

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
December 2023



www.NationalSmoothDancers.org

Wishing All a Happy Holiday and a Wonderful New Year!



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



Publishing Editor

Tom Wells

Hello Smooth Dancers,

It is that time of year as we approach the new year with hope and excitement of what lies ahead of us! 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 de-stress 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 December's Christmas Dance on December 2 (p6), Bakersfield December dance on December 9th (p5), Fresno's Christmas dinner dance also on December 9th (p8), Palomar's Holiday Dance (p9), and the Los Angeles Holiday dance on December 17th (p4).

Golden Gate Chapter will be hosting a New Year's Dinner Dance Gala on December 30th (p12). 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 dinner dance party on December 31st (p13) or San Diego's NYE dinner dance party (p14)!

To kick off 2024 you can plan on attending the first dances of the year at San Fernando Valleys Saturday dance on January 6, 2024 (p2) and Visalia's dance on January 13th (p15)

You will also want to mark your calendars for the 2023 Bakersfield Dance Weekend to be held on

March 22-24. Information is available at <https://bakersfieldsmoothdancers.org/conventions/>.

Take the time to schedule in on your calendar our 2024 Convention hosted by Palomar Chapter, August 30 - September 2 (p12). You can download a flyer at https://www.palomarsmoothdancers.com/files/ugd/2e3fe1_54fd70c9868e4c3f8359ae7c9d21380d.pdf.

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 *Never Stop Dancing!*



www.comics.com

12/22

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Hello All You Smooth Dancers!

Smooth Dancers of the San Fernando Valley holds dances in Van Nuys on the first Saturday of the month. Our next dance is the January 6th SFV Monthly Social Dance Happy New Year . With DJ and New President Mark Emanuelli spinning the tunes, dress to impress and celebrate 2024 with us!! Please go to our website at nsdsfv.org for all the information of all our upcoming events!

We just celebrated our new Queen Chinweze's coronation and it was a wonderful event. So everyone come out on January 6th to welcome our new queen.

Our dances are held at the Hollywood Academy of Dance located at 6732 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys. \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members. This is a Great time to become a member and save save save.

Club News!

We SFV Smooth Dancers officers are interested in our members and want to hear from you about events you're up to that you can share with other dancers about interesting travel locations, dance events you may be a part of or public service that you may be involved in. Please feel free to contact me if you have anything to share with our club. Contact me at jamesbaron11@gmail.com or call 805 732-0260.

Queen celebrated a milestone birthday by bringing in her family from all over Regina Chinweze the world and hosted an amazing party prior to her coronation. The party was full of glamor, glitz, wonderful African Food and dancing all night. Performances by Reginae and her dance partners were amazing and so entertaining. Queen Regina will do an outstanding job for our club, as did our Queen Loretta Kalan in representing San Fernando Smooth Dancers across all of the clubs throughout the State.

With the recently elected board of directors, we hope to bring to you all a club that looks forward to bringing you the best of dance, fun and camaraderie. We appreciate your input and would love to hear from you and what you're up to. So please, email, text or call me with any news of special events, what wonderful dance events you are planning or have been to, and any great photos you would like to share.

I hope you all join us at our next event, and please check the website as our Web Master Bill Steeber keeps us all up to date on everything for the Smooth Dancer!







Los Angeles Chapter enjoyed an enchanted evening at the San Fernando Valley coronation of Queen Regina Chinweze. The LA chapter was represented by Queen Shari Herzfeld which was a special evening since Shari was Queen during the pandemic and didn't get a chance to attend coronations while she was Queen.



Monthly Dances

We have been pleased with the response received from our last two dances. In October we had live entertainment from the duo Tropic Starr and in November we had the popular DJ Tom Mendola. Participating with Dancing with The Pros has been a shot in the arm too for attendance at the monthly Tea Dances.

Our last dance of the year, the Holiday Dance, was held on Sunday December 17th. President Robert Quan and his son Jonathan were our DJ's for the dance. The dance floor was full during the entire dance!

Sandy Wells took on the food commitment and laid out an Italian Christmas spread for us of meats, cheese, Italian bread, flan, cheese cake cream puffs and See's Candy (OK, not everything was Italian)!

At our last business meeting many of the members decided to attend the Garibaldina New Years Eve party and sit as a group. We are looking forward to an evening of food music and dancing to the entertainment of Summer Wind on the wonderful 2000 square foot dance floor that the Garibaldina is known for.

With the Holiday Season upon us, we want to wish everyone a wonderful and safe Holiday, however you choose to celebrate, and a New Year filled with Gifts!



**News from Bakersfield Chapter
Goodbye to a Dear Friend**



Jim Messner With Peggy Amato

On October 24th, Jim Messner, a long time member of our Bakersfield Chapter passed away.

In Jim's obituary it stated, "All who were close with Jim could easily see his fondness for ballroom dancing. For much of his adult life he danced not only for the pure personal satisfaction but also

to entertain others and even compete in contests. This was an activity that certainly brought the sparkle to his eyes."

I'm sure many members throughout our club remember Jim and Peggy and how much fun they were. He will definitely be missed.

Sharing the Love of Dance

Every Tuesday morning Stacey Loubey, Neal Livingston and Boyd Binneringer volunteer at Independence Through Grace. They teach ballroom dance to special needs adults.



Stacey Loubey and Neal Livingston volunteering at Independence Through Grace

Neal has been with the program for two years, Stacey will be with the program three years this coming February and Boyd has been with the program for seven years.

Boyd also volunteers on Wednesdays for Bible study with his own segment, called

"Questions With Boyd".

As you can see by the pictures, they have a great time. There are not a lot of volunteers for the dancing segment. Most of the participants dance with other participants instead of volunteers. If you live in Bakersfield, are free Tuesday mornings from 10:30-11:30 am, contact Boyd, Stacey or Neal to find out how to get involved.



Boyd Binneringer with Regina - Neal Livingston with Lanisha - and Stacey Loubey with Nora.

Monthly Dances



On October 28th a Masquerade Ball was held at the Fairfax Grange. The dance was hosted by Debi Cadena. It was nice to see such a great turnout.



Mark and Kay Boyer hosted a Thanksgiving Dance Party on November 18th. Music was provided by Dennis Acosta. We are always thankful when we get to be out on the dance floor and spend time with friends who share the love of dancing.



A Winter Wonderland is the theme for our December dance. It will be held on the 9th at the Fairfax Grange.

Weekly Lessons

Josh Harless has been teaching the Country Two-Step at the weekly Tuesday night lessons for November.

Community Events

Do you love to swing dance to a live jazz band! Well, every Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm Swing Dancing is taking place at the 18th Street Bar and Grill! They also offer a quick dance lesson at 6:30.



**Golden Gate Chapter
Monthly Dances**



November 12: Our November dance, “Thankful for Dancing!” was the first dance in our new location, just across the street from our current location. The space seems larger than the old space, with one wall of windows that keeps everything bright and airy, and a brand-new dance floor! David Jeffrey did a great job of decorating the tables with our Thanksgiving theme and we all agreed that we need to have him decorate again soon! Everyone in attendance had a great time and Michelle Kinkaid’s WCS lesson was well received. Several attendees commented on how they really enjoy Michelle’s ability to always pay attention to the details of whatever dance she is teaching! We hope to have her back as soon as her busy schedule allows! At this dance, we also had a food drive. We designated one table for these donations, however, because of the generosity of our attendees, we could have used another table as this one was overflowing! I’m sure many hungry individuals are grateful to you.

December 10: Our December dance was themed “Merry Christmas – Dance, Dance, Dance.” Beautiful decorations were provided by Rita Steed, and the “Festive Foxtrot for All” lesson taught by Alise Halbert was enjoyed by all. Attendees participated in a toy drive, with toys collected by South San Francisco firefighters. We are blessed to be able to share with others.



Upcoming GGSD Dances

December 30: Our annual New Year’s Eve Gala is sold out, but there is a waiting list, so you may still be able to attend.

Visalia Smooth Dancers Hosts ‘Holly Jolly Christmas’



The annual Christmas dance in Visalia earned its reputation as the perfect start to the holiday season. We have come to expect the December dance to be spectacular and it was.

Everything flowed smoothly from check-in to social hour, to catered dinner to dancing, to awards ceremony and back to more dancing. Every effort was made to give everyone as much time on the dance floor as possible.

About 100 people attended. Visitors came from Fresno, Bakersfield, San Francisco and even Reno. Muchos gracias.

Thanks to the generosity of members and visitors, a large number of toys were collected for needy children.

The theme this year was “Holly Jolly Christmas.”

Co-chairs Carol Abeyta and Marivel Villarreal, and the entire dance committee worked tirelessly to make the hall as beautiful and danceable as possible.

Three lighted Christmas trees anchored the stage, as well as three gold reindeer, two snowmen, a cute penguin and a variety of gift boxes – all nestled in a bed of “snow.” Member Joe Maciel provided two Nutcracker soldiers. Strings of twinkling lights graced the rear wall. Kudos to stage designer Marivel Villarreal for bringing her vision to fruition.

DJ Tim Inouye provided a variety of dance styles and musical genres. Florence Kabot served as master of ceremonies.

Committee members also included Cary Winslow, Joe Maciel, Lew Griswold, Hitomi Ramirez, and Robin Graves. Craig McNeilly also helped out tremendously.



Dinner Tables Sparkle



The dinner tables were especially lovely and inviting, with the variety of decorations from table to table creating a festive atmosphere. It's one of the things that make the Visalia Christmas dance special.

Tables were lovingly decorated by teams: Florence Kabot & Maria Helm; Sue Giampietro; Laura Encinas and Sally Bailey; Somjai Cochran and Adelle Martinez; Carol Bixler; Yvette Haworth & Nancy Cargill; Wendy Story; Myra & Shane Nielsen; and Alice Lyons.

What's a Christmas dance without appetizers and desserts provided by club members? Margaret Moholt's homemade potstickers were a smash hit.

The desserts were equally scrumptious. "You can never have too many desserts," Carol said, and she's right. Committee and club members made every effort to keep the counter well stocked and irresistible. Carolyn and Karl Richards beautifully decorated the dessert and hors d'oeuvres area.



For après-dinner entertainment, Franco Peraza and Berkeley Hayes of Fresno performed a lovely waltz.

Most Improved Dancer awards for 2023

Paul Storey was honored as Most Improved Male Dancer. "He competed at the Convention with Laura Encinas and Sally Bailey and won some trophies," awards coordinator Dean Levitan said. "Paul also was a huge promoter of the return of competitions for the first time since Covid."

Sally Bailey received the award for Most Improved Female Dancer. "Sally performed in dance team routines at the Bakersfield Boards in both the Dirty Dancing medley and the ABBA medley, and took 1st place in Senior Cha Cha at the Convention," Dean said.

The award for Most Improved Couple went to Stan Medina and Kristine Lewis, who also took honors in dance competition at the Convention. "Our Most Improved Couple have been practicing their dance moves non-stop," award presenter Lew Griswold said.

Additionally, Margaret Moholt was awarded the annual Achievement Award. "I am humbled and honored," Margaret said. Margaret has been a member of National Smooth Dancers for 30 years and serves as VSD treasurer, a post she's held for many years. Margaret processed every single reservation to the dance conventions of 2007, 2013 and 2023, hosted by VSD. She also serves as our Sunshine Chair, and has previously served as vice-president and Dance Whispers editor.

Dean and Cheryl Levitan nominated Margaret to honor her behind-the-scenes activity. "You have held offices and always done whatever is needed," Cheryl wrote. "You volunteer whenever there is no one else. But you do something much more than that. You nurture us, and that's a gift that few are able to give. Our members are like plants that you check on, that you feed and water as needed. You are our emotional support! Our emotional master gardener! You spread your love around quietly, not expecting praise, not expecting an award."

Dance hosts keep the beat



As hoped, the professional dance hosts were a huge success at the Christmas dance. Two were hired by the club and five were hired independently by club members.

"There were so many dance hosts that all the women who wanted to dance got to do so," co-chair Carol Abeyta said.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all members of National Smooth Dancers.

October and November dance report



Everybody took a breather after hosting the Convention in September. The club started up again with "Tango In Blue" as the theme for the October dance social. Many photos from October show dancers wearing blue clothing.



For entertainment, Stan Medina and Kristine Lewis performed a nice waltz.

In November, the theme was African Queen. There were a lot of safari outfits that evening.



At the dance social, three couples performed a fun and inspired "snake dance" choreographed by Franco Peraza with music from "The Lion King" compiled and edited by Cheryl Levitan. The dancers were Dean and Cheryl Levitan, David and Carol Bixler, and Lew Griswold and Florence Kabot.



Margaret Moholt rises to Queen-elect.

Margaret Moholt volunteered to be VSD queen-elect and will be crowned in May.



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 2024.



Fresno Smooth Dancers has good news. We are dancing in a new location. The new Clovis Senior Center. Lorraine and I attended the grand opening on Saturday, November 18, 2023. It was a huge ribbon cutting event with 100's of people attending. The very next day was our NSD



the photos of the Christmas tables. We tried a new caterer. ” Catering By Classic Catering at 625”, and the food was delicious. We had amazing entertainment by our own members Ruth Galvante and Robert Espana. They performed a Viennese waltz to the Christmas song of “What Child is This” and a cha-cha to the song “Dear Santa.” Our, Queen Oralia presented them with poinsettia’s. It’s always a pleasure to see these two dance together. Our dance was a huge success, we even had dance hosts for our single ladies. Everyone was having so much fun. This was a night to remember. A special thank you for all the people



who brought toys for the children at King Elementary. Those toys are being passed out to children this week at the school.

Nancy Cargill is hosting, next months third Sunday dance on January 21, 2024.



Third Sunday dance at the new location. Our theme was “Apple Barrels of Fun”. Hosted by Henry & Cindy Wegermann. The committee wear apple aprons. All of our snacks were made of apples. Our prizes were special, large candies apples. About 40 of us were so happy to be in a new venue that we danced and danced.

Our Christmas Dinner Dance & Installation of Officers was on December 9, 2023 at the New Clovis Senior Center. We had about 77 people attending the dance. We had 11 tables that were decorated differently by 10 of our members. The room looked beautiful. Look for some of



Muffin To Do? Then Join FSD for a Sunday Dance or two! A Foxtrot Lesson will be taught by Franco Peraza at 2:00pm, Dancing from 3:00-5:00pm. For more information call our new social Chairman, Nancy Cargill (559) 786-9626. Consider yourself invited to our dance.

Palomar Chapter's OCTOBER Halloween Social was quite a success!!! We had some wonderful costumes so it was a difficult decision for the judges to choose the winners! A big thank you to Ann Mauro for making beautiful flower arrangements to present to our costume winners! The music was coordinated just perfect by Peter Hanson!



Costume Winners (L-R) Bill Clark & Marilyn "Most Creative"; Marion Semler "Most Elegant"; Mario Lira "Most Unrecognizable AND Most Scary"; Ann & Tom Mauro "Best Couple"; Kelly Kimmitt "Most Funny".



Fooling around with Darth Vader!



Darth Vader poses aka. Mario Lira!

Palomar's Annual Holiday Dinner-Dance was a HUGE success with over 80 attendees and the evening went very smooth thanks to all the work put in by our wonderful committee, chaired by Penny Elliot!! The evening began with a very nice buffet dinner provided by the Jesus & Antonia Quinene who picked up all the delicious Mexican Food at their local restaurant. What a feast! Oh yes! Those Cinnamon



President Ann Mauro presented the Performers her homemade flower arrangements: (L-R) Kelly & Carol Kimmitt, Jesus & Antonia Quinene, Peter & Marsha Hansen, and Carrie Kloss & Dave Vasquez

Cookies were a hit! Dancing began at 7:00 PM along with several special performances by members throughout the night.

We **ALSO** thoroughly enjoyed **San Diego Smooth Dancers Holiday Showcase** on Saturday, December 2nd. Palomar had two tables and several members even performed in the SDDS Showcase. Our performing member were Peggy & Len Lee, Liora & Rich Malicdem, Carl Jefferies and Mark & Kao Chapman!! Fantastic show!!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT! Palomar Chapter welcomes



one of our newest members, Chris Bernardo. Chris found her way to us through her discovery of our Monday night dance classes recommended by a friend, who lives in Ocean Hills, and said there was a great dance teacher there, yes our very own Carrie Kloss! She has jumped right in and joined the club and eventually volunteered to take over Dance Whispers!! Welcome Chris!

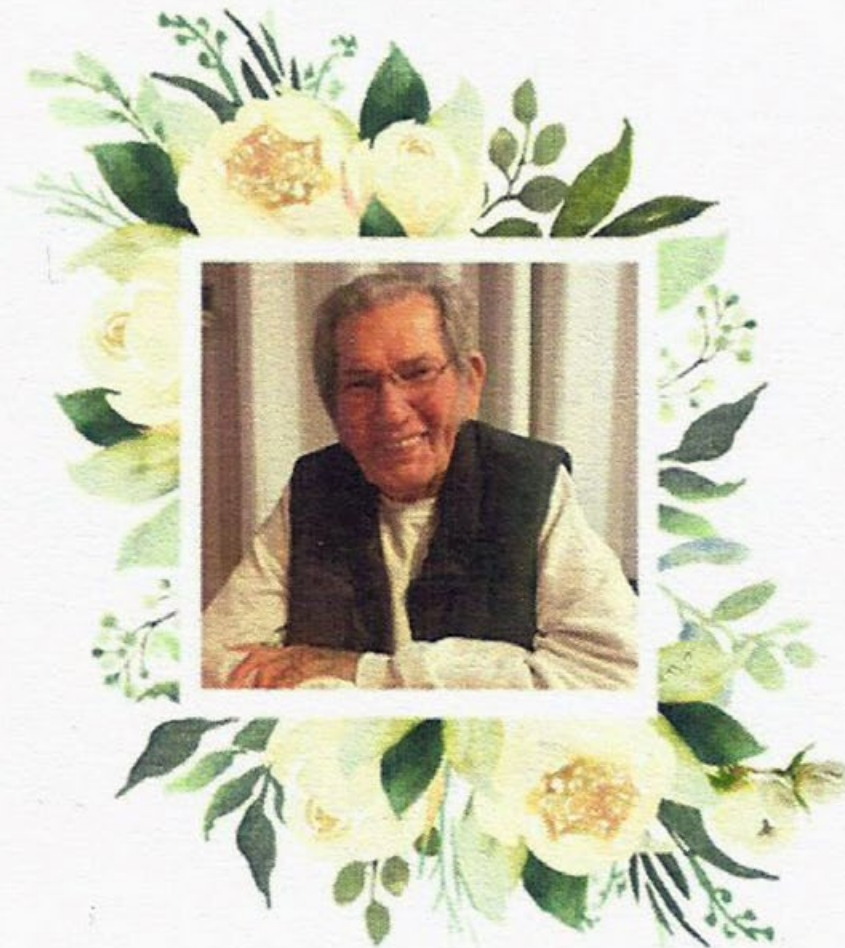
During my interview with Chris, I found that she has had quite a full life! She moved from England in 1972 to join her brother in Orange County. He assured her there was no glass ceiling here for a woman in the finance industry – he was correct! Eventually moving to a Ramona horse property to raise her two children Kim & Eric. That marriage ended and then several years later, 1996, she married her soulmate who taught her how to water ski and she loved it! Which was pretty funny since she considers herself a terrible swimmer! They cruised & laughed their way around! Unfortunately, he succumbed to cancer and died in 2010. She continues her love for travel. In 2013 she went a video safari and followed the Wildebeest on their annual traverse. In 2022 she moved to Vista where she ended up finding us! She is off to a great start and practices regularly!

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory

JAMES "JIM" MESSNER

November 19th 1934-October 24th 2023



Service will be help November 17th at 2pm
National Cemetary 30338 E. Bear Mountain Blvd. 93203
Reception to follow

In Memoriam

Celebration of Life



Beatrice Lon Chan
January 12, 1930 to February 9, 2021

Celebration of Life of Bea Chow

From Svetlana Gites - We were invited to the Celebration of Life of long-time Golden Gate Smooth Dancers member and Past Queen Bea Chow. Bea passed away during the pandemic, and it was not possible to hold the event at that time. And that's why on Sunday, November 5, 2023, family and friends gathered at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco to remember this extraordinary woman and celebrate her life. Bea loved any form of dancing, including ballroom, square dance, and Hula. With a group of square dancers, she performed in Korea.

Born in Northern California, in Redwood City, Bea discovered Hula dancing on her honeymoon in Hawaii and was hooked. I still remember her wonderful Hula performance honoring Bob Fragomeni in 2011. Bea's daughter and daughter-in-law taught all the guests to dance Hula, and we all danced to "Little Grass Shack", and then to "Blue Hawaii" led by Bea's family. Herb Chow told us about Bea's life (that is how I found out the origins of her love for Hula). Bea's daughter-in-law, Na Wahine o Ke `Ohana Chow, presented an open-ended lei that she weaved for Bea. It was a beautiful celebration!

**GOLDEN GATE SMOOTH DANCERS, INC.
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE:**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH
NEW YEAR'S GALA**

DINNER DANCE

"Moonlit Safari"

DOMINIC'S SAN FRANCISCO

2850 ALEMANY BLVD SAN FRANCISCO, CA

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

 ELEGANT THREE COURSE DINNER  CHAMPAGNE TOAST

 DJ MUSIC  DANCE HOSTS  SURPRISE DRAWINGS

 COMPLIMENTARY PARKING  SPACIOUS DANCE FLOOR

**\$120/Person Through November 30th
\$140/Person From 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 Reservations

Questions? Please contact Stella Wong at 650-255-5522 or
stellwong@hotmail.com

**5:30-6:00
REGISTRATION
& NO-HOST COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

**6:00-7:00
DANCING**

**7:00-8:00
THREE COURSE DINNER W/
CHOICE OF ENTREE:
PRIME RIB
OR
BAKED SALMON
OR
MIXED VEGETABLES EN CROUTE (V)**

**8:00-10:30
DANCING**

**10:30-11:00
CHAMPAGNE TOAST
& DANCING CONTINUES**

RESERVATIONS AND
ENTRÉE SELECTION
REQUIRED BY:
DECEMBER 20TH

ONLINE RESERVATIONS ARE
ENCOURAGED AT:
<https://www.goldengatedancers.org/>

CREDIT CARD, CHECK, AND ZELLE
PAYMENTS ACCEPTED.

*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.*



Scan with your camera to be taken to our website.

Join Bakersfield Smooth Dancers for a

New Year's Eve Dance

Sunday, December 31, 2023

7 pm - midnight

Includes a Full catered dinner

by Caesar's Deli

Plus Wine & Champagne

Women's Club of Bakersfield

2030 18th Street

Bakersfield, CA 93301

Tickets \$75 per person

Registration Deadline is 12-22-23

For tickets contact

Kay Boyer (661) 204-3501

6914 Whitewater Falls Drive

Bakersfield, CA 93312

San Diego Smooth Dancers

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Party

DECEMBER

31st

8:00PM-12:30 A.M.

Dinner-Dancing & Champagne Toast every hour

Music: Greg Alexander

\$55(NSD Members \$40)

For Reservations Contact

Lou Reyes

2359 Trellis St.

Chula Vista, CA 91915

858.652.9374

Checks made payable to SDSD

Champion Ballroom Academy

4255 Ruffin Rd., Suite 200

San Diego, CA 92123

Holly Goes Lightly

first dance of 2024!

January 13 Exeter Memorial Hall

324 N. Kaweah Ave, Exeter

7-8pm bachata *lesson* with instructors
John Singh and Jessica Salud

8-10:30 pm general *dancing*

Entertainment by John Singh and Jessica Salud

Casual dress

Dessert bar and beverages

NSD members \$10 Guests \$20

For information contact Yvette Haworth
559 561-3604/starfirehughes.net