

*National Smooth Dancers*  
***Dance Whispers***  
*February 2025*

*NationalSmoothDancers.org*



**2025 Coronation Central:** 2025 starts with San Diego Coronation (Mar 1), followed by Bakersfield Barbie Dream Ball dance weekend March 28-30. The Visalia Coronation will be May 17, followed by the Fresno Coronation June 21. The year ends with Palomar (Oct 4) and San Fernando Valley (Nov 1) Coronations.

**2025 Convention:** Golden Gate State Convention: August 29 to September 1.

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



**Publishing Editor**  
Carl Chesbrough

Hello Fellow Smooth Dancers,

The first coronation of 2025 is the San Diego Coronation on March 1, 2025. Followed by the Bakersfield Barbie Dream Ball dance weekend March 28-30. As a reminder, the Golden Gate chapter will not be hosting a Coronation as we get ready for our 75 year Diamond Jubilee over the Labor Day weekend.

**Personal Update:** I am now half way through my eight cycles of taking chemo medicine. My side effects continue to be mild, and I hope that the next four cycles are similar to the first 4 cycles.

Elizabeth and I managed to get a cruise with our daughter and her husband. We met in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and St Croix, St Thomas, St Maarten, St Kitts, and Barbados. I finished my round of chemo during our flights to San Juan, and enjoyed my week without the chemo medications.

Prior to my surgery and needing the chemo treatments, we had booked the cruise with our daughter and her husband. We also had a Hawaii

cruise booked for February 20. We kept the cruise with our daughter because it feel during an off week, and canceled the Hawaii cruise because we did not know how I would be doing on the medication.

We decided to trade the Hawaii cruise in February for a Canada/New England cruise in June. We are going to visit our son in Philadelphia before the cruise, then catch the ship from New York City, and after the cruise we will visit our daughter in New Jersey.

I think that being able to write about my chemo experience has been a little therapeutic. The April Dance Whispers will be published as I finish my seventh round of chemo, and I will be looking forward to getting that final round done.

We are looking forward to the Bakersfield Barbie Dream Ball, and plan on attending Visalia's Coronation in May. We will miss Fresno's Coronation in June, as we will be back east getting ready for our cruise.

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

-Carl Chesbrough, Publishing Editor.

## Bakersfield Smooth Dancers News by Christine Conrad

### Holiday Celebrations



Stacey and James  
at the Christmas Dance

We had a great turnout for our Christmas Party on December 15th. The holidays are always a special time to enjoy time spent with friends.



Christmas at the Grange



New Years Eve  
at the Art Museum

Ring in the New Year at the Bakersfield Museum of Art. We had a catered dinner, plenty of desserts and dance music provided by The Targets. Our New Year's celebration was exceptionally special as our member, Rick Gatewood proposed to Mirela Blakely and she accepted! What a wonderful way to start the new year.



Rick Gatewood and  
Mirela Blakely  
Newly Engaged!



The President's Black and White ball was held on January 25th. We honored our current and past presidents, thanking them for all they do for our club. In attendance were five presidents, including Paul Leung, Ben Wilson, Kay Boyer, Steve Peterson, and Bill Landry.

## Friday Night Dances

We continue to hold dances every Friday night at the Fairfax Grange from 7:00 to 9:00 pm with a cost of only \$5 per person.

### Weekly Lessons at the Grange

Due to the heavy fog in the central valley Franco Perraza will not be offering the Monday night lessons until March. He is still open for private lessons. Starting on March 3rd he will be teaching Rhumba and the Quickstep.

Tuesdays - Josh Harless is offering beginning Bachata lessons starting at 6:00 pm and Intermediate Waltz lessons starting at 7:00 pm.

### Upcoming Events

February 22nd we hope to see everyone at the Fairfax Grange for the "Red Velvet Rendezvous".

**Coronation for Queen-Elect, Debi Cadena, will be held in March at the mini-convention.**



The theme for the mini-convention this year is a Barbie Dream Ball! The dance weekend will begin on Friday, March 28th and end Sunday morning. Saturday evening we will be crowning Debi Cadena as our new chapter queen. Be sure to check out the attached flyer for more information. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!





## Visalia Smooth Dancers News by Lew Griswold

### Visalia dancers visit Cuba



Four Visalia dancers visited the island nation of Cuba on a cultural exchange tour. Live music was often played at restaurants, so they'd get up to dance and soon others would join in. Their tour guide loved it.

"Art and music are everywhere," said Carol Abeyta. "The people are welcoming, kind and gracious."

Carol, Maria Helm, Craig McNeilly and Tamara Galli made the 10-day visit in December.



Craig McNeilly samples a Cuban cigar

### Santa's sleigh journeys from lawn to stage

The annual Christmas dance in December was great fun with lots of food, camaraderie and dancing. Co-chairs Carol Abeyta and Marivel Villarreal deserve many thanks for their leadership in making the dance hall look fabulous. All the stage decorations were dazzling and all the table settings reflected the creativity and love of the individual club members who set them.



Marivel Villarreal admires the 2024 Christmas stage

Santa with his sleigh dominated the stage. Marivel first spotted the Santa-sleigh-reindeer decoration on a neighbor's front lawn. She knocked on the door and introduced herself and asked if she could please borrow it for the dance club's annual Christmas dance. "Sure!" they said.

"It was a couples effort – the man cut the wood and his talented wife painted it," Marivel said. "When I



JD Davis and Amy Lawrence take a bow for their Christmas dance performance

returned Santa I said, 'My date with him was fantastic!' They were so happy their hard work was appreciated."

Suspended over the stage were stunning handmade snowflakes – Marivel made them herself – bringing a lovely winter touch to the annual event.

DJ Cheryl Levitan played a whopping 50 songs – a new record, she said.

### New visitors attend January dance



Myra Nielsen and Margaret Moholt welcome Beverly to the January dance

Many new dancers attended January dance social because Vice-president Carol Abeyta visited dance classes to pass out free tickets and invite people to attend.

Myra Nielsen's niece Beverly traveled the farthest. She was visiting from the Philippines. See the photo.

### Queen-elect Laura preps for coronation

Laura Encinas will be the new queen in May and she's really looking forward to it. In preparation, Carol Bixler, Wendy Storey and Margeret Moholt graciously hosted a get-together to discuss all the details of the May 17 coronation. Hint: the color will be red.



Caryl Creason, Linda Guttierrez, Laura Encinas, Wendy Storey, Carol Bixler, Margaret Moholt, and Barbara Uichanco plan the May coronation ceremony



## More Visalia Smooth Dancers News

### Visalia's Most Improved dancers for 2024

The most improved dancers for 2024 were announced at the December dance. The announcements are always full of suspense.

Craig McNeilly – Most Improved Male Dancer

Kelly Dafonte – Most Improved Female Dancer

Danny and Laura Boland – Most Improved Couple

Tim Inouye received the Achievement Award.



Most Improved Dancers of 2024 stand with 2023 winners (above)

Laura and Danny Boland (left) 2024 Most Improved Couple Dancers

## San Diego Smooth Dancers News by Mark Chapman

### Let the Coronations Begin!

Hello Smooth Dancers! It is time for a new year of Coronations to begin! Please join us in San Diego March 1st to celebrate the SDDS Queens for 2025: Queen Alicia Quintero Alexander (SDDS Queen 2019), Queen Lou Reyes (SDDS Queen 2014 & State Queen 2022), and myself: Queen Shirley McCloskey (Fresno Queen 1995, SDDS Queen 2012 & 2018). Yes, my home is in the wide-open spaces of Idaho, but this March, my heart and dancing feet will be celebrating National Smooth Dancers in San Diego!



So let Mark Chapman know you are coming (see flyer attached). Take this opportunity to show appreciation and honor to all the Queens of NSD, your ambassadors statewide. The Queens commit to traveling for a year, spreading goodwill and enthusiasm for ballroom dancing. There will be beautiful music to dance to, pageantry to enjoy, thrilling entertainment, friends to greet and love. (yes, some good food too).

It is an honor to be Queen, and I am blessed by the support of SDDS. Thank you for the opportunity to represent them and to see all NSD at the Coronations this year. Let's dance at the Silvery Moonlight Ball in San Diego!

Wishing you good health and happy dancing for years to come!

*Queen Shirley McCloskey*

I am very honored to represent San Diego Smooth Dancers as one of the Queens for the second time. It was a pleasure representing San Diego as a Queen the first time so when the opportunity presented itself I accepted!



My career was an Engineering Analyst for San Diego Gas and Electric Sempra Energy in which I retired after 20 years.

During my Navy career I worked for the helicopter squadron on North Island Coronado. I also worked in the Public Affairs Office at the Mediterranean Military SeaLift Command in Spain and Italy. Thanks to my military career I traveled to other European countries as well. I was introduced to dance in 2013 and joined San Diego Smooth Dancers in 2017. Thanks to dance, I met many wonderful people including my husband. Thanks San Diego Smooth Dancers I am honored to represent you as one of your Queens in 2025.



Keep on smiling and keep on dancing.

*Queen Alicia Quintero Alexander*

## San Fernando Valley Smooth Dancers News by Mark Emanuelli

Greetings, Smooth Dancers – Happy New Year to our new members, and to our returning members!

### San Fernando Valley Survives the Fires, Dancing is still on our calendar:

A quick note, here in the intro, to let you all know that we are safe, the Hollywood Academy is up and running, and our dances are uninterrupted. We continue to be sharing and supporting our dance family in the affected areas.

If you are in the SFV, please join us for our upcoming dances at the Hollywood Academy!

Feb 16 – Members Meeting and Tea Dance – 1pm

Mar 01 – Monthly Social – 7pm

Mar 16 – Members Meeting and Tea Dance – 1pm



### Our New Social Committee

Last year, our Social Chair abdicated in October. Our prior Social Chair helped us round out the year, but we needed a new plan for 2025.

Rachel Seward came up with that new plan – instead of an elected Social Chair, she created a Social COMMITTEE, and they would send a representative to the Board. We decided to give it a go, and Rachel was able to gather a small team of members all willing to volunteer. They have “elected” Sherry Thomas as their first Social Chair.

It’s an interesting way to operate, and we are excited to see what the new committee has in mind for us.

And we even got our membership together for a photo at the February Dance.



Wrapping things up for this month - Happy Birthday to our February & March birthday dancers:

FEB: Gerri Cook, James Charlton

MAR: Susan Potthoff, Vivian Pennock

Stay warm, and we’ll see you in Spring!

- SFV Smooth Dancers

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## Fresno Smooth Dancers News by Leslie Rouse

What a wonderful year it has been for Fresno Smooth Dancers. With the help of many talented members, each Sunday Social seemed to get better as the year went by.

Then with the combined effort of all of the willing decorators, our Christmas Dance was the icing on the cake. So many talented people gave of their time and talent to set beautiful tables to make the last dance of the year exceptionally memorable. We had a new caterer that provided us with excellent food and there was a special performance by Ruth Llorente and Roberto Espana.

As January flew in we had a wonderful third Sunday dance hosted by our new officers. To top off the start of 2025, we had 12, that’s right, 12 first-time guests. Even though the temperatures were low outside, inside, everyone’s spirits were high as we made new friends that day. It was nice to see so many FSD members visit, encourage, and make our guests feel welcome.





## More Fresno Smooth Dancers News

As we step into a new year, we are delighted to introduce our team of officers—some familiar faces, some exciting new additions, and all bringing their unique spark to our organization! At the helm, guiding us with boundless enthusiasm, is Henry Wegermann, our newly elected President. Returning to provide wisdom support, Ruth Llorente resumes her role as Vice President. Keeping our finances in check with precision and care, Patricia Coppock joins the team as Treasurer. Capturing the essence of our meetings with meticulous notes, Yvette Haworth takes on the role of Recording Secretary, while Linda Bennett, has stepped in as Corresponding Secretary. David Hailpern continues in his role as Board Member, while the ever-organized Nancy Cargill keeps our social calendar in perfect harmony as Social Chair. And our radiant 2024 Queen Elect, Oralia Fowler, will crown our 2025 Queen Elect, Cindy Wegermann, on June 21st, ushering in another year of tradition and celebration.

Our next Sunday dance will be a Mardis Gras celebration hosted by Oralia Fowler on March 16.



2025 Officers



President and 2025 Queen Elect

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## Golden Gate Smooth Dancers News by Jerry Bowes

### Home Games: GGSD Monthly Dances

Jan 12: Our Winter Wonderland Dance included a Tango Lesson with Giovanni Leanza.

Feb 9: Be My Valentine dance (competing with superbowl Sunday) had a Rumba lesson with Peter Ng.

Mar 9: Our March dance will have the theme of Mardi Gras with a Single Time Swing Lesson with Peter Ng.

### Holiday Party: New Years Eve Eve

The Golden Gate tradition of having our New Year's Eve party a day or two early continues. We had it at Dominic's SF in San Francisco on December 28. It sold out early and everyone had a great time. Thanks to all who attended.



Golden Gate Members at the New Years Gala (above)

Guests at the New Year Gala (below)





## More Golden Gate Smooth Dancers News

### New Members

Golden Gate has started the new year with two new member couples. Bob and Leslie Chan and Scott and Anne Westbrook. Say hi and welcome them and ask Scott how the battlebot team is doing.



Bob and Leslie Chan

Scott and Anne Westbrook

### Goings of the Queen



Amidst the gap between duties at the San Fernando Coronation and those in San Diego, Queen Lynn and her consort took the opportunity to avail themselves of some more regal surroundings, taking a two week cruise from New York to the Caribbean on the Cunard ship Queen Elizabeth 2. Traveling with a group of 65 avid dancers arranged as a dance cruise (<https://blsdc.com>) in the midst of classic elegance was most pleasing. In The Queen's Ballroom every mid-day and evening there was dance music as well as formal afternoon tea. They enjoyed both Christmas and New Year's Eve at sea in fine ballroom attire with live music and everyone enjoying dancing in the ballroom. The historical surroundings reminded travelers of the British Queens for whom the Cunard fleet is named and the pride of carrying on some of the traditions to our dance club in our many coronation rituals. The Queen looks forward to future dance cruises with many of the lovely friends she met over the holidays.

### Convention Preparations: Competition Registration

Golden Gate is blessed by having (at least) two volunteers who speak web stuff and we will be having both Event Registration and Competition Registration online for this year's convention. We will be putting the finishing touches on the websites and let everyone know when we will be 'open for business' to register for both.

For those who have not been in a dance competition it is a lot of fun to do your first competition at the 1 Star and 2 Star levels. You don't have to dance with someone in your Chapter and don't forget, even though the Jack and Jill dance competitions are not part of the officially sanctioned competition, they are way fun (and you don't have to spend a lot of time practicing... no pressure!).

Often we think that the Rules Committee representatives are the people to encourage members from their chapters to dance, but if you have competed please join them and make the effort to encourage others in your chapter. The more the merrier!



December Dance Toys for Tots



Lynn Sanders and  
Jerry Bowes  
on the Queen Elizabeth 2

Stella Wong with  
new members  
Bob and Leslie Chan



## Palomar Smooth Dancers News by Chris Bernardo

**January's social dance** on January 26th was held in the pouring rain and aptly named 'Winter Wonderland'. The tables were decked with snow inspired satin decorations and twinkling lights, thanks to Ann Mauro and her elves. The music appeared to seamlessly flow all evening, however I think Peter was probably at the helm. At our last Member Meeting the chapter decided to offer free entrance to our Monthly Social. This is of course also offered to any other chapter members and all NSD members who would like to join in the fun.



Penny (president),  
Debbie A (queen),  
Mario, and Yumi



Ceppy, Stephanie, Debbie A,  
and Mario at January Social



Jesus and Antonia  
at January Social

It is inspiring how many of the experienced dancers of our group dance with our lesser experienced dancers, not only at the Social but also at our weekly group lessons. They show great patience and often try to teach a new step to our newbies, including myself.



Al and Marion  
at January Social



Peggy and Mark

## Viennese Nights: A Victorian Ball

Several Palomar Dancers attended the Viennese Nights at Balboa Park's beautiful ballroom. Music by San Diego's own, Grand Pacific Waltz Orchestra.



(Front and Center) Mario Lira  
(Left to Right) Fred and Geri Deutsch,  
Rich and Liora Malicdem, Alice Clary and Bill Fujikawa,  
Carol and Kelly Kimmitt  
(Back Row L-R) Renee and Reid Merrill, Josh and Daniel Tietjan

## Our Chapter President's trip to England

Penny Elliott, our President is back from her trip and amused us with her stories of getting lost in the huge public transport system in England. According to George Bernard Shaw, the United States and England are separated by a common language. He highlighted the problems you face when you travel to a country where the language is similar to yours, but the culture is widely different.



Penny Elliott in England  
in front of Windsor Castle

Penny was quick to add that even getting lost was a blast!!

## Member Highlight – Peter Hanson

Peter joined Palomar Smooth Dancers in 1985 (youngest members), has been President three times and won the Gavel Award in 2012. Along with his wife Marsha and Frank Lombardi as Chairpersons they were instrumental in organizing our 2024 NSD Convention, which was a resounding success. Peter is currently Treasurer of our Chapter but I cannot begin to list all the other responsibilities he covers for us. Music for our dances, profiles kept up to date for the whole State NSD. He is happy to say that he will never retire from his many and numerous responsibilities, lucky for us.

(continued on next page)



## More Palomar Smooth Dancers News

(continued from previous page)



Peter Hanson

When asked why he started ballroom dancing he was quick to say it was all Marsha's fault. Peter was always doing sports or working long hours as a very successful CPA, so Marsha insisted they learn Ballroom dancing to have a joint interest. Like everything else in his life Peter threw his whole heart into it and after their first competition he was hooked. They

won the Bicentennial State Ball in 1976 when they lived back east, and even as they moved around the country they kept dancing and winning.

Peter grew up in Maine, married Marsha as childhood sweethearts and had a son Keith, and daughter Natalie. Keith is married and has three children including 6 year old twins and lives in Hawaii. Peter's daughter is also married and lives in Washington DC. Their family gettogethers are usually in San Diego due to the geographical distances between them.

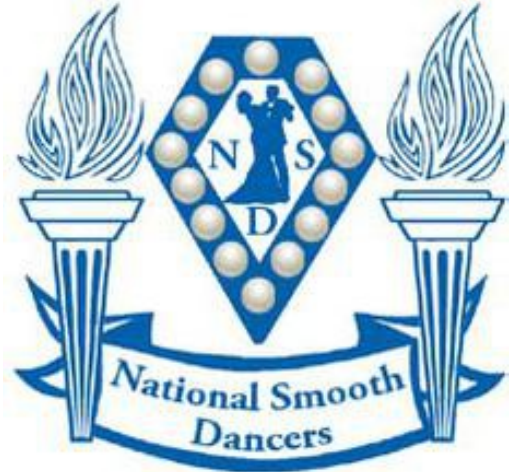
Now you know a little more about Peter Hanson, we will have to 'Member highlight' Marsha next time in the Whispers to get the 'REAL' story. LOL!! Just kidding Marsha, I promise I won't pick on you.

## Save the Date, Labor Day 2025! You won't want to miss this!





# ***National Smooth Dancers 2025 Officers***



## **San Diego Chapter Officers**

President	Frank Lacson
Vice President	Marty Freihofer
Treasurer	Angela Martsolf
Board Member	Cindy Perry
Secretary	Susan David
Social Chairman	By committee
Dance Class Chair	Chuck DiSessa
Sunshine	Cathy O'Harra

## **Coronation - March 1, 2025**

Dance Rules	Amante Reyes
Smooth Talk Editor	Mark Chapman
Dance Whispers Editor	Mark Chapman
Music Chair	Greg Alexander
Queen	Victoria Voro
Queen-Elect	Lou Reyes
	Alicia Alexander
	Shirley McCloskey
Webmaster/Publicity	Greg Alexander

## **Palomar Chapter Officers**

President	Penny Elliott
Vice President	Stephanie Cashion
Treasurer	Peter Hanson
Board Member	Ann Mauro
Corresponding Secretary	Chris Bernardo
	Mark Chapman
Recording Secretary	Deborah Jackson
Social Chair	Ann Mauro
	Antonia Quinene

## **Coronation - October 4, 2025**

Dance Rules	Bill Fujikawa
Dance Whispers Editor	Chris Bernardo
	Debbie Atherton
Music Coordinator	Open
Publicity	Kelly Kimmitt
Queen	Debbie Atherton
Queen-Elect	Penny Elliott
Webmaster	Kelly Kimmitt
Membership	Alicia Sanchez

## **Golden Gate Chapter Officers**

President	Dan Ansaldi
Vice President	Svetlana Gites
Treasurer	Carl Chesbrough
Board Member	Amy Ansaldi
Corresponding Secretary	Rita Steed
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Li
Social Chair	Stella Wong
Dance Rules	Igor Tilinin
Dance Whispers Editor	Jerry Bowes
Music Coordinator	Carl Chesbrough

## **Convention - Aug 29 - Sep 1, 2025**

Queen	Lynn Sanders
Queen-Elect	Vera Harvey
Webmaster	Carl Chesbrough
Parlamentarian	Rita Parma
Sergent-At-Arms	Les Lin
Property Custodian	Elizabeth Li
Beverage Master	David Jeffery
Hotel Coordinator	Dan Ansaldi
Dance Host Coordinator	Janice Snyder
Queen Coordinator	Amy Ansaldi



## **San Fernando Valley Officers**

President	Mark Emanuelli
Vice President	Leanne Wong
Treasurer	Regina Chinweze
Board Member	Joan Robinson
Member Correspondence	Sam Billimoria
Recording Secretary	Susan Potthoff
* Pending volunteer support	

## **Coronation - November 1, 2025**

Social Chair	Sherry Thomas
Dance Rules	Les Lazar
Dance Whispers Editor	Mark Emanuelli *
FB/Social Media	Mark Emanuelli *
Queen	Rachel Seward
Webmaster	Bill Steeber

## **Bakersfield Chapter Officers**

President	Steve Peterson
Vice President	Debi Cadena
Treasurer	Lynn Kraus
Board Member	Ben Wilson
NSD Delagates	Boyd Binnering
	James Shmitz
	Bill Landry
Corresponding Secretary	Kay Boyer
Recording Secretary	Wendy Wilson
Social Chair	Kay Boyer

## **Coronation - March 29, 2025**

Membership Chair	Stacey Loubey
Dance Rules	Open
Dance Whispers Editor	Christine Conrad
Queen	Debi Cadena
Music Coordinator	Steve Peterson
	Rich Gonzales
	Dennis Acosta
Webmaster	Debi Cadena
Facebook	John Harrer
	Renae Harrer

## **Visalia Chapter Officers**

President	Stan Medina
Vice President	Carol Abeyta
Treasurer	Adelle Martinez
Board Member	Greg Uichanco
Corresponding Secretary	Jim Renfro
Recording Secretary	Laura Encinas
Social Chair	Mary Brown
Dance Rules	John Guttierrez
Parliamentarian	Shane Nielsen
Publicity	Jim Renfro

## **Coronation - May 17, 2025**

Dance Whispers Editor	Lew Griswoold
Webmaster	Lew Griswoold
Queen	Margaret Moholt
Queen-Elect	Laura Encinas
Sunshine	Maria Helm
Music	Cheryl Levitan
	Tim Inouye
	Greg Uichanco
	John Gutierrez

## **Fresno Chapter Officers**

President	Henry Wegermann
Vice President	Ruth Llorente
Treasurer	Patricia Coppock
Board Member	David Hailpern
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Bennett
Recording Secretary	Yvette Haworth
Social Chair	Nancy Cargill

## **Coronation - June 21, 2025**

Dance Rules	Open
Dance Whispers Editor	Leslie Rouse
Music Coordinator	David Morgan
Queen	Oralia Fowler
Queen-Elect	Cindy Wegermann
Webmaster	Lorraine Tilton
Sunshine	Dolores Reed



# In Memoriam

## San Diego Loses a Queen and a Fairy Tale Princess

by Shirley McCloskey

Lucie Bilyavska came to us at SDSD. I am unaware of what led her to us, but we have been enriched by her inimitable personality and charming presence among us.

Lucie was an active member of SDSD and supported the club in dance class participation, showcases, competitions, and in serving as the honorable Queen of SDSD.

I am personally grateful for Lucie's Honor Dance performance with Chuck of Beauty and the Beast at my 2018 Coronation. Her beautiful dancing, gorgeous yellow ball gown, and happy smiles will live on in my heart and memory and in the awe and wonder of my Granddaughters.

Fondly remembering a life well lived which will be missed by all of us in San Diego Chapter.

Warmly,

*Shirley McCloskey*



## In Memory of James Kephart 3/30/1932 - 12/22/2024

by Christine Conrad

On January 18th many of us gathered to say goodbye to our dear friend James Kephart. Jim had been a member for several years and was our chapter president in 2006 and 2007. Jim and Claudine were faithful members and were always there to welcome us on Friday nights for our weekly dances. Like many of you, my husband and I have so many wonderful memories of Jim and will miss him dearly. He was always smiling, kind to everyone and managed being a Pastor, running his business, helping family members and taking care of the Grange facility and still have time to dance. A true inspiration! Our love and prayers go out to Claudine during this difficult time.



# In Memoriam

## Palomar Loses a Senior Statesman

by Mark Chapman

There are not many current NSD members who have been involved with our club for as long as Duane Thornton was. Palomar Chapter and all NSD lost a very special member when Duane slipped away peacefully in his sleep during the night of January 28th.

It has been some time since our chapter last had the pleasure of watching Duane and Donna Thornton perform; even longer since they were regularly active in NSD competitions. But those of us who have been in the club a few years have fond memories of watching this couple on the dance floor. Up until Duane was physically unable to dance any longer, he and Donna would always add a performance of their own to a Palomar showcase or holiday social.

Being a long-time competitor, Duane was very interested in the technical side of ballroom and I know that he used to closely watch the steps of competing or performing couples to check whether their footwork was correct. It used to make me a bit nervous when I knew he was in the audience during a competition Kao and I were in because I knew he would be watching my footwork; but, it was a very good feeling when he gave his approval afterwards.

Those of us who have been around awhile will also remember a special performance that Duane sometimes presented for our entertainment: he would put on a pair of roller skates and display his excellent skating skills as he circled the ballroom floor. I wish I could share a photo of Duane on skates but I don't have one in my archives. Duane was truly a sight to see—a Smooth Dancer rolling even more smoothly around the ballroom for our viewing pleasure.

Along with Duane's contributions to the performance and competition side of our club, he supported the operational side as well, serving as Palomar's president some time ago. Duane was also a living repository of NSD history and culture. I remember occasions during chapter meetings when a point of procedure or tradition would come up and other members would be unsure how to address certain situations. In such cases, Duane could explain the history behind club procedures and the reasons we maintained the traditions that are important to our ballroom family.

With Duane Thornton's passing, Palomar has lost a senior statesman, access to first-hand knowledge of our club history, a talented dancer and a very good friend and mentor to his fellow NSD members. Duane passed away after dealing for several weeks with complications from a broken femur that he sustained while riding an electric bike. We've lost a big slice of NSD history—as represented in a single individual—now that Duane is no longer with us.







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

# **“Mardi Gras”**



## **AFTERNOON DANCE Sunday March 9th**

 **\$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**

**Single Time Swing Lesson  
w/ Peter Ng**

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

**Dancing**

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED by  
March 7th at 4:30PM**

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

**Mail To:**

**Stella Wong  
3171 Susan Drive  
San Bruno, CA 94066**

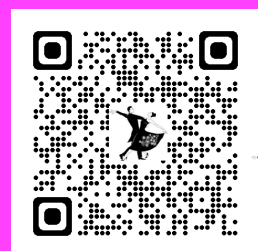
**ONLINE RESERVATIONS ARE  
ENCOURAGED AT:**

**[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*



Queen Oralia Hosts  
Fresno Smooth Dancers'



And Parasol Parade  
Laisse les bons moments router

Sunday Social, March 16, 2025

2:00 West Coast lesson by Rei Marquez

General Dancing 3:00 to 5:00

Free Admission for First Time Guests



Clovis Senior Center  
735 Third Street, Clovis

NSD Members \$10  
Guests \$15

??? Call Nancy (559) 786-9626  
[www.fresnosmoothdancers.org](http://www.fresnosmoothdancers.org)



BAKERSFIELD SMOOTH DANCERS

# Red Velvet Rendezvous

FEBRUARY 22ND

.....  
*Snacks - Soda/Water - Dance - Music*  
.....

Free to all Bakersfield Smooth Dancers Members

\$20 per person for Non-Members

Music by "The Targets", for your dancing pleasure

Hosted by Debi & Danny, Jeanette & Steve, Tony & WenShi, Jeff & Lynn

7:00-10:00PM

The Bakersfield Grange, • 4 Fairfax Road, Bakersfield



FrancoProduction 

# RUMBA/QUICKSTEP DANCE SERIES

Enter our lively dance studio and follow the beat! Our classes cater to all skill levels, from total beginners to seasoned dancer.

**Every Monday**

6:30-8:30PM STARTING MARCH 3, 2025



**Location**

Farifax Grange

4 Fairfax Rd Bakersfield, CA



**\$60 EACH CLASS**  
**\$100 BOTH CLASSES**

More Information

[francoproduction11@gmail.com](mailto:francoproduction11@gmail.com)







# FEBRUARY 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
Ventura Monday's with Jay Byam  		4 6 PM Beg Ballroom 7 PM Int Ballroom 8 PM Int Night Club 2	5 6 PM Int Country 2 7 PM Int WCS 8 PM Karaoke	6 6 PM Beg Country 2 7 PM Beg Night Club 2 8 PM Beg WCS	7	8
15	17	11 6 PM Beg Ballroom 7 PM Int Ballroom 8 PM Int Night Club 2	12 6 PM Int Country 2 7 PM Int WCS 8 PM Karaoke	13 6 PM Beg Country 2 7 PM Beg Night Club 2 8 PM Beg WCS	14	15 7:00 pm Studio X 661  
		18 6 PM Beg Ballroom 7 PM Int Ballroom 8 PM Int Night Club 2	19 6 PM Int Country 2 7 PM Int WCS 8 PM Karaoke	20 6 PM Beg Country 2 7 PM Beg Night Club 2 8 PM Beg WCS	21	
23	24	25 6 PM Beg Ballroom 7 PM Int Ballroom 8 PM Int Night Club 2	26 6 PM Int Country 2 7 PM Int WCS 8 PM Karaoke	27 6 PM Beg Country 2 7 PM Beg Night Club 2 8 PM Beg WCS	28	

TUESDAYS: BALLROOM & Night Club Two Step @ The Fairfax Grange: 4 Fairfax Rd, 93307

WEDNESDAYS: Swing, Country, & Karaoke @ 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





*Bakersfield Smooth Dancers*

*Present*

# **Barbie Dream Ball**



March 28-30, 2025





# Barbie Dream Ball

Dance Weekend  
Bakersfield Doubletree Hotel  
March 28-30, 2025

## Friday, March 28, 2025

3:00 - 4:30 pm	Welcome & Registration	Ballroom Pre-Function area
4:00 - 5:00	Showcase Dance Practice	Main Ballroom
5:30 - 7:00	Early Dancing	Main Ballroom
<b>7:00- 11:00 pm</b>	<b>"Malibu Beach Party"</b>	<b>Main Deck Ballroom</b>
	Come ready to party on the beach with all your Barbie Friends, Skipper, Ken and the crew will be on hand as we dance the night away on the Malibu Beach.	
	\$40 Per person - Come dressed ready to Party on the beach	
8:00	Spotlights and Team dances	
	General dancing	
11:00	<b>Hospitality</b> Begins--The party after the party	

## Saturday, March 29, 2025

8:00 - 9:00 am	Breakfast on your own	
8:00 - 9:00 am	Dance Rules Meeting	
8:00 - 9:00	Editors Meeting	TRD
9 am - 1pm	Presidents Meeting	Sierra Room
9:30 - 10:30	Showcase Dance Practice	Nevada Room
11:00 - 11:30	Board of Directors Meeting	Doubletree Ballroom
11:30 - 12:30 pm	Queens' Champagne Reception	Nevada Room
	Queens' Lunch \$49.00 per person	California Room
	All Current & Former Queens	California Room
12:00	Lunch On Your Own	
1:00 pm - 1:50	Professional Dance Lesson	Ballroom \$5 per person at door



from Dance Pros Aaron Pierce and Bailey Carrillo  
(Back by Popular demand)

**2:00 - 4:00 pm      "Kendom"      Ballroom**

Ken has taken over Barbie Land, and the men now rule  
Come dressed in your best California casual  
\$40 per person

2:45      Spotlights and Dance Team Formations  
4:00      Dance ends, Queens' Court Rehearsal

**6:00 - 11:00 pm      "Barbie Dream Ball"      Ballroom**

All is well and Barbie is back on the throne to receive her crown.  
This is a Royal Ball with a Barbie twist so come Dressed  
to Impress

6:00      Bar Opens, Doors Open  
6:30      **Queens' Court Presentation**  
7:00      Dinner is served  
Formal Dinner, Exhibition & Formal Dance  
\$99.00 per person, Formal Attire

8:00 - 11:00      Social Dancing throughout the evening between  
Exhibitions and Spotlights

10:15      Professional Showcase  
11:00      End of the Festivities

**Sunday March 30, 2025**

8:30      Ballroom open for Early Dancing

**9:00 am      "Farewell to Barbie Land"      Ballroom**

Farewell Breakfast and Dancing  
Time to Book your next big dance adventure  
Convention Presentation - Golden Gate Diamond Jubilee

9:15      Breakfast  
10:00      Acknowledgements & NSD Board Reps Comments  
11:00      Farewell and Drive safely as you head back to the real world





## Event Questions

Steve Peterson – Dream Ball Coordinator – 661-487-9744  
stevenjpeterson@me.com

Stacey Loubey – Dream Ball Weekend Registration – 661-444-5304  
sloubey@gmail.com

Mail in or use Google Form to register  
7501 Arieta Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA 93308-7210

Debi Cadena – Spotlight and team dance registration – 661-281-9923  
Deborah\_cadena@icloud.com

Dream Ball Dance Weekend website - [www.Bakersfieldsmoothdancers.org](http://www.Bakersfieldsmoothdancers.org)

Hotel Room Rate and registration - \$129 per night call the front Desk -  
Use Dream ball Dance weekend for the code - 661-323-7111  
Booking Link - on website  
Book your room by March 13th 2025 to receive the group rate.

Bakersfield Doubletree Hotel  
3100 Comino Del Rio Court  
Bakersfield CA 93308

You will receive a conformation email once we receive  
your registration.

2025 Bakersfield Smooth Dancers

# "Barbie Dream Ball"

## Dance Weekend

March 28-30, 2025

Purchaser Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Attendee #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee #1    Attendee #2

**Weekend Dance Package**    \$189 per person

Includes admission to all these weekend events. (*Best Deal*)

**Friday Evening**  
**Saturday Afternoon**

Evening Dance & Showcases  
Afternoon Dance & Showcases  
(Does not include Queen's Lunch)

**Saturday Evening**

Coronation Ceremony  
Formal Dinner, Dance & Showcases  
Professional Entertainment

**Sunday Morning**

Buffet Breakfast, Closing Dance &  
Convention Presentation by Golden Gate Chapter

**Individual Events**

**Friday Evening Party Only**    \$40.00 per person  
Evening Dance & Competitions

**Saturday Afternoon Party Only**    \$40.00 per person  
Afternoon Dance & Competitions

**Saturday Evening Party**    \$99.00 per person  
Queens Processional  
Formal Dinner, Dance & Competitions  
Professional Entertainment

**Sunday Morning Breakfast**    \$45.00 per person  
Buffet Breakfast & Convention Presentation

**Queen's Lunch**    \$49.00 per person  
Open to all Queens from all Chapters

**Total Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Evening Special Meal Request:**

Attendee #1    Vegan \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Steak \_\_\_\_\_ (add \$6.00)

Attendee #2    Vegan \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Steak \_\_\_\_\_ (add \$6.00)

For special food allergy concerns, contact Stacy Loubey.

CANCELLATIONS before March 18, 2025 will receive a prorated refund.  
After March 18, 2025 - No Refunds can be made.

All Dancing, Meals and Meetings will be held at the  
**Doubletree Hotel** - 3100 Camino Del Rio Ct - Bakersfield, CA 93308

**Mail Event Registrations and**  
**make Checks Payable to:**  
**Bakersfield Smooth Dancers.**  
c/o Stacey Loubey  
7501 Arleta Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA 93308-7210  
Email: sloubey@gmail.com  
661-444- 5304