

# The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

Induction Ceremony  
Honoring

*Chris Danke*

*1959-1997*



Presented at  
Huntington Beach Moose Lodge  
Huntington Beach, California

August 30, 2003

*Chris Danke*



*1957-1997*

*In memory of Chris Danke whom we  
will always remember as the girl who  
was taken before her time.*



**The Rose**  
*by Galen Gaunce*

A rose lay crushed in a garden path,  
Bleeding out its soul,  
And cried to God in soulful tone,  
Questioning his toll.

Why am I the one that is crushed,  
What great sin is done?  
I have lived a righteous life,  
Why am I the one?

A shining light struck her face,  
And singing rang from above.  
And god threw forth a powerful voice,  
A voice that was filled with love.

Why question birds who, while in flight,  
Drop and strike the earth,  
Or babies who have not seen light  
Die before their birth.

All of this is meant to be,  
Do not ask me why.  
Here on earth men call it faith.  
Never let that die.

The rose looked up and smiled at God  
And then lay down her head  
And died, but with her mind at rest  
Believing what was said.



### ***She was our friend . .***

I first met Chris in 1983 when she was President of the Orange County Shuffleboard League and she was having a League kickoff meeting. At the time she was playing for Amato's. One of the League rules required the use of Sun-Glo Super Glide (what we would now call "white") Wax. This was about twice as fast as the Sun-Glo 5-Star Wax that most bars had been using. She was having a lot of trouble convincing the owner of Sam's Place in Brea to use it since he was afraid that people would slip and fall and sue him, but she prevailed.

At the end of the season, the League had a banquet and an All-Star Tournament (best two players from each team). Not being a very good cook, Chris brought in buckets of Kentucky Fried Chicken. When Anna asked if it should reheated, Chris didn't think that would be necessary so we ate cold chicken and we all survived.

A lot of her life revolved around shuffleboard. She was one of the players that usually showed up Saturdays at the Shelter for the Singles Tournaments. Her game always seemed to be improving, probably because of the help that she was getting from Troy Tolbert who also played on the Amato's team. Karl Spickelmeier and Joe Muniz also gave her support and lessons.

One of her goals was to be the best woman shuffleboard player in the world. Foremost in her cross-hairs was Diana Hagen.

Chris, we miss you.

—Bob and Anna Brunskill



### **More from Chris's friends . . .**

Chris was a wonderful and fun person. I met her in Vegas and there was an immediate connection between us. She was my kind of person, adventurous, competitive and had a love for life. When she moved to Washington to see how she liked it, I was happy, but apprehensive. There weren't that many jobs available.

She ended up loving the Northwest, but missed the ocean. So she, Kevin Larkin and I took off and went to Seaside, Oregon. She enjoyed that trip so much. She sat for a while and just stared at the sea, enjoying the solitude and letting fond memories of California and friends wash over her. She said whenever she got lonesome for the ocean she knew where to go.

Sometimes on Chris' trips to and from different tournaments she would stop and stay with us for a few days. She knew she was always welcome and wasn't treated like company, but like family.

When she visited for a few days, more often than not we ended up going out to party somewhere and had so much fun, just being ourselves and laughing until we couldn't laugh anymore. Sometimes she came by just to rest and regroup. Chris once told me that she was just trying to find a place to fit in.

Chris was a great shuffleboard player and a great competitor. She joined the six-person team I was playing on in Las Vegas and we won that year.

She was a wonderful person and will always remain in my heart along with my other friends.

*—Michelle Foran, Tacoma WA*

## Memories of Chris

We first met Chris in person at the Corporate Image in Fort Worth, Texas, in the mid-'80s. She and Diana Hagen were the only women involved in the huge tournament and they proved they could compete with the "Big Bad Boys." During an interview with them at that event, both expressed their hopes that more women would have the opportunity to be integrated into the then male-dominated sport of shuffleboard. They became leaders at the local, state and national levels to ensure that it would happen.

During the years that followed, photos of Chris and reports of her many accomplishments became commonplace on the pages of *The Board Talk*. During the then pre-Bowers Rating System period, she was a frequent name on *The Board Talk's* Top Players in the USA listings.

Our favorite memory of Chris was when she came to one of our annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion Tournaments in Houghton Lake, Michigan. In the A-B draw event, she was paired with the elderly father of our host. It was a moving experience to watch her take the time and care to tutor and encourage him.

They didn't make a lot of money with their finish, but that old gentleman left the tables that day puffed with pride and the sweet memory of playing with one of the top women players in the whole U.S.A. — and one of the nicest!

*George & Donna Wilber, Publishers*

*The Board Talk, 1984-2000*





## Tributes to Chris

I first met Chris Danke at Ted Z's place in 1986. She made an outstanding shot, hitting a shallow deuce and sliding to a three to win the first game I ever played against her. It was the first of many games we played against each other and the first of many excellent shots I saw her make under pressure.

As much as that first encounter impressed me, it was the fire in her eyes that struck me even more. They revealed a burning intensity that I have seen only a few other times over the course of the nearly three decades I have been competing.

We hit it off immediately and shared a warm friendship. Whenever our paths would cross, we often talked for hours and I came to find out that behind all of her intensity was a woman with a big heart who loved to laugh. Chris was a tremendous competitor and a great shotmaker who had the heart and desire of a champion. I think about her often and miss her a lot. Like many others who knew her, it's hard not to wonder what if.

I am very happy to know that she is being honored as the newest member of the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—John McDermott

Chris Danke's sweet smile and her ability on the boards are both worthy of induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. She was, in my opinion, the best woman player California has ever had. Her shuffleboard family have always been, and will always be very proud of her.

God bless you Chrissy on your final tour.

—Jolene Lembke

## Chrissie's Friends Speak Out.



Twenty years ago we met Chris Danke (Monahan at that time) in the Irish International at Bolsa Chica and Heil in Huntington Beach. That was where we saw a shuffleboard table for the very first time.

When word went out there was a shuffleboard at the "IT" all the "experienced" players came in to check the table out. They would get control of the table and we'd naively challenge the board over and over again. It was during this time we first met Chris. She encouraged us to improve our game - taught us at every opportunity and signed us up to play an inter-bar league. We enjoyed it very much.

Chris was a very good player and an excellent example for us. Her spirit is still with us when we play. She is probably kicking ass in heaven as we speak.

—*Kathleen Wisdom and Marie Coulter*

In my mind, Chris was as good as the rest of the guys. My dad played doubles with her so she must have had a good game. (They played in Texas together.)

She was a family friend from the beginning to the end.

—*Eric Chiles*

A tribute to a great shuffleboard player. She was a beautiful woman with a great talent and heart. I hope you find peace and justice. I know she was one of the very best.

—*Sincerely, Jerry Harp*



## Tributes to Chris

I first met Chris 18 years ago. We started playing about the same time. We played a tournament together when we were beginners—the top players didn't want us, because they could play with each other. There weren't any ratings back then, but we came in third. Not bad for us.

I remember when Chris beat Bud Hilburn in singles and he said women should be home, cooking and cleaning. Well Chris didn't believe him and went on to become one of the top players in the country.

Not only was she a great player, but beautiful inside and out. She was always feared in the womens' singles and took lots of titles. I know if she were still with us, she would rate among the top ones. God be with you Chris.

—Your friend, Diana Hagen

We remember Chris with great fondness during the years she was struggling to learn the fine art of shuffleboard.

Bob is very proud to have been one of the many shuffleboarders that helped her during those early years. He and Frank Bentley used to work with her and of course they loved to help a pretty young woman!!!!

Chris turned out to be a superb competitor and could give the best of them a run for the money.

We know she is very much missed in the shuffleboard community.

—Bob & Beverly Lukens

### **More from Chris's friends . . .**

Chris, our longtime friend, was not only a good shuffleboard player—she became good friends with all the shuffleboard players, always helping others.

Of all the things she did, coaching our team for one of the Las Vegas Tournaments stands out the most. She spent her Sunday afternoons with us, showing us how to shoot and tried to show us strategy. That was a great year!

We had a lot of good times together. She will always be in our minds and our hearts. Goodbye, Chris and God Bless You!

—*The Coulter Clan*

These are the words in my heart, that flow out about the love and sorrow that I feel about Chris.

The Ace of Clubs is where most of the players were in 1985, I believe. I watched this chick play board, so smooth. Later on I drew her in a round robin. So sure of herself, we controlled the board so well. Bingo! We won. Later in the day, we talked about the game itself. Being blunt as usual, I told her she needed either a harder shot or learn how to chip weights to get them off. She thanked me and over the next 10 years we became very good friends.

Her game was what it was—very, very tough. Her passing was sad, along with Joe Lavin, who loved Chris, as I and my wife, Ruby did.

So long you weight hitters. Remember we all love and our mistakes are forgiven, even by our partners.

—*Don "Mitch" Mitchell*



### **More from friends . .**

Chris was known to all of us as a very outgoing person and a top-notch shuffleboard player, and eventually became one of the top women players in the nation.

Darrol, Chris and I went to San Diego a few years ago. A guy we played told me and Darrol to sit because he wanted to play the "easy one." she beat him two or three times in a row. He quit.

She played regularly at Amato's, Edgewood, Stagger Inn and other locations in California. In the late 80s or early 90s she started the Womens' Singles at the Edgewood. She played shuffleboard with John Fisher, Karl Spickelmeier, Dudley Hutcherson, Bubba Warren, Jim Martin, Frank Dino, Hal Perry, Bob Hunt, Troy Tolbert, Joanie Swenson, George Lucas, Jim Davis, Jim Anderson, just to name a few. The last few years she traveled and won tourneys in Indiana, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Michigan and more.

We miss her, her upbeat personality, pretty smile, and most of all, her dedication to the game and her will to win. Life throws us some real challenges and she met hers well. She was the best ever for a while. Rest well, Chris.

*—Glen Davidson*

Even though I only met Chris one time, I knew from The Board Talk how many tournaments she played in, how many times she was in the winners circle and with and how much the game of Shuffleboard meant to her.

With the Board Talk it's possible to feel like you know many of the players, even if you only get to see them once in your life, or maybe never. Rest in peace Chris, God Bless

*—Brian Walker, Houston Texas*



## More from Friends . . .

Each of us have certain people who touch our lives. Chris certainly has been one of them, who not only touched our lives but brightened many of our days with her beautiful smile and the wonderful girlish personality.

Chrissy will most certainly be missed and remain in our thoughts forever. How could anyone forget how bubbly she was and the way she handle herself when she was playing the game. I still can remember that look she gave us when she was in a real serious game. Competitive and strong she definitely was.

I remember meeting Chris in the early eighties at The Shelter in Yorba Linda, CA. I remember how she played against the best of players and most of them were men. But that did not scare Chrissy. When she that look was gone and the playing was over, the one thing I remember the most was that beautiful smile she gave you as she walked toward you to shake your hand.

—*Jim Martin*

Chris was someone I considered to be one of my very best friends. I also considered her to be one of the two best women players in the game for quite a period of time.

I am very pleased about her induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Her accomplishments in our game speak for themselves. She was truly a beautiful person and will be sorely missed.

—*Darrol Nelson*

*More from Chris's friends . . .*

The induction of Chris Danke into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame is a well-deserved honor.

She was a great player and a good friend.

She will always be in the hearts of her family and all of her shuffleboard friends all across the country.

—Rich "Bubba" Warren

*A Tribute to Chris Danke*

I knew Chrissie as a shuffleboard player and a darn good one at that.

She never minded giving a pointer or two if she could help someone out in improving his or her game.

I have missed her as a great competitor and a friend. Not many women could stand up to her.

I liked playing with her as either a partner or an opponent. It took all I had to try and stay with her when she was on her game

I am very pleased about her induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame and also the National Hall of Fame. Few, if any, are more worthy.

—Ruth Miles

Chris was a great shuffleboard player who always played to win.

Throughout her career she was a great promoter of shuffleboard and was a credit to the game. Chris truly belongs in the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—Paul Weber

*From the poet . . .*

I met Chrissie at the Corporate Image in 1987. You could not be in the same room with her without being in awe of her charm and great smile.

Chrissie lived with us in Indiana for a few months, and it was then when I got to know her better. She carried her charm with her everywhere. We teamed up for three tournaments while she was here and won all of them.

She was one hell of a player and was always taking time to help bar players with their shots. Chrissy, you are missed.

—Fritzi (& Buddy) Broka, Indiana

The characteristic that impressed me most about Chris was her fierce competitiveness. I did have the opportunity (or should I say, misfortune?) to play against her several times. I can tell you her technical skills were great, but her mental toughness was what separated her from the rest. I have tried to imitate both, but without much success.

This is a much deserved honor for a great person.

—Cindy Clark, Secretary  
AZ Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

I remember a tournament at the Covered Wagon in Anaheim in the late 80s. On Saturday, between rounds, I walked out for a smoke. On Anaheim Boulevard, in front of the Wagon, on the sidewalk, lying on a beach towel was Chris with a two-piece bathing suit. She said she was getting a suntan. I know all the cars going by looked at her and wondered what a girl would be doing lying on a public sidewalk in front of a bar.

That was Chrissie!

—Carl Martin, Bellflower



## **The Girl Could Play!**

**by Fritzi Broka**



The Corporate Image—  
The girl could play!  
The Michigan Open—  
The girl could play!

California, Indiana,  
Washington, Oregon,  
Nevada, Colorado.  
The girl could play!

With great pleasure,  
We got to play!  
All night, all day.  
She came to play!

Money, no money,  
She came to play!  
Car, bus or plane.  
She came to play!

Men or women.  
She came to play!  
Singles or doubles.  
She came to play!

**Ms. Chrissy Danke.**  
**The girl could play!**

— your friend Fritzi