

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
August 2021



From the Dance Whispers editors to the members of the National Smooth Dancers: though we are not out of this unprecedented time, ballroom dancing is beginning to return! 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; Marci Diller - Bakersfield; Myra & Shane Nielsen - Visalia; Linda Bennett - Fresno.



Publishing Editor

Tom Wells

Welcome back ballroom dancing!!! We are just coming off of the Bakersfield “Roaring 20’s” weekend dance event and business meeting. After three aborted starts due to the Covid pandemic, the fourth attempt made it. For those of us that were there, we greatly appreciate the Bakersfield Smooth Dancers for their perseverance, dedication and hard work. We’ve filled this issue with photographs, as they say, a picture is worth a 1000 words. These photos I hope says to you, Joy! The Joy of dance, the Joy of friends, the Joy of sharing a common passion.

This appears to be the beginning of the return to ballroom dancing, though it may be modified from what we grew accustomed to pre-pandemic. Patience, tolerance and respect remain key characteristics which will allow us to continue moving forward. Some dances may be requiring masks, others may require vaccinations while others may not have any restrictions. Understand that there are many variables to be considered; legal orders, venue restrictions, members comfort level. Approached with the attitudes of patience, tolerance and respect we will be able to experience the Joy of dancing regardless of the circumstances.

Fresno and Los Angeles chapters are having dances on August 15th and already have dances planned for September.

San Fernando Valley is hosting a dance event over the Labor Day Weekend since our convention had to be cancelled. Visalia Chapter had their first dance on July 17th. Los Angeles Chapter has announced their coronation of Queen-elect Sandy Wells on January 8, 2022. Well, you get the idea; ballroom dancing is beginning to return! Information on these dance events and more will be found in this issue.

I also want to welcome our newest editor from Bakersfield Chapter, Marci Diller. This is her inaugural issue, and what an issue to start with, the return of ballroom dancing! I also want to give a big thank you to Liora Malicadem. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Liora for her enthusiasm, ideas and creativity. It has been a pleasure to have you work with us on the Dance Whispers.

Returning to ballroom dancing is a joy, but I would be remiss to ignore that it is also a risk in the current climate. Respect of others while on the dance floor is important; respect for those who, for many reasons, cannot join us on the dance floor yet is just as important. For them, it is equally important to know that when circumstances improve to the point they are able to join us, we will be there with open arms to enthusiastically welcome them back!

I’m looking forward to seeing you on the dance floor soon. Until then,

Never Stop Dancing!

Bakersfield Dance Weekend Roaring 20's

Fourth time was a charm! After several attempts and reorganization, Bakersfield finally hosted the Roaring 20's dance weekend. Bakersfield transformed the Marriott hotel's ballroom into a dramatic event with centerpieces that had our guests in awe. Glitz, gold, and glam filled the weekend!



On Friday night, the ballroom was filled with National Smooth Dancers dressed to the hilt in flapper attire. Bakersfield started the evening's program with a choreographed synchronized waltz routine to the song "Rainbow Connection" choreographed by Bakersfield's new dance instructors Josh and Rachel Harless.



Bakersfield Performance Team



(left) Bakersfield's new dance instructors, Josh and Rachel Harless.



The evening continued with more performances, dancing, and socialization amongst friends from various chapters after such a long time apart. After a moment of silence, a special tribute to long time NSD instructor,

judge, choreographer, dance partner, and "marriage counselor" Dan Goss was given by playing his favorite song, "Danube Waltz".

The following morning, Bakersfield instructor Rachel Harless taught the Jitterbug Stroll. Then, many dancers gathered later for another lesson by four-time world dance champions, Nick Cheremukhin and Viktorija, who taught a vigorous rumba. Immediately afterward, Bakersfield began their "All That Jazz" afternoon dance. This dance was filled with lively dancing by our members as well as spotlights and line dancing.



Jitterbug Stroll taught by Rachel Harless.



Rumba lesson with Nick and Viktorija.



(left) Victor Lee and Debby Ku led us in a fun afternoon Hustle line dance lesson.

Saturday evening was the long-awaited coronation of Rose Peterson. All of the queens showed their support as we said farewell to three-time Queen Charlene Miller and then crowned Queen Rose Peterson.



Rose's family was dressed in stunning royal blue colors and her beautiful granddaughters were a wonderful part of her ceremony. Rose and Steve danced an elegant waltz that was choreographed by their instructor Viktorija.

(left) Three time Queen Charlene Miller.



Dinner consisted of a delicious chicken and lemon picatta, angel hair pasta, and vegetable medley. Dessert was a lovely pineapple bundt cake. But the main dessert was four performances by Nick and Viktorija. The quality, emotion, and drama of their dances were a definite site to behold. Their presence was extra meaningful to Rose and Steve as they have developed an instructor-student friendship over the years.

Sunday's farewell was filled with hope as chapters announced their upcoming events. Start marking your calendar for 2022 as it can now be filled with fun and friendships! Dust off those shoes because the dancing is on!





Fresno Smooth Dancers is happy to report that 16 members attended the Bakersfield Boards this past weekend! This editor was unable to attend, but from all the photos I've seen, it looks like it was a fabulous event and I'm sure everyone from Fresno thanks the Bakersfield chapter for a wonderful time! It is so great to be dancing again!

We held our first monthly dance in 17 months, on July 18, 2021. Franco Peraza taught a challenging cha cha step (so fun!) and, in anticipation of performing in Bakersfield, Franco's women's group showcased their Samba routine for us as entertainment. We were thrilled to be joined by several Visalia members, and Dan and Amy Ansaldi drove all the way down from the Bay Area to represent the Golden Gate chapter. **THANK YOU** all for your support!!



Our August dance will be held this Sunday, August 15 (apparently as Dance Whispers goes to press). But please join us for **our September dance on September 19, 2021**. Nancy Cargill is hosting a "Silly Tee Shirt" event. We'll have a Salsa lesson taught by Pete Swingle.



Visalia Chapter
By Queen Carol Bixler
We were finally able to have our first dance "Crazy Days of Summer" at the Exeter Memorial building on July 17th. It was so wonderful to see everyone in person and enjoy dance. We have also been able to have in person meetings as well.



Our hats are off to Bakersfield for wonderful, fun Board of Directors weekend. 16 of our members attended and had a great time. We enjoyed the various clubs delightful presentations. Shane and Myra Nielsen represented our club with a fantastic Tango dance. A special thank you goes out to them for all their hard work.

It was good to be Queen again after being off for a year and a half. It was a lovely coronation. Rose Petersen and her husband Steve performed a gorgeous Viennese Waltz. Their three adorable granddaughters presented the flowers and crown perfectly. Later in the evening Nick and Viktorija performed 4 unbelievable dances to an extremely appreciative audience.





Antonia getting snacks ready.

Palomar Smooth Dancers'

first in person meeting was an event to behold. Jesus and Antonia provided a place with welcoming atmosphere, snacks and smiles all around.

This meeting notably took twice as long as the last, which must indicate things are looking up for the club.

Included in the photos are members so new, that at the time, hadn't even been sworn in yet. (Scheduled for next



meeting. Jack and Mary Kerr)

Front row from left: Mario Lira, Donna Thornton, Marilee Ragland, Jack Ragland, Jesus Quinene,

Middle row from left: Cathy Lombardi, Kelly Kimmitt, Nellie Quinene, Marion Semler, George Mozes, Miriam Mozes

Back row from left: Jack Kerr, Mary Kerr, Penny Elliot, Frank Lombardi, Duane Thornton, Antonia Quinene, Al Harruff, John Sankis, Len Lee, Marsha Hanson, Peter Hanson

Photographer: Peggy Lee – July 07-2021 PSD board meeting attendees



(above) President Kelly Kimmitt and Secretary Penny Elliot.

(left) Photographer Peggy Lee and her husband Len



Welcome Back!! The LA Chapter started back to dancing in our new venue in July. We are dancing at the Garibaldi M.B.Society hall. We have a 2000 sq. ft. dance floor and plenty of room to social distance. Kim Clark is our dance instructor and we are exploring new rumba steps.



Fun times were enjoyed at our first dance back, the Welcome Back themed tea dance held on July 11th. This was also the inaugural dance at our new venue, The Garibaldi Italian Society hall.



Los Angeles Queens (l-r) Alice Miller, Sandy Wells, Susan Johnson and Debby Ku.

Our sister chapter has rolled out the carpet in Bakersfield. The roaring 20's were recreated with decoration that wowed us. Pictures are the proof of what a fabulous time L.A. had at Rose Peterson's coronation.

The Queen's luncheon was an assembly of each chapter's Queens, present and past. Oh what fun discussing: animals, plants, sports and dress sizes. Nothing was out of bounds at my table.

Bakersfield new Queen was elegant and carefree. (Well, that's the way it looked) Our chapter has the all around dance choreographer, Victor Lee. He always comes up with a new twist on the procession of chapter Queens. He instills fluid movement while mobilizing the Queens and escorts.



Victor Lee, Debby Ku and the LA Team teach line dancing at the Bakersfield Boards.

Queens and escorts.

Covid was a factor in the decision of no mixer. Instead Victor Lee and his L.A. team lead the dance floor in several line dances. From Mambo #5, New York, New York and Moves Like Jagger, we all learned and had fun.



Our next Coronation will be the Coronation of our two time Queen-elect Sandy Wells. Get ready and let the feathers fly, January 8, 2022

Queen-elect Sandy Wells and husband Tom are looking forward to welcoming you to our Coronation, January 8, 2022.

First Dance Event in July at GGSD

Golden Gate was excited to hold our first event since March 2020. On July 11, we had an in-person dance for vaccinated members and guests. By checking vaccination status, we were able to have the event without requiring masks inside the dance area. We were pleasantly surprised with 61 participants at our event.

We had an American Foxtrot lesson from James Kleinrath and Melody Singleton at 1:30pm. Afterward, we had an individually pre-packaged snack box in place of the hors d'oeuvres that would normally be served after our lessons. Our general dancing ended at 5:00pm when a buffet style catered dinner was served pre-COVID.



Foxtrot Lesson

Our dance theme was “Red, White, and Blue... We’ve Missed You!”, so many people dressed for the theme. In addition, a lot of members and guests traveled from North Bay to attend this event. It was great to see so many of our regulars, as well as a few first timers at our July dance.



(left) Ken and Faye Dressed for the Occasion.

(right) Table Decorations Includes Hand Sanitizer.



It was hard to cancel our August dance due to the new mask requirements regardless vaccination status from the City of South San Francisco and San Mateo County. The GGSD Board is closely monitoring the progression of the delta variant in the Bay Area and any new requirements. Based on the feedback from our regulars, we will decide if the September dance will be held and any requirement for masks.

Bakersfield Dance Event and Trip to the Sequoia National Park

It was great to be back dancing and to see our fellow NSD members and guests at the Bakersfield Event from August 6th to August 8th. Golden Gate had 10 people in attendance at Bakersfield. We thoroughly enjoyed the dance activities. We thank Bakersfield members for putting on this wonderful event. From the decorations of the dance hall to music selection, to activity planning, everything went smoothly. Although there were no dance mixers due to COVID concerns, the line dances attracted a lot of participants. Big thanks go to Victor Lee and Debbie Ku who taught us different line dances, in which Elizabeth and I took part every chance we could get. There were no dance competitions, but we enjoyed spot light dance performances. The coronation was fabulous and the new Queen, Rose Peterson, is very beautiful and gracious. We are looking forward to her visit to GGSD’s coronation in April 2022. The professional dance performances were the highlight of the Saturday night.

After a wonderful weekend of dancing and catching up, Elizabeth and I visited the Sequoia National Park. Sunday, we visited the Sherman Tree, and walked along the Big Trees trail. On Monday, we hiked the Moro Rock trail from the Giant Forest Museum to the top of Moro Rock. From there, we took the shuttle to the Crescent Meadow, and visited Tharps Log and the Crescent Meadow Loop. It was so nice to be surrounded by the trees, which emit special and sweet aroma. The only downside of the visit was the bad air quality due to the Dixie fire. This was our first visit to Sequoia, and look forward to visiting again with better air quality and more adventures.



(above right) Carl and Elizabeth at Sherman Tree.

(above left) Cabin Carved into Fallen Tree.

(left) Our North Bay Dancers.

(left) On top of Morrow Rock.

Labor Day Weekend Dance Needs? Come to San Fernando Valley - The Valley of the Dance!

I announced at breakfast that SFV Smooth Dancers would hold our members only "Grand Re-Opening" dance on Saturday, Sept 4th - Labor Day Weekend - for \$15.00. I offered another dance on Friday night and classes on Saturdays - an afternoon barbecue/swim party and a Saturday evening hospitality party for our out of town chapter visitors only.

In addition, there would be an opportunity to visit our So. Cal attractions, such as the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, which is only 30 minutes away from our chosen hotel and studio. Go sit in an "Air Force One" - you'll never have another opportunity. Stay longer. Universal Studios and Six Flags Magic Mountain are all close by. Disneyland is just down the road, so to speak. Take a vacation. You deserve it.

The only serious cost is the hotel (Hampton Inn by Hilton) but there is no weekend package price to pay - see below. To lighten that cost, the dance entrances are only \$15.00 and the parties are compliments of the SFV chapter. Our studio has a lovely large dance floor and our SFV chapter welcomes you by hosting parties.

Of interest to note, is that some of our SFV members, who socialized, without masks, with everyone at the recent Bakersfield event took Covid tests this week. We have all tested negative. I am of the opinion that our NSD friends are smart enough to protect their dancing friends by taking the vaccine. While we note in our promo that there is a mask mandate in place, the only request our chapter makes is that non-vaccinated people stay home. We respect their choice but we ask that they respect our request. We, the vaccinated, want to enjoy dancing without fear.

Our showcase went off well -- we are told. How could you not have Charlie Chaplin (aka Brian Yip) in a 1920's showcase that featured three dances that were famous back then?

The "Dancing with the Pros" was a great hit with single ladies. I was approached by many people who are running future events about how this could be implemented for them. The pros and I are working on a model plan that could be effective for future NSD events.

What a wonderful weekend event. Thank you so much Bakersfield for all your hard work. We are truly indebted to your fabulous team. Everyone had such a good time that it inspired me to make our "Grand Re-Opening" on Labor Day's Saturday, September 4th into a bigger event. We would love to see our NSD friends again. I have only booked 10 rooms. Call 818-785-2211 and ask for Lulu in the sales dept. to get a two queen room for \$231.00 + which includes a hot buffet breakfast for two, and free parking. King rooms are available but slightly higher.

Please alert Joan Robinson at joandanceforlife@gmail.com that you will be attending and whether or not you are booking rooms at the Hampton Inn by Hilton. For Marriott devotees, there is one in Sherman Oaks which is only 15 minutes away from the studio.



Debi Cardenas, one of the many hard working Bakersfielders who ran the fabulous event, with Joan Robinson.





San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers Members Only

Member Dues
\$32 for 2021-2022

**Saturday,
September 4, 2021
7 - 11 p.m.**



Get these dance dates
on your calendar!
October 2
November 6

also studio parties here
every Saturday

*Please enter from the
rear of the building
(under the blue awning)*

*Overflow parking is
acceptable at both Citibank
and Wells Fargo except for
areas closest to the ATMs.*

Hollywood Academy of Dance



Dance Lesson
Waltz
Francisco Martinez

Music
DJ - Tom Mendola

All Ballroom, Swing
and Nightclub styles
Mixers

Schedule
Members Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Doors Open 7 p.m.
Dance Lesson 7:15 p.m.
Dancing 8-10:30 p.m.

Members \$15
Dance class, munchies, beverages included.

We remind you that an indoor mask mandate is in place at this time.
For additional information contact Joan Robinson at 818-951-1516 or SocialChair@nsdsfv.org.

Fresno Smooth Dancers presents

SILLY TEE SHIRTS

Sunday, September 19, 2021



***HOSTED BY:
NANCY CARGILL***

SALSA LESSON BY PETE SWINGLE

Lesson 2:00

Dancing 3:00 to 5:00

NSD Members- \$10.00

Guests - \$15.00

*Clovis Senior Center
850 Fourth Street
Clovis, California*

*For More Information call
Lynn at 408-220-4075
www.fresnosmoothdancers.org*

Save The  Date

Born
To
Dance

For the Coronation of
Los Angeles Chapter Queen-Elect
Sandy Wells
Saturday, January 8th, 2022
Details to be Announced