter, CA

6:00 Wine Reception & 6:30 Coronation

Honor Dance: Shane and Myra Nielsen

Followed by a Buffet Dinner \$45.00 /person

Entertainment: Bill & Lona Dolan

Hospitality and Lodging:

Best Western, Exeter Inn & Suites

805 S. Kaweah Ave, Exeter, CA 93221 Phone: 559 592-8118

Room price is \$99.00 + tax

Hospitality: 1:30 – 3:30 at the hotel

Sunday Brunch: **9:30 at Visalia Country Club**, 625 N. Ranch St, Visalia, CA 93291 - \$25.00 each



Mail Reservations (by May 9th) to:

Myra Nielsen – 1445 W. Chianti Way, Hanford, CA 93230

Questions? Please call Myra or Shane (559) 469-6792

NAME _____ TICKET(s) \$ _____ Brunch \$ _____

Dinner Choice: Chicken # _____ or Portabella Mushroom # _____

Your Contact Phone# or Email: _____

Fresno Smooth Dancers Cordially Invites you to...

Our 30th Anniversary Coronation Ball

Saturday, June 6, 2015

Once a Queen, Always a Queen



The Parade of Queens:

Queen Kathy Constantino, Queen Sue Dowell,
Queen Tahani Elhiag, Queen Carla Hartunian,
Queen Ann Phillips, Queen Lynn Sanders,
Queen Lorraine Tilton, and Queen Myra Wensel.

Formal Ball:

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



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



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



Hotel Reservations
Country Inn & Suites
6065 N Thesta
559-435-5838

Group Rate \$94+ tax
Code: "Fresno Smooth Dancers"

Vendors:
Couture New York
and

The Little Black Dress Boutique

www.fresnosmoothdancers.org

No Host Breakfast
Sunday June 7, 2014
Huckleberry's
222 E Bullard
9:00 am

Coronation & Breakfast Reservations - Please respond by June 3, 2015 - Payable to "Fresno Smooth Dancers"

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

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

_____ Fresno Members \$45 \$ _____
_____ Guests \$50 \$ _____
Total Due: \$ _____