

the GHILLIE CALLUM

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CELEBRATING THE RSCDS CENTENNIAL



Dancers from all over Southern California celebrated the centennial of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society at the annual Interbranch Dance in Tustin. Photo by Connie Learn

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

The Interbranch Dance held in September was a delightful way to start the 2023-2024 year of dancing. We had a good time and wonderful music by Andy Imbrie and Judi Nicolson. It was nice to see friends from all of Southern California.

In October we had our annual Halloween Dance; and it was amazing to see so many creative costumes, including an 8-foot snake! The same weekend was the Asilomar Workshop, and it has been quoted, "It was the best one ever."

Just like the upcoming holidays, I look forward to the St. Andrew's Ball, the Orange County Christmas Ball and rounding out the year with Hogmanay.

Hogmanay will be at the earlier time again this year, 5 p.m., and it is a great event for non-dancers too! The more the merrier. Maybe next

year we will add some ceilidh acts.

Plans are underway for the Burns Supper & Ball on Jan. 27, 2024. The music will be provided by Patti Cobb and Caroline McCaskey. The theme this year is Rantin' Rovin' Robin. We return to the Torrance Women's Club for this very special evening.

As the year 2023 nears its end, I want to thank all of you who have continued to support our events. Most importantly, I want to thank all of the branch members who have created and worked to prepare these events. A thank you to the board members, teachers and all of the members who pitch in — we wouldn't be celebrating 100 years of the society without you!

Happy Holidays, everyone.

Kris McGinnis



Dawn Bertani, left, and Callan Edwards at their first Asilomar workshop.

ASILOMAR REFLECTIONS

The Asilomar Weekend was such an incredible experience. As a newer dancer, I felt nervous about being a first-time workshop attendee. But everyone was so welcoming and kind!

The classes were the right balance of challenging, informative and fun.

By far my favorite part was the dancing on Friday and Saturday nights. The live music and the dance hall left me both beaming and speechless.

I truly don't think I can fully describe how it felt to be on the dance floor there. It was such a fun and inspiring experience, I cannot wait to go back!

Callan Edwards

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

DECEMBER

- 31 HOGMANAY PARTY.** South Bay Masonic Center, 520 Main St., El Segundo. Doors open 4:30 p.m., dancing 5:00 p.m., sparkling-cider toast to the new year 9:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

JANUARY

- 27 BURNS SUPPER & BALL.** Torrance Woman's Club, 1422 Engracia Ave., Torrance. Doors open 4:30 p.m., supper 5:00 p.m., grand march 6:15 p.m., dance 6:30 p.m. Reservations required. Music: Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey.

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

- 23 BEGINNER DANCE.** Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona Ave., Torrance. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

MAY

- 5 SUNDAY TEA DANCE.** El Segundo Woman's Club, 541 Standard St., El Segundo. 2 p.m. Music: recorded.

OTHER BRANCHES

DECEMBER

- 9 OC CHRISTMAS BALL.** Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: Flindrikin.

JANUARY

- 13 OC MONTHLY DANCE.** Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

NEW MEMBERS

The branch welcomes new members Henry and Ingrid Lin and Christopher Bradley.

Melinda Brown, membership chair

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 provided by Robb Quint.

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

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Elizabeth Seward, near right, was a keeper of the Dancing Bees as they buzzed around her hat at the Halloween Dance in October.



Lindsey Courtney, below, wore an authentic German costume to be A Trip to Bavaria.



Steve Kaplan and Kathrin Segal were a pair of complementary versions of Slytherin House.



Jon Reeves, aka Snoopy, aka the WWI Flying Ace, in his dog house, was The Aviator.



Nancy Hartung, above, was the almost-visible head of the Torrance class version of Slytherin House.



Alice Allen, left, sparkled as Starry Night.

Photos by Claudia Pedersen and Audrey Ramsay Prest

HOGMANAY

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023
South Bay Masonic Center
520 Main St., El Segundo

Come Under My Plaidie	B J	SCDs for Children
Sueno's Stone	I R	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
First Love	B S	Let's All Dance Too
Best Set in the Hall	A J	Book 46
A Summer Meeting	I S	Book 48
The Deil Amang the Tailors	B R	Book 14
The Aviator	I J	Book 52
Miss Jane Muirhead/Dunsmuir	B S	Dunsmuir Dances
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloch	A R	The Leaflet Dances w/ Music
Follow Me Home	I J	Book 38
The Poppy and the Thistle	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Dancing Bees	B R	24 Graded & Social Dances
Les Remparts de Séville	I J	Book 50
Gramachie	B S	MMM I
Whigmaleeries	I R	Imperial Book of SCDs, Vol. 2
Foxhill Court	A S	Canadian Book
Joie de Vivre	B J	Book 39
Trip to Timber Ridge	I R	Book 52

BURNS SUPPER & BALL

Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024
Torrance Woman's Club
1422 Engracia Ave., Torrance

Alan J. Smith	B J	Book 45
Rovin' Robin	I R	Scottish Dance Archives
Bonnie Stronshiray	A S	Glasgow Assembly SCDs
The Scallywag	I J	Book 52
Flowers of Edinburgh	B R	Book 1
The Aviator	I J	Book 52
Miss Jane Muirhead/Dunsmuir	B S	Dunsmuir Dances
Forty and Counting	A R	Book 52
Monymusk	B S	Book 11
Burns Night	B J	Boston 50th Anniversary
The Magic of Merrill	I R	S.F. Branch Dances Online
Scott Meikle	I R	Book 46
Glasgow Lasses	B S	Book 34
Best Set in the Hall	A J	Book 46
A Summer Meeting	I S	Book 48
The Deil amang the Tailors	B R	Book 14

FEBRUARY BEGINNER DANCE

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Napier's Index	B J	Book 45
Arthur's Seat	I R	SCDs of the 18th Century
First Love	B S	Let's All Dance Too
Down Under, Hands Up! NEW	A J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Sueno's Stone	I R	RSCDS 4 for 2008
The Intruders NEW	I J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Redwood Arbor	B S	Dragonfly
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloch	A R	The Leaflet Dances w/ Music
Burns Night	B J	Boston 50th Anniversary
The Poppy and the Thistle	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Hedwig's Reel NEW	B R	2nd Graded Book
Dancing Bees	B R	24 Graded & Social Dances
Largo Law	B S	MMM I
Follow Me Home	I J	Book 38
Neidpath Castle	I S	Book 22
Lady Dumfries	B R	MMM I

MARCH BEGINNER DANCE

Saturday, March 23, 2024
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
Torrance Blvd. at Madrona Ave.

Joie de Vivre	B J	Book 39
Bea's Delight	I R	Book 43
Miss Jane Muirhead/Dunsmuir	B S	Dunsmuir Dances
Les Remparts de Séville	I J	Book 50
Tuolumne Tournée NEW	A S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Rambling Pitchfork	B R	All Kinds of Everything
The Intruders	I J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Hedwig's Reel	B R	2nd Graded Book
Porchester Hall NEW	I S	London Jubilee Book
It's Nae Bother	B J	2nd Graded Book
The Ambassadors' Reel	B R	Vienna Book
Down Under, Hands Up!	A J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Redwood Arbor	B S	Dragonfly
Whigmaleeries	I R	Imperial Book of SCDs, Vol. 2
First Love	B S	Let's All Dance Too
Burns Night	B J	Boston 50th Anniversary
Trip to Timber Ridge	I R	Book 52



CLASSES

Santa Barbara

Bees, bees, bees! After a five-week break, the Santa Barbara class resumed on Oct. 26 with its annual class Halloween Party.

This time with a theme: bees! Before the break, we had practiced Bee dances — The Merry Bee, Dancing Bees, Bees in the Heather, the Bumble Bee, and (of course) Bees of MaggieKnockater.

Bee costumes were encouraged, and bees came out in a swarm. There were bumble bees, a bee-T-shirt, bees with wings, bees with antennae, even a bee-keeper! But who could have anticipated the magnificent Victorian Bees, Jessie Dove and Nick Burlett!

Ilse Gilbert



The Santa Barbara class was all a-buzz for Halloween.

Demonstration Team



The L.A. Branch Demonstration Team represented Scottish country dancing with two performances at the Seaside Games in Ventura.

Photos by Rosemary Abend

Valley College

Classes started as usual the first Monday after Labor Day. Wow, it has been quite a fall. Attendance has been the highest in years, with anywhere from 18 to a high of 24 in class. So things are going splendidly. Several are beginners, which is good for the future.

At the same time there has been a bit of traveling. Audrey Prest joined up with her daughter Julie to visit granddaughter Cierra in St. Louis. The three generations had a great time

together. Carmen Silva-Corvalán with husband Scott did their usual grandparent trip back east to visit children and grandchildren on their long road trip. Claudia Pedersen made another trip to visit daughter Erika and family in Carson City. They came here for Thanksgiving.

Meanwhile Aase Hansen went back to Rockville, MD, to help her daughter Lisbeth with a Danish Club Christmas bazaar. It went very well and she even got her photo on the Danish Embassy Facebook page.

Four from class went to Asilomar. Jeff Altman and Margaret Burnett had been many times before, but for Callan Edwards and Dawn Bertani it was their very first time attending. They both thought it was magical.

We had a good turnout for the Halloween dance and several won prizes for their costumes. Jon Reeves dressed as Snoopy/the WWI Flying Ace to be the Aviator (very elaborate), while Kathrin Segal and Steve Kaplan were dressed up as Slytherin House snakes. Lindsey wore a German costume for A Trip to Bavaria, Alice Allen sparkled as Starry Night, and Elizabeth Seward was a (Dancing) Bee(s)-keeper.

Last but not least, Laura Young got married just before Thanksgiving. We wish her and her husband Owais many happy years together.

Aase Hansen

Torrance

The Torrance beginner class continues, but it is not Zoomed. New members include Grace and Gabriel; Christopher Bradley started this month.

The Intermediate/Advanced class continues to meet in "hybrid form" with live dancing and Zoom. Since June of 2021, we have covered a great number of dances (over 200 at last count), some of which might not have been included on a regular program.

Ruth Fleming-Stephens and her husband Kyle visited Europe in October, going to Paris with friends. They next visited her daughter Sarah (who used to dance with us) in Augsburg. Then they spent some time in Strasbourg, researching some family history. Mike and Kris McGinnis went to Asilomar, along with several others from the Branch.

A record of each week's program is published at my.strathspey.org. Dancers and teachers are welcome to join us in person Fridays 7:30-9:00 p.m. at 1530 Cravens Ave, Torrance, CA 90501 or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8248957840> (meeting ID, if needed: 824 895 7840). Masks are no longer required, but proof of vaccination is.

To be added to the email list, contact Kris at krismcginnis@gmail.com.

Tony McQuilkin

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 an activity 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 they continue to earn their own Ralphs Rewards points. Pick up a flier and learn how to register or call 800-443-4438. **You may still need to re-register every September.** Our Organization Number is AV732. Then use your Ralphs Rewards card (or phone number) every time you shop.



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**Deadline for the March issue
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