

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
June 2020



From the Dance Whispers editors to the members of the National Smooth Dancers: in this unprecedented time of no ballroom dancing we encourage you to stay connected to dance, each other and yourself. We hope this issue may help in some small way. Be well, be safe, until we get to meet on the dance floor again. **Never Stop Dancing!**



The Dance Whispers Editors (L-R): Sandy Wells - Los Angeles; Frank Lacson & Mark Chapman - San Diego; Gabrielle von Stephens - Golden Gate; Debbie Atherton & Don Hubbard - Palomar; Rachel Seward - San Fernando Valley; Liora Malicdem - Bakersfield; Myra & Shane Nielsen - Visalia; Linda Bennett - Fresno.



Publishing Editor

Tom Wells

June 14, 20120

Hello Fellow Smooth Dancers,

First of all, happy Father's Day to all the dancing fathers we have! OK, maybe not dancing right this moment but definitely a very unique Father's Day!

Knowing what would have normally been covered in the June issue of Dance Whispers; I found myself drifting off into what we are missing out on! However, as we got to work on this issue I found myself appreciating what we do have; an extended dance family. Members have been reaching out to members. We celebrate those that serve. We find new and creative ways to dance and support those who dance. We organize Zoom social gatherings. And your Dance Whispers editors put their heads together to figure out how to put out another issue of Dance Whispers in order to keep us, as a whole, feeling at least somewhat connected still. I find myself grateful to be a part of such an extraordinary group of people, the members of National Smooth Dancers!

This issue has been a rather challenging effort for your editors. I wanted to say a special thank you for their team effort to pull together the June issue, in order to continue keeping us connected despite the interruption of what we all share in common; Ballroom Dancing!

This shared issue is a celebration of ballroom dancing and

in it you will discover the creative, unique and interesting ways our members have been keeping connected to our passion of ballroom dancing. We hope to have some entertaining content related to ballroom dancing. We've reprinted the magazine article on NSD's 25th anniversary from the Aug. 1962 *Ballroom Dancing* magazine (pp2-4). Find out the extraordinary work our members have been doing working as essential workers (p5). And we will also bring you up-to-date with the events and future plans of our chapters as we know them today.

With fingers crossed, I hope you enjoy this issue of Dance Whispers!

Never Stop Dancing,

Tom Wells

SCHEDULE CHANGES:

- Bakersfield 2020 Spring Weekend/Boards - CANCELLED
- NSD Convention - CANCELLED
- Palomar 2020 Coronation CANCELLED. Their next coronation will take place at the 2021 Convention. Ann Mauro will continue as Queen until the 2021 Convention.
- San Fernando Valley's 2020 Coronation - CANCELLED
- Los Angeles Chapter's January 2021 Coronation - CANCELLED so Queen Shari can actually enjoy the experience of being a chapter queen!
- San Diego Chapter's March 2021 Coronation - CANCELLED to allow QueenLiz to serve a full reign as Queen.

SMOOTH DANCERS' SILVER ANNIVERSARY

*Celebrating a Quarter Century of Dancing
Pleasure by Thriving California Group*

BY VICTOR ZELLER

One Sunday evening back in the year 1937 a group of contest dancers, all staunch partisans of "smooth" dancing, were gathered around the bandstand of the ballroom on Lick Pier in Santa Monica. They were watching the distressing spectacle of contest prizes being handed out, one after another, to the jitterbug maniacs. This was not unusual for the period. Jitterbug had hit the country like a plague. With each gyration its free-swinging exponents seemed to fill an entire ballroom with a madness that seemed weirdly heathen.

But there were a few who remained immune to the craze and who felt that something should be done to preserve the institution of *real* dancing. This year we are celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the organization which was created in that antijitterbug mood, and readers of *Ballroom Dance Magazine* are in-

ited to reminisce a bit with me about the quarter century of pleasure which the National Smooth Dancers have brought to many lovers of the best in ballroom dancing.

It was Glenn Helper who first suggested, to Archie McKenzie, the idea of organizing a club for "smooth dancers. The notion caught on fast, and in a few weeks some 40 of the best dancers in the Los Angeles area had signed up. On that original roster were, in addition to Helper and McKenzie, such names as Horance Dunn, Oliver Tucker, Bill Barrell, Walt Reynolds, Charles Provin, Tommy Young, Larry Hartzell, Rudy Martin and Jack Jackson — all gentlemen, if you will notice. (It was not until 1939 that the ladies were admitted as official members, and by 1942 they were allowed to hold the offices of secretary and treasurer.)

When the first by-laws were drawn up, eligibility for membership was somewhat rigid. An applicant had to have won at least three major contests, had to be an American citizen, had to have a reputation for integrity in his own dealings and the proper respect for dancing partners, had to own (or be willing to purchase) a tuxedo and a white suit and, of course, had to be an advocate of smooth dancing. Two formal dances a year, were then on the calendar. These were staged at the Jonathan Club, the Riverside Country Club and the Los Angeles Breakfast Club. Dues in those days were 15 cents a month, with an initiation fee of 25 cents. Membership was limited to one hundred, and the result was a constant waiting list.

During the war years of gasoline short-
(Continued on page 24)



1957 contest scene at Oakland convention, hosted by Lake Merritt Chapter.



William D'Albrow escorts Esther Mattix, 1958 Queen, to throne at NSD convention hosted by San Francisco Chapter.

Smooth Dancer trophy winners of 25 years ago, Herman Bodendorfer and Katherine Sorenson. Maestro beaming approval in background is Rudy Vallee.





Silver Cup Award Competition July 10, 1937, at Pasadena, during Smooth Dancers' first year.



Left:

Foxtrot and All-Division winners of competition at 1960 convention in Long Beach were Paul & Juanita Birkett.

Far Left:

Carmen Carlos and Vincent Scillato in a 1956 NSD competition. They were representing the San Diego Chapter, onetime sponsors of a memorable annual gala, the "Dancing Cavalcade."



Left:

1951 photo of Eleanor & Victor Zeller on the dance floor of the Figueroa Ballroom in Los Angeles. Author of the accompanying report, Mr. Zeller joined the NSD with his wife 17 years ago.

Far Left:

Ray Bradford, 1962 President of the Los Angeles Parent Chapter of the NSD.

SMOOTH DANCERS (Cont'd from p. 5)

ages, blackouts and other difficulties, activities of the NSD were necessarily curtailed. All treasury funds at the time were utilized to purchase gifts for members in service camps and hospitals.

After V-J Day, in October of 1945, a gala revival took place. The club was reorganized by Oliver Tucker and Jack Jackson, who summoned together as many champions of the "smooth" cause as could be located. In short order the club was again going strong. That was the year my wife and I joined. We have been members now for 17 years — and have loved every year of it.

In 1947 came the next major step forward, which was incorporation, and on that task Virginia Crawford, Ruth Tucker and Vernadeen Buck spent many hours of work. In November of that year the State of California recognized the organization under its official title, the National Smooth Dancers, Inc. Support for club principles now began to come from territory well beyond the confines of Greater Los Angeles. Today we have 11 chapters: in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Fresno, San Jose, Fallbrook, Oakland, Lakewood, Santa Monica, Visalia, and a new chapter in the San Fernando Valley.

Membership is now approximately one



Betty Bradford of South Gate, Calif., is this year's reigning NSD Queen.



"Tales of South Seas" show put on by members of Starlitter Chapter, Lakewood.



Typifying the Smooth Dancer's program of dancing plus a rounded social life is this 1952 outing to Catalina Island.



Memo Bernabei, Windsor Records headliner who is especially popular with So. Calif. dancers, stars on the bandstand at the 1962 NSD convention in L.A.

thousand. As a result of its activities the NSD has been able to contribute funds and gifts to numerous charities and causes. Members of the chapters are always looking forward to the next "Dance of the Month," as well as to the state-wide gatherings. Most important of these, of course, is the yearly convention held on the Labor Day week-end.

We feel that one of the most effective showcases for good dancing have been the regular contests and the work of the precision dance groups within the several chapters. Our members regularly "bring down the house" when they demonstrate in ballrooms or on TV.

In 1950 our own little monthly publication, *Dance Whispers*, was begun. Material is contributed by all club branches, and thus all Smooth Dancers are kept posted about events past and present and about ideas for further promotion of better dancing.

We are always looking to the future. It has long been the vision of many to break out beyond the borders of California and establish a nation-wide club. Since its reorganization and incorporation in 1947 the NSD has forged ahead and has become the best known group of its kind in the country. The success so far has proved that we have the right foundation, the right ideals and the right people behind them. The future is without boundaries!

Lawrence Welk, an honorary member of the NSD, has said that in his travels throughout the United States he has seen no better dancers than ours. An especially hopeful omen for the days ahead is seen in the fact that so many of the younger generation have expressed a desire "to learn to dance as the Smooth Dancers do." Happily, Rock 'n' Roll has not infected all our young people.

The National Smooth Dancers are proud to have been able to show the rest of the world how much fun it is to be able to dance well and how much dancing accomplishes for those who want to acquire valued friends and a more worthwhile social existence.

Among the many who deserve credit for

this year's accomplishments are George Reed, Editor of *Dance Whispers*; Bill Smith, Convention Chairman; Hal Dodds, Publicity Chairman; and, of course, the 1962 President, Ray Bradford.

President Bradford assures us that the 25th Anniversary Convention will be fabulous. The new Crystal Ballroom in the Thunderbird International Hotel is reported to be "the most beautiful ballroom to be constructed in Southern California in the past 20 years." With meetings, parties, contests and five full dance sessions, most Silver Anniversary conventioners anticipate only a few hours' sleep during the gala 4-day schedule.

Finally, Mr. Bradley adds, "You'll find friendly hospitality, good dancing and plenty of fun from August 31 through September 3 with the Smooth Dancers at El Segundo in Sunny California!"

(Editor's Note) I intended to interview our own "Essential Worker" Penny Elliott and summarize her responses for Dance Whispers. After discussing with Don, we sent her a few questions and her response was so moving I just decided to print it ALL! Thank you, Penny, for all you are doing by continuing to unselfishly deliver the mail with a wonderful positive attitude during this trying time...

Palomar's Penny Elliott - Essential Worker



My exact title is City Letter Carrier, I've been working for the Oceanside Post Office my entire career, which began in 1994. That's a mere 26 years! My Route's name is City Route 54-455. We don't call our routes by their "full names" though, usually just the last 2 numbers: rt. 55. I've been on THIS route about 15 years.

What I think about most when considered an essential service is that "YES! I am!" I do provide a service other than "just delivering the mail", I also am aware of my customers and am sometimes the ONLY person they have any contact with on some days. I feel like I provide a sense of normalcy and routine to my customers as well, as they have an idea

of about what time I get there and they appreciate the consistency. I have recently had people, customers and not, come out and thank me for continuing to work, for staying positive, and providing a feeling of community. I've received a few thank you notes and many bottles of water with words of thanks always! It makes me feel appreciated – like they look forward to my making my rounds, even if all I have for them are ads or bills. I've noticed more letter writing, which is wonderful, because it is a more heartfelt, personal and permanent way of communicating, not just via email or a phone call that is gone once you hang up. I love to see kids writing letters to friends or grandparents and vice versa. Letter writing is an art that is being lost to technology.

The largest challenge I have been facing is the number of parcels! It has been busier than Christmas! I have been working some crazy hours due to all the online shopping, I almost find it hard to believe we are experiencing a financial crunch with all the online buying. It was weird to get used to many of my businesses being closed, as about half of my route is commercial. It was kind of scary too. So, I am really thrilled to see businesses opening up more and maybe our world getting back to a more normal way of operating. The biggest complaint I have is that I truly detest wearing a mask, it is very hard to breathe and I feel suffocated and claustrophobic a bit, and I can't keep my glasses from fogging, but I suppose I really can't complain too much, at least I am still working.

As far as dancing goes... I hope I haven't forgotten how! AND I seriously hope we don't have to dance with facemasks on!

Take a relaxing breath and enjoy the day! Penny



"Most of them are for ballroom dancing."

Catching up with our Members

Written by: Joan Robinson, President, SFV Smooth Dancers, NSD State Queen, and VP of NSD.

There IS dance in spite of Covid-19!
“Saturday Night Live” = Zoom Dance Event.
“SOS - Save Our Studio.”

In The Safety Of Your Own Home

Turn ON your video-style boom-box of choice
Turn UP the volume
Create room to dance in your home
Turn & HUG your bubble partner
And DANCE with them every Saturday night
New dance class each week. Videos sent afterwards.
Great DJ music.

We welcome all NSD friends. Just email Joan at joandanceforlife@gmail.com to be put on the weekly promo email list.

See flier below for further details.

Funds should be sent to:
By Venmo: @hollywoodacademy
By Mail: Yelena Chshukareva
5106 Mammoth Avenue
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

(From Los Angeles Chapter)

There is not a whole lot going on insofar as dance since the studio has been closed since the sheltering in place started in March. However, we have adapted and taking various classes on Zoom both together and separately. We continue to enjoy the American Smooth class where we learn the various arm stylings appropriate to Waltz, Tango, and Foxtrot as well as using parts of our body to express those arms. We also take syllabus classes in American Smooth and International Ballroom. We learn the different figures involved in American Style Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, and Viennese Waltz at the bronze and silver levels as some are involved in taking the medal test which is a proficiency test. In International Ballroom, we go through the “gray book” (Ballroom Technique) for Waltz, Tango, VW, FT, and Quickstep. We take an exercise class that also involve dance movements for both the lower and upper body and how to incorporate them in a succession of figures. There was a sports psychology class that proved very interesting about various ways of understanding ones’ self in the process of dancing and dance theories on how to improve peak performance mentally, physically, and spiritually. Oftentimes our teachers will talk about a certain subject such as partnering skills, how to maintain a connection, expression and showmanship, etc.

that are good for both social and competitive dancing. Lastly, a new class has started which focuses on social dancing and I think they will be teaching swing, bachata -- fun type of dances to learn how to let the body go and express itself. That’s all.

If any of our NSD dancers would like to do some Zoom classes, they are offered by Dance Vision as well as other professional dance teachers throughout the U.S. You mentioned about Hollywood Academy and the kinds of things Joan Robinson is doing to save Yelena’s studio -- Zoom dances; presentations by pros, and lessons and dancing. If anybody is interesting in joining the Zoom classes Francy and I are taking, please contact Anna Shahbazyan at Annasha85@gmail.com

Take care. Stay well.

Robert Quan and Francy Solano

We here at Westminster Gardens are busy practicing social distancing and wearing our masks. Susan and I do a 45 minute chair exercise every morning and then walk the grounds. The community allows no visitors. So outsiders, family etc. have a hard time. Skype and Zoom are popular but those in Assisted Living cannot Leave their building and are feeling it. If we go out of the campus, we have our temperature taken when we return. The dining room is closed, so the Kitchen staff delivers food to us every day. We sit under the Sycamore trees and watch the roses grow.

We are fortunate to have a wood floor and space to practice dancing but it isn’t the same without others to visit and dance with,.

Susan and I are looking forward to the day when we can all get together again.

Chuck Johnson

The Corona-virus Pandemic had kept everyone home and caused many plans to be changed. We were one of the many people whose vacation plans had to be cancelled. We were ready to go on our 14 days Caribbean Cruise from April 4 to April 18, 2020. Unfortunately, it was cancelled by Princess Cruises in Mid-March. We had to quickly cancel our air flights to Fort Lauderdale, parking at the LAX airport, hotel room in Fort Lauderdale, and of course our cruise by Princess. All that were done one week before the cruise’s departure.

There was no problem receiving our refunds since the cancellation was caused by COVID-19. However, Princess Cruises took a long time to process their refunds. For many days we didn’t know if our cancellation request form was received. There was no communication from Princess Cruises. We read from their website that it will take 30 to 60 days for the refund. When we called on day 35, we were told it will take 60 days. We almost called Princess on day 67, then we received notification that a lump sum was deposited into our

credit card on day 61. How happy we were that finally all refunds had been received. We are looking forward to the days when everything goes back to normal so we can go cruising again.

Alice Mah Miller

In order to stay connected through these very trying times, Golden Gate has been holding a monthly membership gathering over Zoom. Each of these meet ups is formatted so there is opportunity to catch up on each other's wellness, lives, and just enjoy some time conversing. Built into each session is



Gabrielle von Stephen's recent walk around town with friends.



a lesson that is specifically geared toward a dance or technique that does not require a partner, so that those members who are sheltering alone can participate. Our first meet up, which was held on what would have been our Coronation evening, included a special photo montage video made up of some wonderful moments in our Coronation history. This was followed by a line dance lesson, taught by Dan Ansaldi.

Our second get together featured a salsa shine lesson taught by one of our favorite professional instructors in the area, Seth Ward. Seth did a great job engaging everyone and really took to heart the message of creating a lesson that all could enjoy with or without a partner, and in a limited space.

Scheduling of our next meet up is already in the works!

There is discussion of expanding our lessons to include guests and other members of the public, while charging a small fee to cover the cost of the instructor. Right now, this cost is being covered by members who have elected to sponsor instructors.

We consider ourselves very fortunate this year that we did not have an elected Queen who had been planning for her April Coronation. As our Coronation was planned to honor past Queens, some of whom would share the year's travel, we did not have to change plans drastically. Our current reigning Queen, Rita Steed has volunteered to attend any remaining

For Better or For Worse



Coronations that are held before next April. Then in 2021, we will start anew.

As we move further into the year, if we are unable to gather for our business meetings, we will be able to hold a membership meeting through Zoom as well, and those who are not able to join with a video connection will be able to dial in via telephone.

Many other ideas have been presented for ways to proceed with safely getting back together in small groups, and those will surely be considered at our next board meeting.

San Diego Chapter doesn't have much more than the other chapters to report. Regarding our Queen, Liz's term will also be extended so that she can travel with her sister Shari through the next year, as they had originally hoped and planned for this year. San Diego will have a dance event in place of a coronation and it will probably be dedicated nominally to Liz.

San Diego is holding Zoom sessions for our general meetings and board meetings; most of the discussions concern how to get back to social dancing while conforming to all the new rules. Judy Miranda has been designated our official chapter Zoom coordinator, and she has done a very thorough job getting people up to speed technically on Zoom, as well as organizing the Zoom sessions.

For Better or For Worse



To all NSD members

RE: the Roaring 2020's dance Weekend in Bakersfield

Dear Smooth Dancer Friends,

The Roaring 2020's Dance Weekend that was originally scheduled for March 27-29 of 2020 was postponed due to the Social Distancing guidelines to July 24-26 2020. We were all hoping that by July we would be dancing once again. As the weeks have gone by and the threat of the coronavirus is still looming in front of us and the social distancing guidelines have not eased up

It became apparent to our board that the wisest and safest thing for us to do was to postpone the July 24-26 dates to March 26-28 2021. It will still be called the Roaring 2020's with the same schedule. As we learned a couple of weeks ago that Visalia had cancelled the state convention scheduled for Labor Day weekend we all saw the writing on the wall. We are all hoping and yearning to dance again soon.

So here the options for everyone who has registered and paid and has a hotel reservation.

Option # 1 Is simple you do not have to do anything. We will hold onto your registration and at the same price you have already paid, The Marriott will cancel your room reservation. You will need to rebook for 2021 the new rate will be \$130 per night.

Option # 2 You would have to do the following to cancel and receive a refund.

(A) Let us know you want to cancel and we will refund your registration.

For those who chose option 2 you will have to do the following

1) Re-register for the Dates in March 2021 if you chose to attend.

2) Pay the increase in the registration fee that will most likely be forthcoming.

Everyone will need to rebook their room reservations the rate is good starting Thursday March 25th – Sunday March 28th 2021

Sincerely,
Steve Peterson
Roaring 2020's Dance Chair

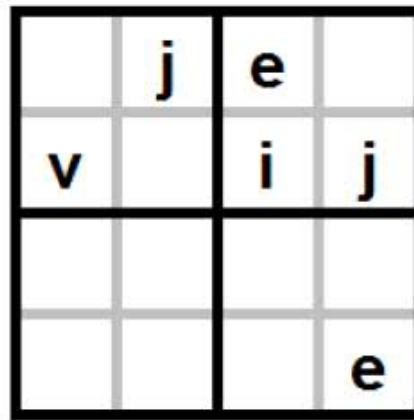
If you have more questions please contact Steve Peterson at 661-487-9744 or stevenjpeterson@me.com Or Kay Boyer at 661-204-3501 or kayboyerbsd@gmail.com

To cancel Contact JoAnn Georgio at 661-304-5284 or jgeorgio@bak.rr.com

For the Marriott contact Sara Walker at 661-565-9320 or sara.walker@bakersfieldmarriott.com

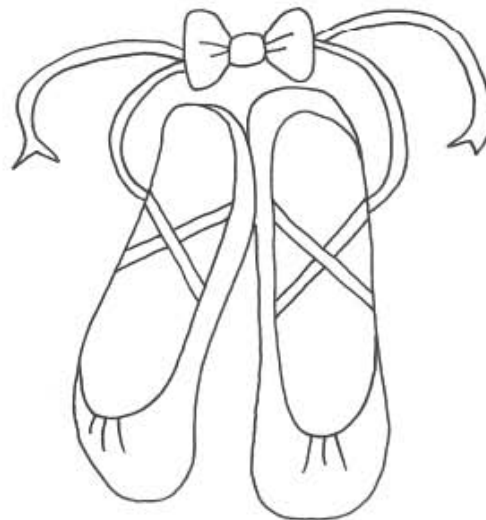
4 x 4 Dance Sudoku

Dance has been around for a very long time. The first evidence of dance came from cave drawings in India that were more than 9,000 years old. There are many styles of dance today, people enjoy ballet, jazz, hip hop, ballroom and many others. Did you know that the longest ever conga was danced in Miami in 1988 when 119,986 people gathered together to join in the fun?



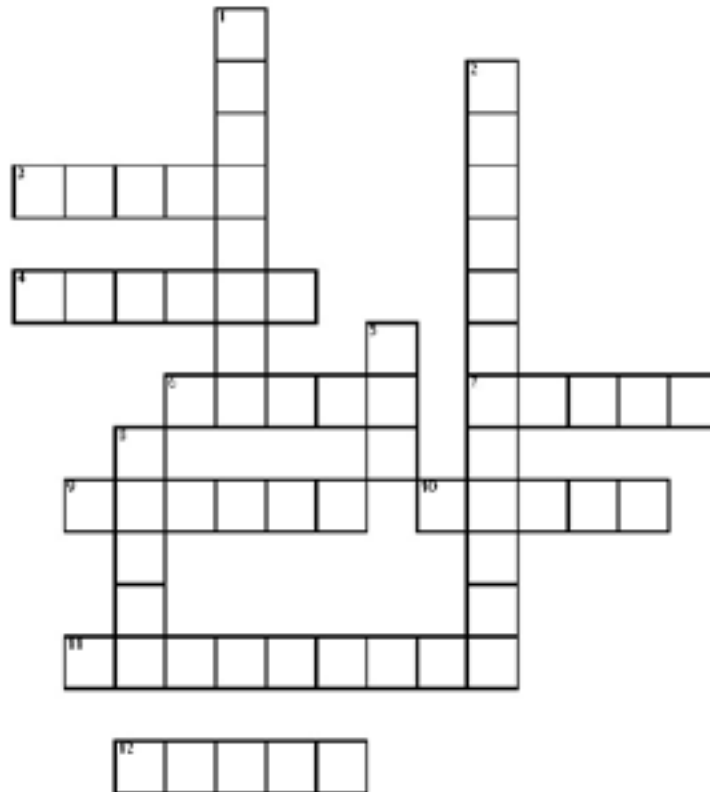
Answer Key on Page 12

It's our jive dancing Sudoku - fill in the grid with the letters J, I, V, and E, making sure no letter is repeated in every row, every column and within each mini grid.



DANCE CROSSWORD

Answer Key on Page 12



Across

3. An aerobic fitness dance inspired by various Latin America dance
4. An artistic dance with precise movements, elegant. A show example is the Nutcracker
6. A lively dance originating from Spanish cultures
7. A ballroom dance in 3/4 time
9. A form of street dance styles, usually performed to music with the same name.
10. A czech dance familiar throughout America and Europe
11. A type of ethnic dance that are developed by a people of one country, usually specific to one area
12. A style of dance played to jazz from 1920's-40's

Down

1. A spanish dance that you perform to a specific song, popular at parties and sports events
2. a form of swing dance and a form of blues piano playing, has a funny name
5. A dance performed with a special type of shoes with metal taps, and is performed by rhythmical tapping
8. A dance style originating from the 1970's

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

FROM THE



Hollywood Academy of Dance --

“It’s Ballroom-Crazy California Bandstand”

\$15.00 PER PERSON; \$25.00 PER COUPLE
Or \$55.00 and \$95.00 for all Saturdays in June.

45 MIN. LESSON – WITH NATALIA LIND
Pro-Am Dancers to Watch.

Pro Showcase at 8:15 p.m. (Most Nights.)

Great DJ music to dance to in your homes.

ALL THIS WITH CAREFUL SOCIAL DISTANCING!

Zoom-ing with Joan, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. for Social Interaction.

Email Joan @ joandanceforlife@gmail.com for weekly promos.



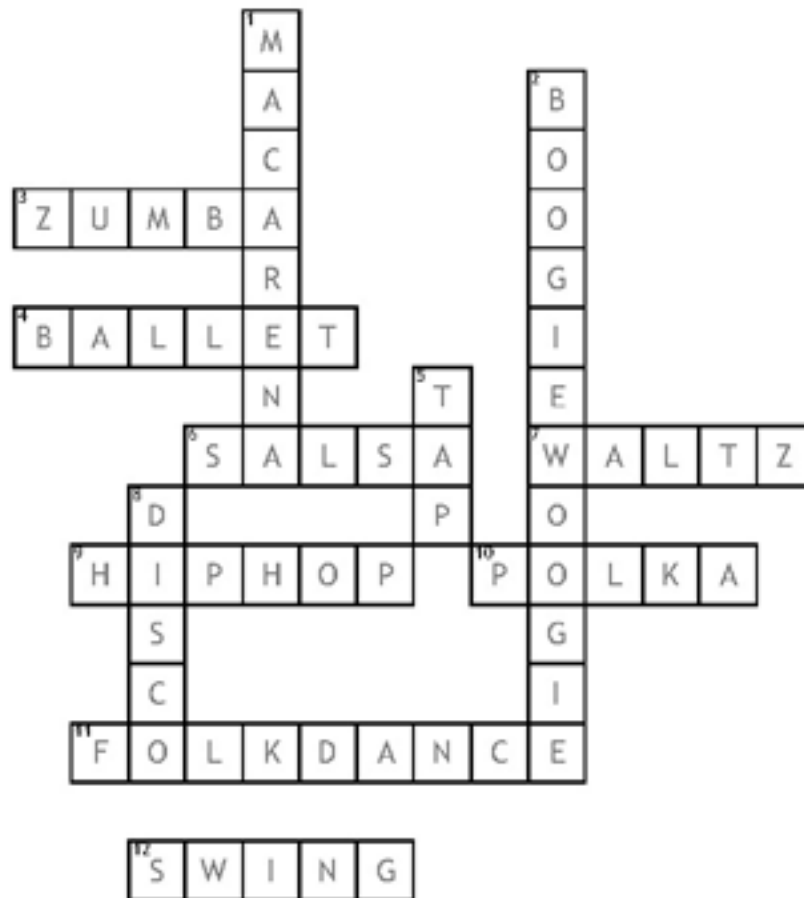
Reviews From the Audience!

“Last Saturday’s dance was FANTASTIC!”

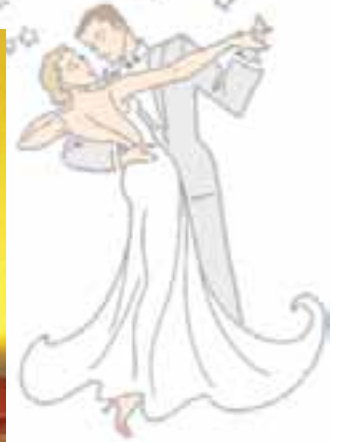
“I followed along with Natalia’s excellent Cha-Cha line dance instructions, and I learned it! Her partner was helpful too.”

“Tom did a great job as DJ. He fielded requests and kept us informed of what he was playing.”

i	j	e	v
v	e	i	j
e	v	j	i
j	i	v	e



In Memoriam



Joyce Radesky

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of long-time Palomar Chapter member Joyce Radesky. Joyce passed away on May 17, 2020. Don Radesky will be holding a memorial service as follows:

Service: June 20, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
1087 Country Club Lane
Escondido, CA. 92026

Gifts: Donations to The Alzheimer Association

Joyce was our Music Coordinator while she was active in the Palomar Chapter. The quality of her ballroom music collection was her pride, and it gave her much joy to be able to play her music for Palomar Chapter's socials. Joyce meticulously went through every piece of dance music she had to ensure that the beat was at exactly the correct speed for competitions: her International music conformed to professional standards for each dance, Standard and Latin; likewise, all her American music was precisely set to professional measure. Palomar still dances to a lot of her music at our socials.

Contributed by Mark Chapman and Donna Thornton