

# National Smooth Dancers

## Dance Whispers

### February 2016



## Los Angeles Chapter

We had a wonderful potluck Christmas dance at the San Gabriel Elks with a terrific assortment of delicious food. Our dance lesson was a blues foxtrot taught by Victor Lee and our great music was provided by Tom Wells. We welcomed 4 new members: Shari and Victor Hershfeld, Frances Solano and Robert Quan.



We are pleased to welcome 6 new members: L-R) Shari and Victor Hershfeld, Robert Quan and Frances Solano, and Craig Miller and Alice Mah Miller.

Our January dance was the coronation of Queen elect Susan Johnson. Unfortunately Marion Scholtz who was scheduled to be queen had some health problems and was unable to be the Queen this year. She hopes to be able to be queen elect in the future. We wish her well. The coronation was held at the Glendale Hilton and all in attendance had a good time, even with the wedding party in the next room. We were in competition with the music.

Our Valentine dance was held in a different venue this year as the Elks club was booked for most of February so the dance was in the fellowship hall at Westminster Gardens where Susan

Edited by Chuck and Susan Johnson



and Chuck live. It was a small crowd, but we sure had fun. Victor Lee taught us the hustle line dance, the music and decorations were



Victor Lee teaches the Hustle line dance, 1 of 4 complementary line dances he will be teaching at the 2016 Convention.

by Chuck Johnson, and the food was by Sandy Wells and Susan Johnson. We were thrilled to welcome 2 new members, Craig Miller and Alice Mah Miller.

Victor Lee and Debby Ku and Chuck and Susan Johnson are leaving on Valentine's day for a round trip cruise to Hawaii. There is no need to fly anywhere since it leaves and returns from San Pedro.

## QUEEN'S REFLECTION

I would like to thank everyone who attended my coronation January 30 at the Glendale Hilton. We had a wonderful hospitality in the Presidential Suite and a delicious dinner. The only problem was with the sound system that the hotel provided—it did not work. Fortunately, Tom Wells had his Bose machine and it worked very well. We had a little competition with the wedding next door in the ballroom, but we had a good time anyway. I am looking forward to visiting the other chapters this year and getting to know all the new Queens and rekindling the friendships made earlier.

-Queen Susan Johnson



# San Diego Chapter

Edited by Mark Chapman



## Coronation 2016 in a new Champion Ballroom!

In March we will be celebrating our chapter Coronation for our incoming Queen, Alberta Valentini. You read her introduction in last month's Dance Whispers in her own words, and I would like to add that Alberta is an extremely involved and valued member of our chapter. She has truly earned the right to represent San Diego to all our fellow chapters, and we wish her an exciting year of new friends and new experiences. We're hoping to have a fine turn-out for Alberta's coronation, and I would like to share some information about the venue for this special event that may make you even more excited about visiting Alberta, and us, in March.

Many of you who know Champion Ballroom are aware that several months ago Mary Murphy shuttered the Hillcrest address that has been home to her studio for 25 years. Since then she has been working ceaselessly through the exhausting process of moving Champion to its new venue.

If you ever visited the old Champion, you'll remember that getting to or from it did not always make for the easiest trip, especially with the frequently heavy traffic in Hillcrest. The new address, **4255 Ruffin Rd. #200, San Diego CA 92123**, is a breeze to find: just a short hop west up the hill from the Balboa off-ramp of the I-15 freeway, left onto Ruffin Rd and there's the studio on the left after a short block-and-a-half. MapQuest will show you how quick and easy the trip will be there on surface streets from the Courtyard Marriot where many of you will be staying when you come down for the coronation.

As you'll remember, the two really difficult issues at the old Champion were always the limited parking and those steep stairs. When Mary went looking for a new venue she had three strict criteria in mind for Champion: first was the need for ample parking; second, she wanted a ground-level venue with no stairs or steps; finally, she required a first-rate floor that was as big as the old Champion, with absolutely no posts in the way. (When her real estate agent showed Mary a possible venue that otherwise had a lot going for it, Mary took one look at the ballroom area and said, "Why are you even showing me a place with a post in the middle?")

The new venue meets all three of Mary's criteria. First of all, our guests for socials and coronations will enjoy the luxury of virtually unlimited parking from this point forward. Champion 2016 sits in the center of its new building between two businesses that observe normal working hours during the day. While these businesses are open Champion has the use of its own forty assigned parking spaces for visitors; after the two business close for the evening, however, there are 120 parking spaces available to us. You will never again worry about parking whenever you visit us (or Mary) for any event.

Regarding the stairs and steps issue, Champion has a wide ramp leading straight up to the front entrance, which has broad double doors for easy access. No steps, no stairs, and about the easiest access from parking to entrance for any studio we know.

Of course, Mary also wanted the absolute best floor for her Champion, so she installed a top-of-the-line high-grade maple sprung floor. Now that there have been a number of events there, the floor has been buffed and polished by several hundred

pairs of feet and it has a truly wonderful feel to it. It runs a bit longer than the floor at the old Champion—very nice!—measuring about forty by eighty feet for a spacious stretch of open area to flow across. The music kiosk is tucked away up in a front corner of the ballroom and does not impinge at all on the dancing area. This floor is a real treat!

Along with the great floor, you are very much going to appreciate Mary's outstanding air conditioning system: she has two ten-ton A/C units on-site to keep the main ballroom comfortably cool. Behind the main ballroom, a second room with a practice dance floor measuring thirty by thirty-five feet is serviced by its own five-ton A/C unit. We had our first NSD social at Champion last Saturday, and I can tell you it was great to have the ceiling fans circulating cool A/C air throughout the ballroom all evening, for an unparalleled experience of comfortable dancing.

The venue is ready and Alberta is waiting for her special moment. Why not join us for her Coronation and take the opportunity to enjoy this marvelous new ballroom as we hold the first major NSD event at Champion? Alberta will be the first NSD Queen to hold her initial court there, and you deserve to be among the fortunate NSD members who will experience this venue for the first time.



*(Top-Left) Alberta Valentini is looking forward to be the first Queen's coronation in the new Champion Ballroom.*

*(Below) The new Champion Ballroom has opened at their new address; 4255 Ruffin Rd, #200, San Diego, CA 92123. The new facilities are wonderful with a fantastic dance floor.*





# Bakersfield Chapter

## QUEEN-ELECT JOANN GEORGIO



I feel like I was born to dance! As a child my mother paid for me to take dance lessons. I learned tap, toe and ballet. Now it seems when I hear music my feet just want to move along with my body!

It took me four years to find the Bakersfield Smooth Dancers and I'm so happy I found a great place to go dancing and meet so

many wonderful friends!

I was married for 23 years and have two children, while married to my husband we owned our own construction business which was very successful. I personally got my own Building Contractor license and my RE Brokers license. I also enjoyed administration work using my skills with QuickBooks Pro Accounting Systems. I lived in Las Vegas for awhile where I worked at Nellis Air Force base as a Project Administrator and also owned a Drywall Business.

I'm single now and have been for ten years. I enjoy a happy life because of my dancing and the wonderful friends I have met and who are a very special part of my life. I have been retired for a year, but seem to keep quite busy with our chapter events, serving as our chapter's treasurer, and as President of another dance club!

This year I am looking forward to meeting a lot of new friends as I travel to the different chapters representing BSD as their Queen.

I feel very blessed for this opportunity and want to thank my many friends from the chapter who have been so helpful and willing to do whatever it takes to help me in my year ahead.

*-JoAnn Georgio Queen-elect*

## BOARDS

Coming soon to a dance club near you the National Smooth Dancers Bakersfield Chapter presents "Weekend at The Awards!"

Starring all your favorite Smooth Dancers some will be competing for the top awards and lots of us will be enjoying the fantastic music.

This all begins on Friday March 18 where everyone can pick up their registration packets from 2:30-4:30pm at the Marriott Hotel, and then starting at 5:30pm to 7:30pm their will be the a light evening buffet and hospitality for your enjoyment at the Women's Club. Following this we will hold the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame Dance.

This year we look forward to featuring some competitions, and the 'Professionals' for your entertainment.

Saturday morning will feature our various Board meetings, the Queens, luncheon and reception, and a dance seminar taught by the professionals.

Saturday afternoon we will hold our Country Music Awards Dance; so put on your dancing boots and kick up your heels,

Edited by Dorothy Vaughan



there will be a whole lotta swinging country music going on, along with a country band that will play for you for a time. We also plan on some award winning competitors to strut their stuff!

Saturday night is our night at the Oscars, our Red Carpet Ball where you can find our Stars walking the Red Carpet showing off their finest gowns and jewels. We will be crowning our newest star, Queen-elect JoAnn Georgio and following her coronation we will have our formal dinner dance. We also look forward to watching our top notch competitors perform during the evening.

Sunday morning join us for the 'Emmy Awards Breakfast', a chance to see who won the top awards and to dine with the stars one last time before heading home.

We wish you safe travels and bid you adieu until next time!

**Our February dance** is being hosted by Jeanette Rogers and Irene Leung. As February is Valentine's month, our theme is a romantic one. 'Amore' and the attire is dress to impress! This dance is being held at our new venue 3825 Riverlakes Drive. The time is 6:45pm to 9:45 on Saturday, February 27th. Members are free, couples are \$25 and singles \$15. I hope you can join us for this romantic dance!

**January is our annual Presidents Ball.** This year it was hosted by Past President Steve Peterson and a great committee. Our 2016 President Ben Wilson was unable to attend as he was "cruising". There were four of our past Presidents in attendance. It was a great dance with good music provided by Rich Gonzales.

Our December dance "Penguin Winter Wonderland Dance" held on December 12, 2015 was really a fun dance. Great music was provided by Dennis Acosta and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

This month's dance is when we hand out the trophies for Most Improved Dancers. Winning this year was Barbara Norcross for most improved female, Keith Thysen most improved male, and Dorothy Vaughan and Dave Woodle most improved couple. Congratulations to all of them.



*This year's awards for Most Improved Dancers were presented to: (L-R) Dave Woodle and Dorothy Vaughan, most improved couple; Barbara Norcross, most improved female; Queen Susan Salvucci accepted the award on behalf of Keith Thysens who was unable to attend, for most improved male.*

On behalf of the Bakersfield Chapter I want to extend Congratulations to Pat Burns and Rick Gatewood who recently married, also congrats to Kay Boyer on the birth of her newest grandchild!

[Click For Boards Info and Registration Forms](#)

# Golden Gate Chapter



It was a fantastic evening, our New Years Eve eve dance at the Crown Plaza hotel. Everyone was decked out in their finest evening wear, brought their best attitudes and behavior and had a ball. Everyone agreed that the music was fantastic all evening and nobody wanted the evening to end, populating the dance floor till the last Waltz was played.

Les Lynn was given the “Rosalie Wolf, Bob Fragamoni award” for excellent service beyond the call of duty, and all the

queens were recognized with a special gift. It was our chapter’s 65th anniversary and each of our 145 guests was given a free raffle ticket with the Robinsons winning big.

Elizabeth Li and Karl Chesbrough won “the most improved dancers” award and a special presidential award was given to Liz and Chuck Talmadge for their never ending dedication and hard work for our chapter.

At our first meeting in January we elected our new queen for this year and I am delighted to let her introduce herself:

As a young girl I immigrated to the United States from Austria. After getting married I had two children and shortly thereafter I learned how to dance and fell in love with it so much I became a dance instructor. When I retired I found the Golden Gate Smooth Dancers and I discovered the friendliest and most wonderful people who always make me feel welcome. I was honored when I was asked to be queen. I’m looking forward to meeting all of the other queens and finding new friendships in our sister chapters. The theme of my coronation will be “The Sound of Music” to honor my roots .

Thank you, Emma Steed

Edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



This coming weekend Patrick and I will be visiting the Los Angeles chapter for the coronation of Queen Susan Johnson. We are very much looking forward to being there.

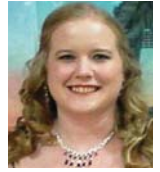
As always, dance first, thinking can wait.





# Visalia Chapter

Edited by Melody Mar



Written by: Carol Abeyta and Marivel Villarreal

**Have you ever wanted to spend a snowy white Christmas Eve at a cabin?** On December 5, 2015, one hundred and five joyful Visalia Smooth dancers and guests eager to

begin spreading the Christmas spirit got that opportunity at our annual Christmas Dance at the Sons of Italy.

We were entertained by Nadia and Igor Tillinin, 4 Star International Winners. They elegantly performed a slow waltz, and glided through the dance floor during the Viennese waltz, ending with a lively and energetic jive.

The hall was infused with the fragrance of fresh pine and wood. This came from the elaborately decorated tables that ranged from sweet gingerbread houses, while others showcased freshly cut pine branches, pinecones and graceful forest animals with candles heightened with candle lit hurricanes sitting on small logs, to an elegant white, crisp snow table speckled with red roses and ornaments. All the décor heightened the theme of Christmas Eve at the Cabin.

The stage brightly flickered with trees and peaceful deer, while different scenes of Thomas Kinkade's cabins crossed the stage as a power point flashed during the dinner and Christmas music rejoiced the hearts. Two backdrops, one at the entry, the other by the Christmas tree covered with gifts, were glimmering with snowflakes so guests and members could keep a memory of their snowy adventure of Christmas Eve at the cabin.



Members donated Christmas gifts to be distributed to those children who may not have received a gift.



Igor & Nadia Tillinin, perform the jive at our annual Christmas Dance.

We would like to thank the countless members who gracefully gave of their priceless time to make this event such a huge, joyful success. The committee wants to extend recognition to the members who helped decorate the hall and the tables, our DJ Vince, our M.C. Jerry Bailey, and everyone who generously brought the tempting desserts and delicious appetizers that were enjoyed throughout the social hour. In addition, we want to

remind our members that many children will receive a Christmas gift due their kindness.

We especially want to thank the tireless members of the Sons of Italy who prepared and served all the delicious food, and helped in every way possible to make this evening special and memorable. We also want to share that we received a lovely message from Donna Grist saying that we have a long and wonderful relationship with the Sons of Italy.

All in all, 2015 Visalia Smooth Dancer's Christmas Eve at the Cabin was a wonderful, almost non-stop dance due to your cheerful presence and support. We hope everyone had a joyous Holiday Season.



Myra and Shane Nielsen were awarded the Most Improved Couple, Manual Madril received the Most Improved Male dancer and Marivel Villarreal was named Most Improved Female dancer at our annual Christmas Dance.

Written by: January Dance Committee (Baileys, Nielsens, Domi, Agnes and Carol Abeyta)

**What better way to ring in the New Year** than with great dancing, food and entertainment! We hope those who attended felt our January Dance delivered just that!

The theme was "Let's Swing in the New Year" and with rock n' roll decorations from the storage unit, we were able to create a 50's dance atmosphere for all members and guests to enjoy. Tables were covered in alternating neon green and baby blue table cloths. The centerpieces consisted of LP's mounted on blocks with black and white checkered paper underneath and accents of glitzy silver! Our stage was decorated with a large silver sprayed tree with 45's hanging from the branches by colored ribbon and lots of twinkling lights. Even the check-in table had a small juke box playing music as guests arrived!

After the swing lesson taught by Rei, we enjoyed wonderful main dishes brought by members and salads, sides and desserts supplied by the committee. What a delicious potluck dinner!

Our DJ, Cheryl, provided some fun mixers throughout the night and our entertainment was the highlight of the evening! Several of our members brought us their great routines from Curtain Call for a repeat performance. Margaret Moholt and Domi Aville, both performing with Dan Goss, danced their delightful Cha Cha and Quick- Step routines while David and Carol Bixler rocked the Tango!

It was a great way to get excited about dance again for 2016!!

Thanks again to all of our performers for the hard work required to get their dances ready again after the holidays—we were blessed by it!



Look at all the donated toys!

**December.** Our Christmas party on December 13, 2015, ended our year with wonderful Christmas music prepared by Linda Bennett and played by Sharon Crisp, and great food prepared by our caterer, Chuck's Barbeques. Poinsettias were both decorations and door prizes, and many members and guests brought toys for President Carla to take to King Elementary School for their Christmas party. Alex Ortiz and Sophia Velasquez performed a lovely Christmas dance and a salsa for us.

**The new 2016 slate of officers** was installed during the evening:

- President---Carla Hartunian
- Vice President---Jim Escobar
- Treasurer---David Morgan
- Recording Secretary---Penny Henderson
- Corresponding Secretary---Linda Bennett
- Social Chair---Lorraine Tilton
- Board Member---Lynn Sanders



2016 Officers (L-R): Lynn Sanders, Penny Henderson, Linda Bennett, Lorraine Tilton, Jim Escobar, Carla Hartunian, David Morgan.



Jim Escobar and Steve Moore, our splendid, suave cocktail party hosts!

**January.** Carla Hartunian hosted Winter Dancing in the Cold January Nights! on January 17, 2016. David Morgan created an excellent playlist and played the music, and Franco Peraza taught a Foxtrot lesson. Sharon Crisp was presented as our Queen-elect for 2016. In memory of our beloved Wilma Andersen, we began

the dancing with a waltz to "Edelweiss".

**February.** Lynn Sanders will host Love Makes the World Go Round on February 21, 2016. There will be a Cumbia Lesson by Alex Ortiz, and David Morgan will again play the music.

**March.** David and Jennifer Morgan will host Dancing With the Stars on March 13, 2016 (note this is NOT the 3rd Sunday, due to Bakersfield Boards)

**Memorials:**

**Lucille Anita LoFreso**, born July 31, 1918 in the Bronx, New York, passed away on January 30, 2016 at the age of 97. Lucille loved God, her family, ballroom dancing, singing, cooking and her friends. She was the FIRST elected Queen of the Fresno Chapter of Smooth Dancers!

Lucille was also a member of several Catholic Clubs, including The Silver Angels Senior Ministry and the Italian Catholic Federation.

Lucille is survived by her husband Joseph LoFreso, her son Joseph and his wife Connie, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Lucille's life was celebrated with a Catholic mass on February 5, 2016. Remembrances may be made to Hinds Hospice Foundation, 2490 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 101, Fresno, CA 93711.

**Long-time Fresno member, Wilma Andersen**, passed away on December 14, 2015, at the age of 93. She was born March 5, 1922, in Sylvan Grove, Kansas, the youngest of six children, and grew up on the family farm. She left home to attend college in California in 1942, and graduated from Fresno State College in 1945 with a degree in teaching. Wilma taught in Fresno Unified elementary schools for 36 years, retiring in 1982.

Wilma joined several dance groups upon her arrival in California, enjoying Mexican Folk Dancing, Basque Dancing, German Dancing and the Fresno Square Rounders; she met her husband, Svend, at a Danish Dance Institute. She taught folk dance throughout her teaching career in the elementary schools and beyond, co-founding the Fresno Danish Dancers and teaching folk dancing at the Clovis Senior Center for many years. Most recently Wilma discovered ballroom dancing and was very active at Dianna's Studio of Dance, Central California Big Band Dance Society and Fresno Smooth Dancers. She danced her last showcase performance only a couple of years ago!

A memorial service was held December 22, 2015. Remembrances may be sent to Peace Lutheran Church, 4672 N. Cedar Avenue, Fresno CA 93726.

\* \* \* \* \*

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!!



# Palomar Chapter

Edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard



We are happy to inform NSD that The Palomar Chapter has **permanently changed** the month of our Coronations from July to OCTOBER. Please note this year's coronation will take place on:

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016**



*Peter Hanson*

**Peter Hanson has just completed five terms as President** of the Palomar chapter. When asked his opinion of the steady growth of our club from 41 members in 2010 to 92 in 2015, he would take no credit. "It (the growth) has been because of our Monday night lessons." He replied. "George Mozes started the lessons 12 years ago and Marsha (Hanson) has continued them the

past two years which has brought about our growth." These two editors feel that Peter's stability of purpose, (improving ballroom dancing), and the steady direction provided by solid leadership were also important factors of the increase in our membership. Peter was instrumental in the creation of the electronic version of the statewide NSD Membership Roster. For this and for 27 years as an enthusiastic supporter of ballroom dancing, he received the Highest Honor any NSD member can receive, the Gavel Club Award. Upon Presentation of the 2012 Award, Gavel Club Chairman, Barbara Greenlaw said, "He is an innovative, inspiring leader and a tireless worker for the entire NSD organization." **THANK YOU PETER FOR YOUR SERVICE!**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW 2016 OFFICERS!**

*L-R Geri Deutsch/Queen, Fred Deutsch/President, Ann Mauro/Corresponding Secretary, Kelly Kimmitt/Treasurer, Antonia Quinene/Social Chair, Frank Lombardi/Vice President – missing are Marion Semler/Secretary, Peter Hanson/Director.*

**Palomar sponsored dance lessons** continued in January following a December break. Director of Dance, Marsha Hanson, assisted by husband Peter, has started the New Year with the American Rumba for the beginner class and the American Waltz for the intermediates. Because of the many holidays in January and February, it is customary to carry

over the same dance for two months. For February, a new format will be tried. The dance will still be the Rumba, however, different patterns will be taught allowing new members to join in. The intermediate class will continue the present format of styling which stresses, proper steps (heel toe, toe heel, etc.), rise and fall, pitch, alignment, and timing. Classes are still well attended with an average of 44 students.

**January's Social** was well attended with 75 dancers enjoying good danceable music, which included a waltz mixer, socializing and a buffet of Mexican food, the feature of which was a 'make your own tostado'. This included a toasted tortilla, chicken, refried beans, lettuce, tomatoes and salsa. The dessert was flan and cake. Hosts were Donna and Duane Thornton, Ann and Tom Mauro and Cathy and Frank Lombardi. Professionals Irena and James Friedhof gave an excellent American rumba lesson, and George Mozes was at his best, as the MC, giving away the prizes assisted by Queen Geri Deutsch.



*Palomar's attendees to the Los Angeles Coronation thoroughly enjoyed the evening while supporting our beautiful Queen Geri Deutsch! L-R Darlene Drury, Peter & Marsha Hanson, Queen Geri & Fred Deutsch, Len Lee, Debbie Atherton-Kincaid, Michael Mihos, Peggy Lee, Jack & Merilee Ragland & George Mozes.*



**Jack Ragland stands with his top award winning painting "Winery Tower"** from the annual Temecula Ralph Love Plein Air Competition held from Halloween to November 6th, open to all artists. This is the second time since 2011 that Jack has won the Mayor's Purchase Choice Award. The new painting will join the first that now

hangs in the Temecula City Hall.

Each day of the competition, artists painted at a different Temecula location including Old Town, South Coast Winery, Harveston Lake, The Rose Haven, and the Duck Pond. Plein Air means painting outside in the open air. Artists have the opportunity to experience the sun, wind, rain, and occasional insects as well as all the sounds and fragrances surrounding them as they paint, contributing to the flavor of the painting. **Congratulations Jack!**

# San Fernando Valley Chapter

## It's a New Year: New Adventures!

As we start a brand new year, we also start with a brand new board, along with a set of inspiring new chapter goals.

**Meet our 2016 chapter officers** - On behalf of the SFV membership, we are pleased to present our new and returning board and appointed positions who are committed to helping achieve the goals set for our chapter:

President- Bill Morey, Vice President- James Gutman, Recording Secretary- Deanna Stanton, Treasurer- John Wong, Social Chair- Andrea Gutman, Corresponding Secretary- Gee Gee Barden, NSD Board of Directors- Joan Robinson, Queen-Leanne Wong

Thank you to all for your commitment to our chapter!

**Welcome new members:** Irit Barak and Gary Downs, we are happy to have you as members of our dance family!

In preparing this issue of our newsletter, I started thinking not only about the goals for our chapter this year, but for us as dancers. Here's a list of New Year's resolution for us, dancers, and a few words about our characteristics, personality traits and some of dancing's health benefits.

**New Year's Resolutions that might be on your list** - Limber Up, Get Stronger, Try a New Style of Dance, Challenge Yourself, and Remain Open to Learning.

**Dancers tend to be healthier people** - Dance is letting go of anything we are holding onto as extra baggage. When you do that, it becomes medicine for the mind, body and spirit as well as therapy. Our dances are always jazzy, happy and fun...I look at it as our monthly medicine!

**Dancers appreciate the arts** - I personally identify dance, first, as an art form and a communication of ideas, feelings, and experiences, and second, as a social effort. Perhaps that is why we enjoy choreography, showcases, and competitions. In these settings we communicate our ideas and feelings.

**Dancers tend to be happier people** - I guess that's why our first dance of 2016 had such a great attendance. I'm not sure if our turnout was due to longtime partner and friend Michael Donovan's lesson on American Waltz or because he was also the host DJ playing our favorite dance music.

**Dancers have a passion and love for their community and for teamwork** - Which is why our very own dancer Joan Robinson's goal is to create the next generation of art makers. Joan formed the Kidz Dance Team which premiered at the Sunland Recreation Center's Holiday Party in a performance that brought to mind one of TV's most popular dance programs, Dancing With The Stars. The performance combined great music, movement, and the combined talents of kids in the local community to create an entertaining and much-loved show. The program's Hip Hop/Zumba classes continued into the new year with new classes for adults to learn cool new 'moves' along with swing dance instruction. All classes are free and take place on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Sunland Rec. Center, 8651 Foothill Boulevard, Sunland...Come Join Us!

**Don't be afraid to give yourself a challenge this year.** Maybe you've never had the confidence to enter a dance competition, a

Edited by Rachel Seward



Jack-N-Jill, or to perform a solo routine. Maybe you'd like to do a triple step swing instead of a single step, or add the beautiful Rumba to your dance list. You'll never know what you can achieve until you try. I suggest you make a list of 12 challenges and add one each month to your calendar.

Let's make dance our medicine for the New Year!



Frank Trapp & Keiko Isshiki



Gabriel Tsai & Queen Leanne

was so well-attended.

**Drumm Roll Please:** A new chapter begins for San Fernando Smooth Dancers beginning in March. We are very excited to announce that the Hollywood Academy Dance Studio will be moving to a new location in the month of March.

The new studio located in Van Nuys will have a new floating floor, teaching rooms and an ambiance that will get you up dancing the minute you walk in. We are hoping to have the build-out done in time for our March dance.

To show our appreciation, we will invite our dance friends and the entire community to the Grand Opening to enjoy dancing and refreshments. Watch for the date, as I am certain there will be a surprise or two included in this celebration!

Better yet, help us spread the word once we get all details finalized. Stay tuned it's going to be great!



## Our Social Ambassador & Chapter Queen, Leanne Wong:

"I am honored to be part of sisterhood of women and for the opportunity share the joy and friendship that dance brings to our lives."

**Dancers have passion** - "Great dancers are not great because of their technique they are great because of their passion."

- Martha Graham.



# IN MEMORIAM



**Lucille Anita LoFreso**

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# IN MEMORIAM

Norman was born in 1932 in Scotland and at the age of 13, just as World War II was over, he was admitted as an apprentice to cooperage business. In 1952 Norman married Claire, who became his life-long spouse and ballroom dance partner, until her death in October 2000. Norman operated his own Scotch whisky-related business from 1952 to 1957 and then moved to Canada to work there for the famous producer of distilled spirits and wine - Seagram & Son.

At the same time, Norman and Claire continued practicing ballroom dancing and competing at different levels. In 1962, they moved to California. The same year, Norman and Claire participated in the US Amateur Championship and took first place in the International Standard division. As a result, they were honored to represent USA at the Blackpool Tournament in 1962. At the peak of their professional career, In 1970, Norman and Claire took 2nd Place in the International Standard at US Star Professional Championship in Los Angeles.

For almost five decades Norman was relentlessly and actively teaching in different NSD Chapters located in the



**Norman Ballantyne**

person. People who knew him, especially, appreciated his impeccable sense of humor and altruistic motto “ A man should be useful to others”. Norman has been always generous in sharing his life experience and investing in relationships with other people. For instance, the holiday and birthday greeting cards he wrote, have been always full of deep philosophical meaning.

Norman will be missed by many NSD members who were fortunate to be acquainted with him.

-Contribution by Igor Tillinin

## Recalling a friend,

Alda Tomera lived most of her life in the Bay Area where she and her husband owned and operated a supermarket and a boarding home. She loved her family and friends. One of her favorite recollections was that just after high school she became secretary to an opera singer when she lived in Hollywood and got to meet many actors of that era. Being Elena Malta's aunt, she soon got involved in Golden Gate Chapter. She participated in all events including convention, dances and meetings. She, along with Irene Borelli her sister-in-law and also a member of Golden Gate, helped make decorations for conventions and helped set-up the tables for our dinner dances. Placemats, utensils and all other necessary table condiments were always in place. Her friendly disposition and friendly smile greeted guests and members alike.

As some of us often do, she loved to reminisce of the time she lived in San Francisco and the old neighborhood. Alda, Irene and I took a memory car drive, once, to that



**Alda Tomera**

old neighborhood and we all got to see the homes we lived in long ago. What fond memories! Our trip concluded with a visit to our old time favorite and famous Mitchel's Ice Cream and we each enjoyed a delightful treat. Hmm. I can still taste the creamy ice cream.

Sometime before she retired to an assisted living facility, she enjoyed a trip to Italy and visited with distant relatives and enjoyed the sights. Even in her assisted living facility, she enjoyed helping the caretakers with whatever holiday activities came up. She was always ready to lend a helping hand with whatever she could do. Alda remained active and mentally alert until last October when she joined her husband and other family members that had gone before her.

She is surely missed and her memory will linger just like the taste of that ice cream.

-Contribution by Rita Parma



## Los Angeles Chapter Officers

President	Victor Lee
Vice President	Kyle Catterlin
Treasurer	Roger Lewis
Board Member	Tom Wells
Board Member	Chuck Johnson
Board Member	Ken Scholtz
Corresponding Secretary	Sandy Wells
Recording Secretary	Marion Scholtz
Social Chairman	Debbie Ku

## Coronation - 2016 Convention

### No Coronation in 2017

Dance Rules	Kyle Catterlin
Dance Whispers Editor	Chuck and Susan Johnson
Music Coordinator	Chuck Johnson
Publicity	Chuck Johnson
Queen	Susan Johnson
Webmaster	George Camilton

## San Diego Chapter Officers

President	Shirley McCloskey
Vice President	Cindy Perry
Treasurer	Kay Ryan
Board Member	Alberta Valentini
Corresponding Secretary	
Recording Secretary	Cathy O'Harra
Social Chairman	Betty Halvin

## Coronation - March 5, 2016

Dance Rules	Chuck DiSessa
Dance Whispers Editor	Mark Chapman
Music Coordinator	Rose Madrid
Queen	Caron Schattel
Queen-elect	Alberta Valentini
State Queen	Kay Ryan
Webmaster	Liz Tarnove

## Palomar Chapter Officers

President	Fred Deutsch
Vice President	Frank Lombardi
Treasurer	Kelly Kimmitt
Board Member	Peter Hanson
Corresponding Secretary	Ann Mauro
Recording Secretary	Marion Semler
Social Chairman	Antonia Quinene

## Coronation - October 8, 2016

Dance Rules	Len Lee
Dance Whispers Editor(s)	Don Hubbard / Debbie Kincaid
Music Coordinator	Music Committee
Publicity	Debbie Kincaid
Queen	Geri Deutsch
Webmaster	Ann Mauro

## Golden Gate Chapter Officers

President	Vlad Gites
Vice President	Carl Chesbrough
Treasurer	Joe Malta
Board Member	Dan Ansaldi
Corresponding Secretary	Elena Malta
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Li
Social Chairman	Liz Talmadge

## Coronation - April 9, 2016

Dance Rules	Igor Tilinin
Dance Whispers Editor	Gabrielle Von Stephens
Music Coordinator	Joe Malta
Queen	Gabrielle von Stephens
Queen Elect	Emma Steed
Webmaster	Carl Chesbrough
Parliamentarian	Rita Parma

## San Fernando Valley Chapter Officers

Coronation - November 5, 2016

President	Bill Morey
Vice President	James Gutman
Treasurer	John Wong
Board Member	Joan Robinson
Recording Secretary	Deanna Stanton
Corresponding Secretary	Gee Gee Barden
Social Chairman	Andrea Gutman

Dance Rules	Mark Emanuelli
Dance Whispers Editor	Rachel Seward
Queen	Leanne Wong
Webmaster	Bill Steeber

## Bakersfield Chapter Officers

Coronation - March 19, 2016

President	Ben Wilson
Vice President	Bill Landry
Treasurer	Jo Ann Georgio
Board Member	Steve Peterson
Corresponding Secretary	Kay Boyer
Recording Secretary	Lindy Livingston
Social Chairman	Susan Salvucci

Dance Rules	Janice Mills
Dance Whispers Editor	Dorothy Vaughan
Queen	Susan Salvucci
Queen-elect	JoAnn Georgio

## Visalia Chapter Officers

Coronation - May 14, 2016

President	Karl Richards
Vice President	Jerry Bailey
Treasurer	Myra Nielsen
Board Member	David Bixler
Corresponding Secretary	Shane Nelson
Recording Secretary	Shane Nelson
Social Chairman	Carol Abeyta/Sally Bailey
Parliamentarian	David Bixler

Dance Rules	John Gutteriez
Dance Whispers Editor	Melody Mar
Music Coordinator	Greg Uichanco
Publicity	Jim Renfro
Queen	Debbie Renfro
Webmaster	Dee Petereson
Sunshine	Caryl Creason/Dorothy Sims
Sgt of Arms	Garry Paden

## Fresno Chapter Officers

Coronation - June 4, 2016

President	Carla Hartunian
Vice President	Jim Escobar
Treasurer	David Morgan
Board Member	Lynn Sanders
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Bennett
Recording Secretary	Penny Henderson
Social Chairman	Lorraine Tilton

Dance Rules	Kathy Constantino
Dance Whispers Editor	Linda Bennett
Music Coordinator	David Morgan
Queen	Past Queens Sharing Duties
Webmaster	Lorraine Tilton
Historian	Nancy Palazzo
Sunshine	Dolores Reed





San Diego Smooth Dancers  
Cordially invites you to a Coronation Ball

*"So Much to Be Thankful For"*

Honoring Queen-elect

*Alberta Valentini*

**Saturday, March 5, 2016**

**"NEW" CHAMPION BALLROOM ACADEMY**  
4255 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123  
6:00 Doors Open -- 6:30 Coronation

Followed by Buffet Dinner  
Coronation \$60.00 per person  
Black Tie Optional



**Hotel accommodations at Courtyard Marriott**

8651 Spectrum Center Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123  
Room Reservations - 888-236-2427 Phone 858-573-0700  
Hotel Booking Code: **San Diego Smooth Dancers** Room Rate \$119.00 ++

**Hotel Reservations deadline is February 23, 2016**

Hospitality on March 5th at Courtyard Marriott 2:00-4:00  
Queen's Brunch at the clubhouse of Alberta & Peter Valentini  
939 Coast Blvd, La Jolla, CA 92037  
Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. \$27.00

**CORONATION RESERVATION deadline is February 24, 2016**

**Please detach and mail on or before 2-22-2016 to:**  
**Reservations: Ann Meador, 5466 Chaparajos Court, San Diego CA 92120**

**Checks payable to : San Diego Smooth Dancers**

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

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

Buffet Dinner: \_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 Queen's Brunch: \_\_\_\_\_ \$27.00 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*For more information, please call Ann Meador at (619) 582-6947  
or Judy Miranda at 619-994-9833*



BAKERSFIELD SMOOTH DANCERS  
PRESENTS

# Weekend at The Awards

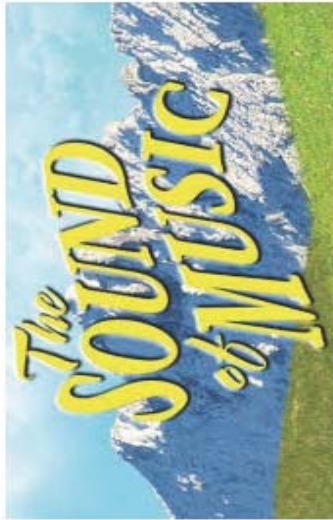


March 18, 19, 20 2016

PRODUCTION \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_  
CAMERA \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SCENE \_\_\_\_\_ TAKE \_\_\_\_\_  
[Click For Boards Information and Registration Forms](#)



Golden Gate Smooth Dancers  
Invites You To Our Coronation Ball



Honoring Queen-Elect  
**Emma Steed**

**Saturday, April 9, 2016**

Crowne Plaza Hotel

1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404

Hotel Reservations: (650) 570-5700

Room Rate: \$139.00+Tax (King Room), Booking Code: G56

\$149.00 + Tax (Double Queen Room), Booking Code: G56

(Rooms available at this rate until March 25, 2016)

**Hospitality 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Coronation & Ball: \$75.00**

5:00 PM Cocktail Hour (No Host)

5:30 PM Registration

6:30 PM Coronation Ceremony

8:00 PM Dinner

9:00 - 11:30 PM Dancing

**Dress: Formal**

Ladies: Evening Gown/  
Cocktail Dress

Gentlemen: Tuxedo/  
Dark Suit & Tie

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

Please See Reverse Side

**Queen's Champagne Brunch: \$35.00**

Date: *Sunday, April 10, 2015*

Place: *Crowne Plaza Hotel*

Time: *9:00 AM*

Reservations must be received by April 2, 2016

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

Mail to: Liz Talmadge

759 Grand Avenue

So. San Francisco, CA 94080

Saturday, April 9, 2016 Coronation Ball \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, April 10, 2016 Queen's Brunch \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total: = \_\_\_\_\_

Please check choice of entrée:

\_\_\_\_ New York Steak

\_\_\_\_ Petrale Sole

\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Wellington

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_