



The 5th Wednesday Letter

From Sandi & Dan Finch

Wednesday, December 31, 2003

Year-End Special Events



Christmas Party

Wednesday Night's Christmas Party this year again included a Toys for Tots drive. You all filled up another gigantic cardboard box this year.

Two days before Christmas, Dan delivered the box to the Orangewood Home for abandoned and abused children in Orange County, in the name of "Dan & Sandi's Round Dancers" (for lack of a better name). The Orangewood Home and its volunteer elves (pictured above with the box) thanked you for your generosity.

Dan and I thank all of you for the wonderful Christmas present you gave us. You will see the Santa cookie jar in service on Wednesday night, in the future, but we haven't yet figured out what to do with the "insides."

The greatest gift is knowing we are doing something for you that you enjoy. We were most warmed by your thoughts, as expressed by Brian Scanlon, when he presented the gift and noted that he dances with us even if it means a two-hour drive one way on the 405 in rush-hour traffic.

We also thank Russ and Stella LaRose for putting together another sing-along of holiday songs.

A Night in November

It was a night to remember, that strange date, Wednesday, November 12, when hail blanketed south LA like snow. Lightening flashed across the basin skies; as Don Miller said, staying home on his hill in Lomita, it was like watching a movie as the strikes hit down across the panorama. It was sometimes hard to hear our music as the thunder boomed over Long Beach, but it was a warm, dry place in the Senior Center for almost 30 of us.

Halloween Party

Picking a winner in this year's Halloween costume parade was tough. The winners were Tim Todd and Patricia Michaud as Raggedy Andy and Raggedy Ann (right).



Larry and Carol Rhyne (below), who were Count Dracula and Lady Dracula, came in second.

All of the costumes were priceless. Brian and Alice Scanlon were close to the finish, as the tooth fairy and tooth. We had cheerleaders, happy faces, pirates, angels and devils. We hope you all had a fun time.



Days of Our Lives For the First Quarter

Birthdays:

Brian Scanlon	Sally Davis
Malcolm Pecor	Fred Lesh
Lorraine Mahrt	Madeline Ruge
Aiko Nabata	Pat Wong
Collette Weiss	Fran Rowitz
Marion Scholtz	Ken Scholtz
Larry Rhyne	Dee Langevin
Ethel Franz	Chuck Rowitz
Sheba Faust	Mas Nabata
Gloria Lesh	

Anniversaries:

Ken & Eva Zieg
 Joe & Dee Myers
 Ed & Di Gaines
 Larry & Carol Rhyne

Transition Class Gets New Format

The Thursday night transition class is now one-year-old and it's ready to expand to allow time for more dancing to keep up the dozen advanced dances the group learned over the past year.

Beginning with the first class of the new year on January 8, 2004, the class will run from 7 to 9:30 p.m., adding 30 minutes of dancing after the teach, as well as before. The teach will start at 7:30 p.m.

Over the past year, the class worked through clinics on waltz, rumba, tango, jive, foxtrot, quickstep, bolero and west coast swing.

In the process, they learned Wyoming Lullaby, And I Love You So, Tango Capriccioso, Leroy Swing, Orient Express, Orange-Colored Sky, Midnight Walk, True Love WCS, Cheek to Cheek, St. Michel's Quickstep, and Como Fue.

Ramblings:

Mas & Aiko Nabata made it back safely this year from Canada (no more accidents in Oregon) and they will be with us until February, long enough to celebrate her birthday January 21, the same day as Lorraine Mahrt.



John Michaelson planned a Christmas trip to Texas to spend a few days with his grandchildren. This fall, he moved his fourth Monday night class to Sunday, so he now has dances on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of each month.



Marv & Shirley Blair picked up Leo and Marion Crosby for a group outing to see "Phantom of the Opera." Joining them were *Ed & Di Gaines, Ken & Marion Scholtz, and Rick & Jean de la Torre.*



Wendell Ebling and Lynn have moved into their new home in Mission Viejo. Phone number and email are the same, so no excuse not to contact him. He says he is feeling better and is thinking about trying to dance again. They came to our transition class one night in November as part of their first all-day outing that did not include any doctor appointments.



Howard Davis became a great grandfather in November! *Sally Davis'* Big Bear cabin stood in the path of the October wild fires flaring across Southern California. It was spared, along with that of our city liaison, Alan, but a cabin that *Don Miller's* family had sold just two years ago went up in the San Diego burn area.



Paul Stottlemyer has come down with an infection in the bone of one foot, which hospitalized him twice since November. Although it took four weeks to determine the problem, he is recovering at home, while Dan and Sandi cover his Tuesday classes and help Betty put on Winterfest, January 17. We are sorry to report that our friend, Sonny Krauss, died in November, and *Tim Todd's* sister, Becky, lost her battle with cancer in December. Our sympathies go out to all the families.



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