

The Ghillie Callum

Volume 57 Number 2

December 2025

HALLOWEEN DANCE



Winning costumes this year include, from left, Callan Edwards' Toast to the Mousies; Anthea and Doug Macdonald's The Rambling Pitchfork; and Jon Reeves' Kamo Carousel.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings Dancers,

I can't believe we are heading toward the end of the year. This has been a year of change for the Los Angeles Branch. We have lost two wonderful people who helped shape the Branch as we know it. But we also have new teachers and committee members who will help guide our future.

Looking forward, we have some great events coming up. The Orange County Christmas Ball will be Dec. 13 — always a fun and colorful event.

Hogmanay will be at the El Segundo Wom-

an's Club again at the earlier time; doors open at 4:30. Wear your sparkly attire.

Our first major event of the new year will be the Burns Supper on Jan. 25. A combined event with the Orange County and San Gabriel Valley branches, it will again be at the Torrance Woman's Club. We will welcome back musicians Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey. It will be a wonderful evening of dinner and dancing.

In closing, thank you all for your continuing support of our branch. We love seeing you at all the dances, classes and workshops. Happy holidays!

Kris McGinnis

MORE HALLOWEEN COSTUMES



Also winning certificates at the Halloween Dance, clockwise from top: for Black Leather Jig, Pat Zschoche, Karen Kerman, Connie Learn, Isabella Eckart; The Aviator, Seth Weisberg; The Mason's Apron, Julie Marleib. Continuing the fun, an honorable mention went to the string cheese-and-pretzel broomsticks by Sarah Fox!

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.

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

DECEMBER

31 HOGMANAY PARTY. El Segundo Woman's Club, 541 Standard St. 5 p.m. Music: recorded.

JANUARY

24 BURNS SUPPER & BALL. Torrance Woman's Club, 1422 Engracia Ave. 4:30 p.m. Music: Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey.

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

OTHER BRANCHES

DECEMBER

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

FEBRUARY

14 OC BRANCH DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

CLASSES

Torrance

The Torrance beginner class continues, but it is not Zoomed. The Intermediate/Advanced class continues to meet in "hybrid form" with live dancing and Zoom.

Kris and Mike McGinnis are proud grandparents of their first granddaughter, Nora. Doris and Eric Fisher spend much of their time visiting their three grandchildren in Orange County.

Ruth Fleming-Stephens sang with the Torrance Civic Chorale at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo. Both Ruth and I will be singing a concert of seasonal music with the Northrup-Grumman Space Park Chorale Dec. 11 and 12 at a home in Manhattan Beach; contact one of us for details.

A record of each week's program is published at my.strathspey.org. Dancers and teach-

Continued on page 6

IN MEMORIAM: AASE HANSEN



Beloved teacher Aase Hansen passed away at her Burbank home on Sept. 16 at the age of 89. Aase was a “rock” of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society’s Los Angeles Branch and of the entire Southern California SCD community.

Aase Hansen née Carlsen was born on Dec. 21, 1935, in Kastrup, a Copenhagen suburb along the east coast of small island Amager. Later in childhood she moved south on that same island’s coast to the fishing village Dragør and into a home that her father had built.

After high school and an apprenticeship, she went to work as a clerk at the local Amager Bank and also for a year at a bank in Switzerland. But being of such adventurous spirit, she secured a position as an au pair with a family in Encino and set out for California in October of 1959. In 1961 Aase married Alvin Hansen, the American son of Danish immigrants. Aase and Alvin had a son Christian and a daughter Lisbeth, and by 1968 Aase had become an American citizen.

Interestingly it was Alvin’s love for bagpipe music that circuitously led Aase to Scottish country dancing, and it was the welcoming SCDers who then became her best friends and virtually her American extended family.

Aase also developed a lasting and meaningful involvement with the Danish Sisterhood of

America, in time becoming the president of the Los Angeles lodge and a member of the national board. And for this group she loved to often host monthly gatherings at her own home.

In the realm of Scottish country dancing, Aase truly became a moving force of the RSCDS Los Angeles Branch, serving as chairman on the management committee for several years.

She said she became an SCD teacher “to give back” to the organization that had given her so much. For many years she taught her own weekly class in the San Fernando Valley. That strong love which her dancers have long had for her has indeed not vanished with her passing.

Robb Quint



At left, Aase at the Los Angeles Branch 40th anniversary celebration at Ports o’ Call Restaurant in 2006.

Below, Aase by the ocean she loved, having grown up near the coast in Denmark.



IN MEMORIAM: JACK RENNIE



A member of the Los Angeles Branch since its founding in 1966, Jack passed away at his Rancho Palos Verdes home on Oct. 3 at the age of 94.

Jack was a fixture of the RSCDS Los Angeles Branch and beyond for as long as most of us can remember. He was long a member of its management committee and served as its chairman 1969 -1971, 1984 -1986 and 2001- 2004. Twice he was in charge of SCD workshops that were held at Claremont College.

Jack taught Scottish country dancing at multiple classes, which he ran for five decades, during which time he served as chairman of the teachers' committee and taught classes for candidates for the RSCDS teaching certificate.

He was a guest teacher at special workshops more than 20 times, not only around the United States but at five locations in Canada, two in Australia and even one in Brazil.

Jack was the founder and director of his Thistle Band, which for decades played for Los Angeles Branch events as well as events all around North America. His band also recorded albums of SCD music.

Jack was additionally the founding editor of *The Ghillie Callum*, the branch's quarterly newsletter, which of course endures to this day.

For all of this and more than can be cited,

Jack was in 2014 given the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's highest award, the Scroll of Honour, and he was present at the Society's annual general meeting in Scotland that year to receive it personally.

Jack retired from teaching after the COVID shutdown, but his weekly Torrance class has very successfully continued, and since it is a unique "hybrid" class which can be attended either in person or via Zoom, Jack Rennie was sometimes an "electronic" attendee.

Robb Quint



At left, a young Jack with RSCDS co-founder Jean Milligan.

Below, Jack and then-branch chair Rosemary Abend display Jack's RSCDS Scroll of Honour award to local dancers at the St. Andrew's Ball in 2014.



HOGMANAY DANCE

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025
El Segundo Woman's Club
541 Standard Street

Light and Airy	B J	Book 4
The Dean Bridge of Edinburgh	I S	Book 23
The Ambassadors' Reel	B R	Vienna Book of SCDs
Niles Roberts' Farewell...	A J	Book 53
Ardnahoe	NEW B S	SCDDB online
Scott Meikle	I R	Book 46
The Roselath Cross	I J	Book 41
Neidpath Castle	I S	Book 22
The Duran Ranger	NEW B R	Book 13
Sueno's Stone	I R	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
Something in the Air	A S	Book 52
Da Rain Dancin'	NEW I R	30 Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Laggan Bay	B J	Craigievar Book, Vol. 2
The House Keys of Lisbon	NEW I S	Woodhall Book, Vol. 4
Elsbeth Gray's Reel	A R	Book 53
City Lights	I J	Book 52
First Love	B S	Let's All Dance Too
Toast to the Mousies	I R	Book 53

ABBREVIATIONS

R = reel, J = jig and S = strathspey. B = beginner (for every dancer), I = intermediate (experienced dancers should be able to do them), A = advanced (for dancers who know the dance well).

FEBRUARY BEGINNER DANCE

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Laggan Bay	B J	Craigievar Book, Vol. 2
Largo Law	B S	MMM I
Beth Wilson's Delight	NEW I R	Whetherly Book, Vol. 3
Neidpath Castle	I S	Book 22
Starry Night	NEW I R	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Duran Ranger	B R	Book 13
St. Andrew's Fair	B J	Five SCDs 1982
La Ville Lumière	NEW A R	Paris Book, Vol. 2
Ardnahoe	B S	SCDDB online
Da Rain Dancin'	I R	30 Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Gloria's Wee Jig	B J	The Devil's Quandary
Light and Airy	B J	Book 4
The Glengarry Homestead	I S	The Kangaroo Paw
Burns Night	B J	Boston 50th Anniversary
The House Keys of Lisbon	I S	Woodhall Book, Vol. 4
The Sailor	B R	Book 24

BURNS SUPPER & BALL

Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026
Torrance Woman's Club
1422 Engracia Ave.

Burns Night	B J	Boston 50th Anniversary
John McAlpin	I S	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
Inverneill House	A R	Book 35
Longborough Lanterns	B S	Delaware Valley Gold
Bill Clement MBE	I J	Book 47
Mrs. Stewart's Jig	B J	Book 35
The Bridge of Sighs	A S	Summer Collection 1986
Beth Wilson's Delight	I R	Whetherly Book, Vol. 3
City Lights	I J	Book 52
The Falkirk Lass	B S	Book 53
Pinewoods Reel	I R	Book 53
Major Ian Stewart	I J	Book 35
Tulloch Gorm	I S	Book 8
Oompah, Oompah...	B R	Stoneywood
I.P.'s Farewell to Auchterarder	A J	30 Popular Dances, Vol. 2
The Black Leather Jig	I R	Delaware Valley Silver



“HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ANN”



We surprised Ann McBride by singing “Happy Birthday” to her at the Halloween Dance.

Continued from page 2

ers 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).

Tony McQuilkin



Valley College dancers attending the Asilomar weekend include, from left, Jeff Altman, Margaret Burnett, Elizabeth Seward, John Allen, Callan Edwards, Dawn Bertani and Sarah Fox.

Valley College

Three enthusiastic new dancers have joined us this fall: Lauren Rubin, Zachary Rubin and Mary Watkins. We're happy that they've discovered Scottish country dancing.

Starting in December, Dawn will also be teaching a five-week series for families and experienced dancers at 6 p.m. on Mondays, in the same room as our longtime 7 p.m. Valley class. It will include ceilidh dances, traditional dances and beginner formations for social dances. If interested, please contact Dawn: dawncello@gmail.com or 818-212-8158.

In other news, Carmen Silva-Corvalan and her husband Scott have begun rebuilding their house in the Palisades — with hundreds of decisions to be made (such as cabinets). Betty Pettitt went to San Diego for a costume-themed wedding reception. And I'm slowly recovering from a torn tendon in my ankle.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

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.

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
of the Ghillie Callum is Feb. 1.**