

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
February 2021



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; Carl Chesbrough - Golden Gate; John Sankis - Palomar; Rachel Seward - San Fernando Valley; Liora Malicdem - Bakersfield; Myra & Shane Nielsen - Visalia; Linda Bennett - Fresno.



Publishing Editor

Tom Wells

February 21, 2021

Hello Fellow Smooth Dancers,

Attached is the February issue of the Dance Whispers, the first issue of 2021. I was going to start out saying, "what a difference a year makes." However, that just doesn't seem to sound right! This time last year we had just enjoyed the Los Angeles Chapter's coronation of Queen Shari Herzfeld and looking forward to the San Diego Chapter coronation of Liz Tarnove, Shari's sister. Right after San Diego's coronation, the dance world we knew came to an abrupt halt.

A year later what impresses me most is the leadership of our NSD officers and volunteers. There have been emails and Zoom meetings within and between the chapters to address the many aspects of planning and organizing; that is done so well that I suspect many NSD members are unaware of the work being done to keep NSD dancing.

Bakersfield Chapter was first up with what to do about the March "Roaring Twenties" weekend dance event. The work that goes into putting this weekend event on has been further complicated by having to cancel it, reschedule it, cancel it, reschedule it, cancel it and now reschedule it for August 6-8, 2021. They are hopeful that by August enough people will have been vaccinated that they will be able to afford to host

perhaps the first NSD dance event in a year and a half! Please support this weekend event if you are able to.

After meeting with the hotel in San Diego, Palomar Chapter has decided to cancel our 2021 Convention. Knowing the amount of work Palomar members have already put in on preparing to host this year's convention, this must be a heartbreaking decision. A financially viable convention requires a large attendance. Attendance obviously cannot be relied upon this year, and with the hotel unable to offer flexible allowances it was thought best to cancel this convention.

What is impressive is that these hard decisions are being made, and not in a vacuum but in conversation with the other chapter officers. NSD is full of volunteers working to insure that we will be dancing again, as soon as it is safe and reasonable to do so.

On pages 8-9 is a listing of all the chapter officers and volunteers who work to make sure we can dance. Please be sure to thank them. Please consider showing up to the next chapter Zoom event and be a part of what makes NSD a wonderful ballroom dancing organization. Go ahead and volunteer to help out in whatever capacity you can. Then soon, NSD will be dancing again, kept afloat by our tireless volunteers. Thank You!

Never Stop Dancing,

Tom Wells
Publishing Editor

Hello 2021!!!



Los Angeles Chapter's January 10th Zoom monthly meeting was attended by; (Top L-R) Francy & Robert Quan, Sandy & Tom Wells, Victor Lee, Marion & Ken Scholtz, Debby Ku, Shari Herzfeld, Craig & Alice Miller and Chuck & Susan Johnson.

From Los Angeles Chapter, we wish everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2021!

Last year we were reporting on the wonderful coronation of our Queen Shari Herzfeld. We also shared the difficulty Chuck & Susan Johnson, Victor Lee and Debby Ku were having with their cruise ship finding a port that would let them dock due to the Covid-19 illness. We also announced and invited everyone to attend our first dance at our new location at the Garibaldina Italian club. We are still looking forward holding our first dance there! Little did we know that the San Diego chapter coronation would be the last dance we would be able to attend in 2020!

Fortunately we have the ability to use technology to stay in touch with each other. We have continued to hold our monthly meetings using Zoom. Since there isn't really much business to discuss we use the time to socialize and catch up with each other. Ken and Marion Scholtz have been quite active with online dancing from all over the world!

Many of our members have received their vaccine and we

are looking forward to returning to dancing as soon as it is safe to do so. We still have a few of our members who have not received their vaccination yet...you know, the younger ones!!



Sandy Wells took advantage of the down time to finally get her total knee replacement surgery. It was the perfect time to have the surgery since there was no dancing during her recovery. She has been doing her rehab, progressing well and is looking forward to being back out on the dance floor with her new and improved knee!



A Golden Gate message from the Desk of Madame President Amy Ansaldi:

Here we are in the midst of a brand-new year, and in many ways it seems like a continuation of last year.

However, we have much to be optimistic about as we look ahead, and my hope is that it will not be long before we are able to return to a more normal way of living.

While it has been tough to be unable to resume our in-person activities, it has been wonderful to continue to stay connected to all of you through our regular Zoom meetups, and our membership meetings.

Though our lives have been disrupted in many ways over the last year, these virtual events have been key to maintaining our connectivity, and keeping this group going during these unprecedented times.

When this is all behind us, I believe we will emerge stronger than ever, as we have been tested in ways that we would never have imagined.

I know with complete certainty that our commitment and passion for this group will pull us through.

Thank you for continuing to engage and for your commitment to keeping the group strong and united.

With Love, Amy



Golden Gate Membership Milestone. At our January Membership Meeting, Igor shared that he and Nadia were celebrating a milestone in their GGSD history. Igor and Nadia became members in January 2001, making, January 2021 their 20-year anniversary as members of GGSD! Happy Anniversary!

Golden Gate Events: As COVID-19 continues, we have decided to not have a 2021 coronation. In 2020, we had planned on having a celebration of Golden Gate Queens through the years. Our past queens had selected events to attend, rather than having one queen. As other chapters start having their coronations, we will have select past queens represent our chapter. We are looking forward to our annual end of year gala, which we have slated for Wednesday, December 29, 2021. We hope that we will be celebrating much more than the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022. We look forward to once again seeing everyone on the dance floor. Stay happy and healthy.



Dear NSD Family and Hello February from San Fernando Chapter

After nearly a year of social distancing and restrictions related to COVID-19, I told myself that I would not say anything about the COVID virus in our Whispers News - Nevertheless, here I am writing about COVID-19 because it is still hard to predict when our social lives and culture that have been on pause will come back. I wondered too how many times you might have received the greeting “I hope this email or card or letter finds you well,” and you want to reply with the phrase or thought, “no, I am not well – I am terrible, thanks because I miss my chapter dances and friends!” Things are bleak right now in our dance world! I do believe and hope you agree that one of the things we can learn from this is that we must talk, write and read about whatever is happening around us and acknowledge when times are good and when things are not going well.

SO REMEMBER FEBRUARYS PAST?

Back then, a night out meant traveling across LA to see a movie or live music or to have dinner at your restaurant with your sweetheart or friend; now, it means traveling across your neighborhood to a friend’s deck for BYOB, as a no-contact happy hour is in effect.

Before, it would have been strange to wear a mask to the grocery store if it was not Halloween; now, it is polite to cross the street when you see a stranger coming and wear a mask while walking your dog.

Yes, our lives are unavoidably different in the wake of COVID-19, and they are likely to stay that way until the outbreak is contained or treatments and vaccines become available. This is what our lives look like now. February feels like it happened a long time ago.

Nevertheless, it is not all disastrous. We all have new daily routines and have adapted ways to keep joy, connection, and fresh possibilities in our lives. What more can I say other than I believe that next February there will be music and dancing, and many fine people will be there with us to enjoy the moment.

In closing, I hope you are all well and stay safe! Not exciting, but I mean it!- Rachel Seward, San Fernando Valley Chapter

Happy New Year, Happy Valentine's Day, and Happy (soon to be) Spring! Fresno Smooth Dancers' members wish you all well, and are hopeful for a wide rollout of the Covid vaccine soon, so we may begin dancing in earnest!

We still have our June coronation slated, but will wait until April to make the final determination. We will keep you posted!

A few of our members have been able to dance during the past several months. Dance instructor Franco Peraza has been busy teaching individual students, and has even produced two showcases! One was performed around Thanksgiving and the second Christmas. He and his students generally wear their masks and he is using the gorgeous outdoor venue at Wolf Lakes Park for their performances. Here are the links to the YouTube videos of the showcases, you will enjoy them!:

Thanksgiving: <https://youtu.be/1-3bmJ34fBk>

Christmas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxDIjnE5GrE>



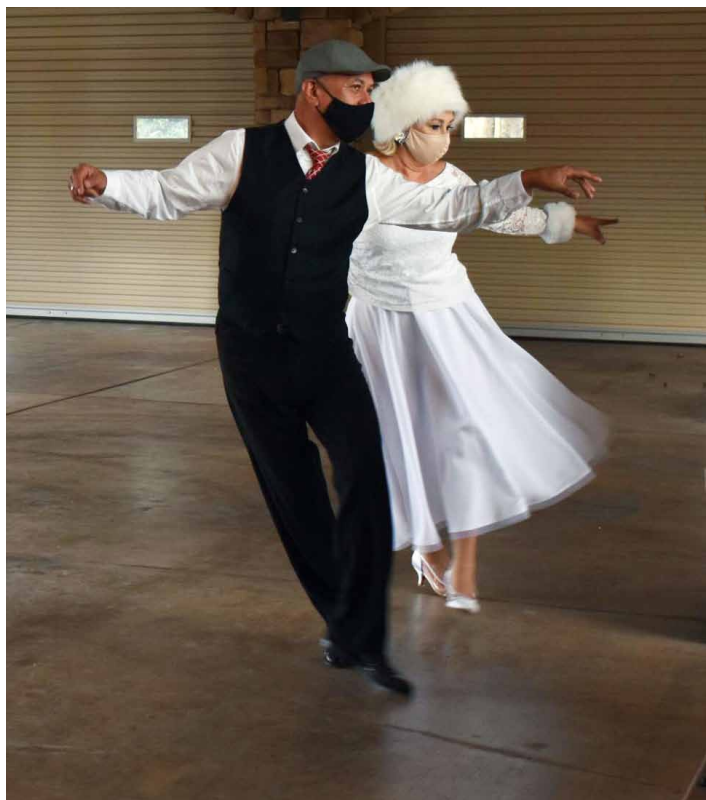
(Left) Rick & Kathy Constantino (Right) Sharon Crisp



Sharon Crisp with instructor Artur.

Rick and Kathy Constantino manage to dance too, sharing garage dance space with another couple as they take turns around the floor.

Sharon Crisp also keeps her dancing alive and well in Nevada. She recently performed a benefit dance for a health care fair in Las Vegas with Artur, her instructor, and danced to "Big Spender" at the Moose Lodge Talent Show and Veterans Benefit at Halloween.



(Top) Ruth & the Girls (Bottom) Franco & Nancy

SWEAR DANCING



Come Dance in Bakersfield! It may be 2021, but the Roaring 20s are a go for Friday August 6 - Sunday August 8 at the Bakersfield, Mariott. We are hopeful that by mid-summer we will be dancing together again. Look for details in the next Dance Whispers.

In the meantime, local monthly dances continue at the Wilson Shed. Members of the Bakersfield Chapter cleaned, primed, and painted to upgrade the floor for "smooth" dancing. Special thanks to Debi Cadena, Bill Landry, Barbara Norcross, Danny Rangel, Ben Wilson, Steve Peterson, and Rich Gonzales for contributing their time, effort, and elbow grease to the cause. The next monthly dance will be February 27, 7-9 p.m. and all are welcome.

Transformation of Wilson Shed to Bakersfield Chapter Dance Floor!



The Visalia Chapter officers were installed at the club's January Virtual Meeting.

Things are still fairly quiet on the dance party scene. Hopefully this will change as more people are vaccinated.

We are lucky to have two wonderful dance teachers who are giving lessons in Visalia. Franco Peraza is preparing a Spring Virtual Showcase. It will feature some of his students including a group of 10 ladies performing line dances. I can tell you personally it has been wonderful to have a goal to work on during this somewhat dry dance period. If you care to see the Christmas Virtual Showcase just enter Franco's Christmas Showcase on YouTube.

Eileen Chavez is also teaching group and private lessons.



"You asked for a little salsa."



STATE QUEEN'S TRIP aka "Breaking and Entering" in order to "steal" a set of vaccinations from a foreign power.

The word came down from the top. It was vitally important to protect NSD's State Queen who has made history by keeping the title for two years.

So, Rachel Seward, husband John, and I, State Queen Joan, got up at the crack of dawn. We prepared ourselves with darkened faces, appropriate military clothing, non-forged paperwork that proved we did not belong to Kern County, and set off to attain the impossible: our first Covid 19 Pfizer shot.

The way had been paved by the top officials in Kern County for us to have a successful launch across county lines. The three of us were well prepared. We only had to make one bathroom stop. We thanked the gas station by buying banana bread to sustain us through our difficult journey.

Once we crawled under the barbed wire fence to safety, the sun broke through and Kern County welcomed us. They didn't care that we were aliens from another county. They treated us with love and affection. After a horrendously long three minute wait in line, our shots were given. And then we were whisked off to a Mexican restaurant for lunch and margaritas, courtesy of our hostess, Debi Cadena, Kern County administrator and "puller of all strings" and her sidekicks Lindy and Neal Livingston.

With shots in our arms, we were proudly able to walk back across county lines.

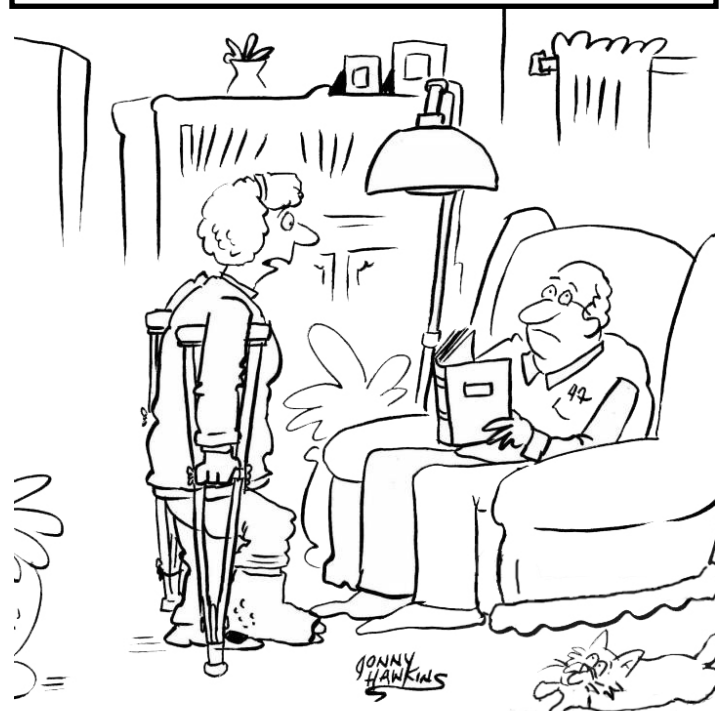
Debi worked a miracle for me -for which I am eternally grateful. My twin grandchildren are arriving soon and I had no time to work with the LA County's non-successful website. Thanks so much Debi. I will always be indebted to you.

Love, State Queen Joan

Editor's Note: I was uneasy about publishing an article about our State Queen "Breaking and Entering" and "Stealing"! So I reached out to Debi to get her side of the story. To put it in her words:

"Honestly Tom, I would never do anything unethical. I checked before I scheduled her to make sure it was ok. Anyone over 65 has priority-no matter where they reside. Although we are not advertising that fact, we wouldn't turn anyone away as long as they are in the right tier. So, no worries."

What a relief to know that the color theme of San Fernando Valley's next coronation is not going to be jailhouse orange!



"As far as dancing goes, the doctor says you need to stay off my feet for 6-8 weeks."

In Memoriam



Venus Cleofe
February 24, 1948
January 7, 2021

Fresno Smooth Dancers has lost another former long-time member; Venus Cleofe. Venus was born on February 24, 1948 to Severino and Agapita (Raymundo) Manimtim in Manila, Philippines and passed away on January 7, 2021 in Fresno.

Venus attended school in the Philippines and graduated from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing. She met and married the love of her life, Dr. Mariano (Jun) Cleofe. Venus worked for many years as a Registered Nurse in post-surgery recovery at Valley Medical Center, which later became University Medical Center.

Venus and her husband were devout Catholics and were faithful parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. The two enjoyed participating in various civic groups within the Filipino Community. The Cleofes could always be seen dancing the night away at the countless galas they attended.

Venus is survived by loving daughter, Sharon Robbins and her husband Ed of Pebble Beach, CA; and her beloved grandchildren Michael Robbins, Stephen Robbins and Edward Robbins.

The family was able to celebrate a Funeral Mass on January 22, 2021, followed by a private interment St. Peter's Cemetery.

Los Angeles Chapter Officers

President	Tom Wells
Vice President	Chuck Johnson
Treasurer	Marion Scholtz
Board Member	Chuck Johnson
Board Member	Craig Miller
Board Member	Victor Lee
Delegate	Victor Herzfeld
Corresponding Secretary	Alice Mah Miller

Coronation - Cancelled

Recording Secretary	Susan Johnson
Social Chairman	Debby Ku
Dance Rules	Ken Scholtz
Dance Whispers Editor	Sandy Wells
Music Coordinator	Chuck Johnson
Publicity	Chuck Johnson
Queen	Shari Herzfeld
Webmaster	Victor Hertzfeld/ Tom Wells

San Diego Chapter Officers

President	Amante Reyes
Vice President	Greg Alexander
Treasurer (Acting)	Jeanne Ross Waite
Board Member	Cindy Perry
Secretary	
Social Chairman	Ji Kenworthy
Dance Class Chair	Chuck DiSessa
Sunshine	Cathy O'Harra

Coronation - Cancelled

Dance Rules	Anthony Wood
Smooth Talk Editor	Amante Reyes
Dance Whispers Editor	Mark Chapman
Music Chair	Greg Alexander
Queen	Liz Tarnove
Queen-Select	
Webmaster/Publicity	Liz Tarnove
Historian	Dave Saul

Palomar Chapter Officers

President	Kelly Kimmitt
Vice President	Ann Mauro
Treasurer	Peter Hanson
Board Member	Frank Lombardi
Corresponding Secretary	Mark Chapman
Recording Secretary	Penny Elliot
Social Co-Chair	Antonia Quinene and Jim Shores
Ways & Means	Peggy lee
Dance Class	Marsha Hanson

Coronation - Cancelled

Dance Rules	Penny Elliot
Dance Whispers Editor(s)	John Sankis / Debbie Atherton
Music Coordinator	Peter Hanson, George Mozes, Len Lee
Publicity	John Sankis
Queen	Ann Mauro
Queen-elect	Debbi Atherton
Webmaster	Ann Mauro
Membership	Cathy Lombardi

Golden Gate Chapter Officers

President	Amy Ansaldi
Vice President	Vera Harvey
Treasurer	Carl Chesbrough
Board Member	Dan Ansaldi
Corresponding Secretary	Elena Malta
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Li
Social Chair	Stella Wong

Coronation - Cancelled

Dance Rules	Igor Tilinin
Dance Whispers Editor	Carl Chesbrough
Music Coordinator	Gordon Robinson
Queen	Rita Steed
Queen Elect	Crown Circle
Webmaster	Carl Chesbrough
Parliamentarian	Rita Parma

San Fernando Valley Chapter Officers

Coronation - TBD

President	Joan Robinson	Dance Whispers Editor	Rachel Seward
Vice President	Roberta LaZar	Queen	Joan Robinson
Treasurer	Regina Chinweze	Webmaster	Bill Steeber
Board Member	Joan Robinson	Equipment Manager	Frank Trapp
Recording Secretary	Susan Potthoff	Marketing	Joan Robinson
Corresponding Secretary	Roberta LaZar	Venue Liaison	Joan Robertson
Social Chairman	Joan Robinson, Loretta Kalan	Audio System/ Music	Mark Emanuelli
Dance Rules	Les LaZar	Photographer	Les LaZar

Bakersfield Chapter Officers

Coronation - August 7, 2021

President	Steve Peterson	Membership Chair	Lindy Livingston
Vice President	Debi Cadena	Dance Rules	
Treasurer	Jo Ann Georgio	Dance Whispers Editor	Liora Malicdem
Board Member	Ben Wilson	Queen	Charlene Miller
Corresponding Secretary		Queen-elect	Rose Peterson
Recording Secretary	Wendy Wilson	Delegates	Steve Rogers, Jeanette Rogers, Bill Landry
Social Chairman	Barbara Norcross	Music	Steve Peterson Rich Gonzales Dennis Acosta

Visalia Chapter Officers

Coronation - TBD

President	David Bixler	Dance Rules	John Gutierrez
Vice President	Karl Richards	Dance Whispers Editor	Myra and Shane Nielsen
Treasurer	Myra Nielsen	Webmaster	Carol Bixler
Board Member	Paul Storey	Queen	Carol Bixler
Corresponding Secretary	Robin Graves	Sunshine	Joan Dewey
Recording Secretary	Robin Graves	Historian	Greg Uichanco
Social Chairman	Somjai Cochran		

Fresno Chapter Officers

Coronation - TBD

President	Carla Hartunian	Dance Rules	Kathy Constantino
Vice President	Ruth Galvante	Dance Whispers Editor	Linda Bennett
Treasurer	Lorraine Tilton	Music Coordinator	David Morgan
Board Member	David Hailpern	Queen	Ruth Galvante
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Bennett	Queen-elect	Nancy Cargill
Recording Secretary	David Morgan	Webmaster	Lorraine Tilton
Social Chairman	Lynn Sanders	Historian	
		Sunshine	Dolores Reed