

MOST IMPORTANT NEWS!

Here we go again – one more time. Welcome back FreZno Alumni to “The Grand Finale” – our 35th year of production. A warm welcome to any new attendees as well – we’ve been waiting for you! We’re planning another great party just for YOU including all the usual contests and more than \$10,000 to be awarded in prize money. Of course you’ll enjoy the Friday evening Happy Hour, 2,000 Jello Shots, three late night ice cream socials, complimentary popcorn, more than 20 included dance workshops, a 1st class staff of professionals, hours and hours of social dancing, our benefit raffle for the U.S.O., The Gong Show, a Memorial Day tribute, a late-night pizza party, a Karaoke Party, and on-going entertainment. **Saturday evening is when we’ll be celebrating our Grand Finale. No costumes – but instead – we are asking everyone to ‘dress up’. It’s a ‘retirement party’ of sorts – with many special performances as well as social dancing throughout the evening. Dress your finest, please – in clothes you can still dance in.** BTW - We’ve heard from quite a few alumni from over the years who intend to make a final trek to FreZno for what will surely be a fun reunion for many. It will be so wonderful to see so many friends from our many years of history – many hugs are in store!

ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

When you’re making your plans, we hope you’ll strongly consider staying Sunday night with us since we have the good fortune of Monday being a holiday. Sunday night is our All Stars/Champions J & J Contest, our Dancing With Our Stars feature, the 50/50 drawing with other raffle prizes, too, and then there’s our Karaoke Party, a late night Pizza and Beer party, and another late night of social dancing. And the extra night makes it so worthwhile for our Monday morning festivities – some video flashbacks of prior FreZno events, a touching and respectful tribute to the military men and women serving our country past and present, as well as the Gong Show Finale (highly entertaining) and our final awards ceremony. We finish about 11:30 am – plenty of time to get checked out (we have late checkout at 2 pm) and on the road back home in plenty of time before the bulk of the traffic on the holiday.

We want to encourage everyone to consider the 2 ½ hour dinner breaks we create in our schedule on Saturday and Sunday for socializing with your friends. We offer dinner buffets each evening in the hotel atrium (fast and efficient use of your time while dining) which leaves some time for room hospitality parties in your rooms with your friends. It’s party time.....for the last time in FreZno!

The dress code for the FreZno Dance Classic is ‘casual’. Friday during the day and evening, too – is **RETRO DAY** – so wear **your oldest event shirt** from the early days. You may wish to bring along your swim-suit, beach towel, cover up and flippers if you hope to catch some rays by the pool during the day, or for a relaxing soak in the spa. Unless competing, most folks dress pretty casual during the daytime and save the dressier clothes for the evenings. For the entire weekend, please remember—the weather in FreZno is ‘normally’ mild to pretty warm in May, so pack accordingly to be comfortable and look your best. You might want to pack the aspirin, Excedrin P.M., swim-suit and tanning oil/sunscreen, dressy outfits for competitions, \$\$\$ for contest fees

and bar drinks, healing remedy for the 'morning after', tennis racket/golf clubs, ice chest with refreshments, liquor, fruit, snacks, deodorant (please), and cologne/perfume. If you intend to 'work out' in the gym or take part in our morning exercise and stretch classes, bring your work-out clothes, tennis shoes, tights, etc..

SPECIAL DINNER BUFFETS – served in the hotel atrium, quick and convenient – all you can eat buffet. Served for 1 ½ hours for your convenience.

Saturday menu (2 entrees): Chicken Papaya, Kaluha Pork, Chef's fresh vegetable, south seas fried rice, tropical fruit display, coconut rice salad, rolls and butter, Chef's daily dessert, coffee, passion fruit ice tea, water.

Sunday menu: 2 types of pasta, meat sauce, marinara sauce, white sauce, green salad with assorted dressings, garlic bread, Chef's choice dessert, iced tea, lemonade.

HOTELS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

It's going to be critically important this year to reserve your room early – in March. And if not March – then early April. We are expecting a larger crowd this year – and our concern is that the hotel will sell out of rooms by May 1st – so please, **PLEASE – book your room early at the fabulous Double Tree By Hilton.** If you're a Hilton Honors member – be sure to give them your membership number. Group rate is a 'flat rate' for rooms at \$129.00 per night for king bed rooms and two queen bed rooms. And remember a couple of things --- there's about eight poolside suites on the ground floor level (no elevator or stairs needed) that are available at our regular group rate – first come, first served. These rooms are ideal for hospitality parties and group get-togethers and even though they are suites, they are available at the group rate of \$129 per night. Do your homework to make sure the bed type is suitable for you before you book a poolside suite. There are also two room executive suites available with king beds for \$182.00 per night. If you have any unique situations with your room arrangements or have any difficulty with the on-line reservation service – please call the hotel directly at 559-268-1000 (daytime business hours) and ask for reservations. If you have any 'issues' or specific needs, call the hotel and speak with Ryan at 559-441-2924. Also remember that as a hotel guest, you will get **FREE parking.**

Important: The DoubleTree has a 24 hour cancellation policy. The DoubleTree has a very strict 'no-pets' policy but exceptions are made – call them. If you need a pet care facility – we highly recommend Elaine's Pet Resort (559-227-5959). The hotel has a 3 night minimum stay requirement to make a reservation. We recommend booking your rooms asap – and certainly before May 10th to be assured of the lowest group rate and your choice of room type/location.

If your reservation is pretty straight forward – use this handy link to book your reservation on line: (not available until March 1st). **Put hotel link here**

Travelodge, 2127 Inyo Street, Fresno, CA 559-268-0621. If you are on a strict travel budget and cannot justify the rates at the DoubleTree – we can suggest the 2-Star rated hotel conveniently located at the back corner of the DoubleTree. Please don't expect anything fancy – and if you prefer to look elsewhere around FreZno using Expedia or your choice of hotel discounted services, please do. However – you will find the room rate at the Travelodge attractive at \$80.00 for a room with one queen bed, and \$90.00

per night for a room with two queen beds. Free wi-fi, free parking, free continental breakfast, easy walking distance. They do have a 2-night minimum stay requirement over Memorial Weekend. Please call them directly to make your reservation and tell them you are with the dance convention to receive our group rate. If you have any other discounts that might apply – try them first as our group rate is only slightly lower than their published rates. You can check their web site for more information:
https://www.google.com/search?q=travelodge+fresno+convention+centre+area&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS724US724&oq=travelodge+fresno&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j0l5.8950j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

DANCE WORKSHOPS

More than 20 dance workshops primarily in West Coast Swing and Two Step will be offered over the weekend starting around noon on Friday. We'll add some Night Club, Cha Cha, Waltz, and possibly an intro class in Tango. All dance workshops are included with the weekend admission ticket. There will be classes offered in all levels of dance with Intermediate level classes comprising the largest number focusing on fun social dance moves, lead and follow, 'good' technique, and music interpretation. We'll post our workshop schedule on the web site by May 20th – once our staff assignments are complete. As always, we assure you a super star line-up of dance pros and champions to offer top notch instruction throughout the weekend. Our talented teaching professionals will be revealed in the coming weeks! Stay tuned.....

TRAVEL TO FREZNO

If you're driving to the DoubleTree Hotel - from Highway 99 in downtown Fresno, take the Ventura Street exit and drive east less than 1 mile to the Double Tree Hotel which will be on the left. Turn left on L Street (the street as you reach the parking lot and the next street after Van Ness).

Those of you in RVs - the hotel is no longer allowing RV's in the hotel's parking lot. We have made special arrangements for you to park RVs directly across the street in a private business parking lot. Cost is \$20.00 per day. Important: you must contact Bruce at The Boat Shoppe and reserve your parking space ahead of time as well as making arrangements for payment. He is expecting you. The parking area is a paved and lighted lot with no hookups. Call Bruce at 559/443-1025. The Boat Shoppe is located right on the corner of L Street and Ventura (2125 Ventura Ave in Fresno).

Driving to Fresno from San Diego – 6+ hrs; from Orange County – 4+ hrs; from Los Angeles - 3.5 hrs; from Las Vegas - 6 hrs; from San Jose - 2.5 hrs; Santa Rosa – 4+ hrs; Sacramento - 3 hrs; Reno - 5.5 hrs. An easy drive from anywhere in California by car.

Amtrak. The Amtrak train connects Northern & Southern California with tracks running through downtown Fresno. The Amtrak station is less than one mile from the DoubleTree Hotel. The Hotel will be happy to send their complimentary shuttle to pick you up and drop you off if you decide to relax, avoid the traffic, and take the train.

Flying in to FAT – call the hotel at 559-268-1000 when you're off the plane. By the time you get your luggage, the shuttle should be there. It's about a 10 minute ride to the hotel.

Airlines: Fresno enjoys direct flights from Phoenix, Denver, Dallas, Portland, Reno, Las Vegas, Seattle, Salt Lake City, as well as Los Angeles and San Francisco. Sometimes it's cheaper to fly into Oakland, Sacramento, or San Jose and rent a car from there – it's 3 hours of driving from those cities. SFO and LAX would be 3.5 – 4 hours of driving.

WHAT ELSE TO CONSIDER – you're already so close.....

#1. Yosemite National Park. This is the very best time of the year to visit Yosemite – when all the waterfalls are flowing to the Merced River in Yosemite Valley. It's just 2++ hours drive from the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Fresno. The weather will be mild, the air fresh, everything green, the crowds at a minimum because school is still in session. It's a majestic place to visit – and it's a full day just to see the highlights that await you. For more information: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/index.htm>

#2. Giant Sequoia National Monument and Kings Canyon National Park. May is the best time to visit there as well – for the same reasons as in #1. Here is where you'll find the Big Trees as well as the nation's Christmas Tree – the 'giant' Sequoia's are truly a miracle of nature. The entrance to the park is just 55 miles from Fresno. For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/seki/>

#3. Got time for an extra night or two – then think about renting a Chalet or regular room right on **Bass Lake at The Pines Resort.** Very romantic! Bass Lake is about 2,500 ft. elevation – and has boat rentals for fishing or just relaxing. Mid-week stays are still a good bargain this time of year. Bass Lake is just 1++ hours drive from the DoubleTree Hotel. Look them up at <http://www.basslake.com/>

#4. Some of California's mightiest white water thunders through Kings Canyon and the heart of the Sierra Nevada. Fresno based **Kings River Expeditions** offers one and two-day trips covering more than 20 miles of class III white water. For more info: www.kingsriver.com

WHAT TO LEAVE HOME

All your worries, problems, bills, old clothes, bad moods, disgruntled x's, and warm winter clothes. <grin>