

# the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 49 Number 2

December 2017



## HALLOWEEN DANCE

Winning the award for the costume best representing the name of a Scottish dance is the Torrance class' interpretation of The Australian Ladies. Dancers are, from left, Bill and Nancy Hartung, Kris McGinnis, Nancy Myers, Eric and Doris Fisher, Heather Chaney and Mike McGinnis.

More photos from the Halloween fun in October on pages 4 and 5.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*"... and we'll arm and we'll swing, and we'll heuch and we'll sing, and set to our partners in style ..."*

As I was reviewing the upcoming events for the next few months, I was reminded of these words from a song made famous by the late Andy Stewart: "Dancing in Kyle." We will certainly be doing a lot of "arming and swinging" in the next few months.

We began with another successful St. Andrew's Ball, where we were definitely "setting

to our partners in style" to the inimitable music provided by Lyle Ramshaw and John Taylor. Once again, Doris Fisher and Kris McGinnis and their merry bands of helpers provided yet another "haute cuisine" supper. Supper over, the dancing began with the help of our "in-house" piper, John Cahill, and our honorary grand marshals, Barbara and Michael Mackenzie.

The Christmas season could not be welcomed in any better way than by the annual

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## CATALINA ISLAND ADVENTURE 2018

You haven't missed the boat! Openings are still available for the Catalina Island Workshop in May 2018. The brochure and forms are on the website: [rscds-interbranch.org](http://rscds-interbranch.org).

Plans include a ceilidh and Mexican buffet (with ice cream) on Friday evening.

Musicians Andy Imbrie, Judi Nicolson and Ian Nicolson will be playing for the Saturday evening ball. It will be a Great Gatsby-themed night in the famous Catalina Casino Ballroom.

With the ability to choose your own hotel, you can keep the price at a level you can afford. There are rooms available for under \$150 a night on Catalina — share with a friend and really save!

Classes will be taught by Antoine Rousseau, who is coming all the way from Paris, as well as our own effervescent USA teachers Marjorie McLaugh-



Come and Join us for

**WORKSHOP AND BALL**  
MAY 4 - MAY 6, 2018  
AVALON, CATALINA ISLAND,  
CALIFORNIA, USA

**TEACHERS**  
A Rousseau - E Brunken - M McLaughlin  
**MUSICIANS**  
Andy Imbrie - Judi Nicolson - Ian Nicolson

Registration Form & full details on website  
[www.rscds-interbranch.org](http://www.rscds-interbranch.org)

I am going to  
**CATALINA ISLAND 2018**

Sponsored by the RSCDS So. California Branches

lin and Elaine Brunken.

**Information: Doris Fisher, 310-625-9071,  
[doris.fisher@gmail.com](mailto:doris.fisher@gmail.com)**

*Doris Fisher*

## CALENDAR

### LOS ANGELES BRANCH

#### DECEMBER

**31 HOGMANAY.** El Segundo Woman's Club, 541 Standard St., El Segundo. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Dancing begins at 8:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### JANUARY

**27 BURNS SUPPER & BALL.** Ports o' Call Restaurant, Berth 76, San Pedro. Doors open 6 p.m. Music: Stringfire! Reservations required.

#### FEBRUARY

**24 BEGINNER DANCE.** First Christian Church of North Hollywood, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### MARCH

**24 BEGINNER DANCE.** Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Los Angeles Branch welcomes new member Shirley Coleman. We welcome back Alison McAlpine.

*Melinda Brown*

## OTHER BRANCHES

#### DECEMBER

**9 Christmas Ball, OC.** Tustin Senior Center, 7:00 p.m. Music: Hood, Wink & Swagger.

#### JANUARY

**13 MONTHLY DANCE, OC.** Tustin Senior Center, 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### FEBRUARY

**10 BEGINNER DANCE, OC.** Tustin Senior Center, 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

## 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](mailto:volleyballjerry@aol.com).

**Deadline for the March issue of the Ghillie Callum is Feb. 1. Please email submissions to Editor Audrey Ramsay Prest, [aramsapp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aramsapp@sbcglobal.net).**

## BURNS SUPPER & BALL

January 27, 2018  
Ports o' Call Restaurant  
Berth 76, San Pedro

Shifftin' Bobbins	B R	Ormskirk Book 6
Rendez-vous à Vichy	I J	The Paris Book, Volume 1
Bruce Frazer of Strathkinness	I S	St. Andrews 75th
Lady in Red	I J	Teachers Assn. Scotland
The Quaker	I S	Tin Woodman
The Back o' Bennachie	B R	John Duthie 8 SCDs
Welcome to Dufftown	I J	Jessie Stuart Leaflet
Butterscotch and Honey	B S	Alexander Leaflets
The Ruby Rant	A R	Book 49
Haste to the Wedding	B J	Book 25
A Tribute to Peter McBryde	A S	T.A.C. 50th Anniversary
General Stuart's Reel	I R	Book 10
The Ambassadors' Reel	B R	Vienna Book
Bees of Maggie Knockater	A J	Canadian Collection
Birks of Invermay	B S	Book 16
The Cape Breton Hornpipe	I R	Ottawa 25 Dances
The Montgomeries Rant	I R	Book 10

## BEGINNER DANCE

February 24, 2018  
First Christian Church  
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

It's Not Rocket Science	B J	Delaware Valley Silver
Bruce Frazer of Strathkinness	I S	St. Andrews 75th
Lauderdale Lads	B R	John Duthie 8 SCDs
Rendez-vous à Vichy	I J	The Paris Book, Volume 1
Delvine Side	B S	Book 2
The Cape Breton Hornpipe	I R	Ottawa 25 Dances
Jill's Gentle Jig	B J	Measures of Pleasure
The Ruby Rant	A R	Book 49
The Birks of Invermay	B S	Book 16
Welcome to Dufftown	I J	Jessie Stuart Leaflet
The Back o' Bennachie	B R	John Duthie 8 SCDs
Beach Dancer	B J	Whangarei Book
A Tribute to Peter McBryde	A S	T.A.C. 50th Anniversary
Davy Nick Nack	B R	Glasgow Assembly
Itchy Feet	I J	Coast to Coast
The Paisley Weavers	B S	3rd Graded Book
Shifftin' Bobbins	B R	Ormskirk Book 6

## PASSING

It is with sadness in my heart that I announce the passing of Robert (Bob) Brooks, husband of Chris Brooks, and a long-time member of the Los Angeles Branch and dear friend of many dancers. Bob passed away on Nov. 10 at age 82.



Bob and his wife Chris were both ardent dancers in the Los Angeles Branch for almost 30 years, supporting events not only in the Los Angeles Branch but also Orange County, San Diego and San Gabriel branches. They attended St. Andrew's Summer School for three years.

Bob, a very talented musician, played keyboard, piano and accordion with Jack Rennie's Thistle Band and the Gammal Dance Band. He also played piano for the beginner's session in Manhattan Beach class, and he and Chris hosted many Scottish sing-alongs at their home. He (and Chris) loved all kinds of International dancing, including Scottish, Scandinavian, contra and ballroom.

As a longtime member of the Sierra Club,

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## BEGINNER DANCE

March 24, 2018  
Torrance Cultural Arts Center  
Torrance Blvd. at Madrona

Ecclefechan Feline	B J	Le Petit Chat Celtique
Davy Nick Nack	B R	Glasgow Assembly
A Tribute to Peter McBryde	A S	T.A.C. 50th Anniversary
Haste to the Wedding	B J	Book 25
Bridge of Nairn	B S	Book 13
General Stuart's Reel	I R	Book 10
A Diamond for Belfast	B J	Belfast Diamond Jubilee
Countess of Dunmore's Reel	I R	Book 49
Butterscotch and Honey	B S	Alexander Leaflets
John Cass	A J	Book 49
The Back o' Bennachie	B R	John Duthie 8 SCDs
Rendez-vous à Vichy	I J	The Paris Book, Volume 1
Tap the Barrel	B R	3rd Graded Book
Bruce Frazer of Strathkinness	I S	St. Andrews 75th
The Zoologist	I J	Book 46
Glen Feshie	B S	Grampian Collection
The Reel of the 51st Division	B R	Book 13

# HALLOWEEN DANCE



Costume winners, clockwise from top left: Kym and Alan Cervenka, Dana Dunaway, Deresa Kenney. And, of course, everyone was a winner because we were doing Scottish Country Dancing!





## COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS

### Best Costume

Rite of Spring (Dana Dunaway)

### Best Couple's Costume

It's Not Rocket Science (Kym and Alan Cervenka)

### Best Man's Costume

Irish Rover (Jeff Altman)

### Best Woman's Costume

Library of Birmingham (Margaret Chaney)

### Best Group Costume

Come Ashore Jolly Tar (Linda Boucher, Steve Bryan, Karen Kerman, Pat Zschoche)

### Best Costume Representing a Dance

Australian Ladies (Torrance Class)

### Funniest Costume

The Rampant Unicorn Jig (Deresa Kenney)

### Honorable Mention

Davy Nick Nack (Knox Chaney)  
Princess Royal (Kay Hamilton)

Winners this page, clockwise from top left, Pat Zschoche, Karen Kerman, Linda Boucher and Steve Bryan; Margaret and Knox Chaney; Kay Hamilton, Jeff Altman (with one of the three judges, Jack Rennie).

Photos by  
Rosemary Abend,  
Heather Chaney,  
Bob Harmon,  
Claudia Pedersen,  
Deanna St. Amand

## CLASSES

### Valley College

Well, we're well into autumn and there's even a bit of a nip in the air ... some days. Classes are in full swing, we're generally having our usual, wonderful SCD time.

Aase's class is going strong and is as challenging and fun as always. Plus there's a lot going on with our dancers outside of class as well.

Audrey Prest had successful cataract surgery and is almost back to her bright-eyed self!

Jeff Altman recently retired, though he seems to be working harder than ever trying to get out of what he spent a good 30 years getting into! His poor clients are having separation anxiety, and Jeff is now working full-time helping them get through it.

Kym and Alan Cervenka, our newest class couple, are already famous for winning best couples' costume at this year's Halloween Dance with their creative and fun depiction of the dance *It's Not Rocket Science* — congratulations!

You can't rest on your laurels though, 'cause next year Jon Reeves will be back! He was out on sick leave this time and we missed seeing what wonderful thing he would come up with.

Alice Allen went on Chris Grobler's New Zealand trip and had a wonderful time — how could you do otherwise in such a beautiful place! Terry Schaeffer was away giving a talk on historic Scottish dyes at a *palace* in England!!!

Aase is looking forward to seeing daughter Lisbeth and son-in-law Rick for Christmas. They didn't make it last year because their poor dog broke a leg at the last minute! And speaking of legs, Aase's is finally doing better thanks to having a cortisone shot.

I enjoyed a staycation, attending classes and just generally doing all the things I miss when I'm working.

*Robyn MacGarva*

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### Thousand Oaks

The Thousand Oaks class has been happily augmented by the addition of two new experienced regulars with us since summer break.

Shirley Coleman of Pacific Palisades now joins the class's two other Palisadians; she had long danced in the Culver City class. And Val Lykes of Agoura Hills brings to the class her valued experience from SCD'ing in Reno.

Also with us since summer, a most welcome addition albeit temporary, has been Dana Dunaway, generally not available on Tuesday evenings but able to have been with us for the past late-summer and fall Tuesdays.

The Nisbet household of "retirees" has been a veritable beehive of academic activity! Mary, for her own enjoyment and hardly short of academic degrees in any case, has jumped into studies for a masters degree in Scottish history offered remotely by the University of Dundee ... Dundee having been where Mary was raised.

She has copious reading to get through, not to mention significant writing as well, but she reports enjoying every minute of it. Roger is now retired from being a professor at UC Santa Barbara and, more than ever, is in demand around the world for one thing and another.

In the international-travel department, two of our Palisadians were away from us for several weeks each. Carmen Silva-Corvalán and her husband Scott were hopscotching across China and Japan, and Christa Wilk and hubby Bill were leaf-peeping et al. across Eastern Canada's magnificent autumn followed by a week's sojourn in New York City.

In the What-are-you-up-to-when-not-SCD'ing Department, class regular Magda Simonini, a native of Argentina, has long been an active participant in field hockey ... not only she but her also-Argentinian husband and their children as well. While most of our class must travel varying distances to all come together on Tuesday evenings, Magda is the one other besides teacher Robb Quint who as a Thousand Oakie can hop into her car and zip across just a couple of miles to be at class.

For us in Thousand Oaks, it does indeed take far more than a village — three counties actually. We are most fortunate to have regular attendance by dancers from geography that stretches all the way from Pacific Palisades to Goleta. The class is now on holidays break and will resume on Jan. 9.

*Robb Quint*

## Demonstration Team

The Demonstration Team reconvened right after Labor Day and quickly focused on the performance for the Seaside Games. Roberta opted for a program of recent and classic team dances.

Connie Walker joined us at Seaside for the first time. Grant Clark was still on the sidelines, but he pitched in as our stage manager for both days. We repeated our regular performance on Sunday morning, and then in the afternoon, we were joined by other dancers from the LA, Orange County and San Gabriel Valley branches for the "Wee Highland Ball," which gave the public a peek inside our dance parties. Thanks especially to the musicians and dancers who participated and to Mike McChesney, who explained the unique aspects of the event.

With demonstrations finished for 2017, Roberta chose to make rehearsals a time to challenge us with new and unusual dances, combined with attention to technique. We've also been able to review dances for upcoming balls, for Asilomar and for our two members who are pursuing Unit 2 of the teaching certificate.

After we break for the holidays, we will again turn to preparation of our new program, in January we will focus on the upcoming ScotsFestival at the Queen Mary in February. We hope all our members will be recovered and able to dance that weekend.

*Alice Allen*

## Continued from page 3

Bob was the overseer for numerous weekends at the Harwood Lodge at Mount Baldy and was instrumental in arranging a number of Scottish Country Dance weekends at that rustic location, which were well attended and enjoyed.

Bob received his Ph.D. from Berkeley and worked for TRW for 32 years, where he was awarded 34 patents.

Bob's other passions were traveling, photography and being a member of the South Bay Mac Computer Users Group.

Bob will be very much missed in our local dance world.

*A celebration of Bob's life will be held Dec. 2, 10 a.m., at the home of Joanne and Neil Serbin, 1131 3rd St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.*

*Wilma Fee*

## INTERBRANCH DANCE



Mike and Kris McGinnis, above; Ward Fleri and Laura Young, center; Eric Fisher and Betty Petitt, far right.

## HEART TRANSPLANT

I have some good news I'd like to share.

This past June, our good friend and fellow dancer Linda McWade received a heart transplant at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and today, five months later, is feeling great or, as she put it, "20 years younger!"

Linda has become active at her local recreation center, making new friends and enjoying her grandchildren who live nearby.

*Deanna St. Amand*

### Continued from page 1

Orange County Christmas Ball, with the music once again being provided by favorite musicians: Hood, Wink & Swagger.

Then we will say farewell to 2017 with the L.A. Branch Hogmanay Dance – a wonderful way to welcome in the New Year!

Jan. 25, 2018, will mark the 259th birthday of Robert Burns and will, once again, be celebrated at the LA/Orange County Burns Supper & Ball at the Ports O' Call restaurant in San Pedro. Music for the ball will be provided by the talented musicians of Stringfire!

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Hanukkah, a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2018. Be safe over the holidays. I look forward to seeing many of you at some or all of these events.

The song ends with "for there's nothing so grand in the whole of the land as to go to the dancing in Kyle" ... make that Southern California!! (With apologies to the lyricist).

*Ann McBride*



## NAME BADGES

The Branch will soon be placing an order for name badges. New members receive one when joining. If you have lost yours and need a replacement, the cost is \$10. Email Kris McGinnis by Dec. 15 at [krismcginnis@gmail.com](mailto:krismcginnis@gmail.com).

## RALPHS REWARDS PROGRAM

The branch earns a contribution from the Ralphs Rewards Community Contribution Program when members register to benefit the Branch, while they continue to earn their own Ralphs Rewards points. Pick up a flier and learn how to register or call 800-443-4438. **You still need to re-register every September.** Our Organization Number is 93159. Then use your Ralphs Rewards card (or phone number) every time you shop.

### AMAZON SMILE

The branch has yet another opportunity to earn donations. AmazonSmile will make a contribution when you shop using our account number. Learn how by going to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0205054>.

### MEMORIAL FUND

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



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