

*National Smooth Dancers*  
***Dance Whispers***  
*April 2016*



**San Diego Chapter**

Edited by Mark Chapman



On behalf of our San Diego Chapter, I wish to extend a huge "Thank You!" to all of our guests who came to celebrate Alberta's Coronation with us. It was wonderful seeing so many friends again, and we truly appreciated being able to fill out our new Champion venue to create a warm, exciting atmosphere for her event. I know Alberta was thrilled to have so many

fellow NSD members visit San Diego to enjoy this wonderful evening with her, and she looks forward to seeing you again and again during the coming year as she forms life-long friendships at upcoming coronations. For our part, we are pleased and privileged to have such a lovely new Queen representing our Chapter for the coming year, and we thank you all so much for supporting Alberta at the beginning of this part of her NSD journey.



**San Diego Coronation March 5, 2016**  
**Alberta Valentini**

I chose the theme "So Much to Be Thankful For" because I am thankful for all of my blessings. Being a cancer survivor is one reason. I am "thankful" to be able to be here. I am "thankful" to have been selected Queen of the San Diego Chapter of Smooth Dancers. I feel blessed and "thankful" that I have four wonderful children (Susan, Jennifer, John and Michael) and four beautiful grandchildren, two sons-in-laws and this coming September a daughter-in-law. We are a close and loving family and try to see each other often. Having them attend my coronation made weekend very special.

Susan (the flower presenter), grandson Nicolas (crown bearer), son John (usher) flew in from the Bay Area. My son Michael (photographer) with his fiancée Christine flew in from Albuquerque, NM. New Mexico is one of my favorite places and is the reason I choose the Southwest colors of sage green, terra cotta, and turquoise with various succulents.

On Saturday the hospitality at the Courtyard Marriott was hosted by Caron Schattel. Caron and her team prepared a delicious spread of cold shrimp, sandwiches, brownies, gluten free crackers for my son (very thoughtful), and much more. This lunch gave me a chance to introduce my family and to meet some of the Queens and their escorts. I was familiar with faces but now I am starting to know names, and friendships will begin.

We rushed back home after the hospitality so the 7 of us could change into our fancy clothes. I was so excited all the men in my family wore fantastic bolo ties, custom one-of-a-kind hand made by Native American Indians, carrying out the Southwest theme. I wore a custom Native American Indian Silver and Gold butterfly bracelet.

The ballroom looked beautiful and I loved the arch. Rose Madrid and Caron Schattel did an outstanding job with the tulle, bows, succulents, flowers and some sparkle.

The coronation ceremony was lovely. It was fun to see all

the beautiful Queens arrive at the arch. That was a perfect time for me to admire their white gowns up close. It meant a lot to me to have my daughter Susan present the flowers and my adorable grandson, Nicolas, carry the pillow with the crown. He was so cute. He started to get a little nervous and asked me what if he falls. I told him, if he did that it was ok, just get up and keep walking. My husband Peter did a fantastic job dancing the Queen's waltz with me; he has been taking dance lessons because he knows it makes me happy. We danced to Josh Groban's song "So Much to Be Thankful," the theme for the evening. A big thank you to our instructor and coach Irina Chalkevitch.

The Honor Dance performed by Mark Chapman and Been Kao was so, so lovely and I enjoyed every minute. I was the one honored that they danced for the coronation.

The recession had some swaying, dancing and skipping as the court exited the ballroom to Pharnell's song "Happy."

We were treated to a breathtaking performance by champion dancers Alex and Irina Chalkevitch (brother and sister). I was in awe watching them. That was so exciting. Even grandson Nicolas said he liked watching the dancing.

I really appreciate how many of our members from NSD and quite a few non-dancing friends attended the evening.

All went well for the Sunday brunch held at my condo party room. Everyone was able to find parking on a Sunday morning. We had a very nice brunch of baked eggs, ham, sausage, homemade scones, and a mixed berry fruit dish, with champagne.

I was amazed how many beautiful wrapped packages arrived. Peter and I had fun opening them later in the evening. I was so touched by the variety of beautiful gifts. I even received a gift in the mail from someone that could not attend.

A big thank you to all from the San Diego chapter who gave so much of their time to make the coronation weekend a success for me.

Fondly - Alberta Valentini SDS 2016 Queen.





# Bakersfield Chapter

Edited by Dorothy Vaughan



## Queen's Farewell

I have experienced a wonderful year as Bakersfield Smooth Dancers Queen for 2015. In my travels to other chapters for the coronation of their queens, I have enjoyed exploring each city and area, and meeting each Queen and Queen Elect and the wonderful members and guests. Each escort provided was most understanding and kind.

The decorations and events were beautiful and it has been an honor to be present and participate. I have learned much during this past year, not the least of which was tips on event planning! More importantly, as each Queen acts as a liaison between the chapters to help the entire club maintain cohesiveness, I have grown as a person and among many things, my experiences have reaffirmed social interaction principles to always do my best to be dignified, graceful, merciful, flexible with others, and remember being an NSD Queen is about taking care of the Kingdom of Dance! Much of the year the Queen is busy helping the next year's Queen-Elect prepare for her coronation in every way you can, and doing your best to show and treat her with the attributes every Queen should seek to display at all times.

Special thanks go to Queen Mum Carla Hartunian for all her help, and State Queens Miriam Moses, Kay Ryan and Susan Johnson for displaying these attributes. When you become a Queen you try to always remember that "Once a Queen Always a Queen" and carry on your queenly duties!

I thank the BSD Queens and each and every NSD Queen in the Crown Circle, past, present and future, sincerely and with deep gratitude and affection for every help and assistance provided throughout my year, and most of all—for your friendship. Carry On Kings and Queens!

-Sincerely, Susan Salvucci.

## Boards

The stage is now dark, decorations have all been put away, our members and guests have gone home; and all who had a part in presenting our Weekend at The Awards, can breathe a sigh of relief as we slowly realize BSD has done it again! We pulled off another wonderful and exciting Board weekend!

Friday night we enjoyed dancing the night away. We had several dance competitions, and we enjoyed the Golden Gate chapter's revival of their Rock n Roll routine for us.

We also enjoyed the talents of Tino Ibach, a Stevie Wonder impersonator and Chuck De Sessa who also sang a song for us! Adding to our entertainment our professional dancers,

Jonathan Atkinson and Lorena Bravo performed two great dance routines.

Saturday, we held our "annual Queens



luncheon," and it was delightful!

Saturday afternoon was a blast at the Country Music Awards dance. We

had "Rockwell and the Blackboard Playboys from Trout's" nightclub playing some great country music!

We were also treated to some great dance competitions by some of the Chapters' fantastic dancers.

Saturday night was the coronation of our lovely new Queen JoAnn Georgio. JoAnn chose red and silver for her color scheme. She used red tablecloths, and on each table was placed a vase of red roses with silver tinsel and tiny lights threaded through the bouquets.

The Queens' court carried white umbrellas during the procession. JoAnn performed a fun foxtrot to the music "Singing in the Rain" with her escort and teacher, Dan Goss.

The rest of the evening was filled with dancing, competitions and our Pro's who danced two more routines for our enjoyment.

Sunday morning rolled around all too soon and before we knew it, it was time to say goodbye to our NSD family and friends! But, first we handed out the "Oscars" to the many winners of the dance competitions. Congratulations to all the winners stay healthy and keep dancing!

## Coming Up:

**Our April** dance will be hosted by Steve Peterson and his committee. I'm not totally sure but I think Steve is going for 'Area 52' as his theme!

Our dances are held from 6:45 to 9:45 at the Riverlakes Community Center, 3825 Riverlakes Dr. Please save the date April 23rd for this fun evening.

**May 28th will be our annual Queens' dance**, honoring our past and present Queen. This will be hosted by Dorothy Vaughan and our Queens.

The dress code will be semi-formal or after five. More details to follow.

**Our February** dance hosted by Jeanette Rogers and Irene Leung was a romantic one. The theme was 'Amour', "Love is in the Air." The music was played by Dennis Acosta. A membership meeting was held before the dance. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

## IN MEMORIAM

I'm very sad to report that one of our members, Pat Burns Gatewood passed away recently. Pat was a very talented lady, and we are very sad to lose her. Pat had recently been married to Rick Gatewood. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her many friends and family.



# Dance Competition Results

Dance	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Beginners Waltz	Peter & Janice Imperial, Golden Gate	Elliott and Linda Lum Palomar	Carl Chesbrough & Elizabeth Li, Golden Gate
Seniors Waltz	Al Folkman & Antonietta Tuti San Diego	Darlene Drury & Don Hubbard Palomar	Alberta and Peter Valentini San Diego
Beginners Cha Cha	David Morgan & Sharon Crisp Fresno	Don Hubbard & Penny Elliot Palomar	Doug & Jane Hammond San Fernando Valley
East Coast Swing	John & Leanne Wong San Fernando Valley	Cliff Nathanson & Gerri Cook San Fernando Valley	Darlene Drury & Peter Hanson Palomar
Intermediate Smooth	Gabrielle von Stephens & Michael Cowlshaw Golden Gate and San Diego	Doug & Jane Hammond San Fernando Valley	John & Leanne Wong San Fernando Valley
Advanced Smooth	Shane & Myra Nielsen Visalia	Doug & Jane Hammond San Fernando Valley	Les & Roberta LaZar San Fernando Valley
West Coast Swing	John & Leanne Wong San Fernando Valley	Cliff Nathanson & Gerri Cook San Fernando Valley	Lynn Sanders & Michael Cowlshaw Fresno and San Diego



1st - Beginners Waltz



2nd - Beginners Waltz



3rd - Beginners Waltz



1st - Senior Waltz



2nd - Senior Waltz



3rd - Senior Waltz



1st - Beginners Cha Cha



2nd - Beginners Cha Cha



3rd - Beginners Cha Cha



1st - East Coast Swing



2nd - East Coast Swing



3rd - East Coast Swing



1st - Intermediate Smooth



2nd - Intermediate Smooth



3rd - Intermediate Smooth



1st - Advanced Smooth



2nd - Advanced Smooth



3rd - Advanced Smooth



1st - West Coast Swing



2nd - West Coast Swing



3rd - West Coast Swing



# Golden Gate Chapter

Patrick and I decided to fly to San Diego's coronation, as certainly it would take way too many hours to drive. Well between the rain delay, waiting in line for a bus, then a car we arrived in San Diego 8 hours later. Definitely more stressful than driving.



*Mary Murphy; ballroom dance champion, choreographer, accredited judge, TV personality and owner of Champion Ballroom, welcomed NSD at the San Diego Coronation.*

The coronation was beautiful and we were fortunate to get to meet Mary Murphy at her brand new studio. She is truly a delightful person and her laugh lights up the room.

We had our annual member brunch in February and two well deserved awards were given, Igor and Nadia were recognized as most improved dancing couple and Amy and Dan Ansaldi were given the presidential award for service beyond the call of duty.



*(Top) Igor and Nadia Tilin are recognized as the most improved dancing couple.  
(Bottom) Dan and Amy Ansaldi were given the presidential award for their service to the chapter.*

On our way to convention in Bakersfield I found out that Elena Malta fell and hit her head and they were unable to travel to this fun event. She is recovering nicely and will be at our coronation in April for sure. As Patrick was traveling in Cuba, Mike Cowlshaw of San Diego volunteered to be my escort and

Edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



dance partner. Carl Chesbrough and Elizabeth Li competed in the Beginners Waltz and took 3rd place and Peter and Janis Imperial came in first place in the same category. Mike and myself, after practicing together for only 30 minutes took first place in the Intermediate American Smooth, out of 6 couples.



Our hot Rock'n Roll group (Amy, Dan, Karl, Elizabeth, Liz, Chuck, Svetlana, Vlad, Shulamit and Boris), were sensational with their performance in their new costumes. JoAnn Georgio made a radiant new queen for Bakersfield and special details at coronation were a live country western band, a authentic Stevie Wonder and a singing performance by Chuck DeSessa of San Diego.

Wendy and Ben Wilson delighted us with a beautiful Viennese Waltz performance and the pros, Jonathan Atkinson and Lorena Bravo, performed their fantastic routines for us, also stood out as they participated in all the mixers, dancing with all of us, no snobbism there. The mark of a truly good dancer and kind person. It was truly a wonderful event at a great new venue and my last trip representing Golden Gate as our queen. Looking forward to turning the scepter over to Emma Steed at her coronation on April 9th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Foster City. Hoping to see all of you there.

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.





# Visalia Chapter

Edited by Melody Mar



## Mardi Gras Dance by Caryl Creason

Feathers, colorful beads, and masks decorated the tables as 50 VSD members and guests arrived for a festive Mardi Gras evening dinner dance at the Exeter Memorial Hall. Dan Goss taught a lively Samba lesson and attendees were treated to a bountiful buffet table after which dancing began with great music by Greg Uichanco.

Maria Helm and Joan Dewey were the very capable chairs of this event which featured two of our members as the evening entertainment. Introduced by MC Caryl Creason, Domi Aville performed a beautiful Bolero with her instructor, Dan Goss. Immediately following, Margaret Moholt, also with Dan Goss, executed a flawless Tango. Our special thanks to these two ladies for adding a special touch to our evening.

Additional committee members Manuel Madril, Barbara Uichanco, Don Hanson, Wendy and Garry Paden helped make the evening flow smoothly doing the many duties which make a dance possible. We extend our thanks to them and to our members for attending and making our Mardi Gras 2016 a success.



## St Patrick's Day Dance By Lona Dolan

There certainly was no shortage of Leprechauns & Shamrocks at the March dance. The hall was decorated with lots of green and the tables with orange, white & green table cloths, foaming beer mugs and peppermint patties by our decorating committee which included Paul & Wendy, Diane,

Suzie and myself. What great creativity our club has.

We started out with a Salsa lesson by Franco... following immediately with a performance with his dance partner Mary Short. They danced a sizzling Samba and whisked off to another performance.

As always our members brought delicious entrees and side dishes and the committee brought the salads and desserts. Members and guests enjoyed their dinner listening to beautiful Irish music that Cheryl prepared along with a fantastic playlist for the evening. I don't know how she does it!

After dinner we started off the evening with a Salsa to practice the new patterns we learned from the lesson. Everyone seemed to have a great time and at the end of the day, we made money!!!

I would like to thank everyone on the committee who helped from decorating to cleanup to tear down and they are:

Lona & Bill, Paul & Wendy, Diane, Suzie, Sandy, Matt, Joe and Dean

And a special thanks to our DJ Cheryl.

And to Dean for doing the Emceeing most of the evening.

And to Diane & Maria at the check in desk.

Thanks again and we will see you on the dance floor.

**Queen Debbie is pleased to announce** the arrival of her first granddaughter Adeline Ann who was born on March 12, 2016 weighing 7lbs 6oz and was 19 1/4 inches long. Proud parents are Melody Mar, VSD Whispers Editor, and her husband Russ.



(Top) Queen Debbie with Queen Gerri Deutsch at the San Diego Coronation.

(Bottom) Wendy and Paul Storey represents Visalia Chapter at the Sunday awards breakfast at the Boards in Bakersfield.



# Fresno Chapter

Edited by Linda Bennett



**February.** Lynn Sanders hosted “Love Makes the World Go Round” on February 21, Alex Ortiz taught Cumbia and David Morgan played the music. There was a moment of silence for our longest reigning Queen, Lucille LoFresno.



*March hosts; David & Jennifer Morgan.*

**March.** On March 13 Jennifer and David Morgan hosted “Dancing with OUR Stars” with a playlist from the television show. Alex Periera taught Waltz and Hartune Neffian played the music.

**April.** Linda Bennett will host “Rodeo Time” on April 17, 2016. Country casual, jeans and boots are OK for this event! Hugo Villanueva will teach a Rumba lesson and David Morgan will play music appropriate for this event.

**Coronation.** On June 4, 2016 we will crown Queen-elect, Sharon Crisp, at her “One Enchanted Evening” Coronation Ball. This is our biggest event of the year! The Farewell Breakfast will be a buffet on Sunday morning at El Torito on Tulare St.

## Introducing our Queen-Elect, Sharon Crisp



*Introducing Queen-Elect Sharon Crisp.*

I have always loved to dance, even as a child. I was born in Fort Worth, Texas, the first of 4 children. I started Tap dancing at age 14, with my two younger sisters. (My brother had no interest in dancing.) From there I went on to modern dance in Jr. High School. High School included choir and then theater acting. As a child, I became captivated with Ballroom dancing while watching Lawrence Welk on TV.

In 1982, while working as a computer technician, I met my husband, Richard. While he has no interest in dancing, he doesn't mind that I dance to my hearts' content.

I have performed in numerous dance studio showcases and in 2001 was able to compete in the Holiday Dance Classic Dancesport Competition in Las Vegas. That was a dream come true. A few years later I joined Fresno Smooth Dancer's, where I have made new friends and quickly learned about Board meetings, NSD Conventions and all of the different Ballroom dance styles. I especially love the Waltz. My becoming Queen for our Fresno NSD Chapter has long been another dream of mine, and is now, finally, able to come true. My coronation is truly going to be “One Enchanted Evening”. I am so happy to represent my Fresno chapter as their Queen, and to be able to continue to make new

friends.

## Highlighting Our Members

**Editor Linda Bennett** needed to fill space in our March newsletter and was up against a deadline with no time to interview anyone else, so this month's publication features her!

I graduated with a Liberal Arts degree concentrating in music from California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock, married a fellow musician and after living for a year in West Berlin (before the Wall came down) and 14 years in the Midwest, we finally made it back home to California. During all of these years, I managed to keep up my music, always singing in choirs. Eventually finding myself single and my sons grown up, I discovered the fabulous world of dance. I started with group classes and eventually landed at Studio 65 with Pete and Carmen and their popular salsa academy before falling in love with ballroom, studying with Stacy O'Neill and then Mario Moreno. I also taking advantage of group classes at Dianna's Studio of Dance and Ballroom Live. And whenever Dianna could get Teresa Shiry and her LA friends to visit for a Saturday dance camp, I was there! I have been a member of Fresno Smooth Dancers and the Central California Big Band Dance Society for several years.



*2012 Showcase*

Now I am trying to find the balance between singing and dancing, rejoining the Fresno Master Chorale after several years just dancing. I have always worked; for the past 21 years I have worked in the legal field for two different lawyers. I love my work, but am thankful it allows plenty of time for fun!



*Dress Rehearsal for our March 16, 2016 60th anniversary performance!*

In October 2015, I was blessed by the birth of my first grandchild, and a new obsession has taken over! Being a Nana is truly the BEST thing ever!

\* \* \* \* \*

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!!



*Baby Caleb*

# Palomar Chapter

Edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard

Palomar Dancers had fourteen members at the Bakersfield 'Awards', nine of whom competed. Special congratulations go to Elliott and Linda Lum, competing in their first NSD competition and finishing second in the beginners waltz. Don Hubbard and Penny Elliot were second place in the beginner's cha-cha-cha, and Don paired with Darleen Drury to win second in the senior waltz. Darlene won her second trophy with a third place finish in the East Coast swing, dancing with Peter Hanson. The Bakersfield Smooth Dancers were perfect hosts as always.



(Left) Queen Geri Deutsch and husband Fred take time for a 'George Special' at Bakersfield's famous Dewar's Ice Cream & Candy Store!  
(Middle) Peter & Marsa Hansen enjoying the party.  
(Right) Queen Geri & Fred looking very festive for Academy Awards.



Jack & Merilee Ragland celebrate Chinese New Year.

**Our February Social's theme was 'Chinese New Year'.** Keeping with the theme, hosts Sue Takemoto, Mary and Ralph Anderson, Miriam Mozes and Marian Semler provided a delicious Chinese dinner through Panda Express. The action started with an excellent Rumba lesson by Irina and James Friedoff. Jack and Marilee Ragland were the best-dressed couple in keeping with the theme. Marilee wore a smart Eastern silk pajama outfit. Jack's attire included colorful ethnic pants, shirt and vest, and a Chinese hat complete with a long pigtail. He received several interesting comments on his costume. One of the dancers, of Chinese descent, said, "You look really great Jack, but no one in China has ever dressed that way for 200 years!"

Our March Social had a special feature. Local Professionals, Michelle Madore and husband Scott Piccola presented a fine East Coast Swing lesson, giving the dancers two patterns that were new to most of them. Later in the evening, Michelle and Scott performed a creative and well-executed medley of Viennese Waltz, International Rumba and Paso Doble that thrilled the audience. Michelle is well known to several of the Palomar members and guests, as they are her students at 'Dance Potential' ([www.dancepotential.com](http://www.dancepotential.com)). A nice supper of 'build your own sandwich' with all of the trimmings was provided by Melinda and Joe Leddy, Kelly Kimmit, Gerry Deutsch and

Cathy Lombardi. Peter Hanson provided the music; George Mozes was our Master of Ceremonies.



Palomar NSD sponsored dance lessons at the Vista Senior Center, Monday evenings, continue to improve Palomar dancers' dancing skills and attract potential new members. Instructor Marsha Hanson, ably assisted by husband Peter, announced that the April schedule will continue the March venue of Beginning Fox Trot at 7:00 and Intermediate West Coast Swing at 8:15 PM. "We will offer new dance patterns for both lessons starting in April" announced Marsha, "this will allow new students to begin on an equal footing with those continuing." Both NSD members and people of the community are welcome.

The Palomar Chapter had a wonderful time at San Diego's Coronation this month at their NEW location – Mary Murphy's relocated Champion Ballroom. What a beautiful Coronation and what a dance floor!





# San Fernando Valley Chapter

Edited by Rachel Seward



## And The Oscar Goes To... BAKERSFIELD SMOOTH DANCERS, "Weekend at the Awards!"

It was an award winning weekend at the Bakersfield Chapter's annual dance festival, culminating in the presentation of the Oscar statues to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place dance winners. Congratulations to the San Fernando Chapter for winning 12 Oscars at the Emmy Awards Breakfast.

Our San Fernando Chapter is pleased to announce we had 25 in attendance and took 1st, 2nd & 3rd in various dances. Congratulations to all our competitors!



**The New Dance Venue** for San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers is; 6732 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys, California 91405

**Join us on the first Saturday** of each month from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at our new location in Van

Nuys.

The San Fernando Valley Chapter of Smooth Dancers, known for its high energy, challenging dance lessons, and winning spirit, is now ready to debut its new dance venue. We are excited about moving into our new venue, because it is has a 3,500 square foot floating dance floor, excellent heating/air conditioning, plenty of parking, and when totally renovated, a wonderful ambiance and vibe that will make the most accomplished dancer smile and want to keep coming back.

We are overjoyed to be able to share our passion for dance with even more people and start the next era of dance within San Fernando Valley dance community with a "Grand Opening" dance on April 2nd. The "Grand Opening" will feature two professional showcases, great music by DJ Tom Mendola, and American Foxtrot lesson by Natalia Lind. Our showcase performers Michael Kuka with the Ballroom Entertainment Performance Team, along with an elegant Rumba by Artemi Okunev and partner Erica Arnold are certain to make this a memorable dance evening.

This is a night you don't want to miss!!!

**Did you know?** National Smooth Dancers was founded in 1937 in Los Angeles to preserve ballroom dancing from the advent of "jitterbug". The purpose was to enhance social

dance, promote competitive dance for those who so desire, encourage new dancers and enjoy the art of dancing in fellowship of others who love to step to music. There are currently eight chapters in California who network with the original Los Angeles Chapter. Fresno is the newest chapter, formed in 1985.

**March is a special time of year for the chapter** because it's the month that we renew our memberships. Did you know your San Fernando Valley Chapter currently host a membership of 65?

We send special thanks to every member who has renewed. We encourage members who have not yet renewed to see your membership as a means to not only support our chapter, but you receive discounts on entrance to other local dances (i.e. USA dances, Moonlight on the Bay, etc...)

Every month our chapter strives to make every member feel special, to introduce dance to newcomers, and to leave our members and guests happy and excited for the next dance.

**Speaking of special people**, we are delighted to acknowledge and congratulate Joan Robinson, the Vice President to the State Board of Directors 2016-17. Joan is one of our local stars!



## From our Social Ambassador and Chapter Queen, Leanne Wong:

"I was delighted to represent my chapter as queen, as a dance competitor, as a fan of dance at the Bakersfield festival. Congratulations to all our chapter's participants and to the Bakersfield chapter for a lovely and well-done weekend."

We invite everyone to check out our venue, our [website nsdsvf.org](http://www.nsdsvf.org), and to renew your Smooth Dancers membership.





# Los Angeles Chapter

Edited by Chuck and Susan Johnson



about the Los Angeles Chapter closing after the convention was not true! We were genuinely touched with the outpouring of concern and the joy of discovering that this rumor was not true. As Tom said, "we may be small, but we are strong, we're not going anywhere!"



(Left) Queen Susan Johnson and Chuck Johnson make their grand entrance at the San Diego Coronation while (Right) Debby Ku and Victor Lee check out the new dance floor at the Champion Ballroom.



(Left) Sandy and Tom Wells present the convention Brochure. (Right) Tom & Sandy and Debbie Ku and Victor Lee at the Bakersfield coronation.

March started with a visit to San Diego for the coronation of Queen Alberta Valentini. Four couples were able to attend: Queen Susan and Chuck Johnson, Victor Lee and Debby Ku, Tom and Sandy Wells, and Kyle and Jodene Catterlin. It was a fun evening, but the drive home the next morning was in the pouring rain.



Next there was the boards in Bakersfield. What a terrific weekend at the "Awards" with excellent entertainment, great competitions and good music. Another successful dance for Bakersfield.

At the breakfast board member Tom Wells clarified that a rumor that was spreading

The 2016 convention brochure and registration forms were handed out and are now available at your chapter. Or you can visit [www.sdsdwebsite.com/Convention2016.html](http://www.sdsdwebsite.com/Convention2016.html) to download all the information for this year's convention.

We are in full swing preparing for the upcoming convention in Palm Springs September 2-5 and looking forward to seeing you all there.

We had our St. Patrick's day dance at the Elks in San Gabriel with decorations by the Johnson, music by Chuck Johnson and food by Victor Lee.

## IN MEMORIAM

Sadly we have to report that Liz Bradford passed away at the end of February. She was one of the founding members of the LA chapter and instrumental in the success of the club. She was Queen, treasurer, social chair for many years, convention chair, organized many dance weekends in Catalina and for 40 years edited Dance Whispers.





# FREE THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY • JANUARY 15, 2016

TELLING THE TRUTH FOR OVER 11 YEARS!

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 2

## More Free Dance Classes in Sunland

The whirlwind success of last season's hip hop for kids, culminating in a stellar performance of the newly formed Kidz Dance Team at the Sunland Rec Center Holiday Party, has created a rush of enthusiasm for more of the same.

And what's not to like? Exciting music, much needed exercise and a warm, supportive, fun environment combined to enrich our daily lives and connect us with the world of *Dancing With The Stars*. So if you choose to dive into the world of music, movement and friendship, know this: you could end up loving it for a lifetime. And the social aspects could change your life – especially for men. In



*Hannah Murray, Joan Robinson and Rachel Seward are the dance leaders and instructors.*

the world of dance, you are heroes in short supply.

Thanks to the support of the L.A.'s Department of Parks and Recreation, the excitement continues into the

*see Dance, page 9*

### *Dance, from pg. 1*

New Year with not just follow-up classes, but expanded offerings for ADULTS!! Yeah, why should kids have all the fun?

Sunland Rec Center is continuing the hip hop class and merging it into an expanded offering for new kids to join the established "stars" of last year AND also for adults.

Here's how it works: We start off with a fun hip hop zumba warm-up. It's so easy because a voice-over tells you what to do as you do it. There is no prior knowledge or experience required. You start moving to music from the get-go; your heart rate picks up and you start getting fitter, shedding pounds without the grind of an exercise routine. Folks, if you want to

kick off the new year with an upbeat, fun and easy activity, this is IT!

This January, we're adding some swing dancing: you know, those cool moves with a partner that look more challenging than they really are. Our expert volunteers will make sure you get it; if you want to do it, you can do it, it's easy.

Stop by, try it out. IT'S FREE! All you have to lose is a few extra pounds.

Joan Robinson, the program instigator, is waiting to welcome you. All you have to do is show up. Classes are Tuesdays, starting January 12 from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Sunland Rec Center on 8651 Foothill Boulevard.

Come start a new adventure in your life by signing up at the Sunland Rec Center.



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.**

<b>Coronation &amp; Ball: \$75.00</b>	<b>Dress: Formal</b>
5:00 PM Cocktail Hour (No Host)	Ladies: Evening Gown /
5:30 PM Registration	Cocktail Dress
6:30 PM Coronation Ceremony	Gentlemen: Tuxedo /
8:00 PM Dinner	Dark Suit & Tie
9:00 - 11:30 PM Dancing	

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

Please See Reverse Side

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

*Date: Sunday, April 10, 2016*

*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: \_\_\_\_\_



*Visalia Smooth Dancers*  
Cordially invites you to a Coronation Ball

**"A Garden Soiree"**

*Honoring Queen -elect:*

**Wendy Storey**

**Saturday, May 21, 2016**

*Exeter Memorial Building 324 N. Kaweah Exeter, CA*

**6:00 Wine Reception & 6:30 Coronation**

**Honor Dance: Greg and Barbara Uichanco**

*Followed by a Buffet Dinner \$45.00 per person  
(after May 16, 2016, cost will be \$55.00 per person)*

*Black Tie Optional*

**Entertainment: Alex Ortiz & Leah Dickerson**

**Hospitality and Lodging:**

*Best Western, Exeter Inn & Suites*

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

*(There is a strict 3:00 p.m. check in so plan accordingly)*

*Room price is \$99.00 + tax*

**Hospitality: 2:00 - 4:00 at the hotel**

**Queens's Brunch: 9:00, May 22, 2016**

*at Visalia Country Club*

*625 N. Ranch Street, Visalia, CA 93291 - \$26.00 each*

*Mail Reservations (by May 16<sup>th</sup>) to:*

*Margaret Moholt, 2118 Anthony Ct. Visalia, CA 93277*

*Questions? Please call Margaret Moholt (559 636-0643)*

✂

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dinner Choice \$45.00: Chicken # \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian # \_\_\_\_\_

Brunch \$26.00: # \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Fresno Smooth Dancers

*cordially invites you to join us for*

## "One Enchanted Evening"

*Saturday, June 4, 2016*

*Our Coronation Ball for Queen-Elect*

**Formal Ball:**

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



*Sharon Crisp*

*Hospitality 2:00 to 4:00  
at the Social Hall*

**Vendors:**  
Couture New York  
and  
God's Design Jewelry

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

*Hotel Reservations  
Hilton Doubletree  
2233 Ventura St  
559-268-1000  
Group Rate \$119+ tax  
Code: "Fresno Smooth  
Dancers"*

*Farewell Brunch  
Sunday June 5, 2016  
El Torito  
2840 Tulare St  
9:00 am*



*Dance Hosts  
Available*

[www.fresnosmoothdancers.org](http://www.fresnosmoothdancers.org)

*Coronation & Breakfast Reservations - RSVP by June 1, 2016 - Payable to "Fresno Smooth Dancers"*

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

#	Fresno Members	\$45	\$	_____
#	Guests	\$50	\$	_____
#	Breakfast	\$23	\$	_____
	<b>Total Due:</b>		\$	_____

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address or Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_



**Los Angeles National Smooth Dancers  
Proudly Presents**

# **Dancing on Parade**



**Doo Dah  
Parade**

(Friday Nite)



**Rose Parade**

(Saturday Nite)



**4th of July**

(Sunday Afternoon)



**Mardi Gras**

(Sunday Nite)



**Chinese New Year**

(Saturday Afternoon)

**The 2016 NSD Convention  
September 2-5, 2016  
Renaissance Hotel, Palm Springs**

To download the brochure, information and registration forms, please visit or click here [www.sdsdwebsite.com/Convention2016.html](http://www.sdsdwebsite.com/Convention2016.html)