

National Smooth Dancers

Dance Whispers

June 2016



Golden Gate Chapter

Our new queen Emma Steed had a wonderful evening planned for all of us with the theme "The sound of music". As she is originally from Austria, it was very fitting and very beautiful. Her colors were aqua and she wore a gorgeous dress in that color which matched her decorations. Our fabulous caterer Miguel and his lovely wife Angelina provided some incredible food for us at hospitality which was held in the lovely presidential suite at the Crown Plaza hotel in Foster city.

Emma performed a fabulous Viennese Waltz with my favorite teacher Bill Milner and Nadia and Igor Tillinin did a beautiful performance for us and Queen Emma.

Our incredible music team kept the ballroom alive with the sound of music and we danced the night away.

As I did not go to Visalia's coronation you will have to read Queen Emma's report on their coronation in queens reflections.

Much to our dismay our new member Billy Swindle has moved to Palm Springs, but he assures us that he will remain a member in our chapter, come once in while back to San Francisco and for sure will be part of convention in Palm Springs. Well Billy, all the ladies are missing you and dancing with you.



As we do every year a group of us gets dressed up in fabulous hats, the ladies that is, and heads over to Golden Gate race track for the horse races and brunch. The horse races were fun and being on a Sunday everyone was more relaxed. Elena made \$17.40 -as her return for the only \$2.00 bet, and she decided not give up her day job.

It was fun to dress up and put on these crazy hats. We were told how glamorous we looked. Rita Steed did a great job

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



organizing everything.

We love seeing Barbara and Ben Cardinally at the dances, now there is a devoted husband, wow! And speaking of devoted husbands we are still waiting for the return of Elizabeth and Bill Hage to our dances or meetings and as things are looking up we might get lucky soon and see them back at our family gatherings .

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.



Queen's Reflections



After turning down the request to become queen for 18 years, I finally consented and I had no idea it would be like "that".

From the fabulous luncheon given by Gabrielle and Patrick where all the queens showed up in dirndls and all the guys were in lederhosen, to the actual coronation, it has remained to feel like a dream.

I could never have done without the support from our chapter and all the help given to me by Amy Ansaldi and Rita Parma, I did not expect and could have never done without. Everyone was incredible and I will never know how to thank them all. The evening went without a hitch, even dancing with Bill Milner, my fabulous teacher, and the incredible performance by Igor and Nadia Tillinin went as smooth as one could hope for. I am ever so grateful for all of it. And, I could not have done it with out the help of my sweet daughter Rita, who helped with all the decorations, with my dance as well as being my moral support system.

I look forward to meeting all my sister queens along the road of the queens, getting to know you, and making new friendships along the way.

- Gratefully yours, Queen Emma Steed



Queen Emma of Golden Gate chapter reflects on Visalia's coronation

This was my first trip as queen down the highway of the queens (highway 5) to Visalia. I was very nervous about the whole thing but when I entered hospitality I found a profound and warm welcome from all the other queens and escorts. By the time coronation commenced, my nerves had settled down with Carl Chesbrough escorting me, and I had a great evening. Now I am looking forward to the next coronation in Fresno.

- Queen Emma



edited by Melody Mar



Visalia Chapter



candles and green netting. The arch was also in green netting with white peonies reinforcing the garden theme.

The evening festivities began with a wine reception. The wine was selected by Tom Giampietro who poured along with Sue Giampietro, Karl Richards, and President Jerry Bailey.

Visalia's Queen, Debbie Renfro, led the Queen's procession of beautifully gowned visiting Queens carrying flower nosegays. Making the procession even more special were grand-daughters Olivia and Taylor Storey carrying the crown and flowers. My husband Paul and I came last.

Queen Debbie placed the crown on my head, and my reign had begun. Our waltz, choreographed by our instructor Dan Goss, was nerve wracking but fun. It was followed by a waltz with current and past queens joining us, when everyone had taken the floor, it was a vision of beautiful, swirling, graceful movement.



Three star Champions and friends Barbara and Greg Uichanco performed a beautiful and joyous Viennese Waltz, which left everyone in awe. I felt so honored by their beautiful dance.

Dinner, catered by Happy Cookers, was delicious with chopped salad, fork tender chicken breasts with mushrooms, pilaf, baked yams, chilled asparagus with Hollandaise sauce, quinoa with black beans, all followed by strawberry pizza.

The dancing began with a waltz. The music, by music man extraordinaire Greg Uichanco, was a happy mix of traditional and contemporary. Couples crowded the

Garden Soiree by Wendy Storey

Many of my happiest memories were made in a garden. As a child, I played with my friends in our garden. I joyfully married my husband Paul in a garden. Now we enjoy our beautiful valley evenings relaxing and sipping wine in our garden. Naturally, I choose a Garden Soiree as my theme. I wanted an evening full of flowers and happy memories.

Everyone seemed ready to have a great time, and we did!

Hospitality was a noisy and friendly affair with guests visiting friends and enjoying delicious food and strawberry Margaritas. Thank you Sally Bailey, Carol Abeyda, and Linda Guttierrez for making everyone feel so welcome.

The hall was decorated in green and white with hanging lanterns, botanical prints, white hydrangea pots on the tables, the stage decorated with pots, plants, flowers, topiaries, lanterns,



Queen's Reflections



floor, enjoying the energy that seemed to flow in the room. Upping the energy level, were our Entertainers Tom Hicks (past American Champion), Leah Dickerson, and Sharon Benis. Tom and Leah did a fun foxtrot/swing, a very, very high energy Charleston, and a steamy cha cha. Sharon and Tom did a beautiful waltz. It was a joy to watch them. Then we danced and danced and danced until sadly the evening came to an end. But still, people milled around, continuing to visit, seemingly unwilling for the evening to end.



But it wasn't over yet. We gathered for Brunch on Sunday morning to honor our outgoing Queen, Debbie Renfro, at the Visalia Country Club. After a delicious meal, lots of thank yous and hugs, it was time to say goodbye.

This Coronation weekend, I made friends and memories I will cherish always. I look forward to seeing my new friends and making many more as I begin my year as Queen for Visalia Smooth Dancers.

A letter of thanks from Past Queen Debbie Renfro

The past two years that I've served as VSD Queen has been an amazing experience and so I'm grateful for all of the support I've received. This past year has been particularly challenging for me and I need to thank a few people for helping me. Bob and Maria Helm took me to the San Fernando Valley Coronation and gave me a lot of moral support. Shane and Myra Neilson were wonderful, Shane was my escort twice and they drove both times, even renting an SUV so I would be more comfortable, so incredible. Paul and Wendy Storey attended most of the coronations this spring and Paul was my escort twice, I really appreciated their company. Special thanks to Margaret Moholt and Carol and David Bixler who have been so supportive and encouraging. Carol, I won't forget washing that huge pile of dishes!

Carolyn and Karl Richards were the driving force behind my last coronation and last fall they spent hours talking to me when I was thinking about stepping down as Queen. Thank you for being there for me and I'm so glad I continued. I discovered that I had missed out on befriending a group of single ladies who are remarkable and I'm richer for getting to know them.

Lastly, I want to thank my daughter Melody Mar who has been my rock and though she didn't get to wear a tiara at my coronations she's still a princess!

I'm so happy that Wendy Storey is our new VSD Queen, she was a joy to work with planning for her Coronation and I know that she will be an amazing ambassador for NSD.



Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



Monthly Socials

April. Linda Bennett hosted “Rodeo Time” on April 17, 2016. Sheila O’Connor filled in for Hugo Villanueva, who was off competing, and she taught a fun Rumba pattern. The rest of the afternoon was spent dancing to a mix of traditional ballroom and country tunes played by David Morgan, including, of course, the Electric Slide and a special tribute to Linda’s favorite band, the Eagles, in memory of Glenn Frey. Colorful Gerbera Daisies were set inside cowboy hats lined with red bandanas, and served as both the centerpieces and door prizes. We had a good turnout and a very fun time!

May. On Sunday May 15 Sharon Crisp hosted the “May Flowers” Tea Dance. Dan Goss taught Cha Cha and Jim Escobar played the music.



(Left) Queen-elect and May's dance host, Sharon Crisp.
(Right) Members Lorraine Tilton and Stell Loue



(Left) Members Queen-elect Sharon Crisp and Shirley Pietrzyk with Dan Goss
(Right) Members Jim and Jan Mitchell

Coronation. On June 4th we will crown Sharon at her “One Enchanted Evening” Coronation Ball, an elegant evening with dinner, dancing, and entertainment. The farewell Breakfast will be a buffet on Sunday morning at El Torito on Tulare St, and everyone is welcome to attend.

June. On the FOURTH Sunday in June, the 26th, Alicia Criado will host “Graduation” with Hartune Neffian playing

music. Guy Ashby and Katherine Page will teach Argentine Tango.

Highlighting Our Members: David and Jennifer Morgan



David and Jennifer Morgan

David and Jennifer met in Fresno in 1979 at a church function. David hails from Del Mar and was a real surfer dude back in the day. He attended Cal Poly and UC Davis, receiving his degrees in soil science and plant pathology. Jennifer was an army brat but claims Fresno as her home base. The two were married in 1981 and subsequently raised six children, three of whom are adopted siblings from Russia. David said of the three adopted children,

he and Jennifer were motivated in part by the admiration he feels for his Ukrainian grandfather and the stories he told about life back there. They have three boys and three girls: Jeff, Rebekah, Laura, Alexander, Alosha and Anya. So far they have no grandchildren.

David works at the Parlier Field Station for UC Davis, specializing in plant diseases, specifically nut crops. Jennifer is a domestic engineer, but also teaches private English composition classes for teens. Her hobbies include quilting and cooking, and she has great vision for selecting unique themes and creating beautiful decorations for our Sunday events!

David cycles and backpacks, and his goal is to hike the entire 212-mile John Muir Trail. He has only the middle section to complete and hopes to do so with his oldest son sometime in the next couple of years.

David and Jennifer also grow roses, owning 80 rose bushes!

When asked why they started dancing, David responded that they were looking for a hobby the two could share together. And they are serious about this; despite less than two years into their dancing they began performing in Dianna’s showcases!

David serves on the Fresno Smooth Dancers’ Board as treasurer, and when he is serious about something he will study it in depth. He watches and practices with dance videos during his lunch hours! That’s dedication!

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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 for flyers. We would love to see you there!!

Los Angeles Chapter

In early April we had our “Bunny Hop” dance with decorations of bunnies and chickies on the tables by the Johnsons, delicious ham and scalloped potatoes by Robert Quan and Frances Solano, with music by Tom Wells and well attended. Due to a prior commitment our Queen Susan was unable to attend the Golden Gate coronation, so Queen Sandy represented LA. We greatly appreciated her filling in.



(Above) Debbie Ku and Victor Lee and the rest of the chapter practice the “Moves Like Jagger” line dance, one of the complimentary line dance lessons to be taught at this year’s convention.

(Right and Below) Members enjoy a Waltz mixer during the April Dance.



In May we had our “Cinco de Mayo” dance with decorations of hats by the Johnsons, Tom Wells’ famous Texas chili (with optional hot sauce, aptly called Texas Wildfire by Tom!) and homemade chocolate chip cookies by Sandy with music by Tom Wells.



edited by Chuck and Susan Johnson



Tom Wells with new members, Yueh-shen and Doug Failing.

During our May business meeting we were pleased to welcome two new members, Yueh-Shen and Doug Failing. We look forward to their participation in all our dancing fun.

For those who might not have noticed, we have revamped our website through the dedicated efforts of one of our newer members, Vic Herzfeld. We also established a new website location at www.LosAngelesSmoothDancers.com. Any bookmarks you have made will redirect you to our new web address. We would recommend that you visit and bookmark our new site. Tom Wells will be working in conjunction with Victor to keep the website up-to-date. Please give us a visit and let us know what you think. Thank you Vic and Tom.

Four of our members, Queen Susan and Chuck Johnson and Victor Lee and Debby Ku, attended the coronation of Wendy Storey in Visalia on May 21. We enjoyed a delicious catered dinner and a lovely brunch at the country club the next morning.



IN MEMORIAM: We sadly report the passing of Don Russell just before his 97th birthday in May. He passed away peacefully at home, and a very nice Memorial was held May 7th with many of his family speaking.



(L-R) Ken and Betty Chung, Marion and Ken Scholtz and Yueh-shen and Doug Failing enjoying dancing at the Cinco de Mayo dance.

2016 National Smooth Dancers Convention

September 2 - 5, 2016

Palm Springs Renaissance Hotel, Palm Springs

Friday, September 2, 2016



The Doo Dah Parade Dance - the fun begins

Prepare for an evening of zany fun in the spirit of the Doo Dah Parade. In the words of one of the founders of the Doo Dah Parade, Peter Apanel, "Whatever we did it would have to be just the opposite of what the Rose Parade does. They have a theme so we would have no theme. Since none of us would be allowed in the Rose Parade, we would allow everyone in our parade."

They called it Doo Dah.

Doo Dah means many things to many people ~ perhaps, a little something different to everyone. Wacky and weird? Sublime absurdity? Rite of reversal? Twisted sister of the Rose Parade? Probably all the above!

But what is the fun of no prizes? Come with yourself or other crazies and win Doo Dah prizes. There will be anonymous judges chosen from the different chapters observing all dancers to see who embodies the zany fun that the Doo Dah Parade is known for.

Our Jack & Jill competitions will begin this evening.

Saturday, September 3, 2016



The morning begins the first of the four dance seminars that will be available throughout the weekend. The Gavel Club BBQ will be today. Then afternoon dance seminar followed with our afternoon dance; **Chinese New Year Parade Dance**

The grandest annual event for Chinese people, when whole families are reunited. Remember - we are all family!

The dance will mark the beginning of our dance competitions and an other Jack & Jill competition.

A complimentary Ballroom Line Dance lesson immediately follows the dance.



Saturday evening is the formal affair; **The Rose Parade Ball and Coronation**. Come dressed to impress!

America's New Year celebration, a salute to the community spirit and love of pageantry, held in Pasadena for more than 100 years.

The glamorous evening of pageantry and dance will include the continuation of our dance competitions and professional entertainment.

Sunday, September 4, 2016

The third and fourth dance seminars will be held today, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Today will also be the Crown Circle Champagne Luau.



The afternoon dance is the **4th of July Parade Dance**.

The birth of American independence, celebrated with fireworks, parades, concerts and family gatherings. Come show off your Red, White and Blue.

This festive dance will include the continuation of our dance competitions and another Jack & Jill competition.

A complimentary Ballroom Line Dance lesson will immediately follow the dance.



Sunday evening will bring us to the **Mardi Gras Parade Ball**. This is a perfect affair to wear your finest purple, green and gold. This exciting event of revelry and dance in New Orleans evokes romance and magic with a masked ball for high society.

The culmination of our dance competitions and more entertainment from our professional dancers will add to the festivities of the evening.

Monday, September 5, 2016

Monday will bring us to the end of our dancing party with the traditional Farewell Breakfast where we will enjoy the 2017 Convention Presentation by Golden Gate Chapter. This morning we will have the presentation of Gavel Club Award and the presentation of the Dance Competition Trophies.

We hope to see you there. Remember that the package price plan prices go up after June 15th, so get your registration in as soon as possible. All information and forms are on the website at:

<http://www.losangelessmoothdancers.com/2016-nsd-convention/>

Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard



Our April Social was the “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party” and this produced many interesting costumes. In keeping with the theme, hosts Penny Elliot, George Plante, Christiane Lannes, Ann and Tom Mauro, Carol Milne, and Alicia Sanchez produced a ‘Tea Party’ make your own sandwich bar. Dance instructors Irina and James Friedhof introduced a basic Samba lesson and will continue this through May. These lessons are in conjunction with Marsha Hanson’s Palomar NSD Monday night Samba lessons which have produced some smooth Samba dancers!

cake completed their celebration.

Our other special event at the May Social was performances presented by dance teachers Michelle Madore and Scott Piccola who performed with students from their Carlsbad studio Dance Potential. Two ladies performed with Scott, the gentleman with Michelle and the students showed how well they could perform with only a few months instruction. Lots of dancing completed the evening.



Mad Hatters Jack & Merilee Ragland and Joe & Melinda Leddy.



Thanks go out to Michelle & Scott for entertaining us!



2. Mad Hatters Jack Ragland and Linda Lum

The May Social’s theme was ‘Guadalajara Nights’ and hosts Bobbi Selvig, Steve Gronke, Iara Gregory, Dee Landers and Vern Mack created a typical festive Guadalajara meal of homemade enchiladas, rice and beans, a nice green salad and homemade flan for a wonderful fare. Two special events enriched the pleasure for the evening.

Ralph and Mary Anderson celebrated their **70th Wedding Anniversary**, and presented the audience with a graceful ‘Anniversary Waltz’. A beautiful

Who is traveling the world these days besides Carol Milne & Glenn Thomson?! Yes! George and Miriam



George & Miriam Mozes cruising – posing with students.



Mozes have been on a adventurous European trip. First leg on Royal Caribbean from Tampa to Barcelona (15 days) teaching ballroom dancing, second leg from Barcelona to Monte Carlo, Rome, Naples, Catania and Venice (7 days) and literally on foot in Venice (4 days), Florence (3 days) and Rome (4 days) were they walked their feet off and lost some pounds. They had a great time enjoying teaching on the ship and marveling at the beauty of European architecture, art and culture.

SAVE THE DATE
Reminder: Our Coronation date has changed to October 8th.



Now and Then - Congratulations Ralph and Mary, who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at the May Social.

San Fernando Valley Chapter

edited by Rachel Seward



San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancer Happenings

Sharing the Joy of Dancing: It's been an eventful and exciting two months for our chapter! The new Hollywood Dance Academy has been at center stage of our enthusiasm and we couldn't be happier!

Here's a little update on why this is our favorite dance studio: The Hollywood Dance Academy was only created to support the gift of dance; the floating dance floor is open, large, and the focal point of the studio; the ambiance is nice, and our dances have a renewed momentum; the guest and member attendance has increased; the studio continues to host dances with discounts to our members; we continue to receive positive reviews and compliments about the studio; most importantly, everyone's dancing has improved at the new studio.

Come and dance with us on the 1st Saturday of each month – the gift of friendship awaits you!

Welcome New Members: We are excited to have you as a new member and look forward to your involvement; Indra Ahuja, Pam Au, Cindy Blindt, Dawn Charlton, Barbara Peters, Irene Smith, John Woodruff, Teiko Yamada, Nelson Zetino

Meet Our DJs: There is more to hosting a dance than just putting the music on and walking away. You need a DJ to keep the energy and enthusiasm up!

Our DJs play a key role at every event – to make our dances incredible!

But how do they do it? Is it magic? Do they have a special playlist to give us the best dance music?

Here's the short list of their keys to success: they are courteous, flexible and fun; they know how important ballroom dancing is to our members and to our guests; they are dancers too, so they know what kind of music is needed for a successful evening; they have a good sound system and the skills to use it.

Awesome music provided by our DJ Team plus our new dance studio is a winning combination.

With special thanks, San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers gives three cheers to: Lady DJ Jane Hammond (Sorry guys, ladies first), DJ Mark Emanuelli, DJ Tom Mendola

(Look for our introduction of our fabulous dance instructor in the next edition of Whispers.)

Dancers With a Passion for Their Community:

The Dance Now Formation Team is made up of eight members from our chapter. They are all very talented, and contribute above



and beyond to our chapter's success. Their dance team was formed a little over a decade ago, out of their love for ballroom dance and the desire to perform as a team.

These retired, young-at-heart and talented amateur ballroom dancers bring joy to senior community centers, schools, nursing homes and various private dance club parties in Southern California and Las Vegas. And to everyone's delight in 2012, The Dance Now Formation Team made their performing debut in Honolulu, Hawaii.

DANCE NOW Formation Team Members: Frank Trapp & Keiko Isshiki, James Gutman & Andrea Gutman, Bill Morey & Gee Gee Barden, Bill Steeber & Barbara Greenlaw

Relocating a dance studio and remodeling a building are enormous tasks that can't be done alone. Yelena Shchukateva, owner and manager of the Hollywood Academy Dance studio, gives Joan Robinson a BIG hug and thank you for the many volunteer hours of marketing and other support over the past few months. "I could not have done it without her..." says Yelena.

We Can All Make A Difference - The possibilities are endless when you volunteer!

Social Ambassador and Chapter Queen, Leanne Wong:

The magical journey of being your chapter's queen took me to two Royal Coronations. One in San Francisco where the hills were alive in April with the "Sound of Music" coronation honoring Emma Steed, and the other in May where all the spring flowers were in full-bloom at a "Garden Soiree" coronation honoring Wendy Storey.

I am experiencing a wonderful year as your San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers Queen. John and I enjoy the sights and sounds of each city we visit and meeting each Queen and Queen elect and getting to know members of the their chapters continues to be a delight. We are creating memories and moments never to be forgotten.

To the Red, White and Blue – Memorial Day 101:

Take a break from the fireworks and hot dogs this Memorial Day to share some of the holiday's history: Memorial Day originated as Decoration Day after the American Civil War in 1868; the first national observance of the holiday took place on May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery; in 1922, the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the United State (VFW) adopted the red poppy as the official memorial flower; Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service, and typically marks the start of the summer vacation.

Upcoming Fun! Get These Future Dates On Your Calendar: June 4th, July 2nd, August 6th. Make room for more dancing at the NSD 2016 Dance Weekend, September 3-6 in Palm Springs!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our April "Grand Opening" and our May Cinco de Mayo celebration. We also give a BIG 'Ole to DJ Tom and DJ Mark (he also was our substitute dance instructor for Cinco de Mayo) and to David Moutrey and Lee Mei Wang for their fabulous dance lesson at our spring dance in April.

We wish a very happy and safe summer to everyone.

San Diego Chapter

edited by Mark Chapman



On May 21, Mary Murphy “officially” opened her new Champion Ballroom with gala performances and a black tie event themed “Great Gatsby.” To begin the party, Mary and her all-“flappers” formation team performed a razzle-dazzle Charleston number that set the tone for the entire evening. We then enjoyed a wide variety of professional and pro-am ballroom numbers including Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep, Argentine Tango, Bachata, Salsa, Lindy Hop and many more. There was even a Cabaret number that was truly breathtaking. Between performances there was ample general dancing to get people up and moving on the floor. Two of our SDS members were included in the “call backs” as top pro-am performers from the afternoon Showcase to perform again in the evening: Sandy Long with Jason Rivers and Jacky Yu with Olga Ginsberg. We all wish Mary continued success as she expands her dance programs and lesson offerings in her new and more luxurious studio.

Chuck DiSessa and Cathy O’Harra will be performing in San Diego Follies’ 2016 production, “TIME WARP,” next month, June 16th through 19th. They will have a solo foxtrot and will be in several group dances; Chuck also has the singing lead in “Shout” and “Mr. Roboto.” Come see them do the Time Warp again! This year the Follies will be at the new performing arts center at Helix High School in La Mesa. The show is a thoroughly entertaining vaudeville style, professional quality, musical variety production. Tickets for this year’s production may be purchased on-line at CCTSANDIEGO.ORG; just click on the Follies square and get all the information. Or call the box office at 619-588-0206. Go once, and you’ll never want to miss another show. . .it’s that enjoyable!

Our San Diego Chapter Sunday evening Dance Class performed a Tango and a Samba at our May social. It seemed to be effective in promoting the class, as we saw new people at dance class the following night. We’re thinking of “strutting our stuff” at future socials and hope to increase class interest through a variety of other venues.

[Thanks to Linda Hammerton, Al Folkman, Cathy O’Harra, Chuck DiSessa, and Shirley McCloskey for contributing this material.]

Songs My Daddy Sang: An Appreciation

Liz Tarnove Reflections

“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.” - Mark Twain*

There must be something especially arrogant about the age of 14. When I was 14, I couldn’t bear the songs my dad used to sing. Out loud. In public. So out of date. So uncool. I cringed and pretended I didn’t know him.

By 21 I was still not fond of his habit of singing aloud in public, but more tolerant of this personality quirk. He did have a nice tenor singing voice even if I didn’t always agree with his choice of music.

Fast forward by a few multiples of seven years and I was introduced to ballroom dance. I won’t say it was love at first sight--frustration would be a better description of that first experience since I quickly realized to my great mortification that the vintage dancing I had been learning for years bore little resemblance to the ballroom dances I was tripping through at my first Smooth Dancers social.

But I was intrigued.

And so began the lessons. Large group lessons. Private lessons. Smaller group lessons. Membership and group lessons with the Smooth Dancers. My first participation in a ballroom dance performance team. More group and private lessons.

But, besides providing a convenient funnel for my disposable income, learning ballroom dance has had some interesting side effects:

- I walk taller, even when I’m not dancing.
- I’ve learned to appreciate the art of accessorizing and bling.
- I practice dance steps behind the shopping cart at the grocery and down the hallways at work.
- And I find myself not only dancing to but actually listening to and purchasing tunes my dad used to sing.

Dad’s been gone for six years now but, if he could see me, I know he’d be laughing his head off. He always did have a keen sense of humor.

He was my first, and most patient, dance partner. When I was little, he would dance me around the kitchen with my feet on top of his. No other partner has ever encouraged me to step on his feet.

He could get me to giggle uncontrollably when he led me into a “dip.” (To my credit, I got over that!)

The Baby Boomer who once blasted the Beatles on her stereo now has Harry Belafonte, Perry Como, Doris Day, and Frank Sinatra loaded on her iPod. (Though I have to admit I was delighted to discover I could do the cha-cha to the Beatles’ “Drive My Car” or a rumba to “And I Love Her”)

Dance can bring many changes to one’s life. And an unexpected benefit of my ballroom dancing journey is a belated appreciation of my dad and the songs he used to sing.

**Factoid: Mark Twain’s father, an attorney and judge, died of pneumonia in 1847, when Twain was only 11.*



Bakersfield Chapter

As I try to get my thoughts together to write this next dance whispers, I like to come out to my backyard patio as oftentimes it helps me to concentrate. I glance around my yard and my eyes land on my young walnut tree that last year had one walnut on it and this year has three! I have also found myself watching a "mama" bird that decided to build a nest for her babies in the eaves of my patio. I'm amazed at such a simple pleasure in life that can make one smile; when you add to that the joy we all get from dancing, I think we can all say "Life is good!" This of course leads into the subject of our June dance, with the theme "June Bug"! What could be more fun and exciting! This dance is being chaired by Rick Gatewood, Barbara Norcross and several members of the club. Members are encouraged to dress like a bug as there will be prizes. Otherwise the dress can be casual. This dance is scheduled for June 25th and is being held at Riverlakes Community Center, 3524 Riverlakes Dr. It takes place from 6:45-9:45pm. As always, members are free, guests are \$15 for singles, \$25 for couples. I hope all of you can



join us for this very pleasurable evening!

Our May dance is our annual Queens dance that honors our past and present Queens. The theme was 'Celebrating our Queens' it was chaired by Dorothy Vaughan

and Kay Boyer. This dance was semi-formal.

Kay chose some wonderful table decorations of lime green and light pink flowers in a lime green vase and white tablecloths. Lime green and white being our chapter colors, the room was lovely!



Helen Pavich, our 1982 Queen, was in attendance at the annual Queens Dance.

Dennis Acosta played our music for us and Steve Peterson was our master of ceremonies. There were eleven of our queens who participated including long time member Helen Pavich our 1982 queen. Each queen had worn her tiara and carried a long stem lime green rose as they were escorted onto the dance floor and introduced according to the year they served. They were then seated in their special places of honor and

treated to a wonderful dance performed by Queen Claudine Kephart and Jim Kephart.

During the evening past Queen Susan Salvucci presented our new reigning Queen JoAnn Georgio with the Queens perpetual trophy, which is hers to keep and enjoy for the next year!

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



Our May dance is also when we present to a well deserving member the Gretchen Garretson award. This year that honor went to our reigning



During the Queens Dance, past Queen Susan Salvucci presented our new reigning Queen JoAnn Georgio with the Queens perpetual trophy, which is hers to keep and enjoy for the next year!



JoAnn Georgio was awarded the Gretchen Garresen award, presented to her by past president Steve Peterson.

queen JoAnn Georgio! Congratulations JoAnn your name has been added to a long list of well deserving recipients but none any more deserving then you!

At this time I want to again thank my committee who helped make this dance successful and for those members who pitched in to help that weren't necessarily on the committee! Thank you! Thank you!

Our April dance hosted by Steve Peterson and Rose Peterson was a birthday celebration. The theme was Happy 52nd Birthday, and was in honor of our chapters 52nd birthday! All the decorations were in the birthday party theme. Everyone attending had a good time. What's not to enjoy when there is dancing involved?

Here is a special welcome to new members: Jose Chavez, Louis and Ellen Teopengco, Donna Jenkins, David Seibth, Aton and Lynn Stevens and Rob Custer. Really want to enjoy your new club, get involved, and volunteer to help on a committee; it's a great way to make new friends!

Congratulations to Sue and Phil Kimbrell on their newest grandchild. I know where Sue will be this summer!

At this time I also want to offer our Chapter's prayers and condolences to Steve Peterson and his family on the recent passing of his mother.

Los Angeles National Smooth Dancers Invites you to join us for Dancing on Parade



NSD CONVENTION 2016
Package and Ticket Registration

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

ORDER

QTY PACKAGE

_____	Package Plans @ \$189 each (\$209 after June 15, 2016)	_____
_____	Gavel Club BBQ (Saturday) @ \$20 each	_____
_____	Crown Circle Champagne Luau (Sunday) @ \$25 each	_____
_____	Dance Seminars - Saturday (2 seminars - \$5/ person / seminar)	_____
_____	Dance Seminars - Sunday (2 seminars - \$5/ person / seminar)	_____
_____	Single Event Tickets as shown on reverse side (please place total here)	_____
	Total	_____

Saturday Night Dinner Selection

Fish _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Notes Regarding Special Dietary Needs:

Deadline for Package Plan is June 15th to be eligible for Early Bird rate of \$189 and to be automatically entered into the drawing for a free 2016 Convention package.

Meals will be deducted from any refunds requested after August 15, 2016. No refunds will be made after August 26, 2016.

Make checks payable to Los Angeles National Smooth Dancers and mail to:

Victor Lee, 9902 Howland Dr., Temple City, CA 91780. For questions, call (626) 285-8787 or e-mail VL9902@gmail.com.

An e-mail acknowledgement will be sent within 10 days of receiving your registration. Please contact Victor Lee if you do not receive your acknowledgement.

Hotel Reservations

See separate page for reservation information for the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel located at 888 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA. Tel (760) 322-6000 or Marriott's Central Reservations toll free at (888) 682-1238

NSD 2016 CONVENTION SINGLE EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Individual Event Price	Order QTY	Extended Cost
Packaged Events					
Friday, September 2	5:30 - 7:00pm	<i>Buffet</i>	<i>Available only to buyers of the package plan</i>		
Friday, September 2	7:30 - 11:00 pm	<i>The Doo Dah Parade Dance</i>	\$25	_____	_____
Saturday, September 3	2:00 - 4:30 pm	<i>Chinese New Year Parade Dance</i> with competitions	\$20	_____	_____
Saturday, September 3	6:00 - 11:00 pm	<i>The Rose Parade and Coronation</i> Including formal dinner, professional dance show and competitions.	\$85	_____	_____
Sunday, September 4	2:00 - 4:30 pm	<i>4th of July Parade Dance</i> with competitions	\$20	_____	_____
Sunday, September 4	7:00 - 11:00 pm	<i>Mardi Gras Parade Dance</i> Including professional dance show and competitions.	\$55	_____	_____
Monday, September 5	9:00 - 11:00 am	<i>Farewell Breakfast</i>	\$45	_____	_____
Total of single events purchased (please post the total on the reverse side of this form under the heading Single Event Tickets)				=====	=====

Meals will be deducted from any refunds requested after August 15, 2016. No refunds will be made after August 26, 2016.

SPECIAL EVENTS (Tickets for dance seminars can be purchased at the door)

Saturday, September 3	10:30 - 11:30 am	<i>Dance Seminar 1</i>	\$5	_____	_____
Saturday, September 3	11:30 - 12:30pm	<i>Gavel Club BBQ</i>	\$20	_____	_____
Saturday, September 3	1:00 - 2:00 pm	<i>Dance Seminar 2</i>	\$5	_____	_____
Sunday, September 4	10:30 - 11:30 am	<i>Dance Seminar 3</i>	\$5	_____	_____
Sunday, September 4	10:30 - 12:30 pm	<i>Crown Circle Champagne Luau</i>	\$25	_____	_____
Sunday, September 4	1:00 - 2:00 pm	<i>Dance Seminar 4</i>	\$5	_____	_____

Download all information and forms at:
<http://www.losangelessmoothdancers.com/2016-nsd-convention/>