

# National Smooth Dancers

## Dance Whispers

### August 2015



## Fresno Chapter

Fresno Chapter's 30th Anniversary theme was "Once a Queen, Always a Queen". It was a wonderfully sentimental tribute to all the Fresno Queens over the years. Our first Queen, the indomitable Katherine Qualls with her husband, Floyd Qualls, was responsible for founding the Fresno Chapter in 1985. Twenty-four women have served our chapter as queen at least once and all were recognized. Six of our Queens, including Katherine, have passed away and eight were unable to attend due to health or distance or other obligations and were sorely missed. Their contributions to the Fresno chapter were recognized and all were paid special tribute. Our dear Queen Shirley McClosky, now living in San Diego, traveled to Fresno to be with us and received a presentation during the ceremony.

Carla Hartunian and Lorraine Tilton and the worker bees began the set-up and decorations in the hall Friday afternoon. Queens and guests from all over California from San Diego to Golden Gate started arriving Friday morning to join us for the festivities.

Our weekend began (unofficially) Friday evening when the early arrivals gathered for a light supper before heading to Fresno's newest dance studio, Step2Dance, for the lesson and dance party. Our coronation attendees added 10 or 12 out-of-towners to the regular party goers and a lovely time was had by all.

Saturday morning was a flurry of last minute shopping and gathering of food and beverage for the Hospitality. The set-up crew started at 1:30 and all was ready for guests by 2:00. Carla did her usual fabulous job of organizing and was assisted by the Fresno members' contributions of delicious food. The hospitality broke up when the ceremony participants were called into the hall for the coronation rehearsal. With the 7 additional queen-elects and escorts, Linda Bennett had her hands full as she made her debut as Mistress of Ceremony for the Presentation of Queens. She was assisted by Sue Dowell and, with a few last minute adjustments, we were soon released to hurry off and change into our evening finery.

The evening started with Fresno's traditional Champagne Reception, after which the 16 queen & escort couples took their places in line. "Senior" Queen Nancy Palazzo represented Fresno as crowning queen in the ceremony. She took the place of Queen Angie Fae who passed away shortly after being crowned in 2014. The visiting queens were led by State Queen Miriam Mozes, followed by the Fresno Queens in the order of the coronation they will be attending during the next year. Fresno's queen-elects made their curtsy to Queen Nancy with a kiss of affection and took their assigned seats. The Honor Dance was performed by Fresno member, Leslie Rouse with Alex Ortiz, a lovely expressive Rumba. The Fresno Queen's recessional was livened up by the Fresno queens & escorts exiting in foursomes.

The evening continued with a delicious Armenian dinner of

edited by Linda Bennett



beef & chicken kabobs with wonderful pilaf and baklava for dessert. We dined and danced to music selections by Linda Bennett. Our entertainment for the evening was provided by Fresno's newest professional couple, Vitaly Tarasov and Natia Kuprava. They performed a graceful Waltz and a romantic Rumba. Be sure to look for them at their dance studio, Step2Dance. We enjoyed dance mixers, door prizes, and even shopping provided by our wonderful vendors, New York Couture and Little Black Dress.

### Monthly Socials

**June.** "Winner's Circle" was hosted by Carla Hartunian, who invited any member who had won trophies during their dance careers to bring them so she could add them to the decorations. The room was full of awards! The lesson for this month was Bolero, taught by Franco Peraza. In spite of our dance falling on Father's Day, we had a decent turnout and we all enjoyed a very fun afternoon.



Our newest member, Nancy Cargill, with VP Jim Escobar.

**July.** July's social was the third of our trial "tea dance" format, and our members have voted to keep the shorter afternoon dances. "She Sells Sea Shells by the Seashore" was hosted by Tahani Elhag, and Stacy O'Neill taught a challenging West Coast Swing lesson. We welcomed our newest member, Nancy Cargill, and are looking forward to getting to know her better!

**August.** August's social will be held on Sunday, August 16 at 2:00 p.m., hosted by Rick and Kathy Constantino. Alex Ortiz will teach a Bachata lesson, and social dancing will run from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Drinks and snacks will be served.

\* \* \* \* \*

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



# Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard



## Palomar Coronation and a few words from Queen Geri Deutsch.



*Queen Geri & Prince Charming Fred Deutsch performed an elegant & romantic Fox Trot.*

“Planning my own wedding 26 years ago is the only thing I can compare to planning my coronation. However this time, instead of doing everything myself, the generous Palomar Chapter members with their talent and experience diligently strived to make this coronation my dream. Working together with this dedicated group of friends was as full of fun as the main event. They listened to my thoughts and magically ran with them, turning the evening of July 25th into a Fairytale Romance that will always



*Queen Peggy & Len Lee perform a masterpiece of an Honor Dance.*



*Queen Geri & Fred thank Entertainers Queen Debby and Victor Ku.*



*Queen Geri & her Court*

stand out in my cherished memories.

Looking back, the anxiety anticipating the Queen's Dance was not so bad. Key ingredients: Dance instructor Michael Kiehm, lots of practice, and just the right dress. Not to mention, put that husband of mine in a tux and his Fred Astaire persona takes over. For our inexperienced level, Fred and I both sighed, “Whew! We pulled that one off”.

After that I could relax and enjoy as Len Lee skillfully led Peggy as she graced the dance floor like a butterfly in their lovely Honor Dance.

I asked my energetic entertainers Victor Lee and Debby Ku to throw in a little samba line dance and I was overjoyed with the crowd on the dance floor who joined in adding a touch of Bollywood.

My 3-year-old Grandniece Malia, thought this was her



coronation and stole the show.”

**The June Social** was well attended and the Theme “Brides, Dads and Grads” offered a choice of costumes and all three June groups were well represented by those in attendance. Hosts Carol Milne, Christiane Lannes, George Plante, Jack and Merilee Ragland and Penny

Elliot provided excellent fare with a taco bar that had all of the trimmings. Also Included was a white ‘wedding cake’ in honor of all of the ‘June Brides’ present. Our local professionals, Irina and James Friedhof continued with their instruction of the Night Club Two-Step, presenting an intermediate pattern to challenge their many students; it was well received.

**Penny Elliot took part in two Formation performances last month.** Penny and her partner, Larry Templeton performed as part of the “Get Up and Dance” group, which is directed by Maria and Larry Tarleton at Georgia's School of Dance in Escondido. Their first recital was at the Escondido Performing Arts Center. The group performed as four couples, and danced an excellent waltz routine, which was augmented by some specially selected stage lighting. This was followed by a lively Salsa routine. Their second performance occurred the following week at the Escondido Elks Lodge.



*Penny Elliot (far left) on stage performing with her Get Up & Dance Group*

**Congratulations Jack Ragland with a 1st Place Blue Ribbon Award at the Del Mar County Fair** with his painting “Autumn Ambrosia”!! Recently several Palomar Smooth



*Palomar attendees who enjoyed the art show: (Front Row L-R) Natasha Ragland, Jack Ragland, Merilee Ragland, Fred & Geri Deutsch, Cathy Lombardi, Darlene Drury, Linda & Elliot Lum.*

Dancers attended a classy Art Show with artwork by Jack Ragland, Merilee Ragland & their daughter Natasha Ragland. The art show was held at Temecula City Hall and included 19 accomplished local artists. On display were several other award-winning paintings by Jack Ragland. Natasha Ragland received a Honorable Mention and a People's Choice Award on her painting titled “The Days of Swine and Roses”.

# San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Rachel Seward



## SUMMER SIZZLED ON THE SAN FERNANDO CHAPTER'S DANCE FLOOR!

And we are not talking just about Tango and Salsa!

**Happy Anniversary San Fernando Chapter!** The San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers anniversary celebration began with the Latin Bolero lesson, taught by the amazing David and Lili Moutrey, and continued with cool melodies by DJ Jane Hammond. DJ Jane also hosted an elegant Anniversary "Jack'n'Jill" waltz competition. Congratulations to Rina Stone and John Wong for taking 1st place. The Jack'n'Jill contest is a very special competition. Thank you to everyone for participating.



*Most Improved Dancers were awarded to Deanna and Joseph Hidalgo at our our chapter's anniversary celebration held on June 6th.*

**Deanna Stanton and Joseph Hidalgo presented a spectacular ballroom Paso Doble** show dance that spread a lovely atmosphere of cheerfulness. Deanna and Joe are currently working on their silver dance certification. Deanna and Joseph received the award for "Most Improved Dancers." Their terrific efforts certainly show.

Fifty-four years of shared memories were toasted with champagne, cool melodies and elegant waltzes.

We are happy to continue sharing our love of music and dance with the San Fernando community.

We will keep on dancing for another 54 years!



*July 4th Recap Saturday in the park I think it was the Fourth of July People dancing, people laughing A man selling ice cream...*

Donovan.

Fourth of July was celebrated on the dance floor this year.



*Our 2015-16 Queen-elect Leanne Wong and husband John.*

**July's chapter dance was full of fireworks,** people dancing and people laughing – and without ice cream!

Dancing requires time to build skills, so each month we include a lesson that allows us to learn new dances and improve while meeting new people and having fun. The East Coast Swing, a true American dance, was taught by Michael

We had great attendance and music was DJ'd by Michael Donovan. Michael Donovan was also our dance instructor and the lesson was the East Coast Swing.

**The highlight of our dance was the announcement of Leanne Wong as our 2015-16**

## queen-elect.

Leanne and her husband, John, are not only a vibrant couple but tremendous and artistic dancers. Their ongoing commitment to dance and our chapter, season after season, is one of the many reasons they shine. Congratulations Queen Leanne! We know you will have an exciting and adventurous year.

Leaving your dancing shoes at home is not an option – there's still six months of fun ahead of us!



## Summer Always Ends With Good Memories.

The 2015 summer went by in a flash! It's worse than Christmas. We think we have more time to dance in the sunshine and BAM! It has come and gone.

Our last dance of the summer was well attended and very enjoyable because of the great music and lively dance lesson. Our SFVSD chapter personally thanks Mark Emanuelli, our featured DJ, and David Moutrey for the rhythmical Samba lesson and his lovely dance assistant, Joan Robinson.

## The SFVSD Board of Directors are our key leaders and - Shining Stars!

Our board is a team that works cohesively around a common goal - to create a positive and safe dance environment that includes not only music, theme, food, set-up and tear-down but business operations and publicity.

## With summer ending so quickly, we don't want you to despair!

It only means the annual Palm Spring weekender will be soon! Many of us have already started practicing for special performances and sharpening on our detective skills in hopes of being the first to solve the murder on the Orient Express.

## See you in October or on the dance floor, somewhere, having fun!



## Traveling Trophy Returns Home

Gavel Club 2014 Award Winner, Joan Robinson, holds the coveted perpetual trophy for the last time as she prepares to return it to the Gavel Club for the 2015 presentation. Ex Gavel Club president, Barbara Greenlaw, was instrumental in getting Joan's name engraved on the trophy in preparation for its return. San Fernando Valley

is most proud to have the prior two years' recipients as chapter members: Barbara Greenlaw, 2013, and Joan Robinson, 2014. As most of you know, this award is given each year to a member who has done outstanding service for their club and NSD. All the past club presidents vote on the nominees at the Gavel Club Luncheon at convention.

**Save The Date: SFV Coronation November 7, 2015. We hope to see you then!**

## Queen's Reflections



It was truly a wonderful turnout for "An Evening of Fairytale Romance". George and I want to thank all of the Palomar committees who worked so diligently to pull together a flawless event in honor of our new Queen Geri Deutsch. Everything from Hospitality, to the Decorations, to the Caterers, the MC, the Music, the Honor Dance & Entertainment, the hotel arrangements ALL came together for another memorable Smooth Dancers event!"

**--State Queen Miriam Moses, Palomar**



What a pleasure to get to know and share queenship with this year's reigning queens. I am so very honored to represent the Palomar Chapter and proud to be a part of the whole National Smooth Dancers.

The efforts that everyone put forth for this one evening and those who come from so far to attend, is an indication of how very special smooth dance members are; steadfast in their love of ballroom dancing, it's traditions and friendships.

**-Queen Geri Deutsch, Palomar**



Palomar's coronation for Queen Geri Deutsch, "An Evening of Fairy tale Romance," was a most enchanted evening, indeed. Thanks to Queen Miriam Mozes and husband, George, the coronation was held in the ballroom of the beautiful Ocean Hills Country Club. Queen Geri looked stunning wearing a beautiful pink chiffon gown which was truly in keeping with the fairy tale theme. The Queen's processional was elegant, as usual, with each of the Queens providing a narrative as to how they met their "Prince Charming." The flower bearer was Michelle Robles and the crown bearer, Geri's grandniece, Malia Robles, pulled a little wagon that was decked out in white tulle. Queen Geri and her "Prince Charming," Fred Deutsch, danced a beautiful Foxtrot to Rod Stewart's "Time After Time." The Honor Dance, a lovely Viennese Waltz, was performed by Palomar members, Len and Peggy Lee. Victor Lee and Debby Ku from the Los Angeles chapter performed two Latin exhibition dances that were truly exciting to watch. And they all Danced Happily Ever After!

**-Queen Myra Wenzel, Fresno**



The Fresno Coronation was quiet a sight; 15 queens sitting in a row, 15 white gowns and crowns and scepters and 15 handsome men in tuxedos. I think you have to go to a debutante ball to get the same visual effect. We are trying to get a video of the queens waltz, all of us dancing, I am sure it was a spectacular sight.

We were royally entertained by teacher Alex Ortiz and Fresno member Leslie Rouse doing a Rumba as the honor dance and later in the evening by professional couple Vitaly Terasor and Natia Kuprava with a beautiful Waltz and a steamy Rumba.

Lots of dancing and schmoozing with all our new and old friends and then back to Napa and Sonoma the next day.

Coming a day early to Palomar was definitely a grand idea. It allowed us to dance at Champion ballroom on Friday night and get our tired and stiff bones moving again, enjoying a few of San Diego's and Palomar's chapters fabulous dancers.

The ballroom was breathtaking in size and decoration and the details of the coronation were awe inspiring. Beautiful pink roses everywhere, each queen was given a fairy tale romance book, while the escorts had boutonnieres of fresh white roses in their lapels. Every little detail was thought about, from the place cards to the sparkly turning high heel shoes on each table and the lovely fairy garden we were given as gifts by queen Geri, who wore a soft pink dress and danced a beautiful Foxtrot with her husband Fred. The food was exceptional as where the performances by members Len and Peggy Lee as well as Victor Lee and Debbie Ku. Altogether it was an exceptional beautiful coronation perfectly choreographed and executed by many creative and talented Palomar members.

**-Queen Gabrielle von Stephans, Golden Gate**



As I approach the mid-point in my year as San Diego's Queen and think back on my adventure so far, I am struck by the amazing relationships between our members and how much joy that brings to those of us lucky enough to be part of the Crown Circle. I am especially impressed by the support and caring of the spouses, gentlemen friends and other escorts who accompany the Queens to the Coronations - not only their own Queens but former queens as well. These men invite them to dance, visit with them and help all the ladies as needed. As a solo lady, I really appreciate what you do.

Gentlemen, I salute you for being who you are and thank you for being so caring and supportive of all the ladies.

**-Queen Caron Schattel, San Diego**



Ahh! “My little chickadees” ...My reign as Los Angeles’s Co-Queen is coming to a close as Palomar’s coronation was my last official event as Queen. Palomar’s coronation was a fairy tale experience. Queen Geri was stunning in pink and her escort, husband Jim, was so handsome in his tux. They

glided around the dance floor so well together, you would have thought they were swans on a peaceful pond.

The coronation was executed so smoothly by Palomar’s members, headed up by George Moses. It was organized and so much fun to be a part of. Alas, for me as the L.A. Queen, the entertainment of Debby Ku and Victor Lee’s dancing was the culmination of a fun evening. Bravo to Palomar NSD for a great, fun event. See you at the convention.

**-Queen Sandy Wells, Los Angeles**



Visalia Chapter had a lovely coronation with Debbie Renfro renewing her realm for another year! Decorations were lovely and I always enjoy the trip to Exeter and the Visalia dancers. Thank you Visalia for wonderful memories. The breakfast venue was outstanding and so was the breakfast

buffet—one that gives Las Vegas a real run for the money!

It seemed like a very short time thereafter I was on my way to Fresno for the coronation of 8 lovely ladies “Once a Queen Always a Queen”. Somehow it came off so effortlessly it was amazing; although I am sure much planning went into the affair. My escort was a wonderful dancer! Thank you, Fresno Queens! While the entire evening was spectacular, even the vendors lent an element of elegance! I had great fun shopping and dancing—two of a number of favorite things on my list of Fun Things to Do. I owe BSD Queen Jill Calcaterra a big thank you for attending the Queen’s breakfast Sunday morning since I needed to get home to give my new rescue puppy Lillian Margaret aka Lily her medication. She is doing great and I’m training her to curtsy. Perhaps if I can get my other rescue dog Bubba to bow, she’ll pick up on a curtsy. Don’t think that’s going to work, actually.

It was another fabulous trip to the San Diego area on July 24-26 for the coronation of Palomar’s Queen Geri Deutch! The fairy tale theme was enchanting! Each Queen was given a journal decorated according to the theme, with a beautiful flower-embellished bookmark. Geri’s pink gown was exquisite and her flower ring bearer pulled a beautiful white wagon complete with a gold crown on top similar to Queen Elizabeth’s official carriage! I wish I had taken a moment to photograph it so I could post it.

The entire evening was so special and Queen Geri looked so gorgeous! All the Queens present, both current and past, were so friendly it was truly a memorable experience. Thank you to all, and especially Queens’ Miriam Moses and Geri Deutch.

A special shout-out goes to San Diego’s Queen Caron Shattel who provided hospitality. She introduced us to a wonderful San Diego Italian restaurant called Santina’s, and filled us in a bit on the State Convention—though we have absolutely no clue “who done it”, but looking forward to the trip on The Orient Express!!!!

**-Queen Susan Salvucci, Bakersfield**



To celebrate their chapter’s 30 year anniversary Fresno created a special Coronation Ball. The ceremony included 8 different queens, all ladies who have already served as chapter queen in one or more previous years, and also honored their oldest living queen, Nancy Palazzo.

We all felt appropriately regal, carrying the special decorated crown scepters lovingly created by Carla Hartunian. While dancing during the Queens’ Dance, I happened to look around the room and was struck by the exceptionally beautiful scene, created in part by so many white-gowned queens (16) on the floor.

Bill and I enjoyed being seated with the lively group from Los Angeles, Susan and Chuck Johnson, Debby Ku and Victor Lee, and Sandy and Tom Wells. Chuck had been lined up as an escort stand-in for my husband Bill Morey, who was having a problem with his foot, but fortunately Bill was able to escort me during the ceremony, although other than the Queens’ Dance he was not able to do any dancing that night. I therefore found the two mixers to be even more enjoyable than usual, especially as I was fortunate to get to dance with some WONDERFUL partners.

**-Queen Gee Gee Bardin, San Fernando Valley**



Palomar Queen Geri Deutch made us all believe in Fairy Tales at her Coronation event, “Evening of Fairy tale Romance.” With a glass “sparkling” slipper as centerpiece at each table and even a castle at the desert table, one could easily imagine that time of Cinderella and her prince charming or

Gwenavere and her devoted knight. Recollection of fairy tales was brought to mind as well as Queen Geri, dressed in a lovely pink gown, and her husband/escort Fred, danced a Foxtrot across the ballroom floor to the music “Time After Time.” At the Queen’s pleasure, the Honor Dance, a Viennese Waltz was beautifully performed by Len and Peggy Lee. After a luscious meal, the audience was treated to a fun exhibition of Cha Cha and Bachata performed by Victor Lee and Debby Ku in which they even included the audience in a Samba Line Dance. BTW, a thank you to George Mozes and Peter Hanson who did a great job on the music!

**-Queen Andrea Gutman, San Fernando Valley**

# Los Angeles Chapter

edited by Tom Wells



*Michael Chu teaches the country 2-step at the June dance, appropriately themed "Country & Western Dance"*

Our June business meeting and dance held on June 6th was themed "Country and Western". Sheri Chu provided the food including a delicious western themed cake, and took



*Chuck and Susan Johnson enjoy a moment on the dance floor at the Fresno Chapter Coronation before leaving early the next morning to make the June Country Western dance in Los Angeles.*

reservations. Chuck Johnson provided the decorations and the western themed dance music. Michael Chu provided our dance lesson, the country 2-step. Later in the dance we also learned the Cowboy Cha Cha. Our dance being on the weekend of the Fresno Chapter coronation, the weekend was a full weekend of dance. Our members; Victor Lee & Debby Ku, Chuck & Susan Johnson and Tom & Sandy Wells drove straight from Fresno to our dance! What dedication to

our chapter and NSD!

We elected our 2015-2016 officers during our June business meeting. Our officers are: President – Victor Lee, Vice-president – Kyle Catterlin, Treasurer – Roger Lewis, Recording Secretary - Marion Scholtz (until her reign as chapter Queen), Corresponding secretary – Sandy Wells, Social chair – Debby Ku, Dance Rules - Kyle Catterlin, Board members – Ken Scholtz, Chuck Johnson and Tom Wells.



*Victor Lee and Lee Chan organized and hosted an afternoon tea dance fundraiser for the chapter. The dance was a sell-out success.*

We held a tea dance on Monday June 22nd as a chapter fund raiser. The tea dance was held at the Hibachi Buffet Restaurant and live music was provided by Global Affairs. The dance was limited to 100 tickets, which sold out fast. Special thanks goes to Victor Lee, and Lee Chan who organized the event and sold tickets.

Our condolences go out to Tom Wells for the passing of his father on Father's Day. Tom expressed his gratitude for

all the warm thoughts and prayers received from NSD; not just the Los Angeles chapter, but from the NSD family at large. It was a comfort to be supported by his dancing family while he was back home in Texas dealing with a difficult time.



*Ken and Marion Scholtz teach a continuity foxtrot lesson at the July 4th of July dance.*



*Tom Wells helped serve the "fresh off the griddle", following the secret receipt of Sandy Wells' Italian Hot Dogs!*

Our July meeting/dance was a Fourth of July celebration held on Sunday July 12th. Our dance was sponsored by Sheri and Michael Chu. Chuck Johnson handled decorations. Ken Scholtz provide the dance music and he and Marion taught the dance lesson, a continuity foxtrot. Sandy Wells took care of reservations and provided the food, a traditional 4th of July fare of hotdogs, chips and chocolate chip cookies.

Our world travelers, Chuck and Susan Johnson have been traveling to the North Cape, three cities in Russia, Murmansk, Solovesky Island and Archangel, then Denmark, Norway and Sweden on a 20 day cruise on Oceania. At this time of year there is daylight 24 hours a day. They have shared that they prefer Norway, Denmark and Sweden. This trip has made them appreciate what we have at home. Their last communication was, "email is very spotty and will be unavailable while in Russian ports. Will write again when, and if, we get out of

Russian area!" We are looking forward to their safe return



*Queen Sandy hams it up for the camera at the Palomar Queen's Breakfast.*

The upcoming convention hosted by San Diego Chapter is fast approaching. What a fun time to get together with all our dancing friends. We look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime; Never Stop Dancing!



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>

As our 2015 Convention approaches and more people send in their registration packets, I would like to remind everyone to send in your photo for the passport we'll be handing you when you check in for the convention. Dave Saul has received many photos so far, but there are still more that he's waiting for at this point. Please send your photo to him at [davesaul@pacbell.net](mailto:davesaul@pacbell.net).

Also, I would like to put out a call here for more members to sign up for our competitions. So far we seem to be on track to have 300 or more members signed up for our convention by the time September arrives. At the same time, we've received competition registrations from only thirteen couples. This means that there will be a very large audience cheering for a relatively small field of competitors. It also means, unfortunately, that there may be a number of competitions that won't be held if we don't fill up the roster with at least three couples for each heat.

Here are some of the competitions that may not take place if we don't receive more entries in the next month to round up the field to three couples each:

- 1-Star Standard
- 2-Star Standard
- 4-Star Standard
- 3-Star Smooth
- 4-Star Smooth
- 1-Star Latin
- 3-Star Latin
- 3-Star Rhythm

*A Dance Competition Registration form can be found at the end of this issue of Dance Whispers. Why not fill one out and send it in today!*

The positive side of this is that for those newer members in NSD who may have been wondering what it would feel like to compete for the first time, this convention is the perfect way to find out. When your first competitive experience is in a field of only three or four couples, the feeling of camaraderie that you develop with the two or three other couples can become very strong; this sense of a shared experience is a great way to establish friendships within the club.

This is also a good opportunity to expand your dancing. If you're signed up for an American style dance, i.e., Smooth or Rhythm, you might try taking a couple of lessons to see what it would take to modify your choreography in order to make it a Standard or Latin routine. Picking up a trophy for Standard Waltz when your primary focus has been American Waltz is a very pleasant way to move into new fields of competition.

However many competitors we end up with by the time of convention, we look forward to seeing everyone there in September. Preparations are proceeding at a furious pace, and we can hardly wait for the big weekend!



State Queen-Elect Kay Ryan

### Introducing State Queen-Elect Kay Ryan

Words cannot express how extremely honored I am to be elected to serve as State Queen for the National Smooth Dancers' organization.

I have always been an organizational girl, having served as a Manager of the San Diego County Health and Human Services Division for many years during my working career.

Even now, while semi-retired, my experience as a union negotiator enables me to help represent employees of a county labor organization.

When I joined the San Diego Chapter in 2003, I was already involved in social and swing dancing. Since then, I have held the office of Treasurer for the past twelve years, as well as co-chairman of both the 2008 and 2015 State Conventions.

Besides dancing, I love creating decorations, which I learned growing up while watching my mom. Whether it is for a Coronation or a State Convention, it's not unusual for me to be heading the committee that creates beautiful decorations for each event.

Family relations mean so much to me; and I feel fortunate that my daughter Dawn's family - including husband Mark Scribner and my two grandsons: Andrew and Graham - live nearby and are able to vacation with me frequently in our second home in Brian Head, Utah.

As I travel through the State this year during my reign, I look forward to deepening old friendships while forming new ones.

I'm grateful for the privilege of joining the circle of so many outstanding "Goodwill Ambassadors" that have preceded me, and I thank all of you for entrusting me with this honor.

May all of you have a wonderful time while you journey on the Orient Express, and good luck in your new roles as "sleuth detectives"!

# Bakersfield Chapter

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



My goodness is it time for another newsletter already?

I have been so preoccupied with personal things that I feel I'm not prepared very well to write a newsletter. I experienced some setbacks in early June when I had an accident that fractured two vertebrae in my lower back which left me unable to attend the June dance, which Jo Ann Georgio, like the trooper she is stepped up once again to Chair. The theme she chose was "Let's go Hawaiian".

To set the mood the evening started off with some danceable Hawaiian music. JoAnn stated that everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and we even had some guests from the Visalia Chapter! I wish I could have been there.

## TRAVELLING MEMBERS



*Dorothy Vaughn and Dave Woodle enjoyed a river cruise trip during July to Amsterdam and several other countries.*

The month of July found Dave Woodle and me faced with the decision to cancel some long planned travel plans because of my back, or to see if I could make the trip! We decided to try and go as this was our very first river cruise to Amsterdam and several other countries. Travelling with us was Larry and Kim Johnson, who were such a big help to us on the cruise. They helped with our luggage and such as I was unable to lift anything. So although at times it was difficult for me to move around easily, I managed to enjoy the trip!

I still haven't healed completely so I didn't attend the July dance hosted by Jeanette and Steve Rogers. The theme was 'Groovin' to the 60's—Get your Boogie On! It seems like 'flower power' ruled the night as Jeanette had created some beautiful tissue paper flowers for the decorations!

A hula hoop contest was held and it seems Sandy Siercks managed to keep a hula hoop going for the whole of

a dance! Wow, way to go Sandy!

Unfortunately, the dance conflicted with the Palomar coronation so some of our members were absent. I'm sure that the members who attended our dance had a blast as they twisted and shouted through the evening to the music of 'Target' Rich Gonzales!

Our August dance will be chaired by Wendy and Ben Wilson. They have invited the Shafter Jazz Band to play for us again which is always a treat!

The theme is 'Dancing with the Big Band', which sounds so exciting! The dress code is 'summer cool'.

The Targets are also on board to play music for the evening, so it should be a great dance!

The dance is being held at the Rasmussen Center, 115 East Roberts Lane. The dance is held from 7:00-10:30pm. That's Saturday, August 22, 2015. Members are free; Guests are \$15 singles-\$25 couples.

I hope you can join us for this fun dance.

On a final note, I'm praying I can attend the State Convention in September! We made our hotel reservation and sent in our money for our package, so I'm trying to stay positive that we can attend, especially since I so look forward to seeing all my NSD friends.

I hope all of you have gotten your reservations in as this year's convention promises to be an exciting one! The San Diego Chapter has so many wonderful events planned and a chance for all of you to win some money if you can solve the "murder"! So all aboard! I hope I see you on the Orient Express!



**Please come join us for our August dance  
"Dancing with the Big Band"  
August 22nd  
Dancing to the live music of  
the Shafter Jazz Band**



# Golden Gate Chapter

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



Rosalie Wolf and Bob Fragomeni

**A sad month is behind us**, as we lost our darling Godmother, sweet Rosalie Wolf, who left us in her sleep on June 26, 2015 at the age of 97.

I still remember when I first started coming to the Sunday dances with my friend Herb and she would welcome us so warmly every Sunday, but when we inquired about becoming members, she insisted that we had to come to the dance a few more times before we would be given an invitation to join as members. She was truly the heart and soul of this chapter and we are missing her greatly. I am glad she is with her beloved Bob dancing again and forever.

Please see the "in memoriam" section of Whispers on more about Sweet Rosalie.



**On a very happy occasion** on June 29th Joe and Elena Malta celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary and in true Italian fashion they went all out for the occasion and celebrated for 4 days in San Francisco. They saw Beach Blanket Babylon, went to the Legion of Honor to see an exhibition, went to Pier 39, the Opera, Fog City Diner, took the Ferry across the Bay and wine and dined in various fabulous places. Wow, what a wonderful way to celebrate your life together. They are truly an inspiration to those of

us who are still looking for that amazing relationship that can last a life time. Congratulations!!

**As we do every year we had a fabulous picnic** at a local park in Redwood City, where no other than our chef in residence our president Vlad Gites swings the BBQ tools to create an amazing feast for us. Everyone who came brought some delectable dish to share and it was wonderful to actually

talk to each other as there was no dancing. The food was awesome, but the company beat out even Ana Dayeh's famous Baclava. I attended for the first time and I was so happy I came to the event in spite of the long drive.



(Top Photo): Members gathered for the annual picnic held in Redwood City.

Middle and Left Photo's): Chapter president Vlad Gites manned the bar-b-que pit making sure noone left hngery.



**We are happy to report that Barbara Cardinalli** is back home after a long stay in a rehabilitation home and Donna Rosko is home after her hip surgery and both are doing well. We understand that Ray Crosat is now in an assisted living facility, but Mary remains at home and visits him daily.



**We are still hoping to see Elizabeth Hage** again at our dances, but she is still suffering from stomach problems at this time. We miss you, Elizabeth.

As always dance first, thinking can wait.

# Visalia Chapter

edited by Melody Mar



## Ballroom went Country and we had a great time!

By: Linda Guttierrez

Thanks to a great committee, Marivel Villarreal, Stan Medina, Sandy Ohara, Matt Lott and John & Linda Guttierrez, and Music man Tim Inouye, everyone danced the night away at our Sadie Hawkins Dance at the V.S.D Dance Hall. The stage was decorated with a saloon doors entrance, hay bales, and old milk jugs (one courtesy of the Tulare Historical Society and Kent McNutt for getting us in touch with them). Also, adding to the theme, an authentic saddle and branding irons courtesy of Karl & Carolyn Richards.

Tables were decorated with Cowboy boots, bandanas, horse shoes, and skillets. (It's great to have a creative teacher on your committee)

Dance Instructor Susan Morlock taught a Country Waltz lesson and a Cha Cha line dance with assistants, our own, Dean and Cheryl Levitan. Music-man Tim kept us all on the floor dancing the night away.

As always, thanks to our very generous members for the great potluck dinner, not only can they dance, they can cook too! No one ever goes away hungry or without tired feet from a Visalia Smooth Dancers dance! WHAT MORE CAN YOU ASK FOR! Thanks for attending and if you missed it, you missed a great time.

## Luau 2015

By: Carol Bixler



Visalia Smooth Dancers annual Luau has become quite the dance event of the summer. This year's dance held at the Exeter memorial building was no exception.



This year's luau team worked together so well preparing beautiful food, entertainment, decorating, and arranging music.

Linda Guttierrez and Margo Giles begin planning and preparing lists weeks ahead. They both arrived at 8 am on Saturday to begin chopping and cooking, and then serve until the dance is

over. The menu consisted of chicken cordon bleu, roast pork with mango sauce, or vegetarian lasagna. In addition, roasted vegetables, roasted potatoes, fresh fruit salad, green salad, grilled tomatoes, and many delicious dessert choices. Everyone was raving over the food. Both of these ladies volunteered to do this to help the club. We cannot thank them enough. The rest of the team also contributed so much to this wonderful dance. Dean Levitan did a great job as music man, using Cheryl's music (who had to be out of town).



Lona and Bill Dolan performed a fantastic dance combining swing and cha-cha. So many hours go into instruction and practicing to perfection. We are so proud of these two amazing dancers.

Thanks to our entire committee who worked tirelessly from 10 am to 11:15pm decorating, implementing last minute ideas, helping at the dance however they could, and cleaning up. Don Laursen emceed so gracefully and helped Paul Storey man the desk. Hilda and T.G. Thomas leaped in to help decorate and clean up like they had been in the club for many years instead of a few months. Chriss Laursen brought tiki torches, helped pick up supplies, decorate, and clean up and just said "what else can I do?"

Wendy Storey did the centerpieces, generated decorating ideas and diligently took reservations, which is no easy task.

Hartune Neffian brought a delicious Armenian dessert, was so helpful manning the tables, and acting as an ambassador for the club.

David helped me so much decorating the entryway, building stands for the surf boards, making stands for the bamboo, loading the trailer, and teaching me how to use the jigsaw to cut out the tiki gods that went on the wall (this is just a few of the crazy ideas I have that he makes happen). A big thank you goes to club members who helped us clean up and load.

Thank you so much to our wonderful club members who attended. We had an amazing attendance from our members. What a great group!



# In Memoriam



*Queen Rosalie Wolf*

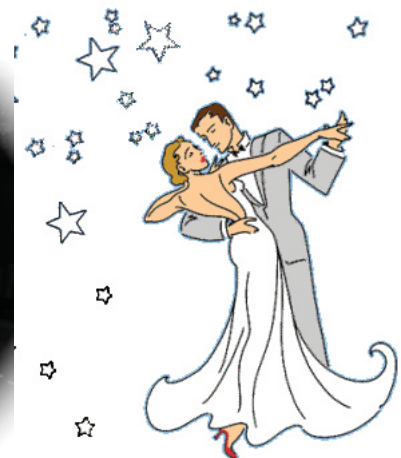
Rosalie passed away peacefully on June 26, 2015. She was born and raised in San Francisco. She was 97 years old and was the God Mother of our chapter. Rosalie was Social chair for 40 years and Queen three times

first in 1975, then 1982 and State Queen in 1990. Truly a sweetheart of a person she was accommodating and pleasing to everyone. She made sure the seating arrangements at the dances were to everyone's pleasure and she created a seating chart even without and way before computers. Her and Bob Fragomeni (who passed away in 2011) were partners in life and on the dance floor, fabulous dancers who won many competitions.

Rosalie and Bob got involved in the food part at our dances as Bob owned an Italian Deli and it is known that they made the best rotisserie chicken in the world. Elena and Joe Malta were their closest friends at Golden Gate Chapter and their friendship extended beyond the dance floor, taking in world travels and theater productions.

Rosalie was responsible for recruiting many members to our chapter who remain to this day. We believe she only missed one board of directors meeting in all those years and often talked about all of the friends she made over the years with NSD.

We will miss her greatly, but we are happy she is with her beloved son again, whom she lost to an accident while he was in the service and she gets to dance again with her Bob now and forever.



# *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 <sup>th</sup> , 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.*

**Mail registration form and checks payable to SDSD 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>	_____	Smooth	_____	Standard	_____	Rhythm	_____	Latin
<i>(Music will be provided for all One-Star competitors ahead of the Convention.)</i>								
<i>Two-Star</i>	_____	Smooth	_____	Standard	_____	Rhythm	_____	Latin
<i>Three-Star</i>	_____	Smooth	_____	Standard	_____	Rhythm	_____	Latin
<i>Four-Star</i>	_____	Smooth	_____	Standard				
<i>Senior</i>	_____	Waltz	_____	Cha Cha				

*(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](mailto: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

**\*\*\*\*\*Last Minute Notice\*\*\*\*\***

**Nominations for the 2015 NSD Gavel Club Award**

will be accepted until mid-night Saturday, August 15, 2015. The applications received by this date will be voted on at the Gavel Club meeting held on Saturday, September 5, 2015 and the award will be announced at the Brunch, held Monday morning, September 7, 2015.

All members of NSD are eligible to submit an application for consideration for this award.

All emails dated up to this date will be accepted. My email address is: [mahelona.miranda@mac.com](mailto:mahelona.miranda@mac.com).

Thank You, Vern Miranda, Chairperson