National Smooth Dancers Dance Whispers

December 2022



2023 Coronation Central: Los Angeles - January 14, 2023; San Diego Coronation - March 4, 2023; Bakersfield Mini Convention - March 24-26; Golden Gate Coronation - April 15, 2023; Fresno Coronation - June 17, 2023; Palomar Coronation - July 8, 2023; San Fernando Valley Chapter Coronation - November 4, 2023.

2023 Convention: Visalia State Convention: September 1-4, 2023



















The Dance Whispers Editors (L-R): Sandy Wells - Los Angeles; Mark Chapman - San Diego; Susan Simmons - Golden Gate; Debbie Atherton & Ann Mauro - Palomar; Rachel Seward - San Fernando Valley; Debi Cadena - Bakersfield; Lewis Griswold - Visalia; Carla Hartunian - Fresno.

Publishing Editor

Tom Wells

Hello Smooth Dancers,

It is that time of year as we approach the end of a year and the hope and excitement of what

lies ahead of us in the new year! We have the rush of getting ready for the Holidays which brings anticipation and for many stress. What a great time of year to take some time off to destress with dancing. There is no better place than NSD to dance off some of that Holiday stress!

It has already begun with SFV's Coronation (pp2-3) Visalia's November 47th anniversary dance and December's Christmas Dance (p7), Bakersfield December dance (p6), Fresno's Hoedown dance (p8), and Palomar's No More Turkey Dinner Holiday Dance (p9)!

Golden Gate Chapter will be hosting a New Year's Dinner Dance Gala on December 30th (p11). If you are interested in celebrating the New Year a little early, or just want to practice the night before be sure to attend the Golden Gate dinner dance on December 30th. Then you can attend Bakersfield NYE party dance on December 31st (p12)!

To kick off the 2023 Coronation schedule we have the Los Angeles Coronation on January 14th, plenty of time to recover from any NYE over-indulgences (p10)! There is a room block at the Marriott Courtyard Old Town Pasadena, but reservations

must be made by December 24th to take advantage of this special rate.

You will also want to mark your calendars for the 2023 Bakersfield Dance Weekend to be held on March 24-26. Information is available on pages 14-15.

You will also want to check out our member's travels: Tahiti (p4), Croatia (p5), Hawaii (p6) and Magic Mountain (p5)!

I hope you enjoy this end of year issue. May the Holiday Spirit fill you with the Joy and Love of Family, including your NSD extended dancing family!

I look forward to seeing you on the dance floor soon. Until then, stay safe, be well and *N*ever *S*top *D*ancing!



Growing up in Arizona, I knew it was my holiday season when the saguaro cactus glowed with lights and "Here Comes Santa Claus," sung by Gene Autry, played on the radio. Most of all, when a tumbleweed Christmas tree was set up in downtown Chandler. I know you will believe me when I say Christmas in Arizona offers everything from snow-covered pine forests in Flagstaff to lounging by the pool with Santa Claus in Tucson because we have the same diversity in your state of California.



SPEAKING OF MAGIC the Coronation of Queen Loretta Kalan was enchanting and a time of celebration. SFV had not had a Coronation since 2019, and everyone came ready to dance the night away to our favorite ballroom and rhythm sounds and to some new music from Queen Loretta's Armenian heritage was played by our favorite DJ Tom Mendola.



The MAGIC started as guests arrived at a beautifully decorated setting and social time, followed by a royal Coronation entrance for reigning queens and escorts, choreographed by Victor Lee of the Los Angeles Chapter and assisted by Queen Mum Carla Hartunian from the Fresno Chapter. Next, Queen Loretta magically shared her Armenian heritage with some delicious family food. Her love of the Victorian era, from centerpieces to the beautiful Victorian gowns designed and worn by her and the Royal Court, included her Grandchildren and her family.



The MAGIC of the night was hosted by long-standing and past SFV Queen Leanne Wong as the chapter's first Mistress of Ceremonies. In addition, longtime friends of Queen Loretta and SFV members Keiko Isshiki and Frank gave a lively and



delightful Honor Dance performance, with the newly crowned Queen and her husband James performing the Queen's dance to a romantic Night Club Two-step.

The MAGIC of the evening continued with more dancing and fellowship among NSD members and Queen Loretra's family, with a Moulin

Rouge showcase performance given by SFV members and choreographed by the fabulous Natalia Lind and Allan Walls.





The MAGIC of wearing the crown for three years was an honor for outgoing queen and SFV chapter President Joan Robinson, who closed the evening by saying it is an honor to pass on the legacy of chapter queen and wished her great pleasure in wearing the crown as SFV's Social Ambassador.

Since 2015 I have been our chapter's newsletter editor, which has been a joy. Our new editor, James Baron, will take over in February.

We look forward to welcoming you to the SFV dance in 2023! It is always the 1st Saturday of the month.

May the **MAGIC** of the holiday season stay with you all year!

Fondly, Rachel



Dear Smooth Dancers, I'm so pleased to tell you all how happy and honored you all made me feel by supporting my Coronation this past November 5th, 2022. All those months of planning, looking for venues, working with our wonderful San Fernando Chapter team on everything from pamphlets to menus, arches to centerpieces and so much more. It all culminated in a wonderful evening that I will always cherish and never forget. I look forward to the upcoming months of attending coronations and conventions and representing SFVSD as their new Queen. Thank you All!



-Queen Loretta Kalan



Los Angeles Chapter

It is raining..Hurrah..Our rain dance worked. All the chapters are preparing for a holiday bash and the Los Angeles chapter is no different. Our holiday party is December 11, 2022 at the Garibaldina Italian hall. It is the same hall where our coronation will be held. (Flyer attached)

We have attended the very special coronation of SFV Queen Loretta Kalan. The theme was in a Victorian era and our Victor Lee choreographed the entrance. The food, dancing and fellowship were in full swing all evening. Thank you for all the members that worked on this event. We loved it.

NEW MEMBERS

Janet Peters and Lily Wang are new members that will be initiated at the next tea dance that they attend.

ILLNESS

Marion Scholtz has been ill and needs your thoughts, prayers and cards...2821 Anchor Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90064-4505



During their 28 day Tahiti cruise Chuck Johnson celebrated his 80th birthday, then over the next two days they celebrated Debby Ku's and Victor Lee's birthdays!

TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

Ahh!!! Susan & Chuck Johnson, Victor Lee and Debby Ku boarded the Crown Princess on November 9 for a 28 day Tahiti cruise. One of the events was Chuck fabulous Johnson's birthday party Nov. 10, then Debby's birthday Nov. 11 and Victor's birthday Nov 12. The cruise visited several ports: Hilo, Honolulu, Kauia, Apia (Western Samoa). Tahiti, Moorea. Pago Pago and Bora Bora were cancelled. Overall the trip was very relaxing. There was a total of 20 sea

days. They danced every night and experienced all sorts of adventures.

Mammoth is a winter wonderland in November. The Wells celebrated Sandy's birthday in front of a blazing fire and snow falling outside. MMMM I will reveal nothing else...

We are happy to announce that Robert Quan has graciously accepted the post of President of the L.A. Chapter for an additional year, thank you Robert.

TRUMPETS PLEASE

The Los Angeles Chapter invite you to join us for the Coronation "The Queens of Los Angeles". It will be held at The Garibaldina Italian Hall. Dinner includes Salad, Pasta, Tri Tip or Eggplant Parmigiana and special dessert. Our room block is at the Marriott Courtyard Old Town Pasadena. Reservation MUST be made by December 24, 2022. Please see the flyer in this issue for more details.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah to all.

Golden Gate Chapter MONTHLY DANCES





Our "Halloween Afternoon Dance" on October 9th was full of fun and entertainment! We started with a line dance lesson "Waltz Across Texas" which was taught by Vera Harvey and guest John Ross. They taught both the singles' version and the couples' version in just 30 minutes!

Rita and Emma Steed were responsible for the decorations, and they AGAIN outdid themselves! We all enjoyed them, especially our first-time guests who were amazed and mesmerized by the detail of the centerpieces!

Great job from Rita & Emma with the decorations and with pulling together a costume contest complete with prizes!

At 2:00 our Ad Hoc Committee provided a tasty light meal, and I could tell everyone was thoroughly enjoying every bite! Nice job by Nadia, Igor, and team!

At 3:30 our GGSD Performance team revived the "Grease" routine (choreographed and taught to us by Dan & Amy Ansaldi) which they performed at the NSD Convention in Palm Springs this past September. It was again so much fun!

The "Halloween Afternoon Dance" was rounded out with more open dancing to great music by our own music man, Carl Chesbrough! Thank you, Carl, and keep up the great work!







Our Nov 13th dance was themed "Denim & Diamonds" with decorations by Liz Talmadge & Vera Harvey. The dance started with a West Coast Swing lesson by Michelle Kinkaide. Everyone was decked out in their themed finery for a fun afternoon!

Our upcoming Dec 11 dance will be "A Christmas Holiday" with decorations by Rita & Emma Steed. We know the decorations will be amazing with these two on the job! At this dance, we are fortunate to again have Christian Solares with us and he will be teaching Waltz. As I'm sure you are aware, Christian is an amazing instructor so this will be a lesson not to be missed!

We are also looking forward to our "New Year's Eve Eve" ball, which will be held on December 30th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City.

MEMBERS EXCURSIONS

Our president, Vera Harvey, reports on a recent trip with Liz and Chuck Talmadge:

"On October 11, just 2 days after our amazing October dance, Chuck, Liz, and I were on a flight to Croatia to spend some time with another of our members, Ana Dayeh in her home town of Zagreb, Croatia. This was my first flight across the Atlantic Ocean and it was LONG! Fortunately, there were movies to watch and plenty of food so we made it just fine!

If you have not been to Croatia, let me just say that it is a country with natural beauty everywhere! Waterfalls, rivers, mountains, natural ravines, open farmland as far as the horizon, and the nicest people who have no problem just parking in the middle of the street if there isn't a parking spot available! Yes, this did happen and others just patiently waited until it was safe and merely drove around them! In our country, that would never have happened without horns blaring and words being exchanged!

We flew back on the 26th, recapturing the day we lost on the way over. As a result of the time changes, my circadian rhythm was so confused that it took me about a week to recoup! Yikes! But it was soooo worth it! I would do it again in a heartbeat, if I could."

Thank you Ana for hosting us and for the beautiful person you are. And a huge thank you to my traveling companions, Liz & Chuck for helping me up and down the sky-high concrete stairs in the airport in Germany! That was definitely a challenge with no elevators nor escalators! Truly not fun!

MEMBERS BBQ

On October 15th, Rita and Floyd Parma graciously invited



all GGSD members to an indoor BBQ/Potluck at their beautiful home. Twenty-one of us were in attendance, but the amazing spread that Rita and Floyd prepared, peppered with the contributions of the guests, could easily have fed three times that number. Thoughtful consideration was made to accommodate members with all dietary restrictions and not a soul went hungry or thirsty.

Entertainment for the afternoon came in the form of a lively karaoke session. Jerry Bowes reprised his Beauty School Dropout performance from our Grease formation routine and showcased his range with a number of other hits. Gloria Guinto had us all spellbound with her vocals







including a chill inducing rendition of "La Vie En Rose". In the secure environment of a supportive crowd, vocalists of all abilities took the karaoke machine for a spin, and the laughter and fun continued for several hours.

As the Parmas have not been able to attend many of

our club events in recent years, they regarded this gathering as a way for them to participate and create an opportunity for long time members and newer faces to get to know each other better. It was a chance to bond over food and friendship away from the dance floor. The Parmas' hospitality was evident from the minute you entered their home. Thank you to Rita and Floyd for hosting this event. It was clearly a labor of love.

MOUNTAIN MAGIC DANCE CONVENTION

On the weekend of November 3rd-6th a few of our members attended Michelle Kinkaid's Mountain Magic Dance Convention. This fun, vacation dance weekend is geared toward all levels of dancers in beautiful Lake Tahoe, Nevada. This unique event offers workshops and open dancing in West Coast Swing, Country, Hustle and Nightclub Two-Step plus some Line Dancing. We danced the morning, noon, and night away, and watched some amazing dance competitions. Jerry Bowes got quite the workout, being the only lead dancer in our group! I highly recommend the event, which is held every year in late October/early November.



Hello Smooth Dancers, Greetings from Bakersfield!



November's monthly dance yielded several gifts for our annual Toys for Tots collection event. Each year Barbara Norcross takes the donations to the collection center for the less fortunate children on our community. A very special thanks to our current Social Chair.

November is also the month we vote in our Board Members for the next year. It is with GREAT regret that we will be losing our Membership Chair Lindy Livingston and our Social Chair Barbara Norcross. Thank you soooo much for your several years of service. On a positive note, we did gain a new Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Tiffany, and a new Membership Chair, Stacey Louby. Ben Wilson was voted in as our new President and Steve Peterson will take the NSD Representative position. All other positions remain the same.

Six BSD members attended the San Fernando event on November 5th. Rose and Steve Peterson, Wendy Wilson, Rick Gatewood, our Queen Elect Jeanette Steck-Rogers, and Debi Cadena. Thank you so much San Fernando! We danced all night long .



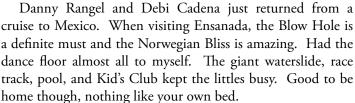
(Top Left) Queen Rose and Steve Peterson representing Bakersfield at the SFV Coronation.

(Top Right) Queen Elect Jeanette Steck-Rogers dances with Brian Yip from SFV Chapter.

(Right) Queen Elect Jeanette Steck-Rogers dancing with JD from SFV Chapter.











(Left) Danny Rangel on our Mexico cruise on the Norwegian Bliss. Dance floor below!

(Right) Visiting the Blow Hole at Ensenada.





When In Mexico!!



The littles in Mexico with us.

Our December dance will be this weekend (December 10th) Please see the flyer for more information and please attend if you are in the area.

Looking forward to New Year's Eve. After much consideration (financial), Bakersfield will be having our event at the Women's Club this year. It will be catered and include a champagne toast.

Please see that flyer for more

information on that. That event will finish out our events for the year. Looking forward to Los Angeles in January!!!

Kiss on cheek rewards Visalia dancer





Few social dancers in Visalia are having more fun this year than Mr. Joe Maciel. Look for the photo of the smiling guy with the lipstick kiss on his cheek – that's Joe. Joe volunteered to sit in a chair for a can-can dance / skit routine; kisses were his reward.

The dancers – Kelly DaFonte, Kristine Lewis, Nancy Cargill and Somjai Cochran – performed their routine at the November dance social, and reprised it a week later in Clovis for Fresno

Smooth Dancers. Feathered headdresses and skirts made for a memorable performance.

Visalia Smooth Dancers celebrate 47 years





In October, the club celebrated 47 years as Visalia Smooth Dancers. Congratulations!

"Safari" was the dance theme, so tiger stripe dresses dominated the monthly event.

The Christmas Ball draws dancers from afar David and Carol Bixler received the Achievement Award.





Visalia Smooth Dancers held its annual Christmas dance this month.

A total of 108 elegant dancers attended the club's "Silver and Gold Christmas Ball." Several people from the Golden





Gate, Fresno and Bakersfield chapters attended. Thank you for being there.



Dan and Amy Ansaldi of the Bay Area provided the entertainment by dancing two heartfelt numbers – Taylor Swift's "Christmas Tree Farm" (foxtrot and swing) and Bon Jovi's "You Want to Make a

Memory (nightclub two step/foxtrot combo.)

Visalia's annual Christmas ball is always a fun event because people dress their best and dance like it.

Awards for 2002: John Forest was honored as the Visalia club's Most Improved Male Dancer, and Linda Ruiz was named Most Improved Female Dancer. Lew Griswold and Florence Kabot were named Most Improved Couple Dancers.





Formation team tackles West Coast Swing

Visalia likes formation dance teams. In November, several members performed their second formation dance of the year, a West Coast Swing routine choreographed by Franco Peraza. They'll perform again in Fresno in January.

The Bixler Barn dance creates community





Visalia Smooth Dancers would simply not be the same without Carol and David Bixler because of their generosity and sense of community.

Last month, the couple invited everyone to their Tulare barn for an old-fashioned barn dance. They barbecued and everyone brought side dishes. A lovely decorated table made for a pleasant evening, followed by good dancing — Cowboy cha cha, waltz, WCS, etc.

New officers elected

Tim Inouye has been elected president of Visalia Smooth Dancers, starting in January.

He takes over from Paul Storey. Thank you for your service and overseeing so many activities, Paul.

Yvette Haworth has agreed to serve as a new board member. Somjai Cochran remains social chair.

Happy Holidays from Fresno Smooth Dancers! We wish you all a season filled with good health, joy and love, and look forward to many opportunities to dance together in 2023.

Our Central Valley Dance community is providing us plenty of dancing events for the Holidays, Fresno Smooth Dancer Christmas Dinner Dance will be on this Sunday, December 11, 2022, held at the Clovis senior Center. 6:00-10:00 pm. There will be entertainment and dance hosts. Please make every effort to attend one of our dances.





Our November 20th dance was a "Hoedown" All of us learned how to dance the Cowboy Cha Cha. We coupled up and started dancing in a circle, what fun we had. Larry and Janice Kebo were our hosts and they transformed the room into a Cowboy Salon. Each table was decorated with glass cowboy boots filled bottles of spiked



drinks and beef jerky. By the end of the dance ever person as transformed in to a real cowboy dancer. We were entertained by Visalians and Queen Nancy, who showed Joe Maciel what happens when you mess with Moulin Rouge Can-Can girls.





Fresno SD have fun every month and we are proud to say our club is growing with 52 members.

Next month, I'm the host for our annual January Dancing in the Cold Winter Snow on the 3rd Sunday Dance, complete with my Snowman collection, to be held on January 15, 2023. Consider yourself invited to our dance.

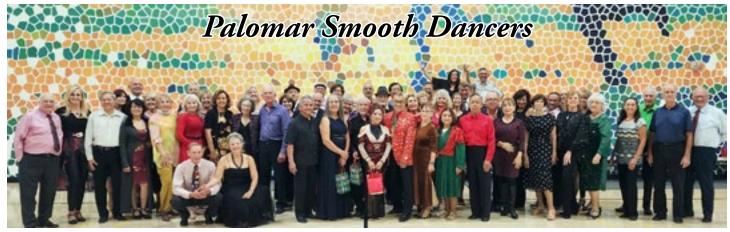
Girls Having Fun at SFV's Coronation!!











Our "No More Turkey Dinner Holiday Dance" on Sunday, 11/27/22, was a great success! A delicious "Fajitas Buffet" was served and thoroughly enjoyed by all! Thank you to Carol Kimmitt, Antonia Quinene and Ann Mauro for coordinating the dinner and party decorations. Performances by Stephanie & Glenn Thomson from the San Diego Chapter and Queen Antonia & Jesus Quinene, were both well received. Thank you Stephanie Cashion for arranging for the gifts for our Performers. Another highlight of the evening was a performance from our Monday night Intermediate Dance Class, taught by Carrie Kloss – performing a Viennese Waltz. AND a very special thanks to Mike Cowlishaw & his lovely fiancé-DJ assistant, Geneva Woehler, who were our DJ's for the evening! HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!



Mike Cowlishaw & Geneva Woehler were our DJ's For the evening



Enjoying our Holiday dinner before dancing!







(Left) Antonia & Jesus beautifully execute their performance. (Middle Awards presented to our performers. (Right) Glenn & Stephanie from SDSD give us a "sensual" performance!



Duane Thornton & his brotherin-law foraging the cold weather in Korea!

An Honor Flight Program for Korean War & WWII War **Veterans** has recently been initiated and 24 planes flew our Veterans, to honor their service, giving them a chance to visit the Memorial to the War Veterans in Washington DC. Our PSD member, Duane Thornton, was one of those Honorees! It has since developed into a National Organization with chapters across the United States. The City of San Diego has a Chapter and at this point has sent all living Korean War & WWII Veterans on Honor Flights. You honor us Duane with your service!

2023 Officers Elections took place at our November Business Meeting. Tom Wells will officially publish the results in the next edition for ALL

chapters. This author felt compelled to make a special note that for the first time in many years our chapter has elected 2 well-qualified WOMEN as President & Vice President. Congratulations are in order to these two special ladies; Ann Mauro our President-Elect, AND Penny Elliott our Vice President-Elect – we are honored!

Photo Credits: Thank you Ann Mauro for the great photos & thanks to Craig Smith, a special dinner/dance guest, for taking that wonderful group shot!

Black & Mite Ball and Coronation Los Angeles Chapter of the National Smooth Dancers

Invites you to join us for The Coronation of The Queens of Los Angeles

Saturday, January 14, 2023
Hospitality 2:30 - 4:00 pm
Dinner/Dance 6:00 - 11:00 pm
Dress Attire: Black Tie Optional
The Garibaldina M.B. Society
4533 N Figueroa St
Los Angeles, CA 90065



Sandy Wells - ssticco@ca.rr.com

A complimentary room block has been arranged at the <u>Marriott Courtyard Old Town Pasadena</u> for \$159+tax/night. Reservations <u>MUST</u> be made by December 24, 2022 to secure this special rate.

(Mention: National Smooth Dancers Coronation).

Make your reservations now so you don't forget!

Marriott Courtyard, 180 N Fair Oaks Ave, Pasadena, CA 91103 (626) 403-7600

Please RSVP by January 9, 2023	Please make checks payable to "LA NSD" and mail to:
Name	Francy Quan
NSD Chapter	815 S. California Ave.
Phone #	— Apt K — Monrovia, CA 91016
E-Mail	(720) 290-9902 / LosAngelesSmoothDancers@gmail.comOr
# Of Reservations x \$75	pay for your reservation online at: losangelessmoothdancers.com
MEAL CHOICE: Tri-Tip Total	<u>losangelessmoothaanters.com</u>
Vegetarian Eggplant Parmigiana	E-mail Special Meal Requirements to:

Dinner Includes: Salad, Pasta, Main Entree and Dessert

Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, INC. presents:

New Year's Dinner Dance Gala



FRIDAY, Dec. 30, 2022 --- 5:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City

"Dance is Art in Motion"

Champagne Toast, CD Music, dance hosts, Special Dance performances, balloon drop, 3-course dinner, complimentary parking, special room rates, formal attire please

\$110/person through December 1st ---- \$125/person after December 1st

Dinner choices: Prime Rib, Mahi Mahi, or Vegetarian Ravioli

Register, make dinner choice and pay online at goldengatedancers.org

O

Register and make dinner choice online at goldengatedancers.org and send check payable to "Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc." to: Stella Wong, 3171 Susan Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066.

Hotel Room information available on our website soon.



Proof of Vaccination must be presented for admission to this event-Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc. shall not be held liable for injuries or illness (including Covid) sustained by persons attending this event-

Online registration available soon at goldengatedancers.org



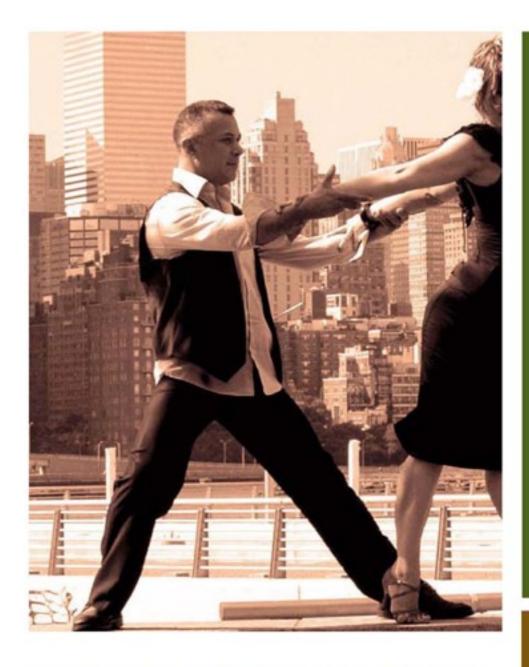
Catered by Caesar's Deli/Champagne Toast/Music by The Targets MUST HAVE 60 ATTENDEES CONFIRMED BEFORE November 1ST OR THIS EVENT WILL BE CANCELLED.

PLEASE RSVP TO JOANN GEORGIO 661-304-5284 \$65 PER PERSON

7:00PM



DECEMBER



DECEMBER 31ST
DANCE HOST
FOR HIRE

Professional Instructor Franco Peraza...

Is available for hire at our New Year's Eve dance this year. There seems to be enough interest in dancing with professionals to warrant an informational flyer. He charges \$100 per hour and would be contracted for 4 hours. That dollar amount could be split any number of ways.

Time slot 8-9pm

Time slot 9-10pm

Time slot 10-11pm

Time slot 11-12pm

Plus one room night at a hotel (I will cover if there is enough interest)

SAMPLE SPLITS

2 persons \$50 each

4 persons \$25 each

\$100 for a certain table

Or any variation of \$100/hr

Let me know if anyone is interested in this opportunity. Message me (Debi) at 6612819923 and let me know which time slot you prefer and how you would like the fee split.

The World is but a Canvas to the Imagination... Bakersfield Smooth Dancers Present "Coloring Outside the Lines" March 24-26 Two Thousand Twenty-three

