

*National Smooth Dancers*  
**Dance Whispers**  
*October 2015*



**San Diego Chapter**  
**CONVENTION 2015**  
**Murder On The Orient Express**

edited by Mark Chapman



so many kind and wonderful comments from people, which always makes all the hard work worth it!!!

We hope that everyone who attended had a great time. We know that Los Angeles will give us a spectacular convention next year and we are looking forward to being just a bunch of spectators (ha! ha!—we'll be there for you, Los Angeles, where you need us to help).

**Competition Coordinator's Report by Mark Chapman**

Our competitions were very well supported by the entire club: seven chapters had the privilege of being represented by competitive couples during the weekend, and we all enjoyed the pleasure of watching a total of 21 couples compete in 52 individual heats. I was extremely pleased that almost every couple submitted their competition registration forms well in advance of the August 14th deadline, and as a result we ultimately had to make only a single adjustment during the weekend due to a last-minute sign-up. Having our competitors observe our original deadline really allowed us to keep the competitions running smoothly all through the weekend.

What really made running the competitions a breeze for me, personally, was having the help of Tom Hammerton, both in the staging area and on the announcer's platform. Tom had had experience staging competitions involving hundreds of couples at major events, and his expertise led directly to the smooth running of our competitions over the weekend. Tragically, and to our incredible surprise and grief, Tom just passed away on Friday, September 25th, during an evening of dancing with his friends.

Memories of my own first experience running an NSD competition will be forever linked with the fun Kao and I shared with Tom and his lovely wife Linda—who coordinated our runners for the judges—both during this convention and over the course of the many weeks of preparation for this weekend; linked also, sadly, to the horrible loss we now feel so closely.



**Convention Co-Chair Report by Kay Ryan**

Patricia and I would like to thank everyone who helped with the convention for their dedication and hard work: the members who came to the fun work parties (and actually accomplished a lot of work!!!); those who chaired the various events, the competitions and the Jack and Jills; those who provided the incredible music and built the great stage decorations; those who

handled the scrutineering and the hospitalities; the dance hosts who kept the ladies out on the floor; those who developed and performed the MYSTERY and the wonderful Can Can dance performance; and, of course all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. It was a huge task, as those who have done this before can attest to.

Imagine – because of the great work that was contributed by so many, the weekend was wonderful and crisis free!!! We have received









## State Queen's Reflections

### Kay Ryan

I want to thank SDS and NSD for the honor of being the 2015 State Queen. The coronation and festivities were, and forever will be, a highlight of my life. With the Convention behind us, I am looking forward now to traveling to all of our chapters for weekends of fun and friendship, attending a succession of beautiful coronations. I have always heard about the magic of the Crown Circle, but I never before had the opportunity of encountering the love and friendship of the group. I now understand it – it is a privilege to be a part of this special circle of ladies!!!

I also want to thank a few people who took a special part in making this Convention weekend so memorable for me:

- Al Folkman, for being my escort and suffering through months of dance lessons (though wine after lessons was a

highlight that we always looked forward to). I especially value his generous offer to escort me throughout the year to all the NSD coronation celebrations. Al's humor and wit are a special gift to all of us.

- Ann Meador and Caron Schattel, for the beautiful and fun Crown Circle Reception and Luncheon!! I especially thank Ann for her help and advice in "Queenie things"!!!

- Don Greenspan and Mark Chapman, for taking care of the very important task of bartending at the Queens' reception. Their humorous banter had all of the ladies laughing and enjoying themselves throughout the reception

- Shirley McCloskey, for the spectacular coronation festivities. It was such a special evening that will always bring back wonderful memories for me over the years.

- Kao and Mark Chapman for their absolutely breathtaking Honor Dance, especially the portion from Phantom, music which is a favorite of mine. A special thank-you to Kao for performing – knowing that at times she could barely walk because of her foot hurting her. A special thank-you also to Mark for wearing that Phantom mask – you made Al's evening!!!!

- Rose Madrid, for her beautiful decorations: the arch, the carrying pieces for the Queens and all the little incidentals that regularly make us say, "Let's get Rose to help us".

- Mike Cowlshaw for the wonderful dance music that was enjoyed so much by all of us. I especially appreciated his help when I called him in a panic to say, "Help me – they say I need music during the coronation for the walk in, Queen's waltz and the recession!!!!" All of this while Mike was also preparing for his Show Dance!!!

- Miriam Mozes, for setting such a wonderful role model for me to attempt to duplicate, and for her constant support and advice.

- All the Queens (past and present), for making me feel so welcome to their special circle.

- To all the attendees who made me feel so special and were so kind with their applause after my first ever solo dance in

front of an audience! (Of course how could I not look good with Al as a partner!!!)

- A special thank-you to Patricia DiSessa for all the work she did as Convention Co-Chair. She handled months of phone calls from me asking, "How about if we do this?" or, "Al and I had this idea." Patricia's humor and dedication show what a special person she is.

Again: Thank you to everyone for this wonderful honor. I will strive to live up to this beautiful gift that you have all given me.



I had a chance to interview our past State Queen Miriam Mozes as she reflected back on her year. By the end of the interview I had tears in my eyes! Enjoy! Love, Debbie

want to say, but being the shy person I am, lets call it a day! Thank you for giving me a chance to recall one of the best years of my life.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH A QUEEN

**QUESTION: I know that you have been Palomar's Chapter Queen 3 times. How was being NSD State Queen distinctive from Chapter Queen?**

QUEEN MIRIAM: Being Chapter Queen is a great honor, but being State Queen is even a higher honor and carries even more responsibilities. For example: as State Queen, I would never fail to attend a Coronation or Convention but as Chapter Queen I could have asked someone to substitute for me. I consider my reign as State Queen as the high point of my years with NSD.

**QUESTION: As you reflect back on your past reign, what moments stand out in your mind?**

QUEEN MIRIAM: There were so many moments some funny; some sad; some cheerful; some serious; but it is hard to single out only one. However, I could say that there was never a dull moment. I certainly had my share of fun and enjoyment!

**QUESTION: Would you like to thank anyone in particular for making your year eventful?**

QUEEN MIRIAM: My gratitude goes out to all the lovely Queens of the Royal Court, but if I need to thank someone really special it would be Carla Hartunian. She was, and still is, my role model and because she is also my best friend, I forgave her for setting the bar for State Queens so high nobody could ever reach it.

**QUESTION: What plans do you have now that your reign is over?**

QUEEN MIRIAM: Well, now I feel truly free to pursue my favorite hobby (2nd only to dancing) – traveling. George and I had to say no to a few good opportunities to travel in the past year in order to attend all the Coronations. Our next cruise will be on Holland America, for 32 days, sailing to South America. Yes, we will have lots of fun because we will be teaching ballroom dancing on this cruise!

**QUESTION: Do you have any advice for our new State Queen Kay Ryan?**

QUEEN MIRIAM: I would advise her to relax and not take her roll too seriously. Enjoy your reign, make many new friends and dance to your heart's content. This year should be very special, savor all the attention you are getting, get lots of pictures and make notes for your scrapbook. This is one thing I didn't do and I am regretting it.

**QUESTION: Do you want to mention anything further?**

QUEEN MIRIAM: Oh yes! There is a long list of things I





# Dance Competition Results



Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
One Star Smooth	Paul and Wendy Storey Visalia	Joseph Hildago and Deanna Stanton SFV	Carl Chesbrough & Elizabeth Li Golden Gate Jerry Engel & Debbie Bloom SFV
One Star Rhythm	Jerry Engel and Debbie Bloom SFV	Tom and Sandy Wells Los Angeles	Paul and Wendy Storey Visalia
Two Star Smooth	Jeff and Jenny Durling SFV	Patrick and Latiffah McGinness San Diego	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego
Two Star Standard	Karl Haarburger and Shirley McCloskey San Diego	Ken and Marion Scholtz Los Angeles	Len and Peggy Lee Palomar
Two Star Latin	Karl Haarburger and Shirley McCloskey San Diego	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego	Lenmon and Pam Eng San Diego



1st - One Star Smooth



2nd - One Star Smooth



3rd - One Star Smooth



1st - One Star Rhythm



2nd - One Star Rhythm



3rd - One Star Rhythm



1st - Two Star Smooth



2nd - Two Star Smooth



3rd - Two Star Smooth



1st - Two Star Standard



2nd - Two Star Standard



3rd - Two Star Standard



1st - Two Star Latin



2nd - Two Star Latin



3rd - Two Star Latin



# Dance Competition Results



Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Two Star Rhythm	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego	Paul and Wendy Storey Visalia	Patrick and Latiffah McGinness San Diego
Three Star Smooth	Jeff and Jenny Durling SFV	Linmon and Pam Eng San Diego	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego
Three Star Standard	Igor and Nadia Tilinin Golden Gate	Mark Chapman & Been Kao San Diego	Ken and Marion Scholtz Los Angeles
Three Star Latin	Igor and Nadia Tilinin Golden Gate	Jacky Yu and Linda Gu San Diego	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego
Three Star Rhythm	Bill and Lona Dolan Visalia	Amante and Lou Reyes San Diego	Doug and Jane Hammond SFV
Four Star Standard	Igor and Nadia Tilinin Golden Gate	Mark Chapman & Been Kao San Diego	Jacky Yu and Linda Gu San Diego



1st - Two Star Rhythm



2nd - Two Star Rhythm



3rd - Two Star Rhythm



1st - Three Star Smooth



2nd - Three Star Smooth



3rd - Three Star Smooth



1st - Three Star Standard



2nd - Three Star Standard



3rd - Three Star Standard



1st - Three Star Latin



2nd - Three Star Latin



3rd - Three Star Latin



1st - Three Star Rhythm



2nd - Three Star Rhythm



3rd - Three Star Rhythm



1st - Four Star Standard



2nd - Four Star Standard



3rd - Four Star Standard

# San Fernando Valley Chapter

**Dance is the most beautiful of the performing arts, and it provides exceptional entertainment...**

**DANCE, ART & ENTERTAINMENT were the elements for the National Smooth Dancers 2015 Convention - a recipe for success! How could you ask for more?**

On my drive down to Palm Springs I had no idea what I was about to experience. I just knew that I'd made a reservation for a three-day weekend that included some dance lessons and more time to spend with chapter members. As much as Joan Robinson shares about her Smooth Dancers adventures, she did not prepare me for this convention. It was fun, uplifting and I made new friendships -- all while ballroom dancing and being entertained on the Orient Express journey! Again, I say...Dance, Art and Entertainment - how could you ask for more?

**Congratulations to the Orient Express convention committee and the San Diego Chapter for an outstanding and well organized dance holiday!**

Now let me brag about my San Fernando Valley Chapter: I have observed that this chapter is one of the most involved, passionate and progressive Smooth Dancers chapters. I can say this because our convention contingency had many "Shining Stars" aboard the Orient Express.



## **Awards & Special Recognition:**

**Bill Steeber, Gavel Club 2015 Award Recipient.** This perpetual trophy is awarded each year to a member of NSD. The trophy represents a member's outstanding service to their chapter and national

organization. All the current and past club presidents vote on the nominees, which makes this peer-to-peer award all the more special.

Congratulations, Bill, on receiving this "best-of-the-best" award. And, by the way, the San Fernando Valley Chapter has been the proud recipient of this award for the past three years: the pride of San Fernando Valley National Smooth Dancers Chapter - 2013 Barbara Greenlaw, - 2014 Joan Robinson, and now in 2015, Bill Steeber!



edited by Rachel Seward



**Competition Dance Stars:** 1st place, One Star Rhythm - Jerry Engel & Debbie Bloom; 3rd place (tie), One Star Smooth - Jerry Engel & Debbie Bloom; 1st place, Two Star Smooth - Jeff and Jenny Durling; 3rd place, Three Star Rhythm - Doug & Jane Hammond; and 1st Place Three Star Smooth - Jeff and Jenny Durling; 2nd place One Star Smooth (American Waltz) - Joseph Hidalgo and Deanna Stanton.



## **Show Dance Performance Stars:**

Deanna Stanton & Joseph Hidalgo performed their colorful pirate showcase routine; Gerri Cook & pro David Moutrey performed a lively and lovely foxtrot to Gidget; Joan Robinson & pro David Moutrey entertained us with a beautiful and elegant

waltz from The Secret Garden; and Andrea & James Gutman, Keiko Isshiki & Frank Trapp, and Barbara Greenlaw & Bill Steeber performed their "Puttin' on the Ritz" showcase routine (in Constantinople!).

**Jack N Jill Fun Dance Stars:** Winners in the West Coast Swing - Linda Gu (San Diego) & Mark Emanuelli (SFV); winners in the Cha Cha - Anita Froehlich (LA) & Mark Emanuelli (SFV); for fun, and matched by chance, Joan Robinson (dressed like the guy) & Rachel Seward (the gal), entertained with a Waltz and West Coast Swing.

Mark Emanuelli, Private Eye for the San Fernando Valley figured out the answers to the Orient Express puzzle. His detective skills got him second at the crime scene and a prize! Thank you all for the Dance, Art and Entertainment - "Shine On", San Fernando Valley Stars!

After attending the convention and experiencing the elements of Dance, Art and Entertainment, I now have a renewed passion and a greater desire to learn and participate in this world.

## **Upcoming SFV Dances**

**October 3rd** - Our Harvest Moon Dance will include a Cha Cha lesson by Brian Fortuna, Dancing with the Stars Season Four professional, with music presented by DJ Mark Emanuelli. **November 7th** - SFV Queen-Elect Leanne Wong's Coronation Dinner Dance, Dancing in the Moonlight. A special show dance is being planned by Queen-Elect Leanne and her husband John. Entertainment will include showcase routines by professionals Natalia Lind and Michael Kuka. The venue is the completely remodeled Glen Arden Club (former Moose Lodge ) in Glendale which features a huge wood dance floor. Please join us and send reservations to Gee Gee Barden by October 21, 2015. The coronation flyer with reservation form and map is available on our website: [www.nsdsvf.org](http://www.nsdsvf.org).

*Our goal is to make every San Fernando Valley dance event enjoyable -- and every dance unforgettable!*



# Los Angeles Chapter

We Had a wonderful Hawaiian party in August with reservations by Debby Ku and everything else being done by Ken and Marion Scholtz—music, lesson and food. The dance was sponsored by Kyle and Jodene Catterlin for their anniversary.

Then there were 15 of us who attended San Diego's convention in Palm Springs. A wonderful time was had by all. Ken and Marion Scholtz and Tom and Sandy Wells competed and came home with trophies. Ken and Marion won 2nd place in 2-Star Standard and 3rd place in 3-Star Standard. Tom and Sandy won 2nd place in 1-Star Rhythm. Anita Froelich won 1st place in the Cha Cha Jack and Jill contest. Victor Lee and Debbie Ku also received a trophy for their show dance, a Bacchatta Tango. WELL DONE.



*(L-R) Victor Lee and Debbie Ku with their trophy for their show dance; Marion and Ken Scholtz with their trophies for 2nd place 2-Star Standard and 3rd place, 3-Star Standard competitions; Anita Froelich with her medal for 1st place in the Cha Cha Jack and Jill contest; and Sandy and Tom Wells with thier trophy for 2nd place in the 1-Star Rhythm competition.*



*(TopLeft L-R) Victor Lee, Ken and Betty Cheung served up fresh steaming hot dogs during the Sunday night hospitality hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter. (Top Right) Queen Jodene Catterlin is escorted in by her husband Kyle. (Bottom) LA Chapter enjoying the fun and fellowship that comes with dancing.*

edited by Chuck & Susan Johnson



Our chapter was in charge of hospitality on Sunday night and we served hot dogs, chips, fruit, nuts, cookies and See's candies and everyone seemed to enjoy everything because we did not have much in the way of leftovers. Then on Monday morning we put on our presentation for next year's convention.



*Lee Chan and Ken Cheung enjoy a Foxtrot during a mixer at our August Hawaiian Party.*

Our September dance was "Fall Flowers" with decorations of sun flowers on the table with reservation taken by Susan Johnson, food by Kuni Jessup and music and lesson by Ken and Marion Scholtz.

On our sick list is Kyle Catterlin who injured his leg before the convention and after they got home, ended up with in the hospital with a staph infection and had to continue after discharge with IV antibiotics at home for an additional week, so they were unable to attend our September dance. At the same time that he was in the hospital, another member, Kim Fleck, had an emergency appendectomy. Both are recovering nicely.



*Chuck Johnson....well....doing what all of us guys have had to do...help our ladies with their dance shoes!*



*Victor Lee leads everyone in the Samba line dance.*



*The Los Angeles Convention attendees.*

## Bakersfield Chapter

Wow what a great convention! San Diego Smooth Dancers did a wonderful job! I'm sure everyone who made the journey enjoyed every moment of it.

We weren't very far into the 'journey' before a "murder" was committed and we were all caught up in the suspense of who did it? Helping along the way were numerous clues offered to us.

Also offered for our entertainment were Jack and Jill contests and wonderful showcases performed by our "rising stars" in NSD. The talent of these wonderful dancers is amazing! Needless to say over the next several days a lot of this talent was on display. This was separate from the wonderful competitions that were held!

I can't forget the fantastic professionals that danced for us and were so beautiful to watch! Irina Chalkevitch was wonderful and she wove her dance routines around the mystery of the "murder". Playing a detective that was hot on the trail of "who done it"! Joining her were Alexandre Chalkevitch, Janna and Vladimir Chalkevitch and Selena Morano Johnson and Marcus Johnson; each a beautiful dancer in their own right.



*Alvin May and Linda Richards had a great time at their first NSD Convention.*

Travelling on the Orient Express was around 30 or so members from the Bakersfield Chapter. Among them were first time travelers, Alvin May and Linda Richards who seemed to be having a great time! Hopefully this will be the beginning of many more state conventions for them!

As we travelled on through our journey it became apparent that we had some amateur

detectives on the job that were determined to solve the 'crime'! By Monday morning the end of our journey it seems like the Bakersfield Chapter had its own amateur sleuth in the person of Barbara Norcross who came in third for a prize! This was all a case of timing, as the time stamp for her answers put her in third place. Congrats to you Barbara for a great job in solving the mystery of "who done it"!

Am I imaging it or do the mornings have a slight hint of fall in the air? They are so lovely right now, suggesting that fall is right around the corner! We all know what that means; the holidays dances can't be far behind! Starting with our October dance hosted by Sue Kimbrell and her committee, this is our Halloween dance and it kicks off the holiday season. The dance will be held at our new venue at the River Lakes Center, 3825 Riverlakes Dr. Note the new times are 6:30-9:30. Members are still free; guests are \$15 for singles, \$25 for couples. Please join us for a wonderful evening of fun, a costume is always appropriate, but not required, mark your calendar for October 24th.

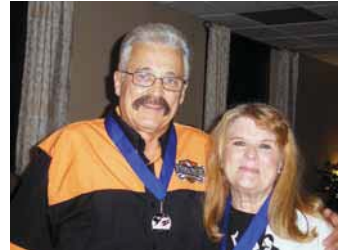
Our November dance will be hosted by Jane Cuellar and this will usher in the Thanksgiving holiday. This dance is scheduled for November 21st a Saturday. The new times are from 6:30-

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



9:30 at the River Lakes Community Center, 3825 Riverlakes Dr. The theme and dress code will be announced on the upcoming flyer.

This will bring us right to Christmas, and our Christmas dance being held on December 12, and hosted by Charlene Miller this year. I always look forward to our Christmas dance and this year should be no exception. This being our Christmas dance we can look forward to dressing up in our holiday 'finery'. This dance will be held at our new venue at the River Lakes Community Center, from 6:30-9:30, I hope to see everyone there in all their holiday "bling".



*(Left) Bill and Sue Landry won first place in the swing contest while (Right) Kay Boyer and Barbara Norcross wone the best dressed contest at the September Sock Hop Dance.*

Wow, I had such a fun evening at our September Sock Hop Dance! Hosted by Neal and Lindy Livingston it was a blast! The decorations were really fun, the food was great, featuring sliders with potato salad and chips and root beer floats, hmmm, yummy! They held a best dressed contest which Kay Boyer and Barbara Norcross won, also a swing contest in which Bill and Sue Landry won first place. Glad to see Bill was able to dance some considering his knee.

Our August dance was a great dance, featuring the Shafter Jazz Band; they are so great to dance to! The dance was chaired by Ben and Wendy Wilson. Ben is a member of the Shafter Jazz Band, so that makes it all the more special to have them play for us. We had 56 people attend this dance plus twenty four members of the Shafter Jazz Band! This was also the first time our dance was held at our new venue at River Lakes Community Center. All in all a great time was had by all!

At this time, I would like to ask our members if they have any news you would like the chapter to know about to submit the information to me and I will print it or at least take it under consideration to write about.



*The Bakersfield Chapter members who attended the NSD 2015 Covention, Murder on The Orient Express, in Palm Springs over the Labor Day Weekend.*

# Golden Gate Chapter

**NSD 2015 Convention - Murder on The Orient Express.** It started out by getting up at 4:30 on Thursday before the event, Vera driving an hour to my house, followed by 1.5 hours driving for the two of us to SSF to meet up with our fabulous driver Liz Talmadge. From there it was only 7.5 hours to Palm Springs. Liz did all the driving and after only one stop we arrived at the beautiful Renaissance hotel our destination for the weekend. Having learned from last years convention, I had asked for a room close to the elevator as otherwise you add another 10 miles to your daily walk to the ballroom.

The boys flew in on Friday, shall we mention it took them only 1 hour and a five minute ride from the airport to the hotel.

It was great being there on Thursday evening and having all day Friday to play in town, go to the thrift store and scoring some fabulous items, then meeting up with friends from other chapters for a great and very expensive dinner in town.



The entire weekend was fabulously organized to the smallest detail by San Diego chapter. All the dances had clues as to who committed the murder, but nobody in our chapter figured it out. We enjoyed every day and every dance, loved the show dances, the competitions, the Jack and Jills. Mike Cowlshaw, the president of San Diego chapter did an outstanding job with the music both the traditional pieces and enough modern music to keep it interesting. Though I did not get to see it, I understand he did and excellent showdance Tango with his teacher.



Incoming State Queen elect Kay Ryan created a magical setting at a masked ball in Vienna on Saturday night and danced an enchanted night club 2step with Al Folkman. The honor

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



dance by Mark and Kao Chapman was delightful as was the professional dance by Alex and Irina Chalkevitch.

Lots of meetings ensued on Sunday morning along with, if you were lucky enough to be queen, a fantastic queens reception and brunch. We were gifted fabulous hand made fascinators and handbags. Brunch was delicious with an amazing chocolate mousse in a glorious chocolate cup for dessert. Chuck DiSessa and Anthony Wood entertained us royally with their rendition of "watching all the girls go by" and Anthony's oration of "trouble " from the music man had us in stitches . It was a truly a fantastic queens affair. Makes me happy to belong to the crown circle.

All of Golden Gate chapter members went to LuLu's once again for dinner on Sunday night, as we did last year. The enchanted evening in Paris at the Sunday evening dance was enjoyed by all.



Our own Igor and Nadia Tillinin, as expected, won first place in the three and Four Star international Standard competitions. Carl and Elizabeth Chesbrough took third place, the first time out on the competition floor dancing, in a One Star Waltz. They also participated in the Senior cha cha. Exhausted on Monday morning we ate our breakfast and got on the road along with 40,000 other people for the long 10 hour trek home on the Avenue of the Queens, with all the suitcases, while the boys flew home in one hour.

We really missed the usual suspects of our chapter who used to go to all the conventions , but now due to various reasons, illness being the problem in some cases, they can no longer travel. It's sad to see this happening to our much loved members, but I suppose it is the reality of time going by. We missed all of you.

In the meantime we are (well mostly Amy and Dan) feverishly working on the theme and presentation of our upcoming convention in 2017. We have some wonderful events scheduled for the holidays, Patricks fantastic jeweled Christmas tree will be raffled off at our November dance. Tell all your friends to come join us. Look in your emails and on our website for the dates and details.

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.

# Visalia Chapter

edited by Melody Mar



## AUGUST FIESTA!!

The night was ablaze with color as we gathered at the Exeter Memorial Hall for a Mexican Fiesta celebration. Members and guests were greeted by a smiling sunshine piñata and welcomed in by Señors Marshall Taylor and Tom Giampietro at the desk, with Larry Brown and Steven Lansdowne close by with cheerful greetings.

The tables were bright and colorful, with centerpieces of sunflowers and red chrysanthemums, maracas and mini sombreros. The stage was decorated with a Mexican table setting, a host of sombreros, bright flowers, banners, and serape. A wall mural depicted the Mexican desert with a dancing flamenco couple to the side.

Keeping with the theme, dance instructor Rei Marquez taught a lively salsa lesson. Members and guests were adorned with their most festive, colorful Mexican attire as they danced to the lively beat.

The Visalia members are world renowned (well, maybe that's a stretch, but not by much) for their delicious potluck dinners and this one lived well up to the reputation. This could be part of the attraction for the large turnout of guests.

When the lights dimmed and Cheryl Levitan's always terrific dance music began, members and guests danced the night away in the lively fiesta tradition. The love of dance was evident on the faces of everyone on the floor.

Thanks again to the wonderful committee of Larry and Mary Brown, Marshall and Kathy Taylor, Margaret Moholt, Steven and Linda Lansdowne, and Tom and Sue Giampietro. The evening ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all.

### September Social Report - by Lotti Carr

With the clock running down and no time outs, a day and a half before the game (dance), the committee was informed we had no field on which to play. The Exeter Hall was without air conditioning and water until the following Tuesday.

This, on top of learning our music man, and no club music person available to play, was about as close to Murphy's Law as we wanted. All we needed was rain.

Bright skies came in the way of Eileen at the Odd

Fellows Hall. The playbook called for Plan B, which was to quickly get the word out about the change in venue. E-mails, telephoning and the grapevine was our immediate task.

Saturday morning, the committee met, with the help of social chair Sally Bailey and Carolyn Richards, to literally clean (mop) and set up the dining area to accommodate the "kickoff" crowd.

At such late notice, and using others' equipment, John Gutierrez did an outstanding job as music man, never missing a beat.

September is usually one of our less attended socials. I'm sure the awesome half-time entertainment, Bart and Nancy Ramentes, recruited by Marshall and Kathy Taylor, plus the last minute game change to include Eileen's Formation troupe accounted for the unexpected large turnout at the gate. Even the spectators who came to watch their "family" perform, joined the crowded floor to participate in the cha cha line dance taught by Lotti Carr. Adding to the atmosphere was the fact practically everyone came in football "theme" attire.

Kudos to Manuel Madril who chaired for the first time, and the teamwork of his assistant coaching staff of Lotti Carr, Marshall and Kathy Taylor, Yvette Haworth, Becky Paschall and partner John, Cary Windslow and Nancy Cargill who Lotti asked to help her find decorations on E-bay and of course, the good ole standby, Dollar Tree.

The overcrowded bleachers (dining room) contributed to the exciting atmosphere, which left no doubt a winning game (party) was happening.

### NSD Convention - Murder on The Orient Express



# Fresno Chapter

## Monthly Socials

**August.** Kathy and Rick Constantino hosted "Dance" in August, with Alex Ortiz teaching a hot Bachata, and music played by Van Oosbree.



*Jim Escobar, vice-president, welcomes our newest member Penny Henderson.*

Members welcomed Fresno NSD's newest member, Penny Henderson. Penny is a familiar face at the many different Fresno dance venues, and we are glad she chose us too!

**September.** In September, David and Jennifer Morgan hosted "Afternoon in Paris", with an all French playlist by David and Linda Bennett, who also was our DJ. We enjoyed dancing to David and Jennifer's musical selections, which were unique and fun. Lucky winners of door prizes were gifted with



*At our September Afternoon in Paris event, the cha cha class was taught by Alex Pereira.*

delicious French puff pastries! Alex Pereira taught a Cha Cha lesson appropriate for our beginning guests and more advanced dancers alike.

**October.** Steve Moore will host October's event. "Nuts to You" will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2015. Kathy Page and Guy Ashby will be teaching an Argentine Tango lesson starting at 2:00 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

All third-Sunday dances are at the Clovis Senior Center, 850 4th Street, Clovis, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for guests. See [www.fresnosmoothdancers.org](http://www.fresnosmoothdancers.org) for flyers. We would love to see you there!!

*Carla represented Fresno as Chapter Queen at this year's NSD Convention in Palm Springs.*



edited by Linda Bennett



Fresno Smooth Dancers presents

# Nuts to You

*A Pistachio Festival*

**October 18, 2015**

Clovis Senior Center  
850 Fourth Street  
Clovis, California

**Hosted by**  
Steve Moore

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

Fresno Members- \$5.00  
Guests- \$10.00

**Argentine Tango**  
Lesson by  
Kathy Page & Guy Ashby

Music by Sharon Crisp

For More Information call  
559-269-9491  
[www.fresnosmoothdancers.org](http://www.fresnosmoothdancers.org)

Fresno Smooth Dancers cordially invite you to Share in this Wonderful Time of year as we

# Think & Be Thankful

For our Family, our Health, and you, our Dance Family

**Sunday, November 15, 2015**

Clovis Senior Center  
850 Fourth Street  
Clovis, California

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

**East Coast Swing**  
Lesson by  
Dan Goss

Fresno Members- \$5.00  
Guests- \$10.00

**Hosted by**  
Jim Escobar

Music by David Morgan

For More Information call  
559-269-9491  
[www.fresnosmoothdancers.org](http://www.fresnosmoothdancers.org)

# Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard

**Thank you San Diego Chapter for providing so much fun and frivolity** riding on The Orient Express at 2015 Convention! It was all masterfully executed and enjoyed by all! We were saddened to say farewell our own elegant State Queen Miriam Mozes as she crowned the NSD new Queen Kay Ryan. What a year it was for Queen Miriam!



*Palomar Chapter having a GRAND time at the Saturday Night Ball.*

We are always proud of our competitors at each competition. Wow! This years competitions were particularly intense! Congratulations to Len & Peggy Lee for so beautifully representing our chapter and achieving a 3rd place trophy in American Standard!

A special thank you from Miriam & I for all the help we received for a successful Friday night Hospitality. Everyone pitched in for set-up and cleanup. We couldn't of pulled it off without you. What a group!

Thank you to Elliott Lum for filming the Tango Lesson at convention by Carrie Kloss & assisted by Mike Cowlshaw. Elliott has been so gracious by filming and editing so many of our events. Please take a look <https://youtu.be/3cGh-XFbPSE>.

**The September Social**, 'FALL in Love' was a tremendous lively affair with 99 dancers in attendance. Fourteen San Diego NSD members were welcomed guests. The party started with a lively Cha-Cha-Cha taught by local professional dancers Irina and James Friedhof. The popular teachers had 70 students on the floor. It continued with a meal of pasta and turkey meatballs prepared by super chef Nelson Guyer. Iara Gregory, Elliott and Linda Lum, Steve Gronke and Bobbi Selvig contributed a salad, dessert and table decorations. Peter Hanson was the MC and very danceable music included both a fox trot and a waltz mixer and was provided by the revolving committee of George Mozes, Len Lee, and Hanson.

**Fred Deutsch & Cathy Lombardi exhibited their works** of art at a monthly reception in Carlsbad during August. There were several Palomar Smooth Dancers in attendance this month! Fred displayed his woodworking masterpieces and Cathy her paintings.

**Palomar Smooth Dancers' dance lessons** taught by Marsha Hanson and ably assisted by husband Peter continue to be popular, with an average of 50 students attending. The lessons, located at the Vista Senior Center, are conducted on Monday evenings, excluding holidays and the public is welcome. The classes introduce new people to Ballroom Dancing and aid the Palomar Club in recruiting new members. Our membership has reached a new high of 85. Marsha has introduced a policy of continuing with the instruction of one dance over a two month period which allows for more advanced instruction. A beginner's class is taught at 7:00 pm, an intermediate class 8:15 pm. The objective of the intermediate class is to provide an opportunity for dancers, who are familiar with steps and patterns, to improve through frame, posture & foot movement.

Long time Monday night dance class attendee Frank Lombardi summed it all up by saying, "I appreciate the advanced training that we have received from Marsha while at the same time there is a sense of humor injected into every class that keeps us all very relaxed when we struggle through a new move. It makes the whole experience very enjoyable!"



*Marsha Hanson commented, "Last year we added an Intermediate class and I really enjoy working with them. I build on the good foundation that George & Miriam Mozes established over the years by having the members build on footwork and styling. Everyone is working so hard and it seems like they are all enjoying themselves. I also take much pride in watching our beginners grow!"*



*Dancers who supported Fred & Cathy are L-R: Marilee Ragland, Queen Geri Deutsch, Cathy Lombardi, Duane Thornton, Bee & Vern Landers, Jack Ragland & Fred Deutsch.*

# In Memoriam

Kao and I only knew Tom and Linda Hammerton for a short time, since they just joined our chapter in February of this year. As new members to NSD they were both eager to contribute to our Convention; when I learned that Tom had helped run major competitions at Blackpool involving hundreds of couples I immediately drafted him to help me run the competitions. Linda signed on to coordinate the runners for the judges, and I suddenly had the perfect team for the convention. Throughout the weekend Tom kept the competitions running smoothly with me, and Kao and I had a nice time hanging out with Linda and him between the comps.

Tom had worked with elementary school children through Mary Murphy's Chance to Dance program for some time, and it was his gift to bring guidance and leadership to these young people. Where some of them at this early point in their lives might have known little more than video games, texting, and social media, Tom brought them a vision of a world with heel-toe leads, beautiful songs never before encountered, sequined dresses and flashy vests, and the discipline to move to music in front of scores of friends and family. Tom



**Tom Hammerton**

of continuous care at the hospital, Tom was removed from life support on Saturday evening in the presence of Linda and both of their families.

We are all devastated by the loss of this dear friend who had just shared part of his life working on the convention with us. We miss Tom greatly, and his loss will continue to deepen in our hearts as our dancing events unfold without the benefit of his humor and his company.

was firm and he demanded commitment from his students; in return, he gave them a caring role model and the understanding that achieving personal goals could bring great satisfaction in life.

Tom and Linda came regularly to Champion Ballroom for the Friday evening dances, where we had first met them through Nancy Ross. During one of these Friday dances after Convention, on Friday, September 25th, Tom's heart suddenly stopped and he slumped forward over the table. Kao called this out to us, and Tom was immediately surrounded by friends who spent the next several minutes administering chest compressions and waiting for the paramedics to respond to Nancy's 911 call. After nearly 24 hours



**Rose Guerrero**

We regret the passing of Rose Guerrero, recently, of a sudden illness. A six year Palomar member, she was always a friend, and supportive & helpful in club activities. She was also very active in her church. She will be sorely missed. We give our condolences to husband, John Reiss and family.



*The San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers Cordially Invite You*



*Dancing in the Moonlight*

*November 7, 2015*

*Dinner, Dance, and Coronation of SFV Queen-Elect*

*Leanne Wong*

*Reception*

Glen Arden Club  
Saturday: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

*Farewell Breakfast*

Glendale Days Inn  
Sunday: 8:30 AM PST  
(Note time change.)

*Coronation Ball*

Semi-formal or formal attire  
Saturday, November 7, 2015, 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM  
Glen Arden Club (renovated former Moose Lodge)  
357 W. Arden Ave., Glendale, CA 91203

Doors Open: 6:00 PM      Coronation: 6:30 PM  
General Dancing: 7:00 pm      Dinner: 7:30 PM  
General Dancing, Mixers, Showcases: 8:30 – 11:00 PM

*Lodging*

Glendale Days Inn  
450 W. Pioneer Dr.  
Glendale, CA 91203

Group room rate \$102.59.  
Call 818-956-0202, up to a week before, and mention "Smooth Dancers."

*Reservations*

Send reservation form to Gee Gee Barden, 19740 Pine Valley Way, Porter Ranch, CA 91326 by October 21<sup>st</sup>. (ggbarden2@aol.com, 818-366-1676)  
Please make check payable to SFV Smooth Dancers, Inc. (PLEASE NOTE: Dinner dances for reigning queens are complimentary.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Dinner Dance (\_\_\_\_) X \$65: \_\_\_\_\_ Farewell Breakfast (\_\_\_\_) X \$15: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_



# Puttin' on the Ritz



## Coronation of Queen Elect Marion Scholtz

**Saturday January 30, 2016**

The Glendale Hilton Hotel 100 W. Glenoaks Blvd.

Glendale, CA 91202 818/956/5466 LANSO

Hospitality 2:30 pm Presidential Suite

Reception 6pm, Dinner 7pm

Presentation of Queens 6:30Pm

Dinner and Dance \$65 Black Tie Optional

Breakfast for two included with room.

NSD rate \$125- Self Parking \$10

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Please Detach and Mail. RSVP By Jan 15, 2016 to:

Sandy Wells 6251 W. 78th St. Los Angeles, CA 90045

Make checks payable to LA NSD Email SSticco@ca.rr.com

Names \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Queen's Breakfast included with room rental