

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
June 2019



June 16, 2019

Hello Fellow Smooth Dancers,

Happy Father's Day to all the dancing fathers we have! The excitement is starting to build as our annual convention quickly approaches. You will find plenty of information regarding the convention in this issue (pp12-14) or on line at <http://nsdsfv.org> . Also be sure to check out the call for nominations for the Gavel Club Award (p15).

Before Convention though, you can warm up at Palomar Chapter's Coronation on July 13th (p10). You will be introduced to the Palomar Queen-elect (p9), and read about their special May Memorial Day celebration.

You will want to spend some time reveling in the splendor of our Coronation tradition and read about the Visalia Chapter (p3-4) and Fresno Chapter (1-2) coronations. I am always interested in reading about new members. In this issue you will be introduced to six new San Diego Chapter members (p7) along with an interesting interview of Bakersfield's 2018 Most Improved Dancers (p6). You will catch up with the Los Angeles Chapter travelers and have your heart warmed by the photo of a member with her 102 years young dad...just in time for Father's Day!

Looking forward to seeing you on the dance floor.

Never Stop Dancing,

Tom Wells

National Smooth Dancers

Dance Whispers

June 2019



Queen Ruth Galvante

My day started early with all the hustle and bustle of preparation for the evening. My hair and makeup were done by my son's fiancé, Chrisel, who made me look so beautiful. Later, walking into the hall with Carla Hartunian's decorations of red and black roses, gold Eiffel towers, shoes and crowns, made me realize the day had finally arrived. Carla, Queen Mum, had outdone herself once again! Being a newer member of the

it was my turn. With Franco Peraza as my partner, I knew I was in good hands, surprising everyone with my Waltz/Salsa performance. Of course this required a costume change (in the middle of the dance!), which is why we switched the order of the Queen's dance and my dance. We danced to Reflection by Secret Garden and My Cherie Amour.

For my honor dance, Franco teamed up with the beautiful Wendy Ju, who danced an amazing Bolero. This was followed by a delicious, as usual, dinner by the members of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church, and a long evening of dancing. The Salsa group Enchilate entertained us with three sexy performances, and the Armenians in attendance even graced us with a dance!

I had so much fun dancing the evening away! Thank you to everyone who came out to support my coronation and to all who made this magical night possible. A special thanks to Queen Mum Carla who made all the decorations, MC'd the evening and made sure it was a success. Kay Boyer and Jennifer Morgan worked as a team in decorating the arch. Patty Taniguchi and Lorraine Tilton prepared the tables, and David Hailpern was responsible for the golden Eiffel Tower, bringing it all the way from Canada and decorating it with awesome sparkling lights! I am so honored for the opportunity of a lifetime to represent our Fresno chapter as its Queen. I am excited and look forward to making new friendships at each and every chapter. Never Stop Dancing!

chapter, I needed someone to hold my hand and show me the ropes. I received just that from Queens Carla, Jennifer Morgan, Lorraine Tilton and, of course, our State Queen, Lynn Sanders.

Hospitality was fun and delicious! Carla and other Fresno members provided a bountiful spread, complete with a fabulous cake made by my brother, who owns a bakery in Pinole, Good Butter Bakery. Thank you, Paul Llorente! Rehearsal soon began; each chapter's Queen, my daughter, Gabriella, and my sons, Brandon and Isaiah, all took their positions and we were on our way.

Finally, the evening arrived. All the Queens in their beautiful white gowns, with their handsome escorts, lined up with the help of Queen Jennifer Morgan. President Carla welcomed everyone, and Linda Bennett introduced the Queens and their escorts one by one. As I entered, I saw the room filled with smiles and beaming eyes of friends and family awaiting my arrival and cheering me on. My son, Brandon, escorted me around the room and presented me to State Queen Lynn Sanders, who crowned me. Taking things out of the customary order (I will explain in a bit), the reigning Queens were invited onto the dance floor for the Queen's Waltz, soon joined by Fresno's past queens, and then the past Queens from the other chapters. Then



Fresno Chapter

Edited by Linda Bennett



Fresh from Queen Ruth Galvante's Coronation last evening, this editor is warmed by the never-ending love and support we all benefit from by being a member of National Smooth Dancers. We see it in the dedication of Dan and Amy Ansaldi and others who travel great distances to faithfully attend as many coronations as they can; in the many sincere compliments and well wishes of those attending events; and in the hard work and dedication of our own members who come out to put together an incredible evening to honor a special lady. We are blessed to be part of something so wonderful, this little statewide "family" of ours.



Linda Bennett with Salasa instructor Pete Swingle.

Our May event, Salsa!, again this year featured a Salsa lesson by Pete Swingle. Attendance was on the small side due to our crazy stormy spring weather, but those of us in attendance had a fabulous time. Pete never fails, in his patient, gentle way, to get us in the Salsa groove. In keeping with the theme, our host, Linda Bennett, provided appropriate snacks and decorations, and because attendance was light, almost

everyone there went home with a door prize!



Salsa dance class members.

As we have done for the past few years, June's 3rd Sunday dance has been moved to the 4th Sunday so our members can celebrate Father's Day with their families. Nancy Cargill will host Sunday Matinee on June 23, 2019. As everyone knows, Nancy always provides wonderful food, clever decorations and plenty of hospitality. Rei Marquez will teach an Argentine Tango lesson.

On July 21, 2019, David and Jennifer Morgan will host "Dancing in the 1960s". Join us dressed in your best hippie or flower child outfits! Sheila O'Conner will teach an East Coast Swing lesson.

Several of our members performed recently in Dianna's

Studio of Dance Showcase. Fresno Smooth Dancers was well represented by Lori Clanton, Ruth Galvante, David and Jennifer Morgan,



Hartune Neffian, Leslie Rouse and Lorraine Tilton.

Please visit our website for monthly flyers and more information: www.fresnosmoothdancers.org.

www.fresnosmoothdancers.org.

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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 \$10 for members and \$15 for guests. Members from other Smooth Dancers chapters will pay Fresno's member cost of \$10! We would love to see you there!!



Visalia Chapter



The rain was pouring on the night of the coronation on May 18th. The rain did not dampen the mood of VSD's members and guests; it was a pleasantly delightful event. Carol Bixler was crowned 2019 Queen of Visalia Smooth Dancers. Inspired by her love of gardening and flowers, her theme, "A Floral Fantasy" was well represented by a collage of colorful flower arrangements on the tables, the stage and at the royal court arch. Overall it was a wonderful weekend events,

Congratulation Carol Bixler!

Visalia's Smooth Dancer's Coronation

By Queen: Carol Bixler

In spite of the blustery rain, the Coronation on May 18th went very smoothly. Who would think we would have such stormy weather in mid May? I do appreciate all those who attended making the trek out in such stormy weather.



The afternoon began with Hospitality beautifully organized by Marivel Villareal, our Social Chair Woman. The food was wonderful and the strawberry margaritas prepared by Stan Medina and David Bixler were popular to say the least.



The evening started with a wine bar manned by Jerry Baily and Stan Medina.

Tom Giampietro did a wonderful job as Master of Ceremonies.

edited by Myra and Shane Nielsen

My dear friend of 40+ years, Wendy Storey was the Crowning Queen. I could not have done this without her. Our



daughter Jennifer Mateus and granddaughter Hannah were the crown and flower bearer. Reigning queens Caryl Creason and Sallie Holden were also honored. Barbara Uichanco was unable to attend due to a family wedding.

David and I performed a Viannese Waltz choreograph by our Instructor, Franco Peraza.



Bill and Lona Dolan delighted the audience with a charming Fox Trot. We were so honored to have them perform for us. It is so wonderful to have this extremely talented couple back with us, particularly since Bill was scheduled for a knee replacement the next day. I still can't believe he did this wonderful performance.



Margo Giles, Linda and John Gutierrez prepared a delectable dinner. These three are an amazing team together. They received raved reviews on the menu

Nadia and Igor Tilinin from the Golden Gate Chapter performed two dances: a beautiful slow foxtrot and a very lively jive. Thank you so much for such elegant performances.

...Continued on page 4



...Continued from page 3

Our club is very lucky to have such talented music people. Cheryl Levitan provided us with beautifully edited music even if iTunes went Wonky.

The weekend concluded with a delicious brunch at the beautiful home of Carolyn and Karl Richards. They so graciously prepared their gorgeous backyard then came the turbulent weather. They were able to sit 33 guests together in their living room. What a couple!



Golden Gate Chapter

The Garden by Gabrielle von Stephens

Yes, the garden, my joy, my pain. Here I am living in the middle of Sonoma, only a couple of blocks from the square and I am dealing with the wild life. On a regular basis the local Raccoons love to climb on top of my roof and use it for a toilet. Last year I called the wild life society, after first waking the neighborhood by banging together pot lids at 2AM, then hosing down the roof with a power hose. They suggested I place coyote poop on top of the roof. Thinking it came in the form of sand or a spray, I was duly surprised and disgusted to receive a bag of actual coyote poop and was advised to place the leftovers in my freezer. Well, I placed the poop on my roof, until the winds came and you can imagine what happened next. This year I found these wonderful things called “solar powered predator lights” and when it gets dark two red lights flash all around the house, all 20 of them. Have not heard them on my roof since.

Then there is my joy. Because of all the rain the garden has turned into a jungle and the roses have been spectacular this year. Lots of fruit on my trees and if this wind ever stops, I might even have some peaches left on my tree. Already harvested lots of Rhubarb and had my first zucchini. There will be lots of apples, plums for Igor as well as lemons, limes and oranges.

The joy of this garden always outweighs the pain.



Edited by Carl Chesbrough



President Amy's Notes on Visalia

On May 18th, a group of us braved the torrential rain to make our way to Visalia for the Coronation of Carol Bixler. All of the showers must have led to an explosion of flowers, because it truly was a “Floral Fantasy”. Carol is an avid gardener, and her love and appreciation for flowers and trees was beautifully and painstakingly reflected in the décor. Visalia treated us all like royalty, and truly made it a very special evening. This was Queen Rita's first Coronation outside of her own, and it was wonderful to see her royal glow, as she proudly held court.

Igor and Nadia Tilinin provided the entertainment for the evening, dancing a slow waltz, followed by a fast jive! Their performances were elegant and sophisticated, and the audience was entertained throughout.

Dan and I drove back home that night, arriving at our front door at 2:30 in the morning. A couple of hours of sleep and we were ready to head to South San Francisco for our pre-dance formation team practice and dance setup. It was a great weekend, despite the minimal sleep and the moments of white knuckle driving in the rain. When we have the opportunity to support each other, and our sister chapters, any minor inconvenience is far outweighed by the memories we create and the fun we have along the way.



Golden Gate at Visalia Coronation

Bakersfield Chapter

We had May showers instead of May flowers, but some traditions are less fickle than the weather! Bakersfield Smooth Dancers celebrated our Queens and honored one of our volunteers for outstanding service.



Queens and their Escorts at the May dance.



Reigning Queen Charlene Miller and Escort Dennis Acosta.



Ben and Wendy Wilson.

Ben Wilson received the “Gretchen Garretson Award” for outstanding service to our chapter and the National Smooth Dancers. Gretchen Garretson was one of 29 charter members of the Bakersfield Smooth Dancers back in 1964 and our chapter’s first queen. Gretchen exemplified service and devotion over many years and so in 2004 the first service award was given in her honor. Many of you will recognize Ben as one half of the 4-star couple with his wife, Wendy. He has also dedicated numerous hours to Smooth Dancers serving as Board President of both the local and national organization. Congratulations, Ben!

On May 18, Bakersfield Smooth Dancers enjoyed the tremendous hospitality of Visalia and danced the night away at the coronation of Queen Carol Bixler. As noted by our lovely past Queen Barbara Norcross, it was a Floral Fantasy Dance to remember. “Lona and Bill Dolan did the Queens Honor Dance that flowed like a summer stream, so romantic, followed by a delicious dinner that would have been savored by the Gods. The general dancing and music to follow was like the spring rain upon a flower. Then the gentle breezes started to blow and Nadia and Igor did two exhibitions that made us all stand in awe.”

And, as promised, here is the first of our interviews with 2018’s Most Improved Dancers! Enjoy these delightful insights from John Harrer who was awarded Most Improved Couple with his wife, Ranae.

When and Why did you begin dancing?

In 2005, my Dad at age 82 and widowed, wanted us to go with him to a country line-dancing class. To encourage him,

Edited by Liora Malicdem



we went along. Until then we had no dance experience. We enjoyed dancing for a few months, but other time commitments kept us from pursuing it.

Then, in 2007, Dad roped us in to a Waltz/Foxtrot class at Bakersfield College. He was afraid it would get cancelled for lack of interest and convinced my older brother and his wife to enroll too. This was great fun. We found ballroom dancing easier because you could dance the same dance to many songs as opposed to line-dancing that has almost a one song, one dance format.

In 2010, we went to the BSD Boards, mostly for the dinner, and because Anna Fourie had encouraged us to attend. We saw people enjoying dancing and decided it was something we would try.

What are some of the things you enjoy about dancing?

Since then, dancing has become part of our fitness routine. Ballroom dancing enhances mental focus, coordination and balance, while not placing too much stress on bones and joints. The music is fun and the people we meet while dancing are great.

What do you still find challenging about dancing?

As with any pastime, we want to improve and grow. Learning new moves is still a challenge. It amazes us how we can learn a new step on Tuesday night and forget it by Wednesday morning.

What advice do you have for people who want to improve their dancing?

Our first 4 or 5 years with Smooth Dancers was dancing at Dan’s lessons on Tuesday nights. We learned most of the basic moves, but without practice, we didn’t improve very much. Ranae and I made a commitment to attend either a Friday night practice or Saturday dance at least once a month. Dancing on a “live” floor is a great way to improve your dancing. The songs are a little different and we have to negotiate the other dancers on the floor, so it really makes you think. As nerve-wracking as it was in the beginning, it is much easier now. The mixers help improve our dance skills too. Whether leading or following, it’s always just a bit different with each partner.

What is one thing people might be surprised to learn about you?

One thing that might surprise people about us? We produce a podcast called The Whoa Podcast about Horses and Horsemanship. For those that may not know, a podcast is essentially an internet radio show. Since 2012, we produced nearly 200 episodes and people in over 80 different countries around the world have downloaded our show. We talk about our experiences in trying to learn about our horses. And, while it may sound strange, dancing has improved our horsemanship.

When we ride, it is like “leading” on the dance floor. We have to communicate to the horse which way we want to go through our bodies. Whether in the saddle or on the dance floor, learn how to move as one. Both pastimes complement each other nicely!

John and Ranae Harrer with Jessie and Dusty.



San Diego Chapter

2019 New Member Showcase

FL: In the midst of our recent losses (see the In Memoriam pages for Anne Saul and Kay Ryan), the next generation of Smooth Dancers have arrived here in San Diego. Please welcome these new members the next time you see them!

Jim Beaver & Susan Wells: A Great Dancing Team



Jim (L) and Susan (R) have also competed as amateur couples in various competitions over the years.

Jim & Susan have been married for 30 years and been dancing seriously for about ten years. Before getting in Ballroom, Jim rode horses and competed in Equestrian events like Dressage and Jumping along with restoring and running old tractors. Susan worked many years at a small animal veterinary. In his spare time Jim works at General Atomics as a Systems Engineering Manager. Currently they own and run a horse boarding stable, the

Morning Star Ranch in Poway.

Jim has been competing regularly for about 8 years currently competing in Pro/Am Smooth with Selena Johnson.

They are looking forward to doing some competitions with San Diego Smooth Dancers and just enjoying the club in general.

Laura Harvell: An Ambassador of Dance



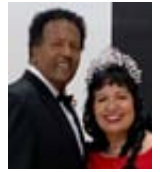
Laura recently won Bronze Senior Latin world champion at the 2018 Embassy Ball.

Laura Harvell started ballroom dancing when she moved to Los Angeles in 2000. Some fun performances include swing dancing at the 2012 Rose Bowl Parade.

One of Laura's passions is bringing the joy of dancing to seniors and children. She coordinated a Senior Outreach program for USA Dance LA County for five years. She has also introduced dance to elementary school children as well as middle school students.

Laura moved to San Diego in 2016 and has thoroughly enjoyed the SDSD Sunday classes and the social dances. Laura is willing to coordinate a Senior Outreach program for the chapter and/or do any volunteer teaching for seniors/kids.

Edited by Alicia and Greg Alexander



She is excited about joining SDSD to meet new people that love to dance and to be a part of such a great organization spreading this joy to others.

Heidi Dorman: Runner, Dancer, Real Estate Agent



Heidi loves the raw joy that she feels in the physicality of movement to music.

Heidi is a native California girl from Los Angeles and have lived in San Diego since 1984. With an early in life passion for dance, she grew up with sporadic training in ballet, tap and modern dance. After school and a family life, she embraced long distance running and competed in The Boston, New York, Chicago and many other marathons around the country.

For the last 18 years, Heidi's career has been in residential real estate.

About 4 years ago, she was introduced to ballroom dance and quickly developed a passion for the sport. After many group classes and private lessons, Heidi now competes in Pro-Am with her partner Peter Edwards.

Improving is hard work and a challenge to Heidi. She loves the people whom I have met in our dance community and wish to serve and promote ballroom dancing in San Diego.

John Zhang and Nina Xiaolan: Back to Ballroom!



Nina (L) and John (R) say: "Ballroom dancing is one of the things we enjoy very much. SDSD is a great family, we are so excited to be the members!"

John and Nina started dancing in 1989 with Mary Murphy, and (the late) Scott Dodson at SDSD. Nina has been to previous SDSD events, having participated in a Team Match back in 1994. As with many dancers, work and life commitments affected how much time they could put into dance. After some "lean" years of going dancing maybe once or twice a year, they are glad to be

back. A recent retirement led to this renewed commitment to dancing.

The process of learning Ballroom dancing and flowing to the rhythm of a piece of music is where they love to be. John and Nina look forward to all the dancing on their new NSD adventures!

Los Angeles Chapter

Dance, Dance, Dance until you need new shoes. Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be. God knows what He's doing!

Dancing news:



(L-R) Robert Quan and Francy Solano with Katusha Demidova and Arunas Bizokas, the reigning world champions in International Standard.

Francy Solano and Robert Quan have attended one – day workshop on International Ballroom taught by some of the world's best teachers. The picture is of Arunas and his partner Katusha Demidova, the reigning world's champions in International Standard for the last 10 years.



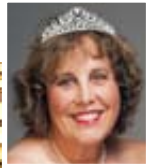
Ken and Marion Scholtz pose with their dance class on the Vision of the Seas transatlantic cruise.

One of our dance teacher combos, Ken and Marion Scholtz just returned from several weeks of traveling to Europe and back. They started out teaching Ballroom to a large and eager group of transatlantic cruisers on the Vision of the Seas. They sailed from Galveston to Barcelona. Their trip continued with an extended stay in Paris and return sailing to New York on the Queen Mary 2.

As we head into our summer months, our club is still cruising and dancing while traveling.

Queen Alice and hubby Craig Miller have managed to attend all the revelries of our sister chapter's coronations and escape on a cruise to Alaska. A glimpse of a hazy northern light, and watching the ice cascading into the ocean at Glacier Bay were so exciting for them. An added plus was breaking bread with Bernie Kopell who played "Dr. Adam Bricker on

Edited by Sandy Wells



The Millers with Bernie Kopell at the Captain's Circle Party.

"the love boat". Queen Alice was star –struck, and followed Bernie Kopell to all his interviews on board the ship. Of course, dancing on board ship was a needed venue.



The Wells' Adventures started in Copenhagen. Among our many delights, Chokoladebolle (chocolate Balls) were the afternoon must.

Our next adventure was a train ride to Stockholm. This excursion was dotted with walking tours and hot chocolate with, of course, Chokoladebolle. We dined in a 17th century jail. Yes, we escaped confinement but those Chocolate balls can weight you down.

Just in time for Father's Day, Debby Ku has made a trip to visit her Mother and Father in Taiwan and China. All is well back home. Dad is 102 years young.



Dream it, Dance it, Do it!

Palomar Chapter

Edited by Debbie Atherton and Don Hubbard

We hope to see you at our JULY 13, 2019 CORONATION!
Please get your registration in as soon as possible.

We would like to present our 2019 Queen-Elect ANN MAURO



Queen-elect Ann & Tom Mauro

The oldest of 5 kids, I was born In San Francisco and am a 5th generation Californian. I have two kids, Tezra & Scott and a granddaughter Emma! My professional life has always been in education: Chula Vista Elementary school teacher for 17 years, college professor at San Diego State and Florida State, Senior Project director for an educational software company, Visiting Professor at the Air Force Academy and finally Associate Dean of instructional Technology at Grossmont College.

I LOVE DANCING! My introduction to the world of dance began at age 10 with the mysterious arrival of a gift box from my grandma that included a pair of tap shoes! My folks were avid Fred & Ginger and Shirley Temple fans. So, whenever there was nobody around – not that often in a family of 7 – I hauled the record payer out to the patio and did my imitation of Ginger & Fred. I learned to waltz & polka by watching Lawrence Welk. Then life took over and there was little time for dancing.

In 1990, after the loss of my husband of 23 years, I was determined to get back into dancing. I started with Balboa Park Dancers, group & private lessons, plus Show Case performances. Tom & I met in 2012. I discovered a dance studio near our home, Danceessece. That is where we met Peggy Lee who introduced us to Palomar Smooth Dancers. Just like that I had a new family and support group! I am so honored and thrilled to have been selected as the Queen-Elect and to be following in the footsteps of such a fantastic and elegant group of Palomar Queens!

Our May social was quite a SPECIAL event for all as we honored those who “have given their all” for our country with our “Memorial Day Social”. A special performance was given by Fred Deutsch, Stella Kanterakis, Ann Mauro &



Geris of the Andrew Sisters 1944 ‘pop song’ “The Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B”. The Sisters’ (Stella, Ann and Geri, all decked out in Army fatigues) voices were augmented by Fred, in military uniform and a trumpet. It was delightful!! Also we celebrated the 73rd Wedding Anniversary of WW

II Air Force Veteran Ralph Anderson and wife Mary. Along with the Anniversary cake was a delicious snack of croissant sandwiches with trimmings, thanks to our hosts Marie and Larry Clenenden taught an excellent Night Club Two-Step.



Miriam Mozes threw George a huge 80th Birthday Celebration with over 100 guests. Their grandchildren performed – it was amazing! Please use this link to see the beautiful detailed article written by Mark Chapman on our website – thanks Mark! (www.palomarsmoothdancers.com)



Another milestone birthday was celebrated in honor of Donna Thornton & was attended by a good group of Palomar Smooth Dancers along with all of Donna’s family! Duane Thornton got up to speak and ended up “singing” a beautiful love song to his wife!



May 30th Queen Catherine Lombardi put together a lovely Queen’s Luncheon in honor of Queen-Elect Ann Mauro for the purpose of extending our “personal advice & experience” on Do’s & Don’ts for her upcoming reign! Special guest was Ann’s sister, Barbara.

Palomar Smooth Dancers

invite you to their

Enchanted By Bubbles

Coronation Ball

Saturday, July 13, 2019

6pm - 10pm
Dinner/Dancing
Black Tie Optional

Ocean Hills Country Club
4701 Leisure Village Way
Oceanside, 92056

Hospitality
2pm - 4pm
Ocean Hills
Country Club



honoring Queen-Elect Ann Mauro

Honor Dance
Mark & Kao
Chapman

Guest Performers
Igor & Nadia
Tilinin

TownePlace Suites
by Marriott
2201 South Melrose Drive,
Vista, 92081
Confirm by June 12 to ensure
PSD Group rate \$149/plus tax
760 216-6010
Valid Fri - Sun

Queen's
Farewell Breakfast
Sunday, July 14, 2019
at 9am
El Camino Country Club
3202 Vista Way,
Oceanside, 92056

Kindly RSVP by July 10, 2019. Checks payable to "Palomar Smooth Dancers".
Please send check to Debbie Atherton, 1835 Logan Ave, San Diego, CA 92113 (760) 638-1668

Name: _____ # _____ Coronation \$65. \$ _____

Chapter: _____ Phone: _____ # _____ Breakfast \$25. \$ _____

Email: _____ Total Due: \$ _____

Please indicate any food allergies on the back of this registration. We will do our best to oblige.

San Fernando Valley Chapter

“Oh the summer time is coming ... and the music’s sweetly flowing. We can sing our songs and dance outside ... ‘til the sun rests gently and the moon starts to glow! With the first day of summer only a couple of weeks away, and the NSD Convention just around the corner, we want to make sure that you’re up to date on all the convention details.

Did you know?

May 5th each year is one of my favorite days. Why? Two reasons—it’s Cinco de Mayo, AND I love tacos, margaritas, and music and parties. Our chapter hosted a Mexican Fiesta at our May dance in honor of the first Cinco de Mayo celebration in the US that took place in 1863.



Did you know?

San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers Chapter was founded in 1961! Yes, our chapter celebrated its 58th anniversary on June 1st with a salad buffet, sweets, and a champagne toast!

Gee Gee Barden, Board President, gave a brief history of our chapter and also had the pleasure of making three different trophy presentations; THE QUEENS Perpetual Trophy Award; the most improved male dancer and the most improved female dancer.



SFV Reigning Chapter Queens – Deanna Stanton & Leanne Wong.



Featured are Joseph Hidalgo, Deanna Stanton, Gee Gee Barden, Leanne Wong, John Wong.

The Queens Perpetual Trophy

Awarded to the incoming queen every year, usually at the Sunday breakfast after her coronation at a special dinner dance in November. Since our first and original trophy had become filled up with names, it was time to purchase a new one. After many discussion as to how the new trophy should be designed, the unveiling of our new trophy, the second one in the history of our chapter was presented to our current queens Deanna Stanton and Leanne Wong (they had already decided how they would share this special recognition for the rest of their reign).

The Most Improved Dancers Perpetual Trophy – After many years SFVSD announced “most improved male and female dancer” award at the June Anniversary Dance.

Recipient of the “Most Improved Female Dancer” award and

Edited by Rachel Seward



trophy went to Rachel Seward, our Whispers Editor, Convention Set Decor Chairperson, and Crown Circle Luncheon Co-chair. (She is a very busy lady



Gee Barden, Board President – Rachel Seward & Michael Spann with their Perpetual Trophies.

right now!) Over the years, Rachel has improved her dancing in spite of a series of foot injuries that have prevented her from doing much dancing, especially during the past year. Rachel and partner James Baron, with whom she had never before danced, let alone competed, won the One Star Rhythm competition in Fresno, as well as taking second place in the Two Star Rhythm competition.

The “Most Improved Male Dancer” award and trophy went to Michael Spann, one of our famous “Village People.” Michael takes his dancing seriously and regularly takes lessons. He has promised to partner two of our ladies in competitions for the upcoming convention. Michael sets a wonderful example in giving our single ladies an opportunity to compete.

Rachel and Michael were invited to begin the Anniversary Waltz, with everyone joining in!

Crown Circle



Isn’t she lovely – Queen Deanna Stanton! At the Royal Prom themed coronation, Queen Deanna and her escort Joe represented SFV as the scepter and crown were passed from Queen Elizabeth Li to the new Golden Gate Chapter Queen – Rita Steed.

A beautiful waltz was performed by Rita and her teacher followed by the reigning Queens dancing and wearing their tiaras. It was a spectacular addition to Rita’s beautiful coronation.

Things we can learn from dance

Dance Thru Life Tips:

As in life, you can only directly control your actions and steps. In dance, don’t worry so much about what your partner is and isn’t doing. If you keep your frame, your steps, your good technique, your heading on path, and your role in mind — both people will have a great time. This is the same in life. If you keep true to your core and frame, everything will turn out fine. The dance may not turn out exactly how you expected, but it will be a fun ride (as in life).

•As in life, FOCUS on your goal •FOCUS on the goal for the dance.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye.....

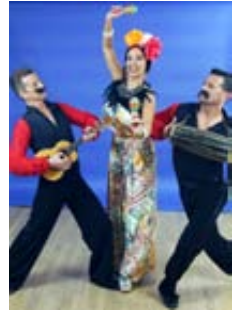
The “Night and Day” Labor Day Dance Weekend Extravaganza is almost upon us.

But, pay attention, as the Early Bird Special of \$225.00 ends on July 1st.

However, pay in June for the late bird price of \$255.00 and you get great odds at winning a free package, free weekend hotel accommodations, and other prizes, while all four dance classes, commemorative gold metallic name badge with magnetic clasp, and a current NSD roster are all included for ONLY \$30.00 extra!



Don't forget that in the evenings, we travel back in time to the nightclubs of bygone eras. Dress in the theme and get your photo on the National Smooth Dancers' website. Get your club members to join in the Team Challenge “Somewhere in Time” parade each night. Friday: 1920s/30s; Saturday: 1940s; Sunday: 1950s.



Watch great professional theatrical entertainment from the 1920s through the 1950s every evening, culminating in America's favorite TV personalities, our very own “Ricky and Lucy!”

NEW HIGHLIGHTS -- Featuring ...

- Diamond Deluxe Packages offering fantastic extra features
- The greatest dance band -- Summerwind -- Saturday night at the Stork Club
 - VIP tables for ladies to hire pro and amateur dancers at reasonable rates
 - Pro theatrical showcases throughout the event
- Free line dancing classes in addition to the reasonably priced four classes
 - FIVE hospitality parties
- Team Challenge “Somewhere in Time” Chapter Costume Parade each night
- Dance Card Program offering mix and mingle opportunities with fun prizes
 - Drawing for a free DANCE package AND free hotel accommodations
 - No Host Bar in ballroom each night to add atmosphere

COME JOIN US FOR THE BEST FUN YOU'LL EVER HAVE WITH, LET'S NOT FORGET, LOTS & LOTS & LOTS OF DANCING!

Go to nsdsfv.org for details.

JOIN US AT OUR DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA!

NIGHT AND DAY: AMERICA AT WORK, AMERICA AT PLAY

...let us entertain you...



Friday Night,
August 30, 2019
Cocoanut Grove

Saturday Afternoon,
August 31, 2019
Blue Collar Coffee Break

Saturday Night,
August 31, 2019
Stork Club



Sunday Afternoon,
September 1, 2019
White Collar Office Dance Party

Sunday Night,
September 1, 2019
Ciro's

Monday Morning,
September 2, 2019
9 to 5 – Night Turns into Day



LIVE!

**"SUMMER WIND"
Saturday Night**



The San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers Chapter presents



NIGHT AND DAY AMERICA AT WORK AMERICA AT PLAY

Package & Individual Events Registration
Online purchase available at nsdsfv.org

Name (1): _____ Chapter: _____

Name (2): _____ Chapter: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Convention Package
Five dance parties, Saturday dinner, Monday breakfast, competition eligibility, four hospitalities

Diamond (Deluxe) Package
All the above PLUS

- Dance Seminar Pass to all four dance classes (\$15 value)
 - Commemorative Gold metallic name badge with magnetic clasp (\$15 value)
 - Four tickets to the Bonanza Drawing (\$20 value)
 - Chance to win a free Convention package, a free Marriott room night, and other fabulous prizes
- Available only until August 1

Saturday evening dinner selections

Oven Roasted Half Chicken – Sweet chili soy drizzle with chef's choice of vegetables.	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Crispy Stuffed Chicken Breast – Spinach, sundried tomatoes, goat cheese and the chef's choice of vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$
Roasted Vegetable Wellington with San Marzano tomato sauce.	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$

Pass for all 4 Dance Seminars
Available only with basic Convention package (included in the Diamond Package)
\$5 for each class at door

NSD membership roster booklet (included in the Diamond Package)
Available only if pre-ordered with registration

Crown Circle at the Brown Derby
Current and past queens only

Gavel Club Luncheon
Current and past presidents only

THIS SIDE TOTAL: TRANSFER AMOUNT TO THE OTHER SIDE: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT FROM REVERSE SIDE: \$ _____

VIP Tables for Ladies (Available with full package only)

Invest in quality dance time by signing up for one event to sit at either 9-lady VIP table. There will be three pros or three proficient hosts per table. Each leader will rotate dancing among the same three ladies in and around the comps or showcases. In a two and a half hour period, this rotation should comprise about two hours of dance time shared by 3 ladies. We suggest you sign up with a friend for socializing purposes. When dancing with others or in the mixers, please keep track of your rotation and return promptly to the table in plenty of time. VIP tables will be in great ballroom locations!

Reservations are on a first-come first-served basis. Closer to the event, we will accept requests for a second event only if there is availability. Indicate your preference for more than one event and/or for an afternoon or evening event with Joan. We will try to take those into consideration. [Contact Joan at nsdanceforlife@gmail.com](mailto:ContactJoan@nsdanceforlife@gmail.com) to secure your reservation BEFORE purchasing your package.

	#1	#2	AMOUNT
Dancing with the Pros	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$60
Dancing with the Hosts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40

À la Carte Selection of Individual Events

	#1	#2	#1	#2	AMOUNT
Fri Eve	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sun Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20
Sat Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sun Eve	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$75
Sat Eve	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mon Morn	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40

TOTAL À LA CARTE \$ _____
GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Waiver: We understand and agree that the National Smooth Dancers Inc. (including all chapters) will not be held responsible for loss or theft of articles, nor be held liable for injuries sustained by persons dancing and/or competing at any chapter or National Smooth Dancers events. We hereby irrevocably give and grant to the National Smooth Dancers Inc. (including all chapters) the right to produce, use, refer to or reproduce any still photographs taken and video/audio recordings made at any and all chapter or National Smooth Dancers events.

Mail event registration form to:
Roberta LaZar
4417 Bergamo Drive
Encino, CA 91436

Make checks payable to "SFV Smooth Dancers"
For online purchase go to www.nsdsfv.org

Please register before August 16 (August 1 for the Diamond Package).
This could be a sold-out event!

NATIONAL SMOOTH DANCERS, INC.
GAVEL CLUB
2019

Dear Fellow NSD Members,

In preparation for the 2019 “Night & Day” State Convention hosted by the San Fernando Valley Chapter, I writing this letter to remind you that nominations for the 2019 Gavel Club Award are now open.

What is the Gavel Club Award: The Gavel Club Award is the highest honor bestowed on a member of the National Smooth Dancers.

What is the Gavel Club: The Gavel Club, made up of all past and current Presidents, is the body that recognizes and rewards outstanding and exemplary service.

Who can be nominated: To be nominated for this high honor, an individual must be a member in good standing and have performed Outstanding service for the National Smooth Dancers Organization at both the Chapter and National levels. The ordinary functions that many perform, while not unimportant are not the criteria for nominating an individual for the Gavel Club Award. The Gavel Club is searching for that exceptional member who is dedicated to the ideals and traditions of NSD and does not recognize chapter boundaries.

How to nominate someone: Nomination letters must contain a description of the qualifications that the nominee possesses. Due to a rule change passed at the 1997 State Convention, only an individual may be nominated (Nominations made for joint candidates are no longer accepted). Any member of the National Smooth Dancers may nominate an individual for the Gavel Club Award. Additionally nominees do not need to be from your own Chapter-feel free to nominate any individual from any of the 8 NSD Chapters whom you feel deserves this recognition. The name of one nominee from 2018, Marsha Hanson - Palomar Chapter, has been carried over and is in consideration along with any new nominations.

When are nominations due: Nomination letters for the 2019 NSD State Convention Gavel Club Award, must be received by August 1st, 2019. Please email them to me at daniel.ansaldi@yahoo.com (preferred method) or mail them to the street address below. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you at Convention!

Sincerely,



Dan Ansaldi, Golden Gate Chapter
Gavel Club Chairman

1524 Broadway
Alameda, CA 94501
Phone: 415-378-1769
Email: daniel.ansaldi@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

Celebrating the Memory of Anne Saul by David Saul (edited by Frank Lacson)

Anne Saul's SDDS membership began more than a quarter century ago, when Anne and husband Dave joined as a couple. Anne was always ready to lend a helping hand with whatever needed to be done. She made friends easily, and always greeted everyone with a smile. In those early years, Anne could often be found in the kitchen or working any of a variety of other jobs where volunteers were needed. But she also loved to dance, enjoying mixers and other activities that kept her dancing feet busy.



Anne (L) and Larry Plummer (R, Honorary Member, in Memoriam) preparing some tasty treats for a Smooth Dancers event. Oh, the days before Costco!

She and Dave took private lessons and went through Medals training in both Bronze and Silver to improve their dance skills. They tried competing, but Anne found that she preferred the more relaxed environment of social dancing.

Knowing that Dave loved to compete and perform, she encouraged him to find a competition partner. She was very supportive, and always there to cheer Dave and his partner enthusiastically when they competed.



Dave (L) and Anne (R) looking elegant at Convention. Both are always respectful and classy.

Anne served as an elected SDDS officer twice before being chosen as Chapter Queen in 2001. She treasured the memories of her Queen's reign as one of the personal highlights of her NSD dance life.

In 2004, tragedy struck when Anne suffered a stroke that left her physically impaired in terms of balance and physical coordination, leaving her with vision in only one eye. From that time onward, she worked very hard with physical training and subsequently a personal Pilates trainer to recover as much of her mobility and coordination as possible. She made substantial progress, but sadly much of the damage was irreversible. Nonetheless, she was still able to make many contributions to the club, and in recent times provide invaluable assistance to Dave when they worked together to carry out the responsibilities of Dance Class Chair.

Always keeping a positive outlook, Anne did not let her physical limitations impact her life-long love of travel. She and Dave cruised throughout the Western World, mostly with fellow NSD members. She and Dave embarked on a river boat cruise in June 2018. It was to be her last. On February 15th of this year, tragedy struck again when Anne suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage that snuffed out a truly beautiful life. Her memory will endure as a kind, loving and helpful person who was always ready with a smile and friendly greeting. -DS

-FL: Anne was a kind and grounded person that always took the time to ask me how I was doing. When talking to Anne, I'd set aside whatever chapter business, work meeting, or dance project I was thinking about at the time to focus my attention on what's really important: each other.

In Memoriam

In Memory of Kay Ryan

by Al Folkman (edited by Frank Lacson)

Kay Ryan joined San Diego Smooth Dancers in 2003. After 6 or short months after that, it didn't take the club long to recognize Kay's business skills and voted her in as club treasurer in 2004. She has held that position ever since, helping to organize the club to what it is today. Her responsibilities went beyond the typical Treasurer duties: she just did the things that needed to be done, quietly and effectively.



Al (L) and Kay (R) with matching clothes to spread some holiday cheer. With the weather this week, winter can't come back soon enough!

She negotiated our contracts, found a storage unit for our decorations, and organized the items so that they were easy to find. Before each Social, the first thing that the event organizer saw when opening the storage unit was all the boxes of decorations for that event. She had already set out what was needed for the upcoming social.

At the social, she took the time to have a spreadsheet of our members prepared and checked in all the attendees. This gave us an accurate count of how many people had attended our events.

She also took the time each July to co-host the annual July Indoor Picnic. Although I joined her as co-host, I was just the fried chick buyer – she did everything else. During the Holiday season, she helped with the decoration and got us great caterers

for a fair price.

Conventions is where Kay truly shined, serving as co-Chair of both the 2008 State Convention (“Once upon a dream”) and the 2015 Convention (“Murder on the Orient Express”), spending countless hours over many months organizing and working the event. She was the State Queen in that same year. For the 2018 NSD Convention, Kay organized the charter bus ensuring that everyone was well fed and entertained on the way to and from Fresno.

I'm sure there are other things Kay did and we will find out in the future when someone asks: “Who was supposed to take care of that”?

Kay also had a fun private life. During the last several years she went with friends on a China trip and two river cruises. From a personal point of view Kay was a very vibrant person. She had a wonderful personality, a good sense of humor, and lots of energy. There were many club members who responded to her announced passing and they all had glowing remarks on both her devotion to the club and her personal interface with the members.



Al (L) and Kay (R) on one of their many adventures. Whether it's a trip to China or to Fresno, Kay always brought her best!

Kay: you were a wonderful person and we will miss you tremendously. You will always have a special place in our hearts and in our memories. -AF

-FL: Kay had such a passion for San Diego Smooth Dancers that every time I talked to her, I felt like energy to make that extra phone call or email to do the little things needed for the club. She also had a great sense of humor and did not hesitate to tell me when I presented a bad (i.e., expensive) idea. Thank you for your mentorship and I will continue to learn from you.