

the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 48 Number 2

December 2016

HALLOWEEN DANCE



Winners of the “dress as the name of a Scottish Country Dance” contest are, from left: Deresa Kenney, Tap the Barrel; Christopher from Arizona, The Dashing White Sergeant; Mar Elepano, the Paisley Weaver; Edie Archibald, Pat Zschoche, Elizabeth Campbell from Ireland and Karen Kerman, Double Sixsome; Dana Dunaway, Sugar Candie; Jon Reeves, Collie Law.

More photos on pages 3 and 4

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us and that 2016 is fast coming to an end. As I look back over the first six months of my time as chair, I marvel at the wonderful friendships we have through our shared love of Scottish Country Dancing.

As always, the dancing year kicked off to a flying start with the Interbranch Dance enhanced by the sparkling music of Steve & Julie Wyrick. (Not to forget the fantastic sale of Scottish miscellany, which raised a whopping \$500.)

Classes started up after the summer break

and teaching got underway of lots of new, interesting dances and refreshing our memories of old favorites.

Then came Halloween with all its wonderfully imaginative costumes. Jon Reeves' Collie Law really took the biscuit (no pun intended!).

Our St. Andrew's Ball this year was dedicated to the memory of Mary Shoolbraid Brandon, who had a very special influence on Scottish Country Dancing worldwide, but more especially had a very special place in the hearts of the LA dancers.

The year 2017 will start with a bang on

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HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BEING AN SCD TEACHER?

Have you ever thought of being an SCD teacher?

I started dancing when I was in graduate school at Yale. I loved the dancing and the music and the friends. I totally enjoyed dancing and all the SCD global community had to offer for about 30 years when it suddenly occurred to me to pursue becoming an SCD teacher.

I have taught for more than 10 years now and I am here to suggest that, if you love dancing as I do, you consider teaching as well as dancing.

Scottish Country Dancing, more than many types of dance, requires a development of basic skills that build upon one another to create the form of dance that we all love to do.

All of the teachers of our classes are dedicated to making SCD as enjoyable as possible for everyone who expresses an interest in trying

and learning to dance the SCD way.

What is involved in becoming a teacher? The RSCDS has a structured training program with five steps that lead to a full certification. I will write about the details and some of the options in the next Ghillie Callum.

In addition, there are some courses at TAC and St. Andrews summer schools that are introductions for people who find themselves teaching a class before they've had a chance to pursue the formal training.

The Los Angeles Branch needs more teachers to keep our branch vibrant and growing. If you think you might be interested, or just want to learn more, why don't you ask your teacher how s/he came to teach and what s/he loves about it?

Roberta Gotfried

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

DECEMBER

31 Hogmanay Party. El Segundo Woman's Club, 541 Standard St., El Segundo. Doors open 7:30 p.m., dancing 8:00 p.m. Reservations should be received by Dec. 29. Music: Steve and Julie Wyrick.

JANUARY

28 Burns Supper & Ball. Ports O' Call Restaurant, San Pedro. Doors open 6 p.m., supper 6:30, dance 8:30. Reservations must be received by Jan. 21. Co-hosted with Orange County Branch. Music: Peat-Fire Flame.

MARCH

4 "February" Beginner Dance. (Note date change.) First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

MARCH

25 Beginner Dance. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona, 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

APRIL

22 Monthly Dance, Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks, 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

OTHER BRANCHES

DECEMBER

10 Christmas Ball. OC, Tustin Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin. Doors open 6:30 p.m., dancing 7:00 p.m. Music: Hood, Wink and Swagger.

JANUARY

14 Monthly Dance. OC, Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 E. Center St., Anaheim. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

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Jan. 28 with the LA/Orange County Burns Supper & Ball at the Ports o' Call Restaurant in San Pedro. Fliers and ticket information are available through the class teachers and on-line.

There is a saying: "It is Christmas in the heart which puts Christmas in the air" ... So ... my best wishes to you all for the brightest of Hanukkahs, the happiest of Christmases, and a healthy, happy, and "Guid" New Year full of dancing and great fellowship.

Ann McBride

Deadline for the March 2017 issue is Feb. 1.

BURNS SUPPER & BALL

January 28, 2017
Ports o' Call Restaurant
Berth 76, San Pedro

"FEBRUARY" BEGINNER DANCE

March 4, 2017 (Note date change.)
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Bethankit	B J	3rd Graded Book	It's Not Rocket Science	B J	Delaware Valley
Shifftin' Bobbins	B R	Ormskirk 6	Davy Nick Nack	B R	Glasgow Assembly
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	I S	RSCDS Golden Jubilee	Dear Gladys	A S	Farewell My Fancy
The Festival Man	I J	Book 48	The Duke of Atholl's Reel	B J	Book 16
The Bonnie Tree	I S	Book 46	The Birks of Invermay	B S	Book 16
Davy Nick Nack	B R	Glasgow Assembly	The Fireworks Reel	I R	Book 48
James Gray	I J	Book 42	Tap the Barrel	B R	3rd Graded Book
The Glens of Antrim	I S	Belfast Book	The Happy Dancers	NEW I J	10 Social Dances
Corn Rigs	B R	Book 4	Glen Feshie	B S	Grampian Coll.
1314	A M	Rondel	The Ruby Rant	NEW A R	Book 49
General Stuart's Reel	I R	Book 10	Beach Dancer	B J	Whangarei Book
Seton's Ceilidh Band	I J	Morison's Bush Coll.	Lauderdale Lads	NEW B R	John Duthie 8 SCDs
Susan Scott of San Rafael	B R	Let's All Dance, Too	The Bonnie Tree	I S	Book 46
The Birks of Invermay	B S	Book 16	Jill's Gentle Jig	B J	Measures of Pleasure
Vintage Simon	A J	Book 47	Amanda Mae's Strathspey	I S	L.A. 25th Ann. Book
Peggy Spouse, MBE	I S	Book 46	Captain George Vancouver	A J	Vancouver 50th
The Reel of the 51st Division	B R	Book 13	Susan Scott of San Rafael	B R	Let's All Dance, Too



BEGINNER DANCE

March 25, 2017
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
Torrance Blvd. at Madrona

Jill's Gentle Jig	B J	Measures of Pleasure
Eileen Watt's Reel	I R	Magazine Dances 2005
Bridge of Allan	B S	Simply Strathspeys
Marigold	A J	Cosh 22 SCD
Bridge of Nairn	NEW B S	Book 13
The Reel of the 51st Division	B R	Book 13
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	NEW B J	Graded Book
The Ruby Rant	A R	Book 49
St. Martin's Strathspey	B S	24 Graded & Social
Cape Breton Hornpipe	NEW I R	Ottawa 25 Dances
Ecclefechan Feline	B J	Le Petit Chat Celtique
The Happy Dancers	I J	10 Social Dances
Lauderdale Lads	B R	John Duthie 8 SCDs
Mist o'er the Loch	I S	Q.E. Diamond Jubilee
Ye Ken It Well	B J	The Devil's Quandary
Peggy Spouse, MBE	I S	Book 46
Tap the Barrel	B R	3rd Graded Book



Kathrin Segal as Ecclefechan Feline at the Halloween Dance.



Halloween Dance photos by Heather Chaney, Claudia Pedersen, Audrey Prest and Deanna St. Amand

CLASSES

Ventura Class

The Friday night Ventura class is alive and well. After a long summer break, we started up dancing again in September. We have been joined by two newer dancers: Kristen Robertson and Magda Simonini. We have had a great time learning dances with them.

We had a fun time at the Seaside Highland Games in early October and really enjoyed getting to help spread our love of Scottish Country Dancing to others. We were also able to display our brand new class banner at the games.

It depicts “Nessie” riding a surfboard and was designed by Kristen Robertson, who is a graphic design artist. She did a fabulous job and we truly appreciate all of her hard work on the design. A huge thank you also goes out to Donna Ingram for getting the design printed and put together as a banner.

About five class members headed off to Asilomar the last weekend of October and several more went to the St. Andrew’s Ball, which was held in memory of Mary Brandon this year. We are looking forward to finishing out the holidays with our families and of course dancing at Hogmanay with friends.

Lisa Sage



Kristen Robertson designed the new Ventura Class banner.
Photo by Deresa Kenney

Thousand Oaks

The Thousand Oaks class returned in September from summer break with less than typical attendance owing to so much travel of class members, which continued throughout the month. October saw our attendance back to normal.

Summer travel as well saw several of our flock in the British Isles and as many as four at RSCDS Summer School in Saint Andrews: Deresa Kenney and Mary and Roger Nisbet as well as occasional class attendee Dana Dunaway.

Dana and Deresa also joined Orange County Branch’s Christine Grobler’s SCD-oriented tour of Ireland and Scotland.

And a month later Christine Carlin was also in Scotland, to visit friends and family in and around her native Greenock.

During the summer Carolyn Williams and husband Barney took a rather extensive road trip through seven Southeastern states with a strong emphasis on sites of historic interest that extended from Native American monuments through the Civil War and all the way to Kennedy Space Center. The trip also included historic architecture and national parks and, as Carolyn put it, “great music and wonderful barbecue everywhere ... and of course everywhere evidence that the Scots had influenced the area.”

And what was keeping folks away from class in September? Christa Wilk and husband Bill were touring Iceland. Claudia Pedersen and Brent were photographing the incredible scenery of the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest and lesser touristed North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Carmen Silva-Corvalán and husband Scott were touring the national parks of Utah and Col-

orado en route to visit family in Texas. No sooner had she returned home when Carmen was off in her professorial capacity to Radboud Universiteit in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, to participate in a doctoral dissertation defense to which, owing to her renown in the field of linguistics, she had been invited from far across the globe. She also delivered guest lectures there and at the Universiteit van Amsterdam.

And last but not least, the class is so very pleased to welcome Magda Simonini, a native of Argentina (who with Carmen's Chilean background doubles our South American representation) as our newest addition. Finally, along with the class faithfuls who travel varying distances from three counties, we have someone besides the teacher from right in Thousand Oaks!

Robb Quint

Valley College

As usual, Aase's crew of dancers have led busy, interesting lives. Margaret and Jeff had another, and especially wonderful time at Asilomar, which also serves as the anniversary of their first meeting! Music, dancing and romance in a beautiful setting — it doesn't get much better than that!

Kathrin and Steve had a busy year! Kathrin finished another novel (yes, another! I feel like such an underachiever). For those of you who haven't read her first one ... you're in for a treat! It's titled "We Were Stardust" and is available on Amazon.

Kathrin also has a new show pending, "My One-Night Global Comeback Tour," at the Gardenia Supper Club Jan. 18.

Meanwhile Steve is whirling round the world like a dervish presenting his Comedy Intensive seminars — Paris, London and Munich just lately! Oh, and they took their first, and apparently last, cruise. It was an Alaska cruise, and I thought they'd enjoyed it.

Jon went to two tapings of "Let's Make a Deal." Watch for him in the audience wearing his Starry Knight costume, which many will remember from last year's Halloween dance.

Aase herself organized the SCD demonstrations on the Saturday of the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura.

Audrey received the Excellence in Community Service Award from Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in recognition of her volunteer work. She was totally surprised when given the certificate and pin at her chapter's October meeting — but she composed herself enough to boast that in September alone she did 20 hours of designing and printing things for the Los Angeles Branch, 27 hours crocheting scarves for Operation Gratitude and 97 hours at Burbank's float for the Rose Parade.

Be sure to watch the Rose Parade (this year on Monday, Jan. 2), to see what Jon built and Audrey decorated (well, okay, they had help from their respective committees!).

Dave and I have bought a house in Granada Hills, so Dave is busy working on his Valley boy persona fer sure, fer sure. We're looking forward to being closer to so many of our SCD friends and having you all over as often as you'll come. Almost like a small town ... only bigger.

Robin MacGarva



SCD-SOCAL-MAIL

Regular e-mails about all local dance events, links to videos of dances, commentary about newly introduced dances and occasional tidbits of Scottish history, geography and culture are supplied by Robb Quint.

To be added to the mailing list, contact Robb at volleyballjerry@aol.com.



NEW MEMBERS

The Los Angeles Branch welcomes new member Chice Davison. Returning members this year are Murray Bader, Jim Bell, Bill Critchfield, Marisa McGinnis and Nancy Myers.

Melinda Brown



Performing with the Los Angeles Branch Demonstration Team at the Seaside Highland Games in October, from left: Doug Macdonald, Alice Allen, John Cahill, Anthea Macdonald, Larry Kanowsky, Dana Dunaway, Martina Hanson, Carol Madden, Grant Clark, Alison Divall, Jim Bell and director Roberta Gotfried.

Demonstration Team

The Demonstration Team reconvened in September fortified with two additional dancers: Jim Bell is back and Marissa McGinnis has joined the team. And with Marissa comes her dad, Mike McGinnis, who danced with us at the Anniversary Ball.

Our first gig was, of course, the Seaside Highland Games. That's always a fun way to start the dance year. In addition to our daytime performances, we were invited to participate in the evening's ceilidh at the Sheraton Hotel. We were delighted to be added to Speyside's mini-concert.

It's a rare pleasure to perform with musicians, and to open the performance for the Marine Corps Marching Band.

Unfortunately, in the very first dance, Jim Bell pulled a muscle. Roberta Gotfried had to step in for the rest of the performance. But it went very well and the audience was enthusiastic as we danced St. Andrews Links, Petronella

and a five-couple version of Ye Ken It Well.

Jim is recovering and is back in class, but still limited to walking for a few more weeks. We have a breather before the Queen Mary weekend in February, and we are taking the time to try out new dances and re-visit some of our repertoire of five- and six-couple dances.

On the personal side, Roberta is now a grandmother! Her grandson Ivan Paul joined the family on Oct. 26. She was away for a couple of weeks helping the new parents in Chicago.

Ann McBride stepped in to rehearse the team and remind us, once again, of her standards for dance discipline. We always appreciate her visits and her willingness to step in for Roberta.

Alice Allen



At the Santa Barbara class party in October, David Heald dressed as a Danish maid and John Gilbert as Gypsy Weaver.



Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara’s Thursday night class is humming along, with class attendance ranging from 8 to 12, depending on whether various cruises and trips — to Scotland, England, Greek Isles and elsewhere — have lured away our members. Dana Dunaway and Mary and Roger Nisbet attended Summer School at St. Andrews, Scotland, again this year, and again our class enjoyed the challenge of dancing many new dances from their programs in the weeks running up to those sessions.

Dana also joined Christine Grobler for her Scottish dance tour of Ireland and Scotland, dancing with local SCD groups in Dublin, Belfast, Dufftown and Aberdeen, while developing a taste for warm Guinness along the way. This fall, the same intrepid three attended the San Francisco Branch’s Scottish Dance Weekend in Asilomar.

For the Branch Halloween party, Dana dressed as the dance Sugar Candie, and captured the prize for most humorous costume for the second year in a row! Meanwhile, the class celebrated Halloween with a party and costumes. My personal favorite moment was David Heald as a Danish maid, dancing with John Gilbert, as Gypsy Weaver.

Ilse Gilbert

MEMORIAL FUND

The L.A. Branch has money set aside in a Memorial Fund, to be used for special equipment or special events. It can also be use for scholarships to help members attend a workshop or something else related to Scottish Country Dancing but who cannot afford the whole cost on their own. Applications are available from Branch teachers.

RALPHS REWARDS PROGRAM

The Branch earns a contribution from the Ralphs Rewards Community Contribution Program when members register to benefit the Branch, while continuing to earn their own Ralphs Rewards points. Pick up a flier and go online to register. You need to re-register annually, beginning Sept. 1. Our Organization Number is 93159.

The
GHILLIE CALLUM

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