National Smooth Dancers Dance Whispers

December 2021



2022 Coronation Central: Los Angeles Chapter - January 8; San Diego Chapter - March 5; Bakersfield Chapter - March 26; Golden Gate Chapter - April 9; Visalia Chapter - May 21; Fresno Chapter - June 4; Palomar Chapter - July 9; San Fernando Valley Chapter - November 5.

2022 Convention: September 2-5; Margaritaville Resort, Palm Springs "Give My Regards To Broadway"

















The Dance Whispers Editors (L-R): Alice Mah Miller - Los Angeles; Frank Lacson & Mark Chapman - San Diego; Carl Chesbrough - Golden Gate; John Sankis - Palomar; Rachel Seward - San Fernando Valley; Marci Diller - Bakersfield; Lewis Griswold - Visalia; Linda Bennett - Fresno.



Publishing Editor
Tom Wells

Soon we will bidding farewell to 2021 and

welcoming in 2022. I don't know about you, but I am ready to ditch 2021 and start a new year!

If you are looking for a place to dance in the New Year, check out the Golden Gate New Year's Gala (pp 4,11) or Bakersfield NYE Party (p12) or San Diego at <u>sdsdwebsite.com/Our-Next-Social</u>. However you choose to bring in the New Year, please do it safely and responsibly. You really do not want to miss the NSD fun-filled year that is ahead of us!

To kick off the new year, come celebrate the Coronation of Los Angeles Queen Sandy Wells on January 8, 2022 (pp 2,10). The LA Coronation promises to be an entertaining and fun event to start off the NSD year, which has a full schedule of coronations and a convention (see above)!

As we emerge from this pandemic, it appears that many NSD members are leading the way. We have our travellers (pp 2,6). Our NSD dancing family is growing with 20 new members (pp 3,5,7). The NSD monthly dances are beginning again across all 8 NSD chapters!

I want to take the opportunity to recognize and thank Fresno Dance Whispers editor Linda Bennett, who will be stepping down as editor after this issue. Linda has served as editor for the last 8 years and it has been a joy to work with her. My

first big mistake as publishing editor was my first issue when I forgot to include Fresno in the newsletter!! Linda was very gracious and patient as I corrected my error and republished the issue! Thank you Linda for your service and dedication to NSD and Dance Whispers. I look forward to welcoming Fresno's new editor who will be filling some impressive shoes!

Because of these unprecedented times, I would like to repeat what I printed in the last two issues:

Returning to ballroom dancing is a joy, but I would be remise 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!

Did You Know... When the first NSD bylaws were drawn up (1937) dues 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. (Ballroom Dance Magazine - August 1962)

The First Coronation of 2022 (Finally!)



Los Angeles Chapter 2022 Queen-Elect Sandy Wells

Sandy Wells has been retired for 12 years, enjoying a stress-free life away from the 29 stress filled years of being an anesthetist.

She now enjoys the many simple pleasures in life: gardening and enjoying the "flowers of her labor." Sandy celebrates her Italian heritage as a member of The Garibaldina Italian Society, having just completed her term as their president and playing bocce ball with her fellow Italians. Sandy loves relaxing with her 4 cats, and of course enjoying every dancing opportunity she can squeeze into a pandemic interrupted schedule.

Sandy serves as a volunteer at the Bob Hope USO at LAX. Sandy finds it a wonderful reward to be of service for our active military personnel.

Sandy has been married to Tom for 37 years and enjoys not only dancing, but travel and adventure too.

Chocolate is a wonderful mood booster, according to Dr. OZ. For Sandy, it is being Queen for the NSD, LA chapter (Chocolate does assist). Being the LA ambassador to another Chapter's Coronation as Queen, somehow adds a thrill, like eating a good piece of See's candy. M-M-M delicious, exciting and demonically satisfying. Well, as close as it gets without getting into trouble.

Sandy thanks the LA Chapter for allowing her to represent them. Sandy will endeavor to be on her best behavior and if not..., well, "It's good to be Queen"...!

The 2022 Coronation of Queen Sandy for Los Angeles Chapter will be on Saturday January 8, 2022. This year the Coronation will be held at The Garibaldina M.B. Society

located at 4533 N. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, 90065. We are excited to show off our new venue for our monthly tea dances. The Garibaldina has a wonderful 2000 square foot dance floor in a spacious hall which will take you back to old world Italy! The afternoon hospitality will be held at The Garibaldina hall.



The hotel for which room arrangements were made is the Marriott Courtyard Old Town Pasadena, 180 N Fair Oaks Ave, Pasadena, CA 91103, (626) 403-7600. The special room rate of \$129 expired on December 8th. Hopefully you have made your reservations. The hotel is conveniently located 15 minutes away from The Garibaldina. Please see the flyer at the back of this issue of Dance Whispers.

Travellers: Debby and Victor and Chuck and Susan took a 23 day cruise on the Crystal Serenity in the Caribbean. The trip consisted of three cruises back to back--the first was round trip Miami, the second was Miami to Puerto Rico, and the last was Puerto Rico back to Miami. Very smooth seas, delicious food, and good company. We had under 400 on each segment, and the ship holds 970. Plenty of room. We are due home on the 12th of December. We were tested for Covid before we boarded, and had antigen testing after each segment. Masks were optional for guests but mandatory for the staff. Most of the guests did not wear masks.



What better way to celebrate the holiday season than to dance! The Bakersfield Smooth Dancers are doing just that as we learn the passionate and sexy Tango...okay, the truth is many of us are still very basic and maybe not so sexy...but we try! Josh and Rachel demonstrate moves for us and we do our best to imitate. "Slow-slow-quick-quick-slow" is called out as we keep practicing. Josh gave us a laugh when he had us consider facing our partner during the tango and say, "I love you," and then on the next move, sharply turn away and whisper, "I hate you." Just a funny way to think about the Tango!





Dance instructors Josh and Rachel demonstrates the importance of maintaining frame while dancing,



As we circle around the line of dance, we hear what many a good dance teacher would say, "Keep your frame." Then of course, our teachers modeled how important it is for both the leader and follower to maintain frame throughout any dance. Josh also had us try a new strategy as we used an atypical hold placing our arms differently while solely focusing on our footwork.





What was really fun was learning how to do the Tango corte. Josh and Rachel modeled the components of a good corte. Followers were reminded to keep their weight on the right foot so they could point their left foot and create a beautiful shape as they performed the corte.

Fortunately, a couple of our new members agree that the Tango is a wonderful dance.









Elsa has always wanted to learn how to dance. She found out about us through a friend who enjoys dancing at our Bakersfield Smooth Dancers' weekend dances. She said, "I always wanted to learn how to dance the Tango. It is such a romantic dance. Plus, I really loved watching The Addams Family." Agreed! Morticia and Gomez were quite the pair!

Maria found out about our club from a coworker named Liora. (Yes, the same Liora that was our previous editor.) Maria enjoys Zumba in her free time. She feels that Tango is a fun, passionate dance. She is looking forward to learning more Tango moves.

Another recent new member to the Bakersfield Smooth Dancers is Gary. While he was line dancing at one of our local senior centers, he saw the Bakersfield Smooth Dancers enjoying an evening of fun. It was our very own Queen Rose and her husband Steve who encouraged Gary to join our club! Gary says the waltz and cha cha are the main dances he would like to learn.

Finally, it is my pleasure to introduce our fourth new member Shelly. She recently moved to Bakersfield and has jumped right into meeting new people through joining our dance club. She was first inspired to learn how to dance back in 2009 on a trans-

Atlantic cruise between Barcelona and Miami. She had started taking some lessons then, but life got busy. She is so excited to be a member of the Bakersfield Smooth Dancers. Although she feels like she is back in Kindergarten learning so many new moves, she is doing great! Her favorite dance so far is the nightclub two-step.

The Bakersfield Smooth Dancers club has a Christmas Dance on December 18th from 7 to 10 pm, so if you are coming our way, we invite you to join us!

May the joy of dancing be given to YOU in 2022!

The Golden Gate Chapter continues to hold monthly Sunday dances in a scaled-down version at the recreational center in South San Francisco. Our dance event starts at 1:30pm with an hour-long dance lesson, followed by a general dancing until 5pm. Attendees enjoy a box of snacks. The dance event requires a proof of vaccination, as well as masks to be worn at all times, except when actively consuming food or beverage. Our events are helping our dance community return to an activity they enjoy. We do miss our 5pm dinner and dancing until 6:30pm – especially for those who have traveled far to attend the dance event.

Our attendance continues to grow, and our December event looks to have more dancers than our opening event in July. We remain compliant with county and venue restrictions, we require masks to be worn at all times indoors, including while dancing.

In October, our Oktoberfest-themed dance had many of our 49 attendees dressed for the occasion. We had an Oktoberfest themed line dance that was taught by Dan Ansaldi. Our November event brought 65 dancers, some brought items to show what they are thankful for. Attendees were treated to an American style Waltz lesson by taught by Bill Milner.



Oktoberfest Decorations



Oktoberfest Dancers



(Above) Thankful Picture and Trophy. (Right) Doll Thankful Memory.



New Year's Gala: We are preparing for our annual New Year's Gala to celebrate 2022. It will be held at the Foster City Crowne Plaza on Thursday, December 30, 2021. We expected a smaller event, and were worried about meeting the 50-person minimum for 2 sections of their ballroom. However, we did receive an overwhelming interest in this event. We worked with the Crowne Plaza, and now have reserved the entire 4 sections of their ballroom. We also limited sign-ups to 150 people to allow the hotel to have the tables more spaced out. With a larger space, we still had people sign up to be on a wait list. Our guests are required to be vaccinated and to wear masks at all times, unless eating or drinking. This event will be over the top with a 3-course meal, a champagne toast, a balloon drop, and of course, lots of dancing.



Visalia dance team performs at December event

The Visalia Smooth Dancers held its annual Christmas dinner-dance Dec. 4 at the PPAV Hall in Visalia. The event is always a highlight of the year, even more so this year because it had to be canceled last year due to the pandemic. A total of 104 people attended, including 16 from Fresno Smooth Dancers. Dinner tables were lovingly decorated in greens, reds and white to match the theme of "A Magical Christmas."

"The tables were so beautiful, so creative," co-chair Laura Encinas said. Wendy Storey used tree trimmings from her back yard to decorate a table. Tables were also set by Sally Bailey, Carol Bixler, John Forest, Linda Ruiz, Chris Hoeper, Agnes Tims, Domi Aville, Myra Nielsen, and Amanda Guajardo. All the tables looked fantastic.

Meanwhile, the stage was decorated in hanging snowflakes, a lighted snowman and nutcracker soldiers. Club members brought unwrapped toys to be donated to a local charity.

Somjai Cochran served as co-chair for the December dance. Also on the committee: Lew Griswold, Florence Kabot, Yvette Haworth, Randy Bardone and David Bixler. Carolyn Richards served as master of ceremonies.

Greg Uichanco provided the music.

Bravo! Visalia Smooth Dancers Formation Team

The Visalia Smooth Dancers Formation Team performed a fabulous and fun dance routine of bolero, tango and waltz, choreographed by dance instructor Franco Peraza.

Kudos rolled in: "Your formation dance was the highlight of the NSD Christmas party. Bravo!"

Formation team members were matching outfits, with ladies wearing flowing red dresses, and gentlemen sporting black shirts and red ties. A video of the performance can be viewed at the Visalia Smooth Dancers website. Look in the gallery.



From left to right: Randy Bardone, Laura Encinas, Tim Inouye, Sallie Holden, Florence Kabot, Lew Griswold, Sally Bailey, Cheryl and Dean Levitan, Carol and David Bixler, Paul and Wendy Storey, Linda Ruiz, John Forest.



Formation team members are Randy Bardone, Laura Encinas, Tim Inouye, Sallie Holden, Florence Kabot, Lew Griswold, Sally Bailey, Cheryl and Dean Levitan, Carol and David Bixler, Paul and Wendy Storey, Linda Ruiz and John Forest. Franco Peraza filled in for team member Joe Maciel who hurt his knee.

If you missed the performance, it will be performed again at the February dance social.





The Shaking Divas also performed a routine at the December dinner-dance.

New Members

Three new members have joined Visalia Smooth Dancers: Danny and Laura Boland, and Linda Ruiz. President David Bixler presented the new members their dance pins at the December dinner-dance. Welcome Danny, Laura and Linda.



Nuptials

At the November dance social during introduction of guests and visitors, lifetime member Diane Sellers introduced her fiance Robert Leger. They were married on Nov. 20.

New officers

In January, Paul Storey will serve as VSD president. John Forest is the new treasurer. Somjai Cochran will continue serving as social chair.

Myra Nielsen is Queen-elect.

Thank you, David

David Bixler has served as president since before the pandemic and during it, a task that involved holding club meetings over the Internet and keeping the Grange Hall going among other things.

Additionally, he helped bring the club back to normalcy with the return of regular monthly dance socials.

He and Queen Carol Bixler graciously offered the use of their barn for dance practice by the VSD Formation Team.

Thank you, David, for all you have done for the betterment of Visalia Smooth Dancers.

David will continue serving on the board of directors.

January dance social

The next dance social will be held Jan. 8 at the Exeter Memorial Building. Carolyn Richards is the chair.

Greeting and Happy Holidays from Fresno Smooth Dancers! We wish you all a season filled with health, joy and peace, and look forward to many opportunities to dance together in 2022!

Our little Central Valley dance community is providing us plenty of dancing events for the holidays, including monthly Smooth Dancers' dances in Clovis and Visalia, Dianna's Studio of Dance and Central California Big Band Dance Society. It is so great to be back in action again, albeit with a few minor Covid-related adjustments.









FSD's October dance was a Monster Mash, hosted by Henry and Cindy Wegermann, with a Rumba lesson taught by Mr. Alex. Members and guests were invited to wear costumes or black and orange; even our out-of-town guests showed up in costume! We are very grateful for those who join us from other chapters; it is always such fun! Zorro won the prize for best costume, our own Jim Mitchell!





Berkeley Hayes (middle), Fresno's newest dance instructor with "Thankful forDance" hosts Nancy Cargill (L) and Lynn Sanders (R).

November's event had us celebrating our gratitude for the ability to dance again, along with everything else we have to be thankful for. "Thankful for Dance" was hosted by Lynn Sanders and Nancy Cargill, who provided beautiful decorations and wonderful fall-themed snacks and beverages. Fresno's newest dance instructor, Berkeley Hayes, taught a wonderful Waltz lesson full of elegance and technique!

Once again, Dance Whispers is going out for distribution as we hold our monthly dance. Our annual semi-formal Christmas dinner dance will be in the evening of Sunday, December 12. We hope you all got word of this event and can join us!

Included in this newsletter is the flyer for Carla's annual January Winter Dancing-themed 3rd Sunday dance, complete with her snowman collection, to be held on January 16, 2022.

Well, all good things eventually come to an end, and I now wish to inform you that I (Linda Bennett) recently announced my retirement from the FSD Board (and corresponding secretary/ Dance Whispers editor). Y'all are great to work with, but there are other things in my life right now that deserve all of my attention. I wish you all well! I have truly enjoyed these past 8 years!

I will leave you with a few photos of my October vacation in Milwaukee and Door County, Wisconsin, visiting amazing friends, seeing the fall colors at about 55% and visiting lots of art galleries.



Palomar's Holiday Party



left to right: Jayne Chen & Kam He, Cathy & Chuck, Kao & Mark And Carrie & Mike, and Queen Ann.



left to right: Debbie Atherton and Marsha Hansen welcomed our guests.

The Palomar Chapter's Holiday Party highlights included 5 magnificent dance performances:

- 1) Waltz music "Abdication" SDSD Group Performance- choreographed by Selena Johnson Chuck DiSessa & Cathy O'Hara Kam He & Jayne Chen
- 2) All That Jazz Chuck & Cathy
- 3) White World of Winter Mark & Kao
- 4) Singing in the Rain Chuck & Cathy
- 5) Secret Santa Mike & Carrie

SFV Smooth Dancers have now held four dances in 2021. Our average attendance has been 55 persons, which included nine free pros. It was the officers' decision to give complimentary entrances to the professional teachers who support our studio. As we are getting financial assistance to pay our DJs, we are fortunate to break even on our dances - in spite of upholding Covid restrictions which include requiring proof of vaccinations and mask wearing - something not many dancers are happy about.

We would like to welcome our 13 new members this year: Anita Aloha, Virginia Castelo, Pamela Frerichs, Sunny Kim, Sheri Klein, Harry Norton, Herminia Rogovin, Raymond Shum, Elizabeth Simmons, Laura Soileau, Lora Temple, Traudi Thomason, and Patricia Zenizo.



From left to right front row: James Baron, Loretta Kalan, Joan Robinson, (club president), Rachel Seward, (club social secretary). Back row: James Woo, (one of our DJs), Regina Chinweze, (club treasurer), JD Davis, (pro teacher), and Sherry Williams. David Moutrey, (Joan's teacher), presented the cake and gave a speech where he thanked Joan for her efforts to make the studio dances so successful.



Joan's brother Trevor, Rachel, Joan with George (seated).

The studio hosted a birthday party for our president, Joan Robinson, last week. The turnout was great. Attached is a photo of the Smooth Dancers in attendance. Also celebrating a birthday that night was the studio's 92 year old benefactor, George Kunkel. George has helped the studio stay afloat during the pandemic with financial donations. We are most grateful to him. Our first planning meeting for the "Give My Regards to Broadway" convention in 2022 will be held next week. Joan has already mapped out the story script for our "Moulin Rouge" presentation and is very excited about it. So, it will be one of the several showcases you can look forward to next Labor Day Weekend!



Fresno Smooth Dancers Sunday, January 16, 2022 2:00-5:00 PM

> Clovis Senior Center 850 Fourth Street Clovis, CA

Winter Dancing in the Cold January Nights!

Hosted By: Carla Hartunian

Tango Lesson by Franco Peraza Lesson is from 2:00-3:00

General Dancing from 3:00-5:00

NSD Members - \$10.00 Guests - \$15.00



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



<u>RESERVATIONS DUE BY DEC 15TH</u>

NO REFUNDS AFTER November 10th

Total

Name		
Phone #		
# of NSD/Garibaldina Members	x \$12	
# of Other Dance Club Members	x\$15	
# of Guests x \$18		

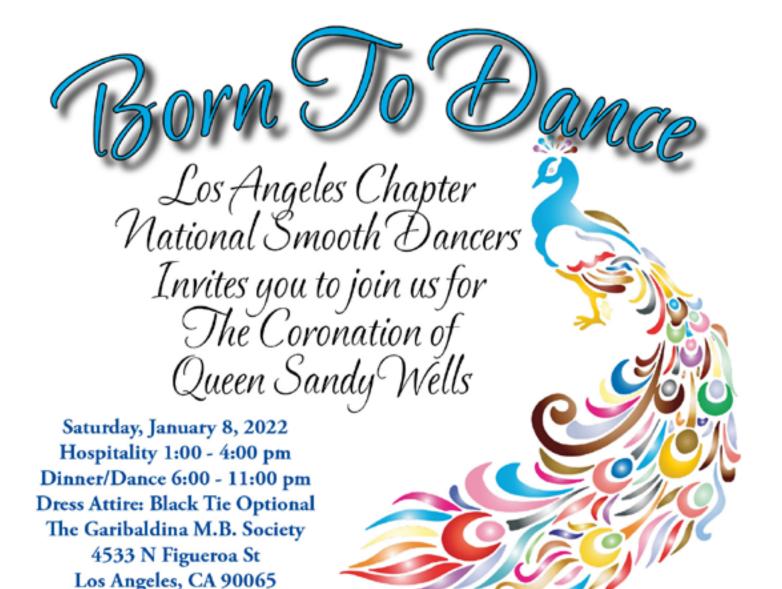
Mail Reservations and Checks (payable to LA NSD) mail to:

Sandy Wells 6251 W 78th Street Los Angeles, CA 90045

(310) 594-4561/ sandysticco@gmail.com

Or pay for your reservation online at:

losangelessmoothdancers.com



A complimentary room block has been arranged at the Marriott Courtyard Old Town Pasadena for \$129+tax/night. Reservations <u>MUST</u> be made by December 8, 2021 to secure this special rate. There is a 48 hour cancellation policy in case your plans change and you need to cancel your hotel reservation.

Make your reservations now so you don't forget!

Marriott Courtyard, 180 N Fair Oaks Ave, Pasadena, CA 91103 Current L.A. County/City

Complia

public health orders will be in Event (626) 403-7600

effect during this event.

Please RSVP by January 3, 2022 Please make checks payable to "NSD" and mail to: Name Susan Johnson NSD Chapter _____ 1420 Santo Domingo Ave. -Duarte, CA 91010 E-Mail __ (626) 794-1101 / staplers@aol.com # Of Reservations ____ x \$65 E-mail Special Meal Requirements to: MEAL CHOICE: Tri-Tip _____ Total ____ Sandy Wells - ssticco@ca.rr.com

Vegetarian Eggplant Parmigiana ____

Dinner Includes: Salad, Pasta, Main Entree and Dessert

Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc Present Our:



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30TH **NEW YEAR'S GALA** DINNER DANCE

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL 1221 CHESS DRIVE. FOSTER CITY, CA

5:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. FORMAL ATTIRE REQUESTED

FLEGANT THREE COURSE DINNER CHAMPAGNE TOAST



COMPLIMENTARY PARKING SPACIOUS DANCE FLOOR

\$100/Person Through December 1** \$115/Person After December 1st

Please make checks payable to "Golden Gate Smooth Dancers" and Mail to: Stella Wong at 3171 Susan Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066 Please include entrée selection on your check or via our online reservation system:

GGSD Website

Hotel Rooms Available at Group Rate of \$119.00 (King) \$129.00 (Two Queens) (Rate available through December 16th)

Reserve Online: https://book.passkey.com/go/GoldenGateSmoothDancersRB Reserve by Phone: 888-233-9527 Ask for: Golden Gate Smooth Dancers/Dec20

SCHEDULE OF EVENING:

5e30-6e00

Registration & No-Host Cocktail Reception

6e00-7e00 Dancing

7:00-8:00

Three Course Dinner w/ Choice of Entree: Prime Rib or

Mahi Mahi

Ravioli (Vegetarian)

8:00-10:30 Dancing

10:30-11:00

Champagne Toast **Balloon Drop & Dancing**

Reservations and Entrée Selection Required by: December 23rd @ 4:00 PM

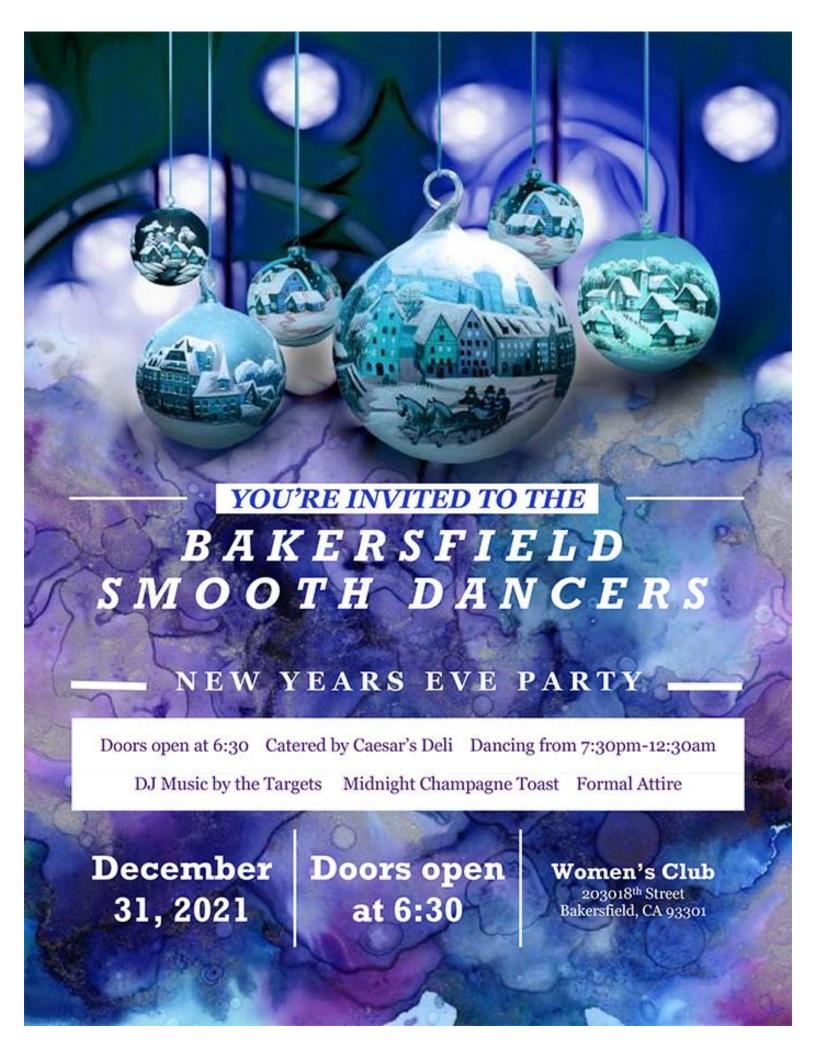
Online Reservations are encouraged at: https://www.goldengatedancers.org/

Credit eard and check payments necepted:

Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc. shall not be held liable for injuries or illness (including Covid-19) sustained by persons attending this event.

Proof of vaccination must be presented as a condition of admission to this event.

Current county requirements specify that a mask must be worn except when actively eating or drinking. If masks become optional, that will be communicated to all attendees.



"Give my Regards to Broadway" September 2-5, 2022





Our creative team enjoying lunch at Margaritaville Resort:

Join the San Diego Smooth
Dancer for a trip to Broadway,
the most famous theatrical
district in the world. Take in
Broadway sensations: My Fair
Lady, Grease, Moulin Rouge,
Chicago and the Big Deal.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling Margaritaville Resort at 1-866-724-0603 and asking for the "National Smooth Dancers" block of rooms. Group code for NSD is 2771375. More information is

on the San Diego Smooth
Dancers website, under "NSD
Convention 2022".