

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
June 2015



Golden Gate Chapter



It was quite an adventure this entire month of April and into May and of course it all started back in November when I was voted queen for our chapter.

My dance partner **Patrick Jude** created a setting fit for a queen complete with an 9 foot Eiffel tower and Cafe de Paris awnings under which the royal court was seated. He sewed my dress and made the table decorations and it all came together with the help of so many of our members for an evening of “April in Paris.” We danced a waltz to the tune “Under The Bridges of Paris” and my



edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



former teacher **Bill Milner** performed a beautiful Viennese Waltz with his student Ameer Dugnan. Later in the evening we surprised everyone with another performance by Bill and myself doing a Foxtrot to “April in Paris”.

It was an incredible evening with so many of my non-dancing friends attending and I do believe everyone had a ball. I was sorry some of our members were not able to attend due to illness.

Barbara Cardinali has been ill for some time now after a blood clot burst, and is staying at a rehab facility until she is better. Her husband **Ben** is at her side day and night. I really missed seeing this loving couple at my coronation.

Robert Polo, one of our new members, has a small hip fracture and sciatica but is hoping to be dancing again soon. **Donna Rosco** is dealing with a defunct hip and will have an operation in July.



Floyd and Rita Parma are on their first trip to Europe, spending one week each in Amsterdam, London and Paris. For those of you who know Floyd you will understand that he insists on seeing every square inch of every city, walking more than 10 miles every day while he reports: “our hips are hurting, feet are cramping, and all this fun is killing us with pain. My ears are ringing, my head feels rummy, we both feel dizzy and the pain permeates our entire body. You say, take it easy? Never. We are on a mission.”

Sometimes I wrestle with my inner demons, other times we just hug and dance!

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Visalia Chapter

Shine Bright like a Diamond

Long reign Queen Debbie! The Coronation Ceremony signified the start of Queen Debbie's second consecutive year as the representative of the Visalia chapter. You may remember last year, her Coronation theme as a salute to the Navy and her heritage. This year, she chose something just as near and dear to her heart: Diamonds. "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" to be precise, and she chose pink and black as her official colors. In true Marilyn Monroe style, Queen Debbie wore a dress with plenty of pink and lots of large crystals.



back into the Queen's circle. Debbie and her husband Jim danced a steamy tango choreographed by Susan Morelock that ended with a giggle and a kiss. The spotlight was stolen, however, when Shane and Myra Nielson performed the Queen's Honor Dance. This brilliantly choreographed performance had them spinning and performing amazing lifts, yet their focus always came back with honoring the Queens in the room with looks and outreaching poses.



Dinner was catered by the Wildflower Café and featured chicken, Portobello mushrooms, quinoa, green beans, and salad with fruit. Everything was delicious and was just what everyone needed before hitting the dance floor. Greg Uichanco

written and edited by Melody Mar



kept everyone moving with a variety of dances and a nice long waltz mixer that left quite a few breathless.

Entertainment was provided by our own Bill and Lona Dolan. You would never have guessed that they have only been dancing for ten years as they glide across the floor and move with such elegant lines. Their performances always carry such emotion and the connection between the two of them tells the story of the dance. Each of the three dances they performed was a profound example of music in motion.



All the while, everyone present was given the Star treatment with four photographers constantly taking pictures. Russell Mar (son-in-law of Queen Debbie) recruited students from his High School ROP small business class. Nancy, Josh, and Eva took over 1800 pictures, recorded the performances, and went above and beyond to make everyone feel like a movie star.

The day had started early with the superb Hospitality Reception hosted by Carol Abeyta and Sally Bailey, which had a good turn out on its own. The spread and companionship was so outstanding that even the annual Preakness Stakes could not hold off the friendship and conversation. Still, even with the wonderful start, the exhilarating dancing, and the hours of socializing, the night ended too soon.

So many people gave their time, talent, and creativity to make this event happen. Each of them is a shining example of the love and friendship found at Visalia Smooth Dancers and is why Queen Debbie is honored to represent them for another year.



Fresno Chapter

Monthly Socials

April. Lynn Sanders hosted "Tea for Two", our first party with the new tea dance format, with help from her committee of David and Jennifer Morgan. Franco Peraza taught a Rumba lesson, and music was played by Lorraine Tilton and Leslie Rouse. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new format, and we were very pleased with the turnout.



Alicia Criada and Joseph Lopez entertained us at our May social with two showcase performances; a rumba and a bolero/cha cha.

May. Lorraine Tilton hosted our second tea dance, "May Flowers". Alex Periera taught foxtrot with a grapevine step. Alicia Criada and Joseph Lopez danced two showcase routines, a rumba and a bolero/cha cha. Ann Phillips played a new playlist with selections by Linda Bennett and Lorraine.

June. Our Coronation Ball "Once a Queen, Always a Queen" will be held at the Holy Trinity Social Hall on June 6, 2015. Eight Former

edited by Linda Bennett



Queens will be coronated, and they will each attend one coronation during the coming year. We will also be honoring all of our past queens, both those who are still with us and those that are not.

Our next monthly event will be "Winners Circle" on June 21, 2015, to be hosted by Carla Hartunian, with music by Van Oosbree. Franco Peraza will teach Bolero. The dance lesson will be at 2:00 pm and general dancing will be from 3:00 to 5:00. Drinks and snacks will be served.

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

We hope to see you at our 30th Anniversary Coronation Ball on Saturday June 6th
Please see our registration flyer at the end of this issue or visit our website for more information.

<http://www.fresnosmoothdancers.org/BlackTieEvents.html>

Fresno Smooth Dancers presents

The Winner's Circle

June 21, 2015

NEW!

Tea Dance Format
Lesson 2:00
Dancing 3:00 to 5:00

Clovis Senior Center
850 Fourth Street
Clovis, California



Fresno Members- \$5.00
Guests- \$10.00

Hosted by
Carla Hartunian

**Bolero Lesson
by
Franco Peraza**

Music by Van Oosbree

For More Information call
559-269-9491

www.fresnosmoothdancers.org

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 Elhay, 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



Hotel Reservations
Country Inn & Suites
6065 N Tiafia
559-455-5858
Group Rate 194+ tax
Code: Fresno Smooth Dancers*

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

Vendors:
Couture New York
and
The Little Black Dress Boutique

www.fresnosmoothdancers.org

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



No Host Breakfast
Sunday June 7, 2015
Huckleberry's
222 E Bullard
9:00 am

Queen's Reflections



Driving from Oceanside to San Francisco (for the first time) wasn't exactly a picnic but the rewards of attending the Golden Gate Coronation certainly outweighed any discomfort brought by the 9 hours of driving. I was so impressed by what I experienced at this classy affair that I would do it again in a heartbeat. Everything was first class: the hotel, the hospitality, the dinner. The decorations were outstanding, up to the smallest of detail found in the place cards. Once again I realized how important it is to choose a good theme for a Coronation. It makes a huge difference in the way we organize and harmonize all aspects of the evening. Finally, Gabrielle and Patrick danced beautifully and proved to be very gracious hostess and host to all in attendance.

Attending the Visalia's Coronation was also a pleasurable experience for George and me. It started with a pre-event visit to Fresno to see two great friends – Carla and Deborah Hartunian. We got to see some gorgeous neighborhoods with a lot of unusual trees and manicured lawns. It was a welcome sight after seeing the browning, parched fields as we came up the SR 99. The Coronation was a special event for me because, as a State Queen, I had the distinct pleasure and honor to crown Debbie Renfro. It was a charming affair, a kind of double family event. First, Jim and Debbie's family taking center stage, then the NSD family represented by Shane and Myra Nielsen, who surprised us all with their flawless Honor Dance and Bill and Lona Dolan, who thrilled us with their superb dancing. Simply put, those who failed to attend these two Coronations missed a lot of FUN. Fun, excitement and great dancing!

--State Queen Miriam Moses, Palomar



When I was nominated queen and asked my dance partner Patrick if he was willing to do this with me, he happily agreed and so it began.....He was full of ideas. I still don't really know how he managed to do it all. Making my gown, building the Eiffel tower, sewing the awnings and the tablecloth and coming up with the concept for the center pieces. It was not enough that we had the towers, now they needed lights and when the strings of lights came only with clear cables, he insisted that we cover each bulb with masking tape so the cords could be sprayed black to match the towers. Oh yes, then came the roses that were surrounding the towers. Patrick, creator extra extraordinaire, where do I even begin to show my gratitude? He sewed, fitted, pieced french lace on the gown, then hand glued thousands of rhinestones so I could sparkle more. Taught himself the dance routine watching one of my old competition tapes, then he taught it to me. He conceived of the tower then build it. He loved every moment doing all that he did and I don't think I ever saw him happier than when he put that tower together. Perhaps he should thank us for giving him the opportunity for such great happiness.

After all the months of preparation, of planning and creating it

all culminated when we were transported to April in Paris.

I don't recall the food as I was too nervous to eat. Patrick and I danced a Waltz to the tune of "Under The Bridges Of Paris" and we were entertained by my fabulous teacher Bill Milner dancing a Viennese Waltz with one of his former students Ameer Dugnan. Bill and I surprised the audience when we performed a Foxtrot to the tune "April in Paris" at dessert time. Our music masters, Joe, Floyd and Gordon outdid themselves that evening with fabulous tunes that had everyone dancing till the end.

We are now looking forward to visiting all the other coronation up and down the Avenue of the Queens, making new friendships and rekindling old ones.

-Queen Gabrielle von Stephans, Golden Gate



What a special treat it was for me to represent Fresno at the Golden Gate Coronation for my special friend, Gabrielle Von Stephans! She and I have been social dance friends and friendly competitors since I came to the Bay Area in 1991. I was so delighted when she joined NSD in 2006 and became Queen in 2007, before she quite knew all she was getting into. But, as anyone who knows her would expect, she threw herself into it with joy and enthusiasm. This time will be even sweeter with her dear friend Patrick Jude at her side, collaborating in all things and just as excited with the grand adventure.

Gabrielle looked fabulous in a gorgeous gown created by none other than Patrick (the former tailor). They danced a lovely waltz to "April in Paris". It brought back lovely memories for me when Gabrielle and Bill surprised us with a reprise of their competition days, dancing a very touching waltz. It took me back to all the fun of traveling, dancing and competition, cheering each other on in our dance journeys. It was all such a wonderful experience, then and now. I'm so glad I found dancing, NSD, Gabrielle & Patrick and all the rest of my treasured NSD friends. My life could not have been as rich without you all.

-Queen Lynn Sanders, Fresno



What an enchanting evening we experienced attending the Visalia Queen's Coronation for Queen-elect Debbie Renfro. Queen Debbie's theme was Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend and we had much glitter and many diamonds to make for a very sparkly evening. Queen Debbie graced the evening wearing a beautiful pink and black gown that enhanced the coronation ceremony with her colors. She and her husband Jim performed a beautiful Tango enjoyed by all. Shane and Myra Nielson performed a lovely Waltz to honor Queen Debbie, and Bill and Lona Dolan entertained us with three exciting dances: Foxtrot, Bolero and Waltz. It was very nice to meet all of Debbie's family, who were so gracious and attentive during the evening's festivities. This coronation brought back many memories for me as I realized how much I had missed the sisterhood of being Queen. I look forward to the future

coronations that I will attend and appreciate the opportunity to do so.

-Queen Sue Dowell, Fresno



Traveling to other communities to attend their Chapter Coronations is a special bonus for being Queen. I have an opportunity to visit new places and learn about unique features of these communities. Being in Foster City for Golden Gate's Coronation brought back memories of times spent there with friends no longer with us. Queen Gabrielle's event was just beautiful with careful attention to every aspect of the Hospitality, Coronation and Queen's Brunch.

My escort, Floyd Parma, was a wonderful partner and dancer. I especially liked the foxtrot exit of the Queens. Thank you, Floyd, for making it so easy for me.

The trip up to Visalia for their Coronation brought me into a part of California I last visited as a young girl. The town of Exeter, where we stayed, was just charming and well worth the visit. If you haven't seen the murals that are painted on buildings in the central part of the town, you have missed a treasure.



The Coronation's theme of "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" and colors of soft pink and black with lots of sparkle were reflected throughout the banquet room, including streamers hung from the really high ceiling. Queen Debbie and Jim Renfro did an amazing tango for the Queen's dance.

There were a number of Fresno Chapter members in attendance and the camaraderie between the groups was something to be emulated. Queen Debbie's happiness at being Queen for a second year speaks volumes about the members of Visalia and other NSD chapters and the support and caring they show each other.

-Queen Caron Schattel, San Diego

Time flies! So much to do, and I cannot believe my coronation was in March! It was such an incredible evening and the Spring Weekend (aka "the Boards") so much fun! I hope everyone had as much fun as I did! It was wonderful to meet so many from the other chapters. The nerves of doing "The Queens' Waltz" made things come and go in a haze. I loved every minute! Merely 3 weeks later I found myself on the road to Golden Gate. Actually a great drive and I will happily do it again next year. My experience so far as Bakersfield's Queen has been one joyous occasion after the other. And now I am preparing for Fresno's Coronation in June. The travel is nice, but what is so marvelous is meeting the other Queens. What a fun bunch, and I am learning much about being a Queen. The dance escorts provided are wonderful and not only great dancers, great at the Coronation processional and recessional. Gabrielle had us fox-trotting off the floor to La Mer at her Golden Gate Coronation- truly a FABULOUS MEMORY OF "Paris"! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention at the wonderful Marriott in Palm Springs. Loved it last year and I

am sure this year will be just as great. Looking forward to doing the Queen's Wave every chance I get! WHAT FUN!

-Queen Susan Salvucci, Bakersfield



Was there any doubt this was an evening in Paris? Absolutely not. I felt truly privileged to be able to attend this lovely Coronation event in Andrea Gutman's absence.

The Golden Gate Chapter made my brother, Trevor Robinson, enormously welcome. It was his first time visiting as a dancer. I have spent years encouraging him to get involved with their chapter but met with such resistance. You see, he knew that beginner dancers don't try to dance with good dancers. But what he didn't know was that the comraderie of Smooth Dancers makes everyone welcome.

It was good to feel queenly again with such good friends.

-Queen Joan Robinson, San Fernando Valley



"Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend" was the theme of Visalia's Coronation, but diamonds are not what made the room light up at Saturday's dance. It was Queen Debbie and her husband who entertained us with a spicy tango for the Queen's Dance. It was an exciting way to start the evening off and led us into a lovely array of exhibitors to follow. Beautiful job everyone! Queen Debbie was sparkling, wearing a beautiful pink and black gown that reflected her colors of choice for the evening

Brunch the following day was at the beautiful Visalia Country Club. So, with a gorgeous lake and its resident geese as background, we betook of a scrumptious meal before our trip back to reality and the San Fernando Valley.

-Queen Andrea Gutman, San Fernando Valley



As I travelled the 101 Freeway, I remembered the three other trips to the Golden Gate Coronations. This time, we arrived in Paris. Queen Gabrielle Von Stephen sat at the base of the beautiful Eiffel Tower. Queen Gabrielle did a dance with Patrick, and a short time later did a beautiful performance with her coach. The hospitality was excellent, and dinner and breakfast were served in the Tower.

As we drove home, we thought of our next trip which would be to the Visalia coronation. Our drive up the 5 Freeway took us to a charming rural valley, where we found a beautiful Queen Debbie Renfro. Debbie and her husband James did a fantastic Argentine Tango. Here in Visalia is where diamonds were the girls best friends. A wonderful hospitality, dinner and breakfast at the beautiful Country Club. How nice it is to be Queen.

-Queen Jodene Catterlin - Los Angeles

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard

We are thrilled to introduce our Queen-Elect for 2015-2016 – Geri Deutsch!



Palomar Queen-Elect Geri Deutsch.

We look forward to the wonderful evening of her Coronation. It will be held Saturday, July 25th, at Ocean Hills Country Club, doors open at 6:00 PM. Geri chose the theme as “An Evening of Fairy-tale Romance” (flyer attached).

Time after time you’ll hear me say that I am so lucky and blessed in so many ways. It’s an unimaginable honor to ever think I’d be a Queen, much less than to this impressive family of Palomar Smooth Dancers.

I don’t know how? But, with no planning on my part, “Good Things Happen” in my life. I fell into a job as a travel agent, which led to working for AirCal. AirCal merged with American Airlines, all in all, allowing this inexperienced young gal to travel the world.

Along the way I fell in love with a handsome Marine Corps pilot through a running group. We married in 1988 and Fred immediately whisked me away to the St. Louis area. We lived there for 4 years until he retired and we moved back to CA where he was hired as an American Airlines pilot. Running marathons was our favorite pastime.

When our Oceanside neighbor Frank Lombardi suggested that we join Cathy and him at NSD; Fred was true to his promise to me that once we retired we could take dance lessons. With their comical George & Gracie Burns style instruction, George and Miriam Mozes made beginner lessons so fun that Fred was easily swayed. At Palomar it’s more than just dance lessons, it’s being with friends.

In recent years added to my joy of dancing is the joy of taking care of my two darling Grandnieces Malia 3, and Brooksley 5 months for 3 days a week. I love being a “Grauntie”.



Palomar past Queens honor Queen-Elect Geri Deutsch with a luncheon at Casa De Vega in Carlsbad.

A Queen’s Luncheon honoring our new Queen-Elect Geri Deutsch was held Thursday, April 20th at the lovely Hacienda de Vega Restaurant in Carlsbad. All past Queen’s offered Geri their “advice” for a smooth and royal reign! Geri graciously thanked everyone for their practical advice and support. She said, “I will do my best to carry out this wonderful tradition!” Thanks to Queen Miriam Mozes, Queen Darlene Drury & Queen Debbie Kincaid for coordinating the event. Queen Darlene provided beautiful roses for all to share. It’s truly a delightful tradition to support our Chapter’s incoming Queen!

Palomar dance lessons continue to be popular. Lessons are

taught at the Vista Senior Center on Monday evenings by Marsha Hanson and ably assisted by husband Peter. Beginning classes average 46 participants and the Intermediate classes 34. The March-April lessons were beginning Waltz and West Coast Swing. The May-June schedule is for beginning Bolero, while Tango is taught in the Intermediate class.



Members are being taught basic patterns of Night Club 2-Step at our monthly socials by local professional Irina & James Friedhof. This popular lesson is included with the admission price of the social and we are averaging 60 participants each month.

April and May socials were again quite successful with an average of 85 dancers in attendance each month. April’s theme of ‘Spring Fling’ encouraged the Ladies to bring out many colorful dresses and gowns; Spring flowers decorated our tables. Hosts Len and Peggy Lee and Miriam and George Mozes provided excellent fare at the snack table.



Don Hubbard having a playful moment at the May Social flanked by two beauties, Darlene & Diane!



Duane & Donna Thornton donning fun 50’s attire!

The May Social, also well attended, had the theme of American Graffiti, which allowed the dancers to appear in a variety of 1950’s attire. Ginny Hull, David Tanner and Kelly & Carol Kimmett provided delicious refreshments of Sloppy Joes, baked beans, salads and deserts. Hostess, Ginny Hull provided late 1950’s model cars as centerpieces with clever “pipe cleaner people” in the seats of each car! Our teachers Irina and James Friedhof continued their night-club-two step instruction and students are learning some intermediate patterns that they can transfer to the dance floor.

Our newest member Anita Andersen comes to Oceanside from Lansing, Michigan, where she received her B.A. Degree in Marketing & Business Management. She owns two horses and enjoys horseback camping and trail riding. Her other hobbies include cooking, hiking & golf. She moved west to be with her daughter who works as a business consultant. She has always wanted to dance and found a good fit for learning & improving ballroom dancing in Northern San Diego. She has enjoyed lessons at both Palomar NSD and Dance Essence Studios. Welcome Anita!



Palomar VP Fred Deutsch, along with Queen Miriam Mozes, swears in our newest member Anita Andersen.

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San Fernando Valley Chapter

Dear Smooth Dance Friends and Members,

Dance, the only thing to do, is what we do.

Dance is the rhythm that comes from within. Dance is us!

Spring has sprung in San Fernando Valley! There is a long history of spring-time merriment within the San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers as each year Spring creates a renewed atmosphere of unity through dance.



Bill Krambo and Marika Steinke falling in love, Hawaii-style.

Wedding Bells Ring in merriment for Bill Krambo, one of SFV's longest standing members and his bride, Marika Steinke, a former member of the LA chapter. One hundred guests will watch them dance into spring on June 6th. The happy and blessed couple will honeymoon on the Big Island of Hawaii.

We're certain it was for sentimental reasons that they chose to get hitched on the 54th anniversary of our chapter thus challenging our abilities to put on our Anniversary Dance. Out of the woodwork came new help to the rescue and the dance will go on with most of the hardworking crew playing hooky. Of course, our queen had three places to be that night as Fresno's Coronation was also on June 6th. Andrea and James chose the wedding, leaving Gee Gee and Bill to represent our chapter in Fresno.

New Members Welcome! This spring has brought not only changes to the weather but also new members to the San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers. We welcome Darwin Alton, James Baron, Loretta Kalan, Keith Dang, Karina Gonzalez, Tony Pasil, Anne N.P. Pham, Paul Rutan Jr., Rachel Seward, Konstantin Yakunin, and Mark Krigel.

Keeping Us On Our Toes: Thank you to our DJ's for providing us with great music and our professionals for teaching new steps and patterns each month. In May, member Jane Hammond DJ'd for us while professional Natalia Lind, assisted by Joan Robinson, waltzed us into Spring American-style. In April, DJ and pro Michael Donovan gave us a lesson on west coast swing. In March, member Mark Emanuelli was our host DJ. Sincere thanks to you all for sharing your time and talents!

The Youth In Our Chapter keeps the energy, spirit

edited by Rachel Seward



and history of dance alive. A recent fun and entertaining dance performance by Hannah Murray's family was a delight. The youthful members of her family also included Steve, Sarah, Christian, and Anya. When they get old enough, we'll even let them become members! LOL

Dancing The Viennese Waltz in Vienna? In the words of



Bill Steeber and Barbara Greenlaw danced the Viennese Waltz in the grand city of Vienna.

Bill and Barbara, their dream came true. What would it be like to attend a Debutants' Grand Ball, to arrive by horse-drawn carriage, and to dance with 6000 invited guests at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna? The stuff of fairytales and magical dreams is how Barbara and Bill described it. "The pomp and circumstance surrounding the presentation of the 100 beautiful debutants, the elegance of the Hofburg Palace and its eleven ballrooms with orchestras in each one, was truly a night to remember. During our time in Vienna, we also visited the Spanish Riding School, Schönbrunn Palace, took in a performance of the Vienna Boy's Choir and capped it all off with a night at the Grand Ball."

There's always a little extra spring in the step of the SFVSD because our members have a passion for dance and for the dancer family.

The order of seasons is Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. With Spring close behind us, the SFVSD are looking forward to another summer of fun and of course DANCE!

See you on the dance floor, somewhere, having fun!

Jump Jive 'n' Wail

Rachel Seward and her teacher, Brian Fortuna, "Dancing with the Stars" 4th season professional, made their dance debut at Camilla Holiday's 102nd birthday, dancing the jive. The birthday girl resides at the Solheim Lutheran Home in Eagle Rock and doesn't look a day over 70.



Los Angeles Chapter

edited by Chuck & Susan Johnson



(Top Left) Kim Fleck enjoys a dance with her grandfather Don Russell at our April Happy Easter dance.

(Top Right) At the April dance, Sandy and Tom Wells celebrated Tom's birthday, prepared to leave for Italy the next day on a 10 day trip.

(Bottom) Sheri Chu and Susan Johnson prepare to serve the birthday cake, created by our wonderful baker Sheri, at our April dance.

We had a wonderful Happy Easter dance in April with decorations of bunnies and duckies, food and music by the Johnsons and a dance lesson by Victor Lee. We had a nice turnout with lots of guests.



The Cinco de Mayo dance was a festive and fun affair.

We held a delightful Cinco de Mayo dance the third Sunday in May hosted by Tom and Sandy Wells with Tom playing the music and Liz Bradford supplying food, and the dance lesson was given by Michael Chu.

Travels: Tom and Sandy Wells spent 10 days in Tuscany, Italy. They left the morning after our April Happy Easter dance. They



stayed at a 13th century castle at Montegufoni, Italy and drove all around the Tuscany region. In addition to Florence they toured: Assisi, Siena, Lucca, Orvieto, San Gimignano, Montepulciano. They also got to spend a day in Rome enjoying the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. Tom said the hardest thing about coming home was adjusting to actually stopping at stop signs and that people really did expect him to drive between the lines painted on the road!!



Victor Lee and Debby Ku and Chuck and Susan Johnson went on a cruise from Miami to Lisbon onboard the Crystal Serenity in May. The theme was Film and Theater and there wonderful lectures by people in that industry (booking agents, stylist for the red carpet, choreographer, and people who new some of the stars).

Ken and Marion Scholtz are just back from a two week trip-of-a-lifetime safari in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe, where they visited Victoria Falls. Traveling with just one other couple and a private guide/driver, they report that in addition to the Falls, the highlights included two night stays in private game reserves at Kruger National Park in South Africa and in the middle of the Kalahari Desert in Botswana, and a farewell dinner of barbecued warthog that was delicious. They even managed to get some dancing in at one of their game lodges, where they danced to their own recorded music, and at a Victoria Falls restaurant that had a live band.

Ken & Marion came home just in time to prepare and pack for their next trip. They left at the end of May for a four week trip starting in the Pacific Northwest, followed by a week-long cruise in the Adriatic Sea, which is sandwiched in between



Tom Wells welcomes our two newest members, Dick Yue and Maggie Wong

extended visits to Venice and Prague. They promise that they will be more sedentary starting in July.

We are very pleased to introduce our two newest members, Maggie Wong & Dick Yue. They were inducted at our Cinco de Mayo dance and we are excited to have them join our dancing family.

San Diego Chapter

edited by Mark Chapman



Convention is almost here!! Visit our website for complete information, registration form, competition registration and information, hotel registration information, event schedule, and much more:

<http://www.sdsdwebsite.com/NSDConvention2015.html>

Down in the NSD southland, the primary current topic of discussion and focus is naturally our upcoming convention. Our core committee members for the convention have held numerous meetings to get the background planning done, and we've also held some general convention meetings to give all our San Diego members the opportunity to join in the project. It's been heartening to see the way people are stepping up to assume critical support roles.

I suppose it's like this for every convention with every chapter: at first you wonder if you're going to get all the help you need as you begin to determine what has to be done, and then you watch as your friends come in and lend their strength. Very gratifying! It's also been gratifying to watch as the convention packets and hotel reservations have begun rolling in. In a world of frequent last-minute rushing to meet deadlines, many friends from all over NSD have already signed up for the weekend, making us even more excited about the plans we're making. And speaking of deadlines, don't forget that June 19th is the deadline for receiving the reduced registration price of \$189; this is also the cut-off date to be entered in the drawing for a free Convention package.

I would like to make a couple of comments here in order to facilitate the efforts of our chapter members. First, having been assigned to coordinate our convention competitions, I am making a special appeal to all chapters to encourage their members to sign up for our competitions. Palomar had an outstanding showing last year and I believe we should be able to build on that base of experienced dancers for our convention. If you competed last year, come on out and do it again! If you didn't compete last year, take the opportunity to begin the experience with us. These comps are most fun when there are a lot of couples on the floor. If you never

received the packet with the competition registration form, contact me by email and I'll get all the forms to you that you'll need to sign up for the convention and the comps.

Also, we hope you noticed on the convention registration form that we need your photo for the passport you'll be receiving when you check in for the convention. It can be a "selfie" (whatever that is), or any existing digital photo of yourself that you happen to like. Please send your photo to Dave Saul at davesaul@pacbell.net. Sure, you could just let us find a random picture to put in your passport for you, but our convention workers have a strange sense of humor and a predilection for "Looney Tunes" characters, so send in the photo of your choice to Dave for a perfectly customized passport. I want to give a shout-out to Dave here for the excellent job he is doing in regard to these passport photos: he brought a sample sheet to our most recent meeting and he is doing a top-of-the-line technical job, as he always does. Thank you, Dave and Anne, for the support you provide constantly for our chapter!



New Member Don Greenspan.

We have four new members in San Diego whom we would like to introduce to you:

Don Greenspan has been very active with our chapter for some time now. A relative newcomer to the dance world, he is quickly building his skill set with private lessons. He has also thrown himself into our social world, hosting parties and making a lot of new friends.



New Member's Latiffah and Patrick McGuinness.

Latiffah & Patrick McGuinness have come to know our chapter through our socials very well over the past couple of years—they even came to Queen Caron's Coronation to enjoy the dancing and the music, driving down from their home at Lake Elsinore. Now they have joined NSD and we are happy to have them officially with us.

Peter Bromelburg was a member of our chapter several years ago, and he has remained active in the dance world even though he has moved in different circles from us recently. Now he has returned to our chapter, bringing with him a high level of dance skill in a wide range of ballroom dances, and in Argentine Tango as well.

Bakersfield Chapter

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



I woke up to a lovely morning this Sunday, May 24th. And I find I'm struggling to just sit down and write this newsletter. Thought I would sit out on my patio for inspiration! It's lovely sitting here looking out at my garden, gazing at my young English walnut tree, with its one lonely walnut growing on it. Makes me smile and want to chuckle, but I'm amazed at the same time as we just planted the tree around March of this year!

But I find what isn't a laughing matter and makes me feel rather sad is the struggle our club is having getting members to help chair our monthly dances which are such an important part of keeping our chapter going. So our June dance could go without a chairperson; although I think a few members volunteered to help, I don't think they want to chair the dance. I wonder if Jo Ann Georgio is up to chairing another dance. Our July dance at this point in time has no chair person either. Rest assured though the music and dancing will go on somehow and you can find us on the fourth Saturday of every month at the Rasmussen Center, 115 E. Roberts Lane from 7:00 to 10:30pm.

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS It really is a good way to get involved and feel like a part of this chapter. Jump in and sign up to serve on a committee, or chair a dance, we want to get to know you and this is a good way to do it.

Our May dance is our annual Queen's Dance celebrating our past and present Queens. At this time we also present the Gretchen Garretson award to a deserving recipient. This year's dance was chaired by Dorothy Vaughan and Kay Boyer. The theme was a "Celebration of Queens" and it was carried out in the wonderful decorations that Kay chose! Lavender tablecloths, lovely vases of yellow roses, white baby's breath, and a lovely lavender flower; strands of pearls and a little tiara also adorned the tables.

Queen Susan Salvucci was presented the Queen's Perpetual Trophy that is hers to keep for a year.



Past Queen Dorothy Vaughan passes on the Queen's Perpetual Trophy to current Queen Susan Salvucci.

Lyle Mills was our Master of Ceremonies and he did a wonderful job as usual. Thank you so much Lyle for doing this for us! The food was delicious and plentiful, and was provided by all the Queens that formed the committee.

President Steve Peterson presented the Gretchen Garretson award to Jan Mills. A well deserved honor. Many of you know that Jan is our dance Scrutineer and has performed this job faithfully for years. Congratulations Jan on a well deserved honor!



The Gretchen Garretson Award was presented to Jan Mills.

Our April dance with the theme "Spring Fling" was a great success! Chaired by JoAnn Georgio and Barbara Norcross it was a really fun dance. The music played by Dennis Acosta was great and we had some great hot dogs with all the fixings. Decorations were really pretty and we felt like we were in a spring garden!

IN MEMORIAM:

Long time member and former Queen (2002), Esther



2002 Queen Esther Kolb

Kolb has passed away. Esther always was a fixture at our monthly dances, along with her good friend Helen Pavich. For a number of years Esther could be counted on to arrange the seating charts for the various chapters at our annual Boards.

Esther will be missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

There seems to be a lot of our members that are ill right now and we hope and pray for a speedy recovery for each of you!

SMOOTH DANCERS' SILVER ANNIVERSARY

*Celebrating a Quarter Century of Dancing
Pleasure by Thriving California Group*

BY VICTOR ZELLER

One Sunday evening back in the year 1937 a group of contest dancers, all staunch partisans of "smooth" dancing, were gathered around the bandstand of the ballroom on Lick Pier in Santa Monica. They were watching the distressing spectacle of contest prizes being handed out, one after another, to the jitterbug maniacs. This was not unusual for the period. Jitterbug had hit the country like a plague. With each gyration its free-swinging exponents seemed to fill an entire ballroom with a madness that seemed weirdly heathen.

But there were a few who remained immune to the craze and who felt that something should be done to preserve the institution of *real* dancing. This year we are celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the organization which was created in that antijitterbug mood, and readers of *Ballroom Dance Magazine* are in-

vited to reminisce a bit with me about the quarter century of pleasure which the National Smooth Dancers have brought to many lovers of the best in ballroom dancing.

It was Glenn Helper who first suggested, to Archie McKenzie, the idea of organizing a club for "smooth dancers. The notion caught on fast, and in a few weeks some 40 of the best dancers in the Los Angeles area had signed up. On that original roster were, in addition to Helper and McKenzie, such names as Horance Dunn, Oliver Tucker, Bill Barrell, Walt Reynolds, Charles Provin, Tommy Young, Larry Hartzell, Rudy Martin and Jack Jackson — all gentlemen, if you will notice. (It was not until 1939 that the ladies were admitted as official members, and by 1942 they were allowed to hold the offices of secretary and treasurer.)

When the first by-laws were drawn up, eligibility for membership was somewhat rigid. An applicant had to have won at least three major contests, had to be an American citizen, had to have a reputation for integrity in his own dealings and the proper respect for dancing partners, had to own (or be willing to purchase) a tuxedo and a white suit and, of course, had to be an advocate of smooth dancing. Two formal dances a year, were then on the calendar. These were staged at the Jonathan Club, the Riverside Country Club and the Los Angeles Breakfast Club. Dues in those days were 15 cents a month, with an initiation fee of 25 cents. Membership was limited to one hundred, and the result was a constant waiting list.

During the war years of gasoline short-
(Continued on page 24)



1957 contest scene at Oakland convention, hosted by Lake Merrit Chapter.

The reprint on pages 11-13 was submitted by Ken Scholtz. It is an article that appeared in the August, 1962 issue of "Ballroom Dance Magazine". You will find it an entertaining read with detailed information and history of our NSD heritage. Of particular interest on page 13 is a photo of Betty Bradford, aka Liz Bradford, member of the Los Angeles Chapter!

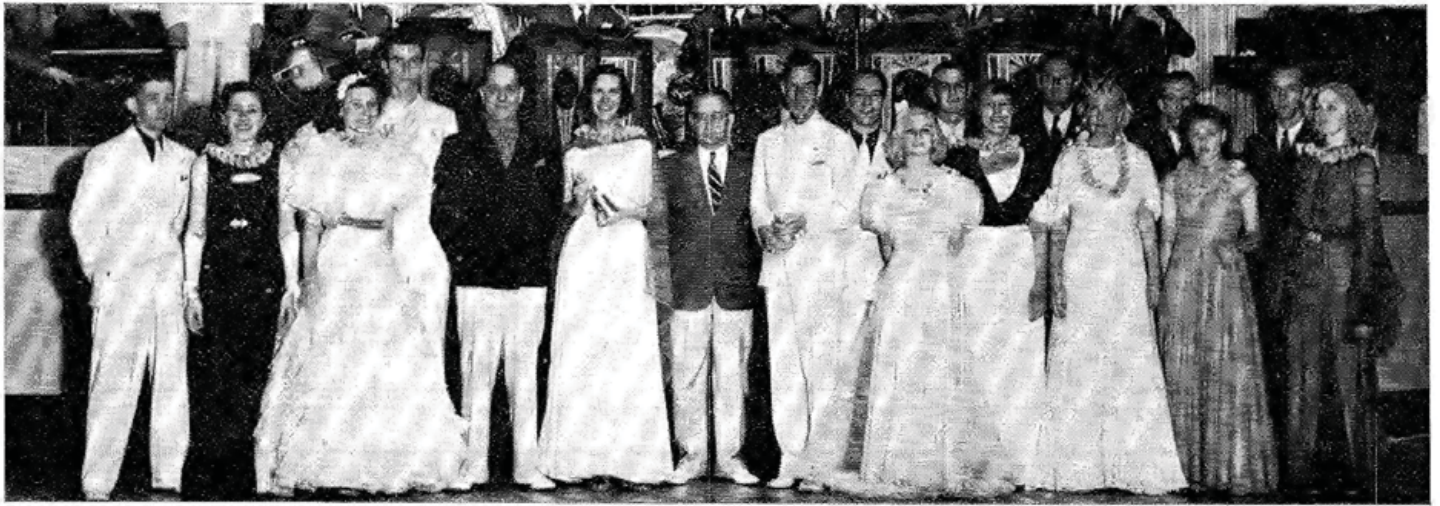
Smooth Dancer trophy winners of 25 years ago, Herman Bodendorfer and Katherine Sorenson. Maestro beaming approval in background is Rudy Vallee.



Ted Streshinsky

William D'Albrow escorts Esther Mattix, 1958 Queen, to throne at NSD convention hosted by San Francisco Chapter.





Silver Cup Award Competition July 10, 1937, at Pasadena, during Smooth Dancers' first year.



Left:

Foxtrot and All-Division winners of competition at 1960 convention in Long Beach were Paul & Juanita Birkett.

Far Left:

Carmen Carlos and Vincent Scillato in a 1956 NSD competition. They were representing the San Diego Chapter, onetime sponsors of a memorable annual gala, the "Dancing Cavalcade."



Left:

1951 photo of Eleanor & Victor Zeller on the dance floor of the Figueroa Ballroom in Los Angeles. Author of the accompanying report, Mr. Zeller joined the NSD with his wife 17 years ago.

Far Left:

Ray Bradford, 1962 President of the Los Angeles Parent Chapter of the NSD.

SMOOTH DANCERS (Cont'd from p. 5)

ages, blackouts and other difficulties, activities of the NSD were necessarily curtailed. All treasury funds at the time were utilized to purchase gifts for members in service camps and hospitals.

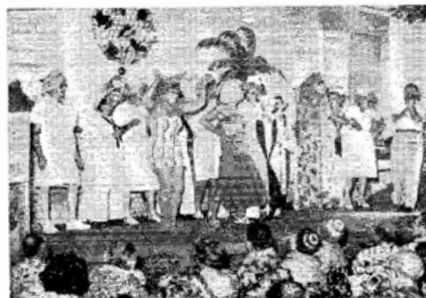
After V-J Day, in October of 1945, a gala revival took place. The club was reorganized by Oliver Tucker and Jack Jackson, who summoned together as many champions of the "smooth" cause as could be located. In short order the club was again going strong. That was the year my wife and I joined. We have been members now for 17 years — and have loved every year of it.

In 1947 came the next major step forward, which was incorporation, and on that task Virginia Crawford, Ruth Tucker and Vernadeen Buck spent many hours of work. In November of that year the State of California recognized the organization under its official title, the National Smooth Dancers, Inc. Support for club principles now began to come from territory well beyond the confines of Greater Los Angeles. Today we have 11 chapters: in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Fresno, San Jose, Fallbrook, Oakland, Lakewood, Santa Monica, Visalia, and a new chapter in the San Fernando Valley.

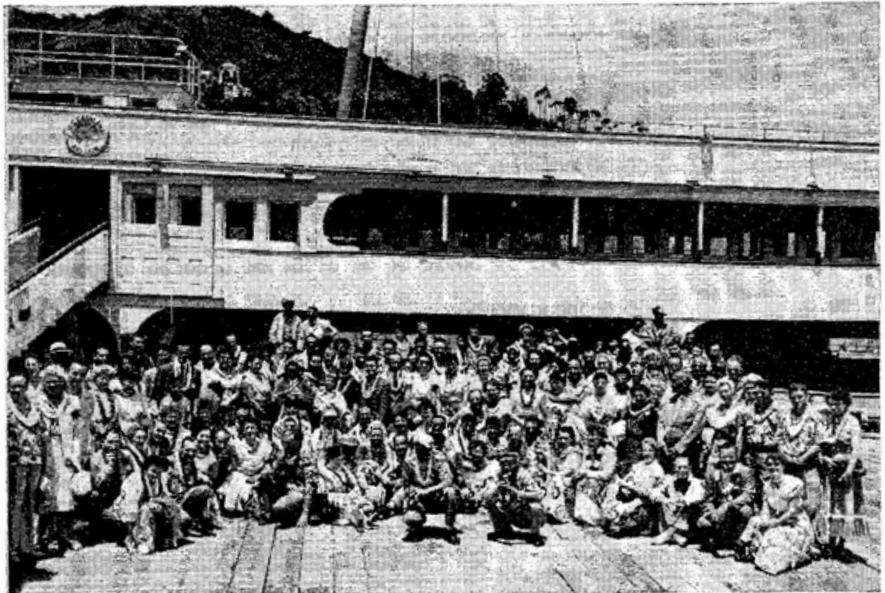
Membership is now approximately one



Betty Bradford of South Gate, Calif., is this year's reigning NSD Queen.



"Tales of South Seas" show put on by members of Starlitter Chapter, Lakewood.



Typifying the Smooth Dancer's program of dancing plus a rounded social life is this 1952 outing to Catalina Island.



Memo Bernabei, Windsor Records headliner who is especially popular with So. Calif. dancers, stars on the bandstand at the 1962 NSD convention in L.A.

thousand. As a result of its activities the NSD has been able to contribute funds and gifts to numerous charities and causes. Members of the chapters are always looking forward to the next "Dance of the Month," as well as to the state-wide gatherings. Most important of these, of course, is the yearly convention held on the Labor Day week-end.

We feel that one of the most effective showcases for good dancing have been the regular contests and the work of the precision dance groups within the several chapters. Our members regularly "bring down the house" when they demonstrate in ballrooms or on TV.

In 1950 our own little monthly publication, *Dance Whispers*, was begun. Material is contributed by all club branches, and thus all Smooth Dancers are kept posted about events past and present and about ideas for further promotion of better dancing.

We are always looking to the future. It has long been the vision of many to break out beyond the borders of California and establish a nation-wide club. Since its reorganization and incorporation in 1947 the NSD has forged ahead and has become the best known group of its kind in the country. The success so far has proved that we have the right foundation, the right ideals and the right people behind them. The future is without boundaries!

Lawrence Welk, an honorary member of the NSD, has said that in his travels throughout the United States he has seen no better dancers than ours. An especially hopeful omen for the days ahead is seen in the fact that so many of the younger generation have expressed a desire "to learn to dance as the Smooth Dancers do." Happily, Rock 'n' Roll has not infected all our young people.

The National Smooth Dancers are proud to have been able to show the rest of the world how much fun it is to be able to dance well and how much dancing accomplishes for those who want to acquire valued friends and a more worth-while social existence.

Among the many who deserve credit for

this year's accomplishments are George Reed, Editor of *Dance Whispers*; Bill Smith, Convention Chairman; Hal Dodds, Publicity Chairman; and, of course, the 1962 President, Ray Bradford.

President Bradford assures us that the 25th Anniversary Convention will be fabulous. The new Crystal Ballroom in the Thunderbird International Hotel is reported to be "the most beautiful ballroom to be constructed in Southern California in the past 20 years." With meetings, parties, contests and five full dance sessions, most Silver Anniversary conventioners anticipate only a few hours' sleep during the gala 4-day schedule.

Finally, Mr. Bradley adds, "You'll find friendly hospitality, good dancing and plenty of fun from August 31 through September 3 with the Smooth Dancers at El Segundo in Sunny California!"

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: \$ _____

Palomar Smooth Dancers
invite you to celebrate at their
Coronation Ball
honoring
Queen-elect
Geri Deutsch

An Evening of Fairytale Romance

Saturday 25th of July 2015

Ocean Hills Country Club
4701 Leisure Village Drive, Oceanside 92056

6:00 PM - Doors Open
6:30 PM - Coronation followed by dinner/dancing
Dinner & Dancing - Black-tie optional
Honor Dance - Len & Peggy Lee
Entertainment - Victor Lee & Debbie Ku

Hospitality - Saturday July 25th 2:00 - 4:00pm
at Ocean Hills Country Club

Hotel: Hampton Inn, 123 E. Carmel St. San Marcos 92078
Special room rate \$139, plus tax held until Saturday, July 4, 2015
760 736-9249 Code: PCC or online at
http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/S/SANSMHX-PCC-20150724/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Queens Breakfast Sunday July 26th, 9:00 AM
El Camino Country Club
3202 Vista Way, Oceanside 92056

Please detach and mail to: Peggy Lee 1015 Whimbrel Court, Carlsbad, CA 92011 760 476-1822

Name(s): _____

Chapter: _____ Telephone: _____

Email (for confirmation verification): _____

Dinner : _____ X\$50 Queen's Breakfast: _____ X\$25 Total _____

The Orient Express

NSD CONVENTION 2015

Package and Ticket Registration



	Gentleman	Lady
Name	_____	_____
Address	_____	_____
City	_____	_____
State/Zip	_____	_____
Chapter	_____	_____
Telephone	_____	_____
E-mail	_____	_____

Quantity		Amount
_____	Package Plans @\$189 per person (\$209 after June 19 th , 2015 deadline)	_____
_____	Gavel Club Luncheon (Saturday) @\$45 per person (Past & Current Presidents)	_____
_____	Crown Circle Luncheon (Sunday) @\$45 per person (Past & Reigning Queens)	_____
_____	Dance Seminar #1 Foxtrot, Saturday, @\$5 per person	_____
_____	Dance Seminar #2 Cha Cha, Saturday, @\$5 per person	_____
_____	Dance Seminar #3 Waltz, Sunday, @\$5 per person	_____
_____	Dance Seminar #4 Tango, Sunday, @\$5 per person	_____
_____	2015 State Directory @\$5 each	_____
	Single Event Tickets as shown on reverse side. Enter total here:	_____
	Dance Seminar information is presented on reverse side	_____
	Total:	_____

Saturday Night Dinner Selection (enter total number for each entree):

Salmon _____ Beef _____ Vegetarian _____
 (Butternut squash ravioli with marinated tomatoes)

Please specify special dietary needs:

All Package Plan sign-ups received by the June 19th deadline will be entered into a drawing for a free Convention Package; the winner will be reimbursed the full \$189 purchase price.
Meals will be deducted from any refunds requested after August 15th, 2015.

Mail registration form and checks payable to SDSA to:

Patricia DiSessa, 10827 Charing Cross Rd., Spring Valley, CA 91978-1207.
 For questions call (619) 303-9905, cell (559) 259-2751, or email: trishadance@gmail.com.
An "Acknowledgement of Receipt" will be sent either by email or U.S. Mail.

**National Smooth Dancers, Inc.
2015 State Convention
Competition Registration**

Gentleman

Lady

Name:		
Chapter:		
Address:		
City:		
Zip:		
Phone:		
E-mail:		

Please check all events for which you are registering:

<i>One-Star</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smooth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhythm	<input type="checkbox"/>	Latin
<i>(Music will be provided for all One-Star competitors ahead of the Convention.)</i>								
<i>Two-Star</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smooth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhythm	<input type="checkbox"/>	Latin
<i>Three-Star</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smooth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhythm	<input type="checkbox"/>	Latin
<i>Four-Star</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smooth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standard	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Senior</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waltz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cha Cha	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

(Contestants in the Senior Division must be at least 65 years old and must not be competing in any other event.)

Attention: Expect an e-mail acknowledging your registration in the correct contests within ten days of receipt by the competition chairperson. If you do not receive an e-mail or it does not reflect the correct information, please send an e-mail to mcchapman88@gmail.com, or call Mark Chapman at 619-213-9119.

Waiver of Liability

I certify that I am a member in good standing with the National Smooth Dancers Chapter indicated. I have held membership since May 15, 2015, and I have purchased a complete "Package Deal" for the 2015 Convention. To the best of my knowledge, I also certify that I qualify to compete in the competitions I have indicated, in accordance with NSD rules.

I understand and agree that the San Diego Smooth Dancers, Inc., shall not be held liable for accidents or injuries sustained by persons competing in any events, and shall not be held responsible for the loss or theft of articles during the Convention. I hereby irrevocably give and grant to the San Diego Smooth Dancers, Inc., the right to produce, use, refer to, and/or reproduce any video or audio recording of any competition.

Lady: _____ Date: _____

Gentleman: _____ Date: _____

Mail completed form to: Mark Chapman, 7637 Rustico Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92009