

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
December 2016



December 11, 2016

Hello Fellow Smooth Dancers,

Here is the December issue of the Dance Whispers, the Holiday Issue. First things first, I want to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Holiday Season. This time of year can pull us in all sorts of directions, sometimes diverting us from appreciating what is most important: family, friends, service and celebration of life...however you choose to celebrate it.

Even though we are near the end of this year, there is still plenty of dancing to do! You can go to Golden Gate's New Years Eve, Eve party on December 30th (p 11) and then do the New Year's Eve Ball at Bakersfield (p7) or San Diego (p12) on December 31st!

Our new State Queen Susan Johnson has had two coronations in 2016 and decided she didn't need to have a third coronation! So Los Angeles Chapter will not be hosting a coronation in January. Therefore the San Diego Smooth Dancers coronation of Queen-elect Liz Tarnove will be the first coronation of 2017 (p13). On page 10 you will find the list of the 2017 coronations and links to all the chapter web sites. I also want to welcome the newest addition to the Dance Whispers family of editors, Sandy Wells, who has assumed the duties of the Los Angeles Chapter Dance Whispers editor. Sandy has been working in the background as one of our proof readers for quite some time and it is a pleasure to have her join the rest of us "in the hot seat"!

I am always impressed to read about all the service that our smooth dancers give; whether it is coordinating and planning dances, creating decorations, compiling and playing the music we dance to, performing for our events, teaching dance lessons, organizing and providing food, etc. If we haven't said it recently... Thank You. We appreciate your efforts and are very grateful you are a member of the National Smooth Dancers family.

As an "extended family" of smooth dancers we also want to remember and support those of us experiencing difficult and trying times. I invite you as you read through this issue of Dance Whispers to keep in your thoughts and prayers the people named, and those unknown, that can be lifted up and supported throughout this Holiday Season.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on the dance floor and at the San Diego coronation.

Never **Stop Dancing**,

Tom Wells

National Smooth Dancers
Dance Whispers
December 2016



San Fernando Valley Chapter

It's hard to believe, but the leaves were just barely falling when we held our Fall Harvest dance. We did all fall for dance in October with lots of great music presented by our One-and-Only DJ Mark Emanuelli, and a lesson on the slow, graceful and romantic American Bolero, taught by Natalia Lind. Along with the anticipation and preparation for the November coronation, our chapter was very busy over the past couple of months.



Queen Leanne Wong

Crown Circle - Queen Leanne's Farewell

"Where has the time gone? My year as Queen is coming to a close. Please let me say, it was a great year full of weekend memories and the making of really nice friends. I have a crown, pictures, and a whole box of treasures that I will hold

onto for many years to come.

I hope I have represented ballroom dance, San Fernando Valley Chapter, and National Smooth Dancers with grace. Thank you all for a wonderful year!"

Impacting Our Communities

With pride we supported The Dizzy Feet Foundation with contributions and volunteering with what is said to be LA's best after-school program. The vision of the foundation is to improve and increase access to dance education in the United States through grants which support dance programs for low-income and at-risk youth. Their three goals are:

1. To sponsor, fund, and/or support dance education programs which expose children in low-income areas to the benefits of dance.
2. To provide scholarships to talented students.
3. To support and increase the quality of all styles of dance education through professional development.

Thank you everyone for your contribution.

New Members

WELCOME Michelle Bradley-Orozco, Alex Ortiz, Dawn LaMunyon and Delfino Zamora

We hope your membership will bring you many enjoyable

edited by Rachel Seward

hours of Ballroom, Latin and Nightclub dancing pleasure. We look forward to getting to know you!

Come Dance, Dance, Dance With Us The 1st Saturday of Every Month!

Art & Entertainment = Dance

Coronation Memories



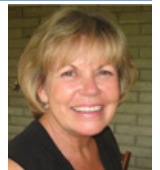
Queen Rachel said at the end of the evening "Oh my, I never expected this evening would be so magical!"

The starting and ending of the San Fernando Valley's crowning ceremony came together with laughter and fun, along with lots and lots of emails, because a group of passionate like-minded dancers wanted to create a happy, vibrant, energetic and enjoyable celebration.

Guests were greeted with champagne and their taste buds were delighted with a buffet dinner. But it was the theme of the evening that grabbed everyone's attention — "Just Dance." And just dance as the song suggests..."when you got the sunshine in your pocket, that feeling inside your bones; all you can do is dance, dance dance!"

Introducing the grand entrance of queens and their escorts was Mark Emanuelli, emcee and musical host for the evening. Escorted by her husband John, and including crown bearer and granddaughter Kristina, the coronation of SFV's new queen Rachel Seward was one of joy. The honor dance following the Queens' Tribute Waltz was a very entertaining and dramatic foxtrot to "Baby It's Cold Outside" performed by the charming Joan Robinson and Brian Yip — their dance was anything but cold...it was sizzling with talent and charisma!

The evening continued with energy, rhythm, waltzes, salsas, mixers, line-dancing and a Samba-Cha Cha infusion dance performance by Queen Rachel and her instructor,



David Moutrey. Concluding the evening entertainment was an inspiring waltz by professionals David Moutrey and Lee Mei Wang as they floated through the air with elegance and grace. There was even a delightful impromptu wheelchair dance performed by new member Karma LaDonna and her partner, Glen Thompson.

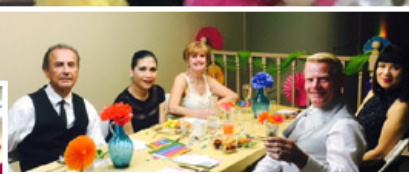
This extraordinary day started with an afternoon reception at the home of Roberta and Les LaZar for visiting Queens and out-of-town guests with the perfect evening ending with everyone dancing the night away. The closing event at this lovely coronation was a send-off breakfast for visiting Queens, friends and members of SFV in honor of our Queen Leanne Wong.

My coronation was a day filled with happiness and, a month later, I am still enjoying the thrills and memories of this celebration.

I am genuinely thrilled to be joining the Crown Circle, with the opportunity to meet and greet others in our dance community. I look forward to a year of fun and dancing as your ambassador.

I give heartfelt thanks to everyone on the Coronation team. Each of you supported and helped me in every way to make my coronation a great celebration event. It was truly a reflection of our chapter's dance community at its best."

- Queen Rachel Seward



Palomar Chapter

edited by Debbie Kincaid and Don Hubbard



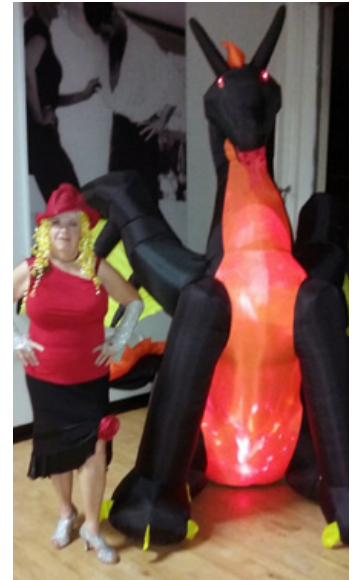
Our Holiday Ball was a wonderful party; beginning with a catered dinner by CAIO Restaurant, Vista. This was followed by socializing and dancing. The event was celebrated by many performances. First and largest was a Formation Team consisting of 13 couples from the Palomar's Intermediate Bolero Class taught, led and choreographed by the Director of Dancing, Marsha Hanson ably assisted by husband Peter. Some of the spectators expressed their amazement at the ability of that many couples to do so many patterns in unison and rhythm. This was followed by a lively tango by George and Miriam Mozes. Duane & Donna Thornton performed a lovely waltz to 'Silver and Gold' and dedicated it to the most Senior of the active dancers in our club Ralph and Mary Anderson. The program also included Queen Linda and Elliott Lum performing their Coronation Waltz, Len and Peggy Lee an elegant Fox Trot, Peter and Marsha Hanson, with precision, their Night Club Two Step routine that carries them many times around the floor. Finally, our local professionals James and Irina danced a fantastic International Rumba that brought a roar from the audience. Thanks go out to our Hosts Elliott and Linda Lum, Marsha and Peter Hanson, Antonia & Jesus Quinene and Debbie Kincaid. The table decorations were much appreciated, as were the beautiful flowers and gifts that were presented to our performers. We were honored to have special guests, 3 local Marines and their dates, for the evening. They have been attending our Monday night dance classes!

Our Halloween Social was the perfect way to spend *El*

(Left) Len Lee - Music Director
(Bottom Left) Kelly & Carol Kimmitt (Bottom Right) Ann Mauro & Don Hubbard



Dia de los Muertos. The party was moved to Dancescence Studios in Carlsbad where the decorations included a twenty foot dragon with flashing red eyes and flapping wings which made for a SPOOKY environment. Local professional Michelle Madore of 'Dance Potential' Studio with the assistance of Husband Scott



(Top Left) Jack & Merilee Ragland
(Top Right) Donna Thornton & Dragon (Left) Corinne and Mystery Costume, our 1st Place Costume Contest WINNER!

Piccola, taught an American Rumba with several new patterns that was well received. As a special treat, Michele and Scott put on a performance assisted by student pairs, Peter Jensen & Kathy Warionle, and Andrew Median & Elishe Ortiz. A delicious snack was directed by Karen Barcinella with contributions by Penny Elliot, table decorations, Don Hubbard, Ann Mauro and Social Chairman, Antonia Quinene. Master of

Ceremonies, Tom Mauro conducted a 'Costume March', chose six finalists and left the decision to the applause of the audience. The winner was Captain McLace who wore an elegant pin striped suite with a thin mask covering his entire face. No one could guess his identity until the mask was removed. Len Lee provided the music for lots and lots of dancing.

Reflections of Queen Linda: An unlikely journey

A shy Scandinavian girl from the remote Upper Peninsula of Michigan goes to college at the University of Michigan. Her brother gives her a ukulele. She wants to be a nurse, her parents think maybe she'll marry a doctor but she meets a student from Honolulu... who shows her how to play the ukulele. She's caring and care free; he's an engineer-methodical and practical. She likes Van Cliburn, he likes Elvis and rock n roll, but they both like to dance and sing. So they get married. Forty-five years later they are invited to a dance at a huge ballroom in Honolulu. Thinking sure - we can dance, but after stumbling around the floor they realize there is much more to dancing than they knew. So they started on an uphill dance journey. Back in Carlsbad they discover Dancescence, where they meet Peggy Lee who invites them to PSD Monday night lessons with Palomar Smooth Dancers. Just when our cup is full to the brim there is a life altering phone call from Peggy who wants to know would I like to be PSD's next Queen. After making sure his honor would be as thrilled as I was I said yes. So the Queen with her dashing escort makes it to the top of the mountain.

The Coronation was an enchanting evening beyond all my expectations. I truly felt like royalty.

I wish to thank the entire PSD chapter members who helped us with our dancing - who attended my coronation and the Queen's breakfast - for making it such a wonderful event full of special moments. Here are a few of those special moments:

- Honor Dance - Mike and Lorrie Chun
- Pro/Am: Carrie Kloss - our teacher who choreographed an amazing routine for us danced with Mike Cowlshaw from SD Smooth Dancers
- All Queens and escorts
- Hospitality, Chaired by Antonia - the only photo we had is us in front of the back drop
- Breakfast: Peggy Lee - got photos too late to add
- Had lot's of fun opening the Queen's gifts with the help of my granddaughter.
- My gift to Queens: Thanks to Ann Mauro for designing and making the necklace / Origami bag

I would like to especially thank the chairpersons of each committee:

Debbie Atherton-Kincaid for Chairing the event, Marion Semler for lending her expertise in decorating not only the arch and tables but also the centerpieces for the tables and Queen's breakfast. Tom Mauro for taking on the challenge of being the emcee, and the ladies that helped in the dressing room and got the Queens and escorts lined up for their entrance.

I have to borrow the term Queen Geri has used in referring to the Queen-ship as a "Sister Hood of Queens". I had a wonderful brother but I always wanted just one sister - now I have too many to count. It is truly amazing to feel so included and special.

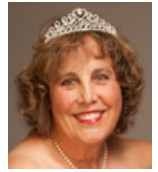
I enjoyed meeting the reigning Queens for this year and am looking forward to meeting the incoming Queens for next year. I am looking forward to meeting many new dancers and

creating some lasting friendships as I travel to each Chapter's Coronation as our PSD chapter Queen.



Los Angeles Chapter

edited by Sandy Wells



Welcome to the home page of our State Queen and her Posse.



Chuck and Susan Johnson at the crater of Mt. Etna on the east coast of Sicily, Italy.

Queen Susan has been traveling and cruising. In Brief: November started a land tour of Switzerland, then to Venice, cruising to Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, and the Greek Islands, ending in Rome and home by Dec. 3. Our Queen is now resting. Alas, another cruise for Christmas. More to follow in the next Dance Whispers issue!

The Posse got involved with Palomar's coronation of Queen Linda Lum. Sandy & Tom Wells and Debby Ku & Victor Lee, line danced with precision. Then the posse increased to SFV's coronation of Queen Rachel Seward. The Posse included Victor, Debby, Tom, Sandy, Marion and Ken.

Valentine's Day. Birthdays; Chuck Johnson, Victor Lee, Debby Ku, and yours truly. The editor (whom I know intimately) took me to a 4 Diamond Gourmet Inclusive resort in Cancun.



Marion and Ken Scholtz toasts to 50 years of marriage at our November Black & White Dance.

Ahh! What a spoiled Princess. The biggest Celebration was Ken and Marion Scholtz's 50th Anniversary. We toasted with champagne and Martinelli (Cake, of course.)

Congratulation to Robert Quan. He has achieved first place in all dances in several events including the rising star in Bronze international @ the recent Hollywood Dancesport challenge held @ Universal Hilton. He danced slow waltz, Tango, Viennese waltz, slow fox trot and Quick Step.

We finished out the year with our annual Christmas Dance and Potluck. Everyone had a wonderful time dancing to a play list of holiday music provided by Tom Wells.



At our October meeting our new officers were installed. Pictured above are (L-R) Francy Solano - Corresponding Secretary, Robert Quan - Recording Secretary, Victor Lee - Treasurer, Chuck Johnson - Vice President and Tom Wells - President.



(Left) Craig Miller and Alice Mah Miller enjoying a Foxtrot during the Christmas Dance.



(Right) Tom Wells and Judy Van Brocklin enjoy dancing the Rumba during the Christmas Dance.



(Left) Alice Mah Miller (center) was installed as Social Chair during our November meeting.

Local Club news: Halloween Dance found us rounding up all the Ghouls and Goblins and elevating them to officers.

Tom Wells President, Chuck Johnson, Vice President, Victor Lee, Treasurer, Corresponding secretary, Francy Solano, Recording Secretary Robert Quan, and Social Chair, Alice Mah Miller.

NOW HEAR THIS..NO CORONATION IN JANUARY.

Queen Susan cannot take another crown. Cookies, Cheesecake, occasionally pie but not another coronation.

Our end note is to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

<http://www.losangelessmoothdancers.com/>

November exhibited how naughty our parents were at

San Diego Chapter

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from San Diego's Editor

All of our members in San Diego send out the happiest and warmest Season's Greetings to our sister chapters: we hope that the end of this year finds you all loving and loved, and that the beginning of the New Year will bring added joy to your lives, on the ballroom floor and off.



Christmas Dance and Showcase

Judy Miranda

This was the first time our chapter has held our Christmas Showcase at the "new" Champion Ballroom. There was a lot more room for tables and especially for dancing. The tables were decorated with red cloth linen tablecloths, fresh greens, hurricane lamps with candles and varied sizes of festive red ornaments. A beautifully decorated tree was placed in the corner and it made a perfect backdrop for photos of guests. There was a catered dinner provided by Cupid's Catering; the food was delicious and was really enjoyed by everyone.

There were a total of thirteen performances during our showcase, provided by our Sunday dance class participants and individual members with their partners or instructors. The performances were all beautiful as well as very entertaining. In addition to the showcase performances there was plenty of time for dancing, to the delight of all the attendees.



There were three Marines in attendance to accept our toy donations for their annual "Toys for Tots" drive. I think one of the Marines was even convinced to attend our Sunday dance class. Also in attendance was the GRINCH, who had his photo taken many times with



edited by Mark Chapman



the ladies. That really added to the festivity of the evening. All in all this was a wonderful event to open the holiday season for 2016 and get us ready for the excitement and challenges of 2017.

Bringing Ballroom to the World

Glenn Thomson

[Glenn Thomson has been ballroom dancing since 1988 and has been a member of San Diego Smooth Dancers since 2008. Here is his own account of the exciting direction his life has moved in recent years—Editor]. In 2008 I started working on cruise



ships as a dance host doing 3-4 cruises per year. In 2012 with my partner Carol Milne of Palomar Smooth Dancers we started teaching dance on cruise ships for Holland-America. We have cruised 5-6 months each year since then. In 2013 we also started teaching on Carnival ships; in 2014 we added Norwegian to our list and in 2016 we hit the mother lode and worked a 120-day world cruise for Princess, out of Australia! This would be our longest to date.

On May 15th we boarded the Sea Princess for an around-the-world cruise, Sydney to Sydney. 81% of the passengers were from Australia and 13% from New Zealand; there were only 17 of us from the USA! An astounding 71% of the passengers remained aboard for 104 days or longer! These 104 days took our Princess ship around the world, and then Carol and I were asked to stay on for 16 more days to circle Australia as well! Around the world we had two days each in Dubai, St. Petersburg, Dover, New York and Lima. Our itinerary also included such wonderful places as Petra, Suez Canal, Rome, Lisbon, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Nova Scotia, Boston, Bermuda, Cartagena, Panama Canal, Ecuador, Chile, Easter Island, Pitcairn Island, Tahiti, Raiatea, and New Zealand—along with some places I haven't mentioned—for a total of 47 port days! We also stopped at ALL of the major cities around the coast of Australia.

Needless to say, it was the trip of a lifetime. We are very fortunate to be in a position, while retired, to have the time to cruise as much as we do. It is NOT for everyone. Most people do not want or can't be away that long. Many people get seasick or just don't have the health to dance EVERY NIGHT for 4 months straight. We have no pets or grandchildren, which also holds some people back. Who would have thought, that when I started dancing, it would lead to such a great retirement! We are blessed!

Bakersfield Chapter

The Thanksgiving holiday is now behind us and the magic of the Christmas season is fast approaching along with our upcoming December dance, which is being held on December 10th, most likely before this newsletter can reach our members. The theme for our Christmas dance is the 'Nutcracker Suite'. Barbara Norcross, our Queen-elect is chairing the festivities at the Riverlakes Community Center located at 3825 Riverlakes Dr. The fun will begin at 6:45-9:45. As usual members are free, guests are \$15 per person and couples are \$25.

Members are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for a child, to be given to a family in need. The dress code for the evening will be party dressy. I hope all our members can attend and enjoy the Christmas spirit with your NSD family!

I love dressing up for the holidays and what better chance to do that than our upcoming New Years Eve dance called Midnight Magic, it will be held at the Women's Club 2030 18th street on Saturday, December 31st, from 6:30- to 12:30. The price is only \$50.00 per person, dinner will be catered by Caesar's Deli, and wine will be available for purchase at \$5 a glass. For information and tickets contact JoAnn Georgio at 661-304-5284. Reservations are required, deadline is December 26th 2016. I hope everyone can join us for this very special evening. Come and help us ring in the New Year!

Our upcoming January dance is the Presidents Ball and is a great time to honor our present and past President's.

It's also when we honor a special member by presenting them with the Gretchen Garretson Award! Last year our Queen JoAnn Georgio received this award, which was well deserved, as it is for all the members that earn it.

The January dance is always a special dance so I hope all of you can join us at the Riverlakes Community Center on January 28th, 2017.

Our annual dance weekend in March will be held on March 31st through April 2, 2017, with the theme 'Come Dance with Me'. I hope everyone will get their reservations in early and join us. It promises to be a wonderful weekend. Reservation deadline for the Bakersfield Marriott Hotel, 801 Truxtun Ave, is February 28th 2017, so please book by then. The package cancellation is before March 21st, 2017, so if you must cancel for any reason do it before then. You will receive a prorated refund on packages, After March 21st, no refunds can be made!

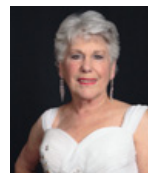


Steve and Jeannette Rogers served on our November dance committee.

The dance will be held at the Women's Club, 2030 18th Street. Meetings for the weekend will be at the Marriott.

Our November dance was a great success; hosted by Susan Salvucci and a great committee, this dance was all about "Giving Thanks to all 2016 Dance Chairs and their

edited by Dorothy Vaughan




Committees". Susan served some wonderful roast turkey sandwiches and other delicious sides in keeping with the holiday theme.

Susan handed out little gifts to all the committee chairs, which was a wonderful gesture! What is so amazing in our chapter is how so many of our members are willing to step up and host several dances a year!

On another note our chapter welcomes new members Michael Puffer and Tammy Engel, coming from the San Fernando Valley Chapter, I hope you both enjoy many years of dancing with us!

Just a reminder our 2017 dues are due. The fee is \$135 a year if paid early, before the end of January 31st and \$145 after that. Great bargain when you realize that's for a whole year and includes an hour of free dance lessons every Tuesday night and also includes our monthly dances!

As I close out the final newsletter of the year I want to make sure I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our NSD family and friends, and May all of you enjoy a healthy and prosperous New Year!



Bakersfield Smooth Dancers

Cordially Invite You to Our

Annual New Year's Eve Ball!

Thursday
December 31, 2015
6:30 p.m.
Bakersfield Woman's Club
2030 18th Street

Tickets are on sale now
\$50.00

Doors open at 6:30.
7:30 a wonderful buffet
dinner prepared by Caesar's
Deli.


Wine Bar with fine wines
(wine tickets can be
purchased for \$4.00 each at
the door).

Spotlight Dance by
Paul and Irene Leong

Music by the Targets

For information, seating
arrangement, or tickets
contact JoAnn Georgio
14035 Rosedale Hwy #10
Bakersfield, CA 93314
(661)304-5284

Reservations required by
December 21, 2015

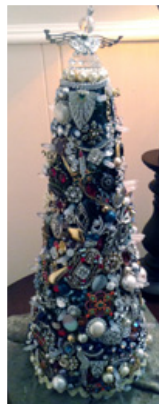


Date: _____ Name: _____
Check # or cash: _____

Golden Gate Chapter

Here we are, almost at the end of this year and yet, there is so much left to do. We nominated our next officers as well as our new queen and will let you know soon, the results of our elections.

Amy and Dan Ansaldi are feverishly working on the details of our convention in 2017 and all of us are looking forward to participating and getting ready to get into a Vegas kind of mind set. But not before we celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah, or whatever other religion we each celebrate and we are taking this opportunity to create a little more money for our convention.



Yours truly created a Jeweled Christmas tree, which will be raffled off at our next dance (December 11th). Only \$5 a ticket will give you a chance to win this fabulous tree and you don't have to be present to win. Liz Talmadge will gladly take your money over the phone and by mail. Vera Harvey had the outrageous idea of creating a holiday boutique where our members will bring gently used gowns,

tops, jewelry and accessories to be sold at our next dance and the money goes into our convention fund. We might even make this a regular event, a green way in many ways to recycle unwanted treasures.



Carl Chesbrough and Elizabeth Li went on a fabulous 11 night cruise on the Celebrity Constellation from Rome to Venice and then spent an extra 3 days in Florence and another 3 in Rome, using Rick Steve's audio tour guide. Highlights of their trip included Salerno, Catania, Italy, Athens, Santorini, Greece and Mykonos. They also visited Kotor, Montenegro and Zadar, Croatia. Lots of hiking and sight seeing with their cruise buddies from their Friday dance class, touring small islands from end to end. In Koper, Slovenia they visited the Postojna's Predjama Cave and Predjama castle that was built

edited by Gabrielle von Stephens



into a cave. It was a great vacation and the blur of memories were captured with many photos to help remember their cruise.

On a very sad note we lost our sweet queen Elizabeth Hage on November 1st.

As always dance first, thinking can wait.

In Memoriam



Elizabeth (Bessie) Wong Hage

Exerts from the Eulogy Elizabeth daughter Yvonne Chester gave at her funeral:

My mother, Bessie Wong Hage, was born in Java, Indonesia, into a diplomat's family. Bessie had a sister, May Kool, and later a brother, Victor Ho, both of whom are here today.

In 1963, Bessie with her then husband Sam and I immigrated to America.

In San Francisco, Bessie got a job at Crocker Bank, beginning as a secretary. She stayed with the bank through the rest of her working life, and when she took early retirement in 1987, she had worked her way up to the position of being head of the Court Trust Accounting Department with a staff of 10 working under her.

At Crocker Bank, Bessie met Bill Hage, her husband of over 20 years. He noticed that young exotic beauty way back when she started work in 1963, so they have known each other for over 50 years! They lived a very happy life together, traveling, dancing, and entertaining friends.

I recently read a New York Times article by the Dalai Lama, where he quoted a 13th century Buddhist sage who said, "If one lights a fire for others, it will also brighten one's own way." That is the essence of my mother. She was a light for others, to brighten their way and ease their path when it was dark. And in doing so, it brightened her own way.

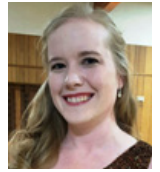
Her last wish for a peaceful journey, surrounded by love was granted and so she left us on November 1st, 2016 safe at home surrounded by her family.

-Yvonne Chester

Elizabeth Hage was our Golden Gate chapter "Millennium" queen in 2000.

Visalia Chapter

edited by Melody Mar



Anniversary Dance – October 2016 - By Carolyn Richards

Our Anniversary Dance was glowing with musical instruments on stage plus gold saxophones spewing out glittering notes and bold color.

Linda & Johnny Gutierrez along with Margo Giles created a wonderful Chicken Marsala & eggplant dinner – great flavor – thank you. Linda Lansdowne and Sue Giampietro worked wonders on the décor, while Steve and Tom manned the door -and the cash box – so grateful to each of you.



Our Anniversary Dance committee

Cheryl Levitan edited and created a musical evening with so many of our favorite songs for dance and Dean Levitan made it happen. Dean also manned the lights which has become a technical art (be sure to ask him about that). Karl Richards filled in from beginning to end on every detail that needed attention. Queen Wendy Storey pulled out all the winning tickets for door prizes and one table had great luck!

A fun-filled, flirty West Coast Swing was the highlight of the evening, performed by Amanda and Matt Thurston, as it told a cute story of dance and romance. But then --- Matt and Amanda also preformed a waltz – which would be a romantic 10 on Dancing With The Stars. They are sooooo special.



Linda and John Gutierrez helped make our wonderful dinner for the Anniversary Celebration.

Veterans Dance Report - By T G Thomas

Our “Give Thanks to Our Veterans” Dance was so very successful and we certainly appreciate all who participated. We had a total of 58 attendees, including not only quite a few Viet Nam veterans but also a WW2 veteran and a Korean War Veteran. The WW2 Veteran actually won one of the door prize drawings. Almost everyone dressed in military uniforms, military costumes, USO costumes, or red, white, and blue.

We also conducted a supplemental Cafe 225 drawing. It

was won by Myra, and it wasn't even rigged. This drawing even allowed us to realize a profit from the dance! To keep it honest, our

Queen Wendy selected all of the tickets.

I was so appreciative of working with such an outstanding Dance Committee, including



Our Veterans Dance committee

serving on a Dance committee!

The hall was decorated in quite an exquisite fashion, with mannequins on stage, dressed in military uniforms, several American Flags and American Flag bunting decorating the stage,

USO Posters with red, white, and blue stars interspersed between. Thanks also to Cheryl for the loan of her U. S. Public Health Service uniform.

The evening casually began with a Nightclub Two Step lesson from Eileen. She did a great job.



The Dance Performance Team

She also did well in presenting her Performance Team and they were indeed exceptional in providing a veterans dance as our entertainment.

We also offered a match game for our attendees to test their abilities to match submitted pictures to selected member's names. Maria Helm and Carolyn Richards tied for the most correct answers. David and Carol provided the prizes for the winners.

The potluck food donated by our members was truly delicious, in my opinion, and that of others I surveyed. We decorated the tables with red, white, and blue and with flags of the various service branches highlighting the centerpieces. Thanks to Carol and David for providing those.

Tim played multiple mixers, which everyone seemed to enjoy. We also had a Veterans Honor Dance, which resulted in a quite full dance floor. VSD should be quite proud of all of our veterans. Tim also played appropriate military themed music during dinner.

Fresno Chapter

edited by Linda Bennett



Monthly Socials

November. On November 20, Jennifer and David Morgan hosted "Autumn Leaves," with a Foxtrot lesson by Alex Periera, and music played by Hartune Neffian.

December. Our Christmas party will be on Sunday, December 11, hosted by the FSD board. We will have champagne reception at 6:00, a catered dinner at 6:30 and dancing and entertainment until 10:00. Jennifer Morgan is making the decorations, and Sharon Crisp will play the music play list created by Linda Bennett and David Morgan. We will have our Toy Drive to benefit children at King Elementary School, and we will swear in our 2017 board members.

January. Carla Hartunian will be hosting our January dance on Sunday, January 15, 2017, with the theme "Winter Dancing in the Cold January Nights." Franco Peraza will teach a cha cha lesson beginning at 2:00 pm and dancing will be from 3:00-5:00 pm.

2017 Coronation. Fresno's coronation will be held on June 3, 2017.

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All third-Sunday dances are at the Clovis Senior Center, 850 4th Street, Clovis, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for guests. See www.fresnosmoothdancers.org for flyers. We would love to see you there!!



Fresno Smooth Dancers

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Tea Dance Format

2:00-5:00

Clovis Senior Center
850 Fourth Street
Clovis, CA

Winter Dancing in the Cold January Nights!

Hosted By: Carla Hartunian

Dance Lesson will be given by Franco Peraza

He will be teaching a Cha Cha lesson.

(Lesson is from 2:00-3:00)

Fresno Members- \$5.00

Music By: Hartune Neffian

Guests-\$10.00



2017 Coronations and Events

Los Angeles Coronation - WAS HELD IN 2016

Mar 4 - San Diego Coronation

Mar 31-Apr 2 - WEEKEND BALL in Bakersfield

Apr 8 - Golden Gate (SF) Coronation

May 20 - Visalia Chapter Coronation

Jun 3 - Fresno Chapter Coronation

Sept 1-4 - CONVENTION

Oct 14 - Palomar Coronation

Nov 4 - San Fernando Valley Coronation

Chapter Websites

National Smooth Dancers -

www.nationalsmoothdancers.org

Los Angeles - www.losangelessmoothdancers.com

San Diego - www.sdsdwebsite.com

Palomar - www.palomarsmoothdancers.com

San Fernando Valley - www.nsdsfv.org

Bakersfield - www.bakersfieldsmoothdancers.org

Fresno - www.fresnosmoothdancers.org

Visalia - www.visaliasmoothdancers.com

Golden Gate - www.goldengatedancers.org

Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc.

Proudly Presents Our New Year's Eve Party

Friday, December 30, 2016



**Crowne Plaza Hotel
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, California
650.570.5700**

Room Rate \$129.00 Plus Tax, Booking Code (GGZ)
The Hotel's Deadline Date to Secure Your
Reservation is December 16, 2016

No Host Bar

Cocktail Reception: 6:00 PM
Dancing: 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:30 PM
Dancing: 8:30 PM to 11:30 PM



To Make Reservations: Please make check payable to "Golden Gate Smooth Dancers, Inc.", \$85.00 per person and mail **before December 16, 2016**, the stub below with the following information to Liz Talmadge, 759 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080 (telephone 415-265-7063):

Please Check Choice of Entrée and complete the following information and mail to Liz Talmadge to reserve your tickets for the New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance:

___ Filet Mignon NAME: _____
___ Pan Seared Salmon ADDRESS: _____
___ Vegetarian Wellington CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Vlad Gites, President

Dance Into 2017

San Diego Smooth Dancers New Year's Eve Party

Saturday,
December 31
8 p.m.-???

- ★ Dress: Formal Attire
- ★ Light dinner and hors d'oeuvres
- ★ Special entertainment planned
- ★ Music by Al Folkman
- ★ Noise Makers, Party favors and Champagne will be provided
- ★ \$25 (NSD Members \$20)



Questions? Call Kay Ryan at 619-994-4303

All your favorite ballroom dances plus three mixers

NEW Champion Ballroom Academy
4255 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123

Great Dance Floor ★ Ample Free Parking

Save the Date

San Diego Smooth Dancers

Cordially invites you to a Coronation Ball

“Dance with Joy”

Honoring Queen-Elect

Elizabeth Tarnove

Saturday, March 4, 2017

Champion Ballroom Academy
4255 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123

Doors open 6pm - Champagne reception
Coronation Ceremony 6:30-7pm
(No seating during the ceremony)
Catered Buffet Dinner 7-8pm
(dance music during dinner)
Dance 8-11 pm

Coronation \$60 per person ♦ Black Tie Optional
Plenty of your favorite ballroom dances plus two mixers

Hospitality: March 4 at Champion Ballroom Academy 2-4 p.m.
4255 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123

Queen's Brunch: Sunday, March 5 at 9:30 a.m.
Location to be determined

Hotel (for out of town guests): Courtyard Marriott, 8651 Spectrum Center Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123

Call 888-236-2427 or 858-573-0700 for reservations and give the booking code "San Diego Smooth Dancers" for the room rate of \$119 a night.

Hotel Reservations must be made by February 10, 2017 to get the group discount.

For more information, please call Shirley McCloskey at (858) 677-9003 or Kay Ryan at (619) 994-4303