

*National Smooth Dancers*  
***Dance Whispers***  
*August 2024*  
*NationalSmoothDancers.org*



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**2024 Coronation Central:** San Fernando Valley Coronation - November 2, 2024.

**2024 Convention:**

**Palomar State Convention: August 30-September 2, 2024**

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The Dance Whispers Editors (L-R): Mark Chapman - San Diego; Jerry Bowes - Golden Gate; Debbie Atherton & Chris Bernardo - Palomar; James Baron - San Fernando Valley; Christine Conrad - Bakersfield; Lewis Griswold - Visalia; Carla Hartunian - Fresno.



**Publishing Editor**  
Carl Chesbrough

Hello Fellow Smooth Dancers,

Our next statewide event is the State Convention hosted by the Palomar Chapter over the 2024 Labor Day Weekend (August 30 - September 2, 2024). The final coronation of the year is the San Fernando Valley Coronation (November 2, 2024).

**If you have not made your plans for the State Convention yet, please do so as soon as possible. Registration is due ASAP, with hotel reservations required by August 9th. Palomar has been meticulously planning this event for years, and it promises to be an unforgettable experience!**

Elizabeth and I have always cherished attending state events. These gatherings allow us to reconnect with our extended dancing family from other chapters. This year will be bittersweet as the LA Chapter will not be in attendance. However, we hope to see some of their members join us as guests.

**Personal Update:** August 3, 2024 is a special day for us as we prepare for our second child's wedding. It's heartwarming to see our family grow and blend with another. Elizabeth has created a beautiful slideshow featuring childhood photos of both the bride and groom. Watching these pictures during the rehearsal dinner, including their soccer days and moments with grandparents and siblings, was a touching experience for everyone.

As the ceremony began, the skies darkened, and midway through, it started to rain. Despite initial efforts to continue, the downpour forced us inside a covered tent area. After a brief 15-minute break, the ceremony resumed and concluded with heartfelt vows exchanged by the couple. After the wedding (August 4), we just enjoyed a brunch with many guests and a very tired but happy bride and groom. It was wonderful to see so many extended family members and college friends from both sides celebrating together.

I hope to see you on the dance floor soon, and remember Never Stop Dancing.

-Carl Chesbrough, Publishing Editor.





### Palomar Smooth Dancers News

**PALOMAR STATE CONVENTION.....ARE YOU READY FOR THIS MUCH EXCITEMENT???**



Deborah Atherton  
State Queen Elect

Our location is the beautiful Wyndham Bayside Hotel overlooking the bay and our Convention will showcase the very best that San Diego has to offer. See our Flyer 'Holiday on the Bay'. You will check in between 2:30pm and 5pm at the hotel, pick up your welcome package and join us for a terrific start to your 'Holiday on the Bay' at our hospitality suite.

**If you have not registered yet please complete the registration form ASAP and send to Geri Deutsch as indicated. Hotel reservations must be made by August 9th to qualify for group rate.**

The weekend will be non-stop fun, including a Friday evening Beach Party. On Saturday afternoon we will have our own version of Comic con, (super hero costumes of course) and Saturday evening will be the crowning of Deborah Atherton, our State Queen (Black Tie, very posh). Sunday afternoon will bring an 'Into the Wild' dance party celebrating the Zoo, Safari Park, Sea World and Birch Aquarium (Wild Costumes to boot). Recognizing San Diego's influence in Movies, 'Some like it hot' and 'Top Gun' to name just a couple, you may be lucky enough to see a Marilyn Monroe or two at our costume dance party on Sunday evening. On

Saturday and Sunday there will be several dance competitions and performances.

Monday's getaway breakfast highlights will include the Golden Gate Chapter preview of next year's Convention, the announcements of the dance competition winners, and presentation of the Gavel Award.

We hope you will be happy and exhausted after a very fun weekend!

### Member Spotlight — Been Kao



Been Kao

Been Kao belongs to both the San Diego Chapter and the Palomar Chapter. Kao and her husband Mark Chapman selflessly contributed so much to the 'National Smooth Dancers' over the last 23 years. For several years, Mark and Kao held a Dance Class for an hour before the Palomar Monthly Dance Social. Mark is currently Chair of the Palomar Convention for Dance Competitions. They are taking a back seat right now as they navigate Kao's illness.

Three of Kao's older sisters were born in Chung-Ching China but her family moved and followed when Chiang Kai-shek moved to Taiwan. Kao's father worked with Chiang Kai-Shek who sent her father to Dearborn, Mi and Germany to learn technology, and to master assembly line manufacturing. Shortly after Kao's family moved to Taiwan, Kao was born, then her brother and finally another sister.

Kao married and moved to Scotland then settled in San Diego with her husband and two daughters until their marriage ended abruptly. Then Kao returned to her love of ballroom dancing.





Been Kao and Mark Chapman  
on their wedding day

and also a River Cruise in China including the Yangtse

Like a fairy tale, Mark and Kao met at Champion Ballroom, San Diego Mixer in 2001 and started dancing together in Mary Murphy's formation teams. Four years later they married and began ten years of Competition Dancing, 3- and 4-star Standard. After Mark retired in 2012, they started traveling with their dancing friends. They took an Alaskan Cruise, a Mississippi Riverboat Cruise, enjoyed two trips to Taipei, Taiwan,

River. Always happy to dance, they performed the Tango in a talent show on the River Cruise.

Kao was Queen of the San Diego Chapter three times 2009, 2013 and 2022, and in 2013 she caused quite a stir. For many years the queen and those Queens from the prior years were expected to wear white and Kao went along with the tradition on her first year as Queen in 2009. However in 2013, she decided Red was a much better color for her. Last minute, after all the other Chapter Queens had assembled, she made a last minute dress change (Under Mary Murphy's Desk) into a beautiful red dress. The music that played was 'Lady in Red'. To this day, every queen is allowed to choose her own dress color. Great job Kao!! Love her free spirit!!

### San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers News

Smooth Dancers of the San Fernando Valley holds dances in Van Nuys on the first Saturday of the month. Our next dances will be August 3, 2024 and September 7, 2024. Doors open at 7:00 PM with dancing until 10:30 PM. 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. We offer a FREE group lesson from 7:30-8:00 PM, and open dancing from 8:00 PM - 10:30 PM, with TWO bus-stop mixers to meet new friends.

In August, with DJ James Woo mixing it up, it's time to celebrate Summer, and wear your favorite summer casual beach party attire! (No bathing suits or cut-offs please). David & Lily will be back on the floor to teach a Tango.

In September, with DJ Tom Mendola spinning the tunes, dress in your favorite Western, Cowboy Inspired attire !! Our Dance Lesson will be a Foxtrot by David & Lily Moutrey.

Please go to our website at [nsdsfv.org](http://nsdsfv.org) for all the information of all our upcoming events! Our amazing webmaster, [Bill Steeber](#), has all the latest info, flyers, calendar events, everything you need to know about the San Fernando Smooth Dancers.

### AND NOW, A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, MARK EMANUELLI:

Greetings to the Smooth Dancers at large!

While we have a bit of a pause in coronations, I thought I'd take a few moments to reflect on the first 6 months of 2024 for the SFV Chapter.

Recovery from the Covid era continues, with continued returns of attendees to our dances, and increased enthusiasm on the dance floor. It has been rewarding to see old friends and get to know new ones. I've seen some wonderful dancing back on the ballroom, and am looking forward to the party we know as our "Convention".

With more attendees, we have begun improving our dances, adding back a short professional instruction period, taught by David Moutrey and his wife, Lily. We have also begun offering more home-prepared goodies as the snacks during our dances. The DJ's that we have contracted with continue to provide top-notch music, with a solid mix of the ballroom styles along with some current popular Dances.

I have been buoyed by the acceptance of work positions by newer members, and have renewed faith in the future of our chapter. We have seen a rebirth of our Facebook page, and we even hope to begin having in-person meetings again.

I've also witnessed our members starting to travel again. It's been great to see their pictures and notes; now I just have to get them to allow us to share them in the Whispers.. lol. I better go get my sunglasses, the future is looking pretty bright...

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Emanuelli  
SFV Chapter President





## (more) San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers News

### A big SFVSD Happy Birthday

#### August Birthdays:

Willem de Vries, Hertha Tan, Mark Emanuelli, Keiko Isshiki, Irma Bermudez, Nicole Thomas

#### September Birthdays:

Alice Truong, Jimmy Wibawa, Janaka Perera, Rina Stone, Bobbi Mapstone, Eugenia Rozenman, Sunny Kim, Sherry Thomas

#### 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.

We thank you all for being a part of the Smooth Dancers of the San Fernando Valley!

James Baron

Editor SFVSD

[jamesbaron11@gmail.com](mailto:jamesbaron11@gmail.com)

call 805 732-0260.



### Fresno Smooth Dancers News

July 17, third Sunday was "All American Red White and Blue dance." Our guest instructor was Tom Hicks, he traveled all the way from LA on the train to be with us. He taught an amazing lesson of Rumba. By the end of the hour everyone learned a complete pattern in Rumba including styling for the ladies. Our club appreciates Tom Hicks's loyalty and support to all of our members in Fresno. Members and guests were greeted by Loraine Tilton and our new member Bea Fries-Hansen at the door and were given red, silver, and blue necklaces. So many happy members and guests wore red, white, and blue.



We showed our American spirit with flag table clothes and red white and blue everywhere. The food table was filled with yummy snacks. Although the weather was hot outside, we enjoyed cool air conditioning inside with our dancing. A special thank you goes to David Hailpern who played the music and still danced with the ladies. All of us had a great time dancing the night away.

Fresno's next dance will be August 18, 2024 at the Clovis Senior Center. The theme is "Hot August Nights." 50's, 60's and 70's music will be played



throughout the dance. Our hosts will be Henry and Cindy Wegermann. Sheila O'Conner will be teaching a lesson of Merengue. Make sure you attend our third Sunday dance. We would love to see you there.

It is with deep sympathy that we announce the passing of two of our lifetime members. Tony and Nancy Palazzo. Nancy passed March 23, 2024; Tony passed July 24, 2024. In 1988 Nancy met Tony at an Arthur Murray Ballroom dance class, and they were married in

1989. With her four son's and Tony's 4 daughters they became a family which Nancy and Tony loved as their own. Tony and Nancy enjoyed working in their gardens, ballroom dancing, and meeting and making new friends at the Madera Senior Center. God bless them.





## Bakersfield Smooth Dancers News

Unfortunately my husband broke his wrist at work at the end of May and I have been having problems with pain in my right foot, which has resulted in us missing the last few months of dancing. We are hoping to be back soon as we truly miss our time with our fellow dancers. So I apologize for the lack of photos in this months edition.

The June dance was held on the 23rd at the Fairfax Grange. The theme was "June Luau" and was hosted by Paul & Irene Leung with music by The Targets.

On July 27th we held "An Explosion of Dance" hosted by Steve Peterson, Jeanette Steck, Danny Rangel, and Debi Cadena.

Upcoming Dances: August 24th at 7 p.m. and September 29th 4-7 pm.

### Friday Night Dances



We really appreciate all of the work that is being done to improve the Fairfax Grange, which is the facility that we use for our chap-

ter's weekly lessons and monthly dances.

You can check out the Facebook page "Fairfax Grange 570" to see some of the history of this facility.

The Grange is also open Friday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm for social dancing, with a cost of only \$5 per person.

### Weekly Lessons

Josh Harless is offering beginning Hustle lessons starting at 6:00 pm and Intermediate American Tango lessons starting at 7:00 pm. Followed by Intermediate Night Club Two Step lessons at 8:00 pm.

Franco Perraza is offering beginning waltz lessons at 6:30 pm. And intermediate Cha Cha lessons immediately following at 7:30.

Be sure to check out the flyers for more information.

## A Note From Our Chapter President Dance Day Discussion

In June BSD moved our dance to a Sunday to accommodate the schedule at the Grange. There was a lot of positive feedback about having the dance on a Sunday afternoon. The board discussed this at our last meeting, and we would like to try this again. So, when the Soda Crackers asked about using the Grange on September 28, we thought it would be a great opportunity to support the Soda Crackers and to make another trial run at having our monthly dance on a Sunday afternoon. As with all the changes, there are positives and negatives. The board would appreciate feedback on this issue. Any member could come to a board meeting to participate in the discussion or simply tell a board member what you think about keeping to a Saturday at 7pm schedule, changing all the dances to a Sunday at 4pm or maybe some of both.

**Beginning Waltz & Intermediate Cha Cha Dance Lessons**

The new series of dance lessons at the Grange start on Monday, July 29, 2024

6:30-7:30PM **Beginning Waltz**  
\$60 per person for a 5-week course

7:30-8:30PM **Intermediate Cha Cha**  
\$60 per person for a 5-week course  
**(\$100 for both classes)**

Classes Meet:  
July 29, August 5, 12, 19, and 26.  
BASICS – FRAME – FORM – FOOTWORK – CONNECTION

INSTRUCTOR: FRANCO PERAZA  
For more information: 559-304-3560

Preregister @ francoproduct11@gmail.com or show up to class.  
Drop in's welcome! \$15 per class.  
Location: The Fairfax Grange located at 4 Fairfax Road.



August 2024

bakersfielddanceconnection.com



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Beginning Ballroom Hustle Intermediate Ballroom American Tango			6PM Beg Two Step 7PM Beg Night Club 8PM Beg WCS	1	2	By Your Side Studio with Shay Dixon @ Marina Del Rey Hustle
4	5	6PM Beg Ballroom 7PM Int Ballroom 8PM Int Night Club	7PM Int Two Step 8PM Int WCS 8 PM (Free) Intro to Dance 9:00 PM Karaoke	8	9	10
11	12	6PM Beg Ballroom 7PM Int Ballroom 8PM Int Night Club	13	14	15	16
18	19	6PM Beg Ballroom 7PM Int Ballroom 8PM Int Night Club	20	21	22	23
25	26	6PM Beg Ballroom 7PM Int Ballroom 8PM Int Night Club	27	28	29	30
		6PM Beg Two Step 7PM Int WCS 8 PM (Free) Intro to Dance 9:00 PM Karaoke	31			

TUESDAYS: BALLROOM & HUSTLE @ The Fairfax Grange: 4 Fairfax Rd, 93307  
WEDNESDAYS: COUNTRY & SWING @ Junction Lounge 2620 Buck Owens Blvd  
THURSDAYS: BEGINNING DANCE @ Studio X661: 4000 Easton Drive Suite #9, 93309  
Private Lessons available by appointment. Call or text Josh @ 661-619-1003

Follow us on social media

THE HISTORIC FAIRFAX GRANGE 570  
Invites YOU

**END OF SUMMER  
LINE DANCE FEST**

**ALL DAY SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2024**

JOEL HOFFMAN | MARY PENTINGLO | JAKE LOPEZ & KAITLY HANSEN



## Beach Boys and Bunnies invade Cowboy Country

Dancing is always fun but surviving multiple days of 110-plus degree weather here in the SJV (San Joaquin Valley) has been challenging. The hall that Visalia uses for monthly dance socials experienced an electrical problem – the air conditioning would not stay on – so they closed the building. Our July dance – the popular luau dance – was canceled.



June Dance  
Mary and Larry Brown

Now the August dance with its Western theme has been reimagined as a “Western Luau.” You read that right. A mashup. This promises to be a sartorial fun zone and we can’t wait to see it. Happily, this will be a catered event thanks to Linda and Johnny Gutierrez, and Carolyn and Karl Richards. That means the food is going to be great, so sign up for it. The event will be held August 10. It starts with a country waltz lesson. All dancers are welcome.

## Visalia delegates volunteer for NSD Convention

We have delegates! Visalia’s delegates to the annual convention in San Diego are Tim Incuye, Greg Uichanco, Stan Medina, Johnny Gutierrez, David Bixler and Karl Richards (alternate.) Many thanks, guys.

## Venmo – yes or no?

Query: Are any clubs accepting credit card payments for monthly dance admission? Or Venmo, Zelle, Square or anything else as payment methods? Please tell us about it when you see us. We’re in the talking stages about adopting one or more electronic payments options because “you gotta stay up with the times.” We’d love to know what works and what doesn’t.

## New ceiling fans installed at Grange Hall

It is impossible not to love the new ceiling fans at The West Visalia Grange, where dance lessons and club meetings take place. The ceiling fans are very attractive and fit the decor perfectly. The fans have six speeds and are controlled by a handheld remote. Grangemaster David Bixler and Karl Richards installed them. Well done.



Tim, Shane, David at July Club Meeting

## Happy retirement, Marivel



Marivel Honored upon Retirement

Marivel Villarreal, a longtime club member, has retired from teaching after a 23-year career at Visalia schools. She taught first grade and loved it. Her dance friends took her to dinner at a fine local restaurant, and Randy Bardone gave Marivel and friends a car ride up Rocky Hill in his awesome woodie automobile. Retirement means having more time to go dancing and traveling!



Randy's Woodie



Maria and Diane at June Dance



Tamara at June Dance



Craig and Somjai Ride in Randy's Woodie



## Golden Gate Smooth Dancers News

It's been relatively quiet chapter wise since our Queen Lynn's Coronation in June. Many people are on vacation. Some of those who plan ahead are finishing logistics for convention Aug 30 (the author is going to return from convention via Amtrak, just for fun), some are arranging partnerships and making competition plans to get their applications in by August 9, and some are preparing our introduction to everyone attending this year's convention of what to expect at next year's convention, which will be hosted by Golden Gate on our chapter's 75th anniversary.

### Home Games: GGSD Monthly Dances

July 14: Our 'Hooray for the Red White and Blue' dance began with an East Coast Swing lesson by John Ross.

### Upcoming GGSD Dances

Aug 11: Our monthly dance, "Hawaiian Vacation" will be blessed with a Viennese Waltz lesson by (two time world standard champion) Stephen Cullip and his lovely wife Debbie. The Cullips have created the choreography for Jerry and Lynn's performances at the Golden Gate NYEE party and Fresno and Bakersfield's Coronations.

Sep 8: Our post convention monthly dance is themed "Fiesta". We will have a Salsa lesson with Ylva Wintzell.

### Golden Gate, Cruising, Traveling Around the World

Can't say we've recruited many dancers to join our club but we have been traveling!

Amy and Dan: Vacation to London, Paris

Jerry and Lynn: Cruise to Venice, Dubrovnik, Cannes, Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona

Carl and Elizabeth: Mississippi cruise from St Paul to St Louis

Vlad and Svetlana: Cruise from Rome to Naples, Crete, Istanbul, Mykonos, Athens and visit to Cypress.

Patrick: Morocco and Paris

... and every time someone comes back, one of us says "Wouldn't it be fun to get a dance cruise going and get a lot of our fellow NSD dancers to go on it?!" (If you are interested, or have a lead on a good dance cruise we can join, please contact Jerry and we'll see if we can get a critical mass of cruising dancers for a trip next spring).

### Goings of the Queen

Queen Lynn has had a busy several months since her Coronation and has greatly enjoyed representing Golden Gate at both the Fresno and Visalia Coronations. The month of July she has taken holiday with her consort for a Mediterranean cruise on her yacht, the Norwegian Escape. Her two week tour of Split,



Queen Lynn and Her Yacht

Dubrovnik, Cannes, Palma de Mallorca, Malta, Naples, and Barcelona have left her enlivened and refreshed, briefly free from her travel duties up and down the state and have placed her in quite a positive air, with enhanced vigor and enthusiasm to work up to competing with her consort Jerry and enjoying the many delights and social enjoyments at the upcoming state Convention. She so much appreciates the members of Golden Gate who have generously 'carried on' for the predictably pleasing monthly dance in her absence.

### Yearbook Photos for Attendees at Convention

Most chapters have some type of photo roster and I have a craving everytime I visit another chapter to remember faces and names and wish there was a photo directory. Our chapter has one for members only on our website and maybe your chapter does to. I'm guessing if your chapter has one that the photos may be out of date or not in your best party clothes. I have asked Peter to arrange a place where all convention attendees can take headshot photos for respective chapter directories since we'll all be dressed up nicely. Please remember to get your individual photo taken at the 'yearbook photo' booth.

### Emma Steed



On, July 17th, our beloved Emma Steed, passed peacefully at her home.

Emma, a member of the Golden Gate Chapter for 18 years, was an integral part of the GGSD family. Her heart, will, and spirit are a shining example for us all. Long after her body began to fail her, she continued to be present, not wanting to miss out on any event or activity. This year, Emma received the President's Award in recognition of her continued support of the Golden Gate Chapter despite her ongoing health issues.

In 2016, Emma represented the Golden Gate Chapter as Queen. Emma also participated in Chapter dance performances, including choreographing the "All that Jazz" routine for the 2010 "Leave Your Heart in San Francisco" NSD State Convention.

Rest well Emma. We love you.



**2024 NSD CONVENTION**

hosted by the Palomar Chapter

# Holiday on the Bay

**Labor Day Weekend  
August 30 - September 2**

**Wyndham Bayside Hotel  
1355 N. Harbor Drive  
San Diego 92101**





**GOLDEN GATE SMOOTH DANCERS, INC.  
PRESENT OUR:**

# *"Hawaiian Vacation"*



## **AFTERNOON DANCE** **Sunday August 11th**

☀️ **\$25 Admission** ☀️ **Dance Lesson** ☀️ **DJ Music**

☀️ **Free Parking** ☀️ **Dance Hosts**

**South San Francisco Recreation Center**  
**901 Civic Campus Way, South San Francisco**

**1:30-5:00pm**

**Questions? Reservations? Contact us:**

**Stella Wong (650) 255-5522 or [stellwong@hotmail.com](mailto:stellwong@hotmail.com)**

**Reservations can be made online at:**

**<https://goldengatedancers.org/reservations>**



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/goldengatesmoothdancers/>

**\$25.00 Admission**

Includes

**1:30-2:30 PM**

Viennese Waltz Lesson

**w/ Stephen and Debbie**

**Cullip**

**2:30-5:00 PM**

Dancing

**RESERVATIONS ARE  
REQUIRED by August 9th at  
4:30PM**

**Please Make Checks Payable to  
"Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc."**

**Mail To:**

**Stella Wong**

**3171 Susan Drive**

**San Bruno, CA 94066**

**ONLINE RESERVATIONS ARE  
ENCOURAGED AT:**

**[https://goldengatedancers.org/  
reservations](https://goldengatedancers.org/reservations)**

**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.*

*Scan QR code with phone for website*



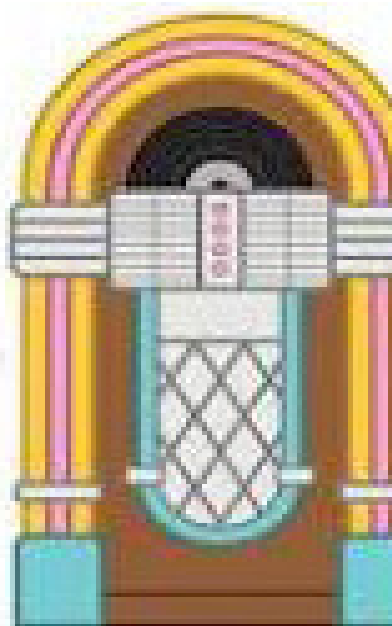


Fresno Smooth Dancers presents



**Sunday, August 18, 2024**

**Hosted by  
Henry  
& Cindy  
Wegermann**



**Merengue  
Lesson by  
Sheila  
O'Conner**

Clovis Senior Center  
735 3rd Street  
Clovis, California



For More Information call  
Nancy at 559-786-9626

Lesson 2:00  
Dancing 3:00 to 5:00  
NSD Members - \$10.00  
Guests - \$15.00





## San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers

**Saturday,  
September 7, 2024  
7:30-10:30PM**



**Get these dance dates  
on your calendar!**

**October 5**

**CORONATION  
November 2**

Enter at the front door on  
Van Nuys Blvd or the rear  
of the building under the  
blue awning, watching out  
for the raised gate track.

For free parking use the street,  
especially Van Nuys Blvd, and  
the back of the Wells Fargo lot.



### **Music**

**DJ - Tom Mendola**

All Ballroom, Swing  
and Nightclub styles  
Mixers

### **Dance Lesson**

Foxtrot  
by David Moutrey

### **Schedule**

Dance Lesson 7:30-8:00PM  
Dancing 8:00-10:30PM

Members \$15, Non-Members \$20  
Munchies, beverages included.

Hollywood Academy of Dance: 6732 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys CA 91405

Become a member! Ask at the dance or see the website [nsdsfv.org](http://nsdsfv.org).





*National Smooth Dancers*  
*Dance Whispers*  
*August 2024*



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August 4, 2024

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-Carl Chesbrough  
Publishing Editor.