

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
December 2017



December 10, 2017

Hello Fellow Smooth Dancers,

First things first, I want to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Holiday Season. This time of year can pull us in all sorts of directions, sometimes diverting us from appreciating what is most important: family, friends, service and celebration of life...how ever you choose to celebrate it. With the Holiday Season now upon us another year of dancing will be ending soon. But with any ending, there is always a beginning that follows.

Even though we are near the end of this year, there is still plenty of dancing to do! You can go to Golden Gate's New Years Eve, Eve party on December 30th (p 13) and then do the New Year's Eve Ball at Bakersfield (p15) or San Diego (p14) on December 31st!

Then you will want to kick off the 2018 dancing year by attending the Los Angeles Chapter Coronation of Queen-elect Franci Solano, on Saturday January 20th. Be sure to read Franci's introduction (p5). The coronation registration flyer can be found on page 12.

I also want to welcome the newest addition to the Dance Whispers family of editors, Myra and Shane Nielsen, who has assumed the duties of the Visalia Chapter Dance Whispers editor. Myra and Shane are very active members of NSD. With the passion and perfection they put into their dance competitions, I am sure their contribution here will be enjoyable too. It is a pleasure to have them join the rest of us "in the hot seat"!

I am always impressed to read about all the service that our smooth dancers give; whether it is coordinating and planning dances, creating decorations, compiling and playing the music we dance to, performing for our events, teaching dance lessons, organizing and providing food, etc. If we haven't said it recently... Thank You. We appreciate your efforts and are very grateful you are a member of the National Smooth Dancers family. In this edition it was an even greater pleasure to read about how smooth dancers are also of service to the community at large. I am sure you will find the article from San Diego very inspiring (p6).

As an "extended family" of smooth dancers we also want to remember and support those of us experiencing difficult and trying times. I invite you as you read through this issue of Dance Whispers to keep in your thoughts and prayers the people named, and those unknown, that can be lifted up and supported throughout this Holiday Season.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on the dance floor and at the Los Angeles Coronation.
Never Stop Dancing,

Tom Wells

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
December 2017



Palomar Chapter

FAREWELL QUEEN LINDA LUM!



A few words from Queen Linda...

If you are asked to be Queen – Say Yes!!!!

It seems a lifetime ago that I was asked to represent our chapter as Queen. This year has flown by. It's hard to remember a time when I wasn't either Queen-elect, struggling to learn a routine to perform at the coronation, learning how to organize my life to arrive at the right time in the right place and then as Queen traveling to all the chapters representing Palomar Smooth Dancers. I've been asked how I'm feeling as my time as Queen comes to an end. As I look around at all the past Queens and how they continue to stay involved and contribute to not only their chapters but to NSD and help each new Queen, I realize this is not an ending but a beginning. It's an opportunity to continue to grow as a dancer and supporter of ballroom dancing.

I am sad to see my reign ending but excited to pass on the honor to Marion. My coronation was extra special because our daughter and granddaughter were part of it. I attended 6 coronations. (L.A. did not have a coronation this year and we greatly appreciate that Debbie Kincaid and Michael Mihos were able to attend Bakersfield for us while we were in Hawaii.). I was so impressed by the creativity and attention to detail for each event and inspired by all the wonderful dancers, both amateur and professionals. I sincerely hope that every lady who wishes to be Queen will get that chance to experience this amazing journey.

Marion, I am sure you will have a wonderful time during the next twelve months representing Palomar!

Our Fall Socials were fantastic! Our Halloween night was special with more than one half of the dancers in costume. Competition was presided over by Peter Hanson with balloting supervised by Ann Mauro. When the parade began 30 dancers paraded around the floor showing their special dress. Stella Kanterakis and Don Hubbard won best pair as Cleopatra and

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard



Caesar. Gerry Deutsch won best Lady as Mary Poppins and Elliott Lum, best male costume, was a wild Elvis. Hosts Karen Barcinella, Rhonda Crawford, Don Hubbard and Joanne Potochan prepared tasty snacks and traditional pumpkin pie with festive Halloween table settings.



(Left) "Best Female Individual" costume winner Geri Deutsch.

(Middle) "Best Couple" costume winner Don Hubbard & Stella Kanterakis.

(Right) "Best Male Individual" costume winner Elliott Lum

Our November 'Holiday Social' was a catered affair by Ciao Restaurant. Dancers were elegant in their semi-formal dress. Special entertainment was provided by James and Irina Friedhof doing a spectacular International Rumba, Penny Elliott & Danny Caraza performed their captivating Bolero, Mike Cowlishaw and Carrie Kloss presented us with an amazing combo of Night Club 2-Step, American Smooth Foxtrot & International Foxtrot (Phew!) and Mark & Kao Chapman with their superb Tango/Quickstep routine. Hosted by Marsha & Peter Hanson, Linda & Elliott Lum & Debbie Atherton. Peter was our MC and provided us all with a great song list so we could plan our participation in particular dances ahead of time!

Queen Marion Semler's Coronation was a beautiful affair. The afternoon started with Hospitality at the outdoor patio at the Ocean Hills Country Club, Oceanside, on a beautiful afternoon. Carol Kimmitt and Antonia Quinene chaired a lovely spread that included hors d'oeuvres from special recipes by Stella Kanterakis. After the procession of Queens, Queen Marion and her instructor Mark Chapman, performed a beautiful Queen's waltz. Penny Elliot and Danny Carazo's Honor Dance was a lovely bolero. Entertainment was provided by Peter and Marsha Hanson with an elegant waltz and night club two-step.

A lovely breakfast followed the next morning at Shadow Ridge Country Club.

A FEW WORDS FROM QUEEN MARION SEMLER...

Early this year when I was asked to consider being Palomar Chapter's queen, my immediate thought was no, I could never manage that. Working behind the scenes is much more my style but Palomar Chapter is a real family and their enthusiasm and support eventually convinced me that with their help I actually could do this. It started to become real when I was asked to come up with a theme and music for my queen's dance. I turned to YouTube for inspiration and as soon as I heard Try to Remember by the Brothers Four, I knew I had found my song. From the autumn theme came inspiration for the decorations in jewel tones of red and gold. I want to thank Peggy Lee, Cathy



Queen Marion & her court frolic around the golf carts at breakfast the next morning at Shadow Hills Country Club!



Queen Marion and Mark Chapman performing the Queen's Dance.



Penny Elliott & Danny Caraza performing the Honor Dance.



Peter and Marsha Hanson present us with elegant entertainment!

Lombardi and Lara Gregory for their many hours of work on the lovely arch, table decorations, queens' corsages and their escorts' boutonnières. In July, I was honored to be invited to the Queens' Circle luncheon and it was my first indication of the beautiful sisterhood of this special group of past and present queens.

Weeks turned into months and suddenly it was October already and I wondered if I was even close to being prepared for such a big day. I should have known that my fellow Palomanians are always there for me and from the hospitality to the music, decorations and clean up, they all did an outstanding job, every step of the way. My special thanks go to Geri Deutsch, chairperson extraordinaire, who managed to keep all the moving parts together so beautifully, answered all my questions and kept me on course most graciously. I am deeply grateful and also want to thank Mark and Kao Chapman for their untiring help with my queen's waltz. As the queens and their escorts, looking so elegant and regal, lined up for their entrance to the ballroom, I felt such happiness and joy and so honored to realize that this was all taking place for me. I was overwhelmed by the generous outpouring of gifts and good wishes that came to me. The honor dance was a beautiful bolero performed by Penny Elliot and Danny Caraza and later in the evening we were entertained by Marsha and Peter Hanson who regaled us with a lovely waltz and a night club two-step.

My coronation was most definitely the highlight of my year, I enjoyed every moment of it and I want to thank all of you for participating and making this a very special memory for me. I am looking forward to renewing existing friendships and making new ones during this coming year.



San Fernando Valley Chapter

CHEERS TO FALL & THE HOLIDAYS

I hope that you all may have enjoyed a fall festival or two after the hot summer that we had. While our SFV chapter didn't put on a fall festival, we did host a Ghoulish Gathering October dance, a very fun November Danse Noir, and a royal coronation with a new style.

Welcome – Amy Dinnendahl, Andrea Dale, Ana Meza, Erika Deacon, James Woo, and Bernie & Edna Ellrodt. We are always happy for new members, because you bring fresh energy and new ideas. We invite you to reach out, learn more about Smooth Dancers and get involved. Together, we can have more fun dancing.

It was a Ghoulish Gathering in October... a night of fun for all and all for fun that included special ghoulish treats and great music. We give special thanks to DJ Jane Hammond for her eerie yet entertaining dance music and Natalia Lind for the chilling tango lesson.

Danse Noir...was a like a movie set for our November dance! Our appreciation to DJ Mark Emanuelli and well-known West Coast Swing teacher Bram Morris for their parts in making our November celebration a success!

A Star-Spangled Coronation -By Joan Robinson, Coordinator

We had an outstanding attendance of 86 people at the Coronation on Sunday and over 100 the night before. I would like to thank the Palomar Chapter for being so supportive as to bring 16 members, as well as the Los Angeles Chapter which brought 10.

Will we do it again? It's too soon to know. We did get more participation from other chapters, which was a goal I was trying to achieve. On the other hand, we realized that we could put tables up against the wall at our studio without infringing too much on the dance floor.

Feedback from those in attendance would be appreciated to Joan at joandanceforlife@gmail.com. And, more people may read this report and think about joining us for a weekend in the future. We would like to hear from you too.

Our afternoon reception of food, fun and fellowship was a delight, and I thank Roberta and Les LaZar for their hospitality.

Thanks go to our new Queen, Deanna Stanton, and her partner, Joe Hidalgo. She and I made a pact. If she would go along with my changes, I would be her chairperson. We worked beautifully together. The Coronation was different. It was meant to entertain. In addition to the traditional Queens' Waltz, the queens also performed a Viennese waltz.

Joe was the creator of the flier invitations and the program. Gee Gee Barden worked hard on the registration. Hannah Murray and Rachel Seward helped with decorations. Our ever faithful treasurer, John Wong, ran around, check book in hand, to cover all my damages!

Financially, the Coronation was a success! 'Tis often the case, when you move to a Sunday, that the event can be

edited by Rachel Seward



more elegant and more affordable, and traffic is known to be better than on a Saturday!

Coronation Memories by Queen Deanna Stanton



My coronation weekend truly felt like a Star Spangled Coronation! I was smiling the entire weekend and just couldn't stop! Saturday afternoon started with a reception for the visiting queens and out-of-town guests at the lovely home of Les and Roberta LaZar. Joe Hidalgo and I were delighted to be able to take this time to socialize, relax, and get to know everyone. The afternoon continued late into the evening, when we all met at the Hollywood Dance Academy Studio to celebrate owner Yelena's birthday and honor Queen Rachel Seward. We had a wonderful, exciting night of dancing topped off with a beautiful professional showcase. The third place Professional American Smooth 2017 Blackpool champions, Max Sinitsa and Tatiana Seliverstova, danced a beautiful Waltz and a Viennese Waltz, definitely the highlight of the evening. Everyone participated in a special Electric Slide with Rachel's steps to honor Queen Rachel. It was so much fun and high energy!



Sunday morning started early, with everyone meeting again at the beautiful La Cañada Country Club for more dancing, the coronation ceremony, showcases and brunch. Again, the weather was clear and beautiful. It felt super special and I couldn't stop smiling! The queens were lovely, dressed in their white gowns and wearing their crowns. After a brief rehearsal they all greeted the incoming guests. The processional was beautifully choreographed and executed by everyone. My Queen's Dance was a Viennese Waltz danced to "Planetarium"

from La La Land, and it went smoothly. My teachers, Deborah Perez and Guillermo Ceballos, were present and very proud of our performance. Also in attendance were my Aunt Brenda, Uncle Brian, and Aunt Holly for moral support. Queen Rachel's granddaughter Kristina was my crown bearer and presented my tiara beautifully. After the crowning ceremony I was presented with the Queen's Trophy. What an honor to be included in this special SFV Crown Circle. Joe was even presented with an amusing plaque from Queen Rachel's husband John. That got a smile from Joe. We then had a royal receiving line that was especially choreographed by our Coronation Coordinator, Joan Robinson, and it was executed



beautifully. John and Leanne Wong then performed a Queen's Diamond Honor Dance that was a medley of different dances. Yes, the Queen's diamond was stolen during and returned again by the end of their highly entertaining dance. Then Joe and I led the Queens' Waltz and were soon joined by the other queens present. It ended with the recessional, general dancing with music by DJ Tom Mendola and lots of photos, followed by a

delicious and filling brunch. Before more general dancing we were entertained with showcases, including a traditional Hawaiian Hula dance by Mariel Kammerer, a beautiful Foxtrot by fellow Blackpool amateur competitors, Kimiko Hayashi and Brian Thomley, and a professional comedy showcase performed by Natalia Lind and Gary Franco. Many kudos and thanks to our showcase performers. The day was truly magical, high energy, and exciting for me, and I thank everyone who participated.

There are so many people to thank for making this coronation event so special! We had a large turnout - special thanks to the Los Angeles and Palomar chapters for your strong support, including the L.A. chapter for sharing your monthly dance with my coronation event. Love and thanks go to Queen Rachel and her granddaughter Kristina. Kudos and thank you to Joan Robinson for her vision, time, choreography, organization, taking care of the details, and for being the MC. I think it was very successful.

I am so thrilled to be joining the Crown Circle, and I look forward to a year of fun, adventures, and new friends as I travel and meet with the other chapters as your SFV ambassador of dance. Keep dancing!

Outgoing Queen – Rachel Seward

I had an amazing time this year as your SFV Chapter Queen. My entire experience was welcoming, rewarding and inspiring. It WAS really special to have visited all the beautiful



places and to have participated in the coronations, meeting other enthused chapter members and dancers, and interacting with the queens past and present. I feel very honored and grateful to have had this lovely opportunity.

Cheers to ALL this holiday season!
Rachel Seward, Editor

Los Angeles Chapter

edited by Sandy Wells



Queen Elect: Francy Solano

Francy was born in Japan, the first daughter of a Japanese mother and Italian father who was an active U.S. Army Captain. One of Francy's earliest exposures to dance was when her father took them to Radio City Music Hall. During those days, a movie and dance show was included for a very reasonable price. She remembers so clearly and vividly the smile on her father's face when the Rockettes danced on stage! (LOL!) She joined her father transfixed in this incredible admixture of music and movement --from that point on, she knew without a doubt

that she wanted to dance for the joy!

In exploring her earlier interests in dance, she discovered the joys of ballroom dancing. The feeling was recognizable and renewing. When given the opportunity to re-locate to Southern California, with an extraordinary dance community as an enticement, Francy was ready to move westward. Her Colorado dance teachers referred Francy to Mr. Youriy Pavlov. He was the first person she met here in Los Angeles, and considers him a dear friend and teacher. Many friends were made through the dance connection, but most endearing is Robert Quan, whom she met while he was a beginner in a dance class. She asked him if he would practice with her, and the rest is history!



Please join us for our Coronation on January 20th. Our registration flyer is on page 12 of the Dance Whispers or you can find it on-line at <http://www.losangelessmoothdancers.com/events>.

The LANSD 2017 Year In Review

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all:



San Diego Chapter

Volunteer Spotlight - Written by Frank Lacson

During this time of Thanksgiving and Holiday cheer, here are some examples of volunteering by members of our chapter. This is just a sample of the good works (both public and private) carried out by all. Included are links for more information.

Rebuilding communities: Steve Martsof and Angela Wong

After a career of adventure in the Navy, Steve Martsof has contributed his time, energy and skills to the Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders (FCDR, Inc) - a non-profit that helped rebuild 100+ Katrina-damaged homes plus many others damaged by 5+ subsequent hurricanes. This past July Angela had her first experience accompanying Steve on a one-week rebuild in Denham Springs, LA (30 mi east of Baton Rouge).



Dedication ceremony of a new home, elevated to meet the post-Katrina new flood elevations imposed by FEMA.



Steve (right) and Angela (center) married at the January 18, 2017 at the historic Ranch House Chapel in Camp Pendleton, CA.

The Fuller Center for Housing is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide. By forming partnerships with local organizations, The Fuller Center provides the structure, guidance and support that communities need to build and repair homes for the impoverished among them.

Angela & Steve first met at various social dancing venues several years ago. They enjoyed their frequent dancing but never thought about seeking romantic involvement - that is until Steve asked permission to "court" Angela in January 2016. They decided to become partners in life and on the floor, getting married earlier this year. Angela volunteers along with Steve, ensuring that he stays safe! Please congratulate Steve and Angela at the next NSD event!

For more information, see: <http://fullercenter.org/disaster-rebuilders/>

Dancing without limitations: Karma La Donna and Glenn Thomson

Karma and Glenn are just two of our members volunteering with the Wheelchair Dancers Organization (WDO).

Karma was a ballroom dancer for 17 years and enjoyed performing. With advancing arthritis, she became more and more reliant on a wheelchair for certain activities. With intense dedication, Karma pursued and achieved certification as a wheelchair dancing instructor, while remaining a regular participant in the activities of the Wheelchair Dancers Organization.

WDO's innovative approach pairs wheelchair users ("rollers")

edited by Frank Lacson



with stand up volunteers ("walkers"), providing a powerful opportunity for disabled and non-disabled participants to share the benefits of dance by engaging each of them in inspiring and exciting new ways.



Karma (left) dancing a showcase with Jason Rivers (right), Ballroom Professional (American Smooth Division) and lead instructor for the WDO.

The WDO was founded in 2008 by Beverly Weurding, a life-long dancer diagnosed with Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy. WDO offers free social dance classes for the mobility challenged as an opportunity to experience the ultimate joy and empowerment of ballroom, Latin and Contemporary dance.

In addition to adaptive dance classes and programs in schools and community settings, WDO engages in outreach activities and performs at dance-ability showcases, fund raisers and other special events.

For more information, see: <https://www.wheelchairdancers.org/>



From left to right: Cpl Sonya Gonzales, LCpl Kenneth Vance, LCpl Cole Bacca, Sgy Shantell Limbo. Cindy served as the liaison for our chapter.

Toys for Tots: The San Diego ballroom dance community

The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

The entire San Diego ballroom dance community helped with this effort, as members, non-members, and dance instructors contributed toys and money these last few weeks to the Toys for Tots program.

Two full boxes of toys, as well as a donation from the chapter were presented at our December social and showcase. The Marines even joined us for a few dances!

For more information, see: <https://www.toysfortots.org/>

Bakersfield Chapter

Oh WOW, it looks a lot like Christmas! A lot of my neighbors have their decorations hung already. Presents are being bought and everyone is looking forward to Christmas.

I, as usual, find myself stunned that it is here already! There is always so much to do to get ready for the holidays! But one thing we are ready for, and looking forward to, is our December Christmas dance, 'Come Prance with Me!' Our dance is being chaired by Barbara Norcross and she has a ready team of Christmas helpers standing by!

This event is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th, 2017 from 7:00 to 10:00pm. You can find us at the Riverview Community Center, 401 Willow Dr. This is a perfect time to dress in your Christmas finery! You can add a red nose or reindeer antlers to your outfit if you are so inclined!

During the evening we will be choosing our most improved dancers, this is always an exciting part of our December dance, and something to look forward to!

We are asking our members, if they could, to bring an unwrapped toy for our Toys for Tots drive. This is our 3rd year of sponsoring this program and we are hoping everyone will want to participate!

Also coming up in December our New Year's Eve dance. Steve Peterson will be chairing the dance.

The theme is, 'The Stars Come out On New Year's Eve.' The price is \$55.00 per person. The doors will open at 6:30pm.

This dance marks the first time in years that the three groups, Laf a Lot, Dance steppers and Bakersfield Smooth Dancers will be together.

Dinner will be catered by Hodels with a champagne toast at midnight! This dance will be held at the Women's Club, 2030 18th St. One of the best dance floors in Bakersfield! Call JoAnn Georgio for reservations, 661-304-5284.

Coming up in January 2018, our annual Presidents Ball and it will be chaired by Steve Peterson and our past Presidents! This dance will be held at our Riverview location 401 Willow Dr. The time is 7:00-10:00pm. Members are always free, Guests are \$25 a couple and \$15 for singles. It should be a fun evening, so I hope everyone will join us for this first dance of the new year!

UPCOMING BOARDS:

Plans are coming together nicely for our upcoming annual dance Boards. They are being held the weekend of March 23-25, 2018. I hope you are making plans to attend this annual event.

We will be crowning our Queen-elect, Kay Boyer. This weekend is always a special event filled with dancing, competitions and professional dancers!

Mark your calendars and we will see you March 23-25, 2018. The theme is 'Dancing is Forever'. Wow, I love that James Bond theme!

PAST EVENTS:

Our November dance was chaired by Debbie Cadena and Danny Rangel. The theme was 'Harvest of Friendship',

edited by Dorothy Vaughan



Debbie Cadena, Dave Woodle and Danny Rangel worked to turn our November dance into a wonderful event.

and it was a wonderful dance.

Debbie really went all out with the food served and her beautiful decorations!

A membership meeting was held during the dance and included an introduction of our new officers.

The following is a list of them: President-Steve Peterson, Vice President-Kay Boyer, Treasurer-JoAnn Georgio, Recording Secretary-Lindy Livingston, Social Chair-Wen-Shi Rodriquez, Corresponding Secretary-Debbie Cadena, Membership Chair-Barbara Norcross, NSD Board Member-Ben Wilson, NSD Board Delegates-Steve Rogers, Jeanette Rogers and Susan Salvucci; and our Queen-elect, Kay Boyer.



Marietta and Nelson Tan were our hosts for our Spooktacular Halloween dance.

Our October dance "Spooktacular" was a Halloween dance and it was a lot of fun. It was hosted by Marietta Tan and Nelson Tan and a wonderful committee. It was a fantastic evening! There were several members in costume, and the decorations were 'Spooktacular.' It had great music and great food!

OTHER HAPPENINGS:

On October 22, there were several of our members who took the orange Belt Stage to the Microsoft Theatre to see Andre Rieu in concert. It was a lovely evening which included dinner before the concert.



Golden Gate Chapter

It is with great sadness that I have to report on the passing of 5 of our chapter members in the last two months. You will read more about the details in our "in Memoriam" section. Thankfully two of the couples, Mary and Ray Crosat and Barbara and Ben Cardinalli passed within days of each other, so they could be united quickly and now they can share their husbands on the heavenly dance floor with Donna Rosko who left us in November as well.

We had a fabulous Thanksgiving dance with beautiful decorations by Rita Parma and great traditional food by our caterers.

Now we are looking forward to our December dance on the 10th and our New Years Eve Dance which will be held on December 30th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Foster City. If you go on our website you can find out the details, in case you would like to attend. We do have a special room rate as well.

The fires in the North Bay. Fortunately our Queen Vera Harvey, who lives in Cotati was saved from the disaster as was Janice Snyder, as well as I and Marcia Nelson who live in Sonoma, and Patrick Jude, who lives in Napa. Like so many of the signs put up around town, that said: "The Love in the Air is thicker than the smoke", it was evident from the outpouring of generosity and love, that we truly live in a blessed area, in spite of what happened. Casey, one of the dance hosts we had hired for convention, was not so lucky and lost his home. We are all very grateful to the firefighters and first responders who saved our towns and our lives.



Vince Malta, Elena and Joe Malta's son, was elected to be the first vice president off 2018 of the National Association of Realtors. Congratulations to Vince, his wife and children and to the proud parents.

Queen Vera Harvey coronations report:

Palomar Chapter Coronation 2017 - Although Palomar Chapter's Coronation

of Marion Semler was on October 7, I started my Coronation trip to San Diego on Sept. 28. This road trip with my escort, my nephew, was purposely started early so we could spend days and days just walking on the many wonderful beaches of San Diego County! A few things I'd like to share about my nephew...he is 45, has a wife and 2 beautiful children, a successful career, and a mortgage! However, he's not a dancer. Therefore, so he could be my escort, he took waltz lessons before we left on this trip. (Is that adorable?) While in San Diego before the Coronation, we spent time practicing his waltz in Balboa Park, on the beach, and on the streets of San Diego. At first he was embarrassed, but quickly realized people enjoyed watching so then it was fun!

Marion's reception and coronation were beautifully hosted at the Ocean Hills Country Club, courtesy of George and Miriam Mozes. Our beautiful wrist and finger corsages were so lifelike

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



we all had to touch them to believe they were not real Orchids! Two beautiful exhibition dances by Peter & Marsha Hanson were such a treat! Their waltz was stunning, but their Night Club Two Step to "Remember When" absolutely stole the show!

On Sunday morning, the Queen's Breakfast was well attended and we queens had fun giggling and reconnecting. I love my sister queens and will be sad to not see them as much once I pass the crown to my successor! Ah, but the crown does have to be passed and our Queen Elect is most worthy so this will be good!

San Fernando Valley Chapter 2017 Coronation - Saturday evening, Nov. 11, we were honored to be guests at the birthday dance party of Joan Robinson's best friend and studio owner of Hollywood Dance Academy, Yelena Chsukareva. There were beautiful performances by 2017 Blackpool third place winners in the Professional American Smooth event, Max Sinita and Tatiana Seliverstova. The birthday cake was very large and carried in with candles ablaze by outgoing NSD queen, Rachel Seward.

At 9:30 AM on Sunday, Nov. 12, we were standing ready for rehearsal in full coronation dress when Joan told us that this was intended to be a "fun" coronation! We found out quickly that everything about this coronation was different from what we had ever seen before.

As we entered the dance floor, we were instructed to do a step-touch, step-touch walk across the floor and line up on both sides of the arch. Two chairs occupied the arch where both the incoming and outgoing SFV Chapter queens would be sitting.

Once we did our bows to both sides of the audience and got seated, we then stood back up, formed a receiving line to greet both SFV queens, met up again with our escorts, and danced a Viennese Waltz from one side of the dance floor to the other. This Viennese Waltz came as a surprise to every one of us, including my escort, Tom Wells. Tom looked at me and said, "I don't know Viennese Waltz". I said, "Neither do I. Let's just go have fun with this!" We managed to get across the floor without either of us falling down. Whew!

As Saturday had been Veterans' Day, the Coronation on Sunday morning was a Patriotic Theme. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was sung by all in attendance, the Queens' Procession was to "America the Beautiful", and the Recessional was to the original recording of Kate Smith singing "God Bless America". Joan read a recounting of how Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner", let us know this version of "God Bless America" was the first and original recording of Kate Smith singing this song, and Joan also read the history of NSD before the ceremony was completed.

Deanna Stanton & Joseph Hidalgo's beautiful Queen's Dance was to "Planetarium" from the film "La La Land". John & Leanne Wong performed the honor dance and there were several other performances by other dancers throughout the afternoon.

Queen Vera Harvey - NSD Golden Gate Chapter

Have a wonderful Holiday season with lots of dancing.

As always, dance first, thinking can wait.

Visalia Chapter

Though it is a little late, Visalia Chapter would like to CONGRATULATE Golden Gate for their successful convention. "Kudos to Golden Gate Chapter"



Visalia Chapter celebrated its 42nd Club's Anniversary with a special Dance with the theme: "Waltzing Through Time" on October 21, 2017. The decorations were very creative, good to see the pictures of our members in their ballroom moments of past years.

It was very well attended. The club honored our most senior member, Lilian Lewis, 98 years old and the youngest member, Angela Rozum, who is only 23 years old.

Outstanding entertainment by our own members:

The Visalia formation team, "Viva Visalia", performed their sassy and very entertaining dances.



Shane and Myra Nielsen danced a romantic, expressive story telling waltz which took our breath away.

A surprise performance by Margaret Moholt and Bill Dolan. Bill and his wife Lona have been away for a year from dancing for medical reasons and this was Bill's comeback performance.

Our November Social dance was held on November 11, 2017, with the theme "Thank you to our Veterans". As the theme implies, this dance was dedicated to our veterans. Our club has at least 20 veterans, ranging from WW II to more modern campaigns related to their military service.

edited by Myra and Shane Nielsen



Our club held several beginner dance lessons starting September, 2017 until end of November, 2017 in order to attract new members. The dance lessons are taught by volunteers club members.

Holiday season is around the corner. I'm pretty sure most of you are getting ready for Christmas shopping and looking forward to having family gatherings. We would like to wish you all the happiest holiday season and a great New Year.



Fresno Chapter

Another Holiday season is upon us, already! Fresno members have been busy easing into the spirit of the season in a number of ways: Singing, dancing, collecting toys, donating canned goods, and, of course, shopping! We look forward to capping it off by celebrating together during our annual semi-formal Christmas party on December 10. We will donate toys for a local elementary school, drink champagne together, eat a delicious dinner and enjoy dancing to wonderful Holiday music. It is also the event at which we install our officers for the next year.

November's dance was filled with the sounds of France and the taste of Paris. David Morgan hosted our dance, making sure all



The Fresno Master Chorale performed with the Fresno Philharmonic this past weekend in their annual Holiday concert (Linda Bennett is a member).



Fresno Smooth Dancers
Sunday, January 14, 2018

Tea Dance Format

2:00-5:00

Clovis Senior Center
850 Fourth Street
Clovis, CA

**Winter Dancing in the
Cold January Nights!**

Hosted By: Carla Hartunian

Dance Lesson will be given by Franco Peraza

He will be teaching a Cha Cha lesson.

(Lesson is from 2:00-3:00)

Fresno Members- \$5.00

Music By: Hartane Neffian

Guests-\$10.00



edited by Linda Bennett



details said, "I love Paris...in the Fall." Alex Pereira taught another fine Foxtrot lesson. We were pleased to welcome guests from our sister club in Visalia.

We will help bring in the New Year at our January event, "Winter Dancing in the Cold January Nights," to be held on January 14, 2018. Rei Marquez will teach a Tango lesson.

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!!



Visalia guests joined us for our "trip" to France: Maria Hehn and Carol & David Bixler.



French Pastries for I Love Paris in the Fall.

We wish all our fellow Smooth Dancers safe, joyous and happy Holidays and a fabulous New Year! We look forward to sharing our love of dance with you throughout the year, especially at our 2018 Fresno Convention!

Fresno Smooth Dancers Presents
The 2018 NSD
State Convention

Save the Date



New York, New York

August 31st - September 3rd

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Fresno

In Memoriam



Barbara and Ben Cardinally

Barbara grew up in San Rafael and since her father was assigned as "captain of the guards" at San Quentin, she attended school at San Quentin village. She worked at the Federal Reserve Bank, the Marin Water Districts front desk, solving problems with her disarming smile.

Barbara volunteered during her marriage to Ben at St. Marys Help Hospital for 34 years.

Ben who played Baseball and Football growing up skipped his senior year when being accepted at Stanford University, making the Baseball Varsity team as a freshman.

After college he played a year of professional Baseball in the minor league, then went to work at the San Rafael Military Academy as assistant coach and Math teacher and then taught at the Cleveland Elementary school in San Francisco for 42 years.

They enjoyed their retirement being members of several Social clubs and loved to cruise. Barbara was our corresponding secretary for many years. Ben followed Barbara to the great dance floor in Heaven within a day of her passing. We miss her sweet smile, her impeccable dress and all of Ben's awesome talents of creating and building, but we are so happy they are together forever.



Mary and Ray Crosat

Mary met her best friend Ray, then 13, at her tender age of 11. She married the sweet "boy next door" and they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 2011. Ray retired as a San Francisco Police Sergeant and Mary as a bookkeeper from the San Francisco Giants Baseball team.

Together they had 3 children Kathie, Bob and Raymond, 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. They always loved to dance and were destined to meet Bob and Rosalie at the Verdies club. After being invited to the Golden Gate chapter of NSD they were hooked. Mary was our elected queen in 2005.

They passed away within days of each other and are now united again. We miss Mary's wonderful 4th of July decorations at our dances and personally I miss the most energetic East Coast Swing I had the privilege to dance with Ray many times.

Donna Rosko continued...

invited to her and George's wedding. George was a tall, well built former SFPD officer. They and the Maltas and the Crosats were driving to a dance at one of the Inland chapters, tooling along above the speed limit on a deserted Country Highway when the Fuzz pulled them over. Joe was driving and he turned to George and Ray and told them to get out and deal with the Highway patrol man. We were just behind Joe and we stopped. It wasn't long before the three policeman were laughing and slapping each other and off they went, free of anything but an admonishment from the HP to slow down. Joe had rented a large vehicle to ease the driving and have lots of company". Donna passed away on October 8th and she can now dance again with all the men from our chapter, as well as her late husband, who had gone before her, on the great dance floor in heaven.

We will miss you Donna.

Doris Malstrom, a member and good friend of Rosalie and Bob's also passed away on November 5th 2017.

Sorry, there appears to be no photograph of her.



Donna Rosko

Donna was a long time member of our chapter, Bill Hage remembered the following: "I recall that Donna was single when we first met her. A tall, trim lady who had been a former clothes model. She got together with George shortly after we met her, and we were

All That Jazz!



Coronation of Queen Elect Francy Solano

Saturday January 20, 2018

The Glendale Hilton Hotel 100 W. Glenoaks Blvd.

Glendale, CA 91202 818/956/5466

Hospitality 2:30 pm

Reception 6pm, Dinner 7pm

Presentation of Queens 6:30Pm

Dinner and Dance \$65 Black Tie Optional

Breakfast for two included with room.

NSD rate \$129- Self Parking \$10

Please Detach and Mail. RSVP By Jan 15, 2018 to:

Susan Johnson 1420 Santo Domingo Ave, Duarte, CA 91010

Make checks payable to LA NSD Email Staplers@aol.com

Names _____ Chapter _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Email _____

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

Queen's Breakfast included with room rental

Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc.

Proudly Presents Our New Year's Eve Eve Party

Saturday, December 30, 2017



Crowne Plaza Hotel

1221 Chess Drive

Foster City, California

(650) 570-5700

\$85 per person

Reserve by December 15, 2017

Room Rate \$129.00 Plus Tax, Booking Code (ZGG)

<https://aws.passkey.com/go/GoldenGateDance>

The Hotel's Deadline Date to Secure Your
Hotel Reservation is December 22, 2017

No Host Bar

Cocktail Reception: 6:00 PM
Dancing: 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:30 PM
Dancing: 8:30 to 11:30 PM



To Make Reservations: Please make check payable to "Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc.", \$85.00 per person and mail before December 15, 2017, the stub below with the following information to Liz Talmadge, 759 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080 (telephone 415-265-7063):

Please check choice of entrée and complete the following information and mail with your payment to reserve your tickets for the New Year's Eve Eve Dinner/Dance:

___ Prime Rib
___ Pan Seared Salmon
___ Vegetarian*
* Butternut Ravioli

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Carl Chesbrough, President

San Diego Smooth Dancers Social
Dance Into 2018

**Sunday,
December 31
8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.**

- ★ Dress: Formal Attire
- ★ Light dinner and hors d'oeuvres
- ★ Special entertainment planned
- ★ Music by Rose Madrid
- ★ Noise makers, party favors, and champagne will be provided
- ★ \$50 (NSD Members \$35)

Champion Ballroom Academy
4255 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123

For info call Kay Ryan at 619-994-4303



Reservations strongly encouraged★ Seating/attendance is limited

New Year's Eve Reservation

All checks must be made to **San Diego Smooth Dancers**. Reservations must be RECEIVED by 12-28-17! Absolutely no refunds after 12-28-2017! If you wish to reserve an entire table, you must pay in full and provide the names.

Name(s) _____

Address/City/Zip _____

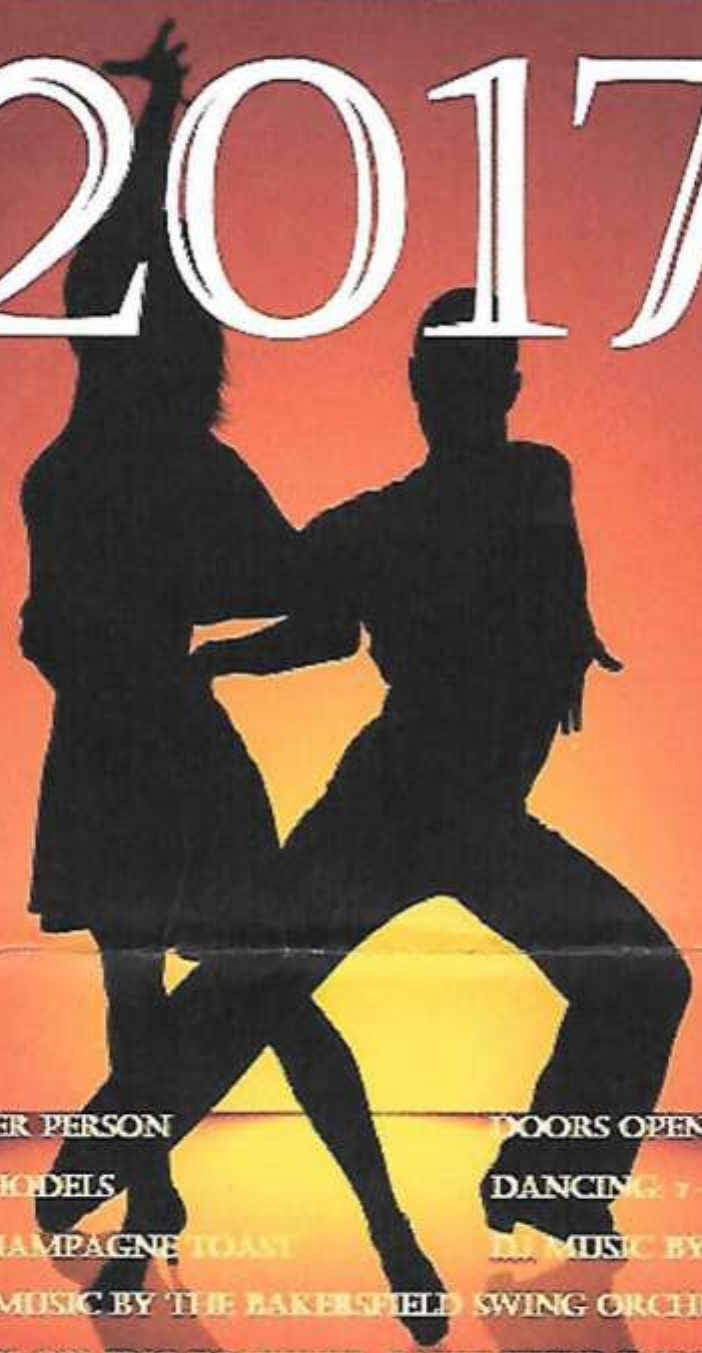
Number of Persons _____ Total Amount _____ (NSD Members \$35 each/Non Members \$50)

Check one: Open seating or Reserve a table of eight

Detach and mail to: Kay Ryan, 4303 Coronado Ave., San Diego, CA 92107

THE STARS COME OUT ON
NEW YEAR'S EVE

2017



COST- \$55.00 PER PERSON

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

CATERED BY HOUELS

DANCING: 7 - PAST MIDNIGHT

MIDNIGHT CHAMPAGNE TOAST

LIVE MUSIC BY THE TARGETS

LIVE MUSIC BY THE BAKERSFIELD SWING ORCHESTRA

THREE GROUPS COMING TOGETHER, BAKERSFIELD SMOOTH DANCERS,
DANCESTEPPERS, AND LAF A LOT. ALL DANCERS ARE WELCOME

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE BAKERSFIELD WOMEN'S CLUB, 2030 18TH STREET

RSVP: At the December 2nd Laf a Lot dance, The December 9th Smooth Dancers/Dancesteppers dance, at any Tuesday night dance lesson, Friday night Grange dances or by calling JoAnn Georgio (661) 304-5284