

# the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 42 No 4

June 2011

## LOS ANGELES BRANCH WELCOMES NEWER DANCERS

### FEBRUARY (right)

Newer dancers attending the February Beginner Dance in North Hollywood included, front row from left: Yukari Hirayama, Christina Butler, Lesli Lytle, Martina Hanson, Leah Wouters; back row: Kathryn Renton, Arthur Baum, Neil Carstairs.

Photo by Rosemary Abend



Photos by Bob Harmon

### MARCH

The March Beginner Dance at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center also brought out several newer dancers. A group photo was taken that evening as well, but technical difficulties made it unavailable for publication



# LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES

## 2011

June

25 **AGM.** First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., No. Hollywood. Potluck dinner 5 p.m.; Annual Meeting: 6:00 p.m.; Dance 7 p.m. Music: recorded. Members \$10, non-members \$12. Dance is free to members who attend the meeting.

July

23 **SUMMER DANCE.** Culver City Senior Center, 4095 Overland Ave. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded. Members \$10, non-members \$12.

August

27 **SUMMER DANCE.** Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded. Members \$10, non-members \$12.

September

24 **INTERBRANCH DANCE.** (Sponsored by all four Southern California branches.) Tustin Senior Center.

September-October

Sept. 30-Oct.2 **HARWOOD LODGE WEEKEND.** Sierra Club Lodge is reserved for an RSCDS weekend. There is still a little space, but it is limited, so if you would like to come, please email Doris Fisher immediately at: [doris.fisher@gmail.com](mailto:doris.fisher@gmail.com) or call her at 310.324.2759.

October

22 **HALLOWEEN DANCE** First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., No. Hollywood. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded. Members: \$10, non-members \$12.

November

19 **ST. ANDREW'S BALL.** Ports O' Call Restaurant, Berth 76, San Pedro.

December

31 **HOGMANAY.** El Segundo Woman's Club, 541 Standard St. Music: recorded.

January 2012

21 **BURNS SUPPER.** Ports' O Call Restaurant, Berth 76, San Pedro.

# OTHER EVENTS

**OC = Orange County Branch;**

**SD = San Diego;**

**SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch**

## 2011

June

18 **SGV. SUMMER SOLSTICE DANCE.** 7:30 p.m. Lindberg Park, Culver City.

July

16 **SGV. ANNUAL PICNIC AND DANCE** (Saturday). Palisades Park, Pacific Palisades. 11:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

August

6 **SGV. ANNUAL SCOTTISH LUAU.** Caltech's Dabney Lounge, Pasadena 7:30 p.m.



Jeff Altman and Robyn George dance down the middle and back in the informal demonstration at the Queen Mary Festival.

**SPECIAL NOTICE!!!!**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 25, 2011**

**EVERYONE IS URGED TO COME!!**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 4390 COLFAX AVE.,  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD**

**REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

This year's Nominating Committee consisted of Frank Ibbott and Valerie Rodgers

Chairman: Bill Hartung  
Vice Chairman: Rosemary Abend  
Corresponding Secretary: Deborah Ash  
Recording Secretary: Linda McWade  
Treasurer: Doris Fisher  
Members-at-Large (4):  
Christine McGinnis, Marion Reeve,  
Audrey Prest, no nominee

In addition, nominations from the floor at the Annual General Meeting will be accepted for any of the above offices. If you believe you could help manage the Los Angeles Branch affairs by giving just a few hours of your time each year, please come forward. Send an email to [frankibb@aol.com](mailto:frankibb@aol.com) or call 805.373.9905. The Committee meets six times a year on Sunday afternoons at Stoner Park in West Los Angeles.

**Potluck dinner 5 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m. Dance 7 p.m.**  
**Members: \$10, Non-members \$12**  
**Admission to dance is free to members who attend the annual meeting.**



Winter School at Pitlochery -- at right (in pink) is Roberta Gotfried who forwarded the photo.



Ric Simmons and Christine Richard in the informal demonstration at the Queen Mary Festival.

## DEMONSTRATION TEAM

The Demonstration Team is halfway through our Spring demonstrations. We danced at the Queen Mary in February and at the Irish Fair in Pomona in March. Khue Duong's family came to see us at the Queen Mary, which was their introduction to Scottish Country Dance. Christine Richard, a former member of the team, made videos of our Queen Mary dem and posted them on YouTube. You can search for them by typing in "Scottish Dance Queen Mary."

Now that we have the festivals behind us, we are on to dems for "Old Dears". Thanks to Jack Rennie, we danced at a senior center in Redondo Beach on April 30. We will end the season with our annual demonstration at the Daughters of the British Empire Home the first weekend in June. Dancing on the sloping lawn is always a challenge, but there's a jumble sale that several of our members look forward to.

Recently we heard from former team member Lea Maiolo. She and Jim are doing well. Lea has begun a small demonstration team, teaching them some of the LA Team favorites for a festival later this spring. After the festival she will be busy preparing for the birth of their daughter in early August. Former team members Ian Sullivan and Guinevere Saenger's son Brendon is now three months old.

*Alice Allen*

### Right: THE MEN OF THE DEMONSTRATION TEAM FORMALLY ATTIIRED

To add to the beautiful setting, there is always a new audience to watch. So all of this makes for an exquisite place to dance.

The Queen Mary ship is permanently moored in the harbor of Long Beach and once a year has this special festival so we can show off our talents in an unusual atmosphere in flashing kilts and Scottish sashes!!



Photo by Alice Allen

**The Los Angeles  
Branch  
Demonstration  
Team at the 2011  
Queen Mary  
Festival**

One of the most favorite dance spots is the main salon at the Queen Mary for their festival. Not only is there a large painting of an old ship, which sets the mood, but the floor is highly polished so some photos reflect the lovely costumes.



Photo by Audrey Prest

Below: dancers are reflected in the highly polished floor.



Photo by Karen Kerman

**NEW MEMBERS**

The Branch is pleased to welcome one new member, **Arthur Baum**. We hope you will enjoy dancing with us.

*Melinda & Frank*



Photo by Audrey Prest

Further performances of the L.A. Branch Demonstration Team on the Queen Mary in the salon.



Photo by Karen Kerman

**Deadline for the  
September  
Ghillie Callum is  
July 18th!**



Photo by Audrey Prest

Above: dancers from the Los Angeles, San Gabriel Valley and Orange County classes also presented an informal demonstration on the Queen Mary.



All three local branches sponsored the Queen Mary Festival Dance, which brought out dancers for a delightful informal dance on the Saturday evening.



Photos by Audrey Prest

**July 23, 2011**  
**SUMMER DANCE**  
**Culver City Senior Center**  
**4095 Overland Ave.**  
**7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.**

**August 27, 2011**  
**SUMMER DANCE**  
**Torrance Cultural Center**  
**7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.**

Pawling Porch	RB	Elaine Brunken	Sally's Army	JB	Look We're Dancing
Pete/Marilynn's Welcome Home	JI	Delaware Valley	Lochalsh Reel	RI	Skye Book Vol 2
May Yarker's Strathspey	SI	Book 42	Glasgow Lasses	SB	Book 34
Laggan Bay	JB	2nd Craigievar Bk	Upper Tarr	JI	2nd Kirkbrae Coll.
Argyll Strathspey	SA	Book 35	The Little Strathspey	SI	Bankhead Bk I & II
Anniversary Reel	RI	Book 36	Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloich	RA	RSCDS Leaflet
Blue Bonnets	JB	Book 3	Maitland to Manchester	JI	Wallace/Thomas
Preston Mill	RA	Book 45	Clydeside Lassies	RB	MMM I
Lochindorb Strathspey	SB	An Aberdeen Coll	The Dancing Master of Moncton	SA	Mel Briscoe
The Golden Apple	JI	Chris Ronald	The Golden Apple	JI	Chris Ronald
Scott Meikle	RI	Book 46	Reel On	RB	Reel On
Jennifer's Jig	JI	Silver City Book	Anniversary Reel	RI	Book 36
The White Cockade	RB	Book 5	Tribute to the Borders	JB	RSCDS Leaflet
Strathcare	SI	Skye Collection	The Silver Tassie	SI	RSCDS Leaflet
Major Ian Stewart	JA	Book 35	Weathercock	JA	Silver Jubilee 25
Balmoral Strathspey	SB	Book 22	Muse Cottage	SB	Let's All Dance Too
The Chairman	RI	Dunedin Book 4	Starlight	RI	Book 44



## **CLASS NOTES**

### **Long Beach**

With the winter ball season behind us, Long Beach pauses to catch its breath and turns now to the spring festivities.

February found five members participating in the demonstrations at the Queen Mary Festival. Khue Duong, now on the LA Demo Team, and Jim Bell danced with that group both days. John Cahill, Sarah Guernsey, and Karen Kerman took part in the more informal demonstrations and audience participations, while Mary Cahill and Christina Butler attended Saturday.

Meanwhile, Roberta Gotfried was in Pitlochery, Scotland, for Winter School, and we have been introduced to several dances she experienced there.

March generated demonstrations at the Irish Fair in Pomona as Roberta and Jim danced with the LA Demo Team the 12th and 13th. That same week-

end John Cahill, our resident piper, played at a fair in Hermosa Beach. The next weekend Roberta and Jim were on the demo circuit again with the Clan MacLeod Dancers at Atria Hillcrest Retirement Community in Thousand Oaks.

Sarah Guernsey, one of our newest members and a student at Golden West College, was asked by her geography professor to sing in Gaelic on St. Patrick's Day. While that's not exactly SCD, it is, nevertheless, an achievement. She is awaiting word as to whether she has been accepted to continue her studies at UCLA. Go for it, Sarah!

Of course, the next big event is Scotsfest 2011 on Memorial Day weekend at Costa Mesa. This includes more demos and the usual Saturday night dance for which to prepare. However, let's enjoy the remainder of April and all else between now and then. If anyone is in the Long Beach area on Saturday mornings, come join in our fun!

*Karen Kerman*

## **NORTH VALLEY**

Spring is definitely here and North Valley class members are dancing at every opportunity: classes, monthly celebrations and visits to Orange County and San Gabriel branches' activities as well!

Travel has been on the agenda for two class members. Audrey Prest ventured to Iowa for a week to care for her grandson, Connor, who underwent surgery. He's doing fine and is back in school now.

Alice Allen accompanied Mary Brandon for a trip up north to visit Mary's brother Murray. Dancing, exploring, working on new dances, and visiting combined for a most successful excursion.

*Claudia Pedersen*

## **VALLEY COLLEGE**

As usual our SCDers have been busy finding fun and adventure since the last time I wrote. The Valley College class has some great new additions. Arthur Baum and Lesli Lytle have only a few classes to their credit and have already been to a dance! They make being a beginner look so easy! And the annoying thing is that over a decade later I still remember that for me it sooooo wasn't! We're also happy to have Yukari Hirayama as a regular member since September, and Dave Dreker, who comes when he can and is doing very well considering that ... The group just gets better and better!

Aase Hansen is in whirling dervish mode as always. She now has two (2!) grandchildren keeping her busy, in addition to her dancing and Danish Sisterhood. Little cutie Freya now has baby brother Magnus, born Dec. 27th. Despite her busy schedule, Aase is thoroughly enjoying her duties as farmor, which is Danish for grandma. (It's also what farmer sounds like when you say it with a mouth full of cookies.)

Alison McAlpine just got back from a short trip to New Orleans where she stayed with a high school friend who runs a B&B there. The friend, who also collects folk art, took Alison on a trip down the Bayou to visit one of her artist friends, a Houma Indian who carves and paints beautiful animals out of wood. Next she's off to New Zealand with Christine Grobler's group of intrepid traveling SCDers. I fly for a living and I'm home more than this!

Jeff Altman is recovering from his leg injury, gradually putting dancing, hiking, and golf back into his sched-

ule while trying not to do any more damage. He's not only been busy at work, he also participated in the planning of the SGV Spring Ball, has been putting together his annual Memorial Day weekend golf outing, plus organized a Passover Seder for 18 guests at his home.

Audrey Prest had some scary, but then wonderful news: Her grandson Connor had surgery March 29th for a ping-pong-ball-size brain tumor, which, thank goodness, turned out to be benign! He is doing well now, but had to stay out of school for four weeks. Audrey spent a week in Iowa helping out her family but took a very early flight home to be able to attend the SGV Spring Ball.

Ingrid Armour is enjoying monthly trips to San Mateo to visit her mother, Olympia, who suffered a broken arm, heart attack and broken hip all within five months last year! Ingrid reports that her mom is the original Energizer Bunny and is recuperating very well.

Tove Olafsen got a promotion and brand new office at work. Unfortunately, she found out during the rain that it wasn't waterproof! She did some creative work with waste paper baskets and umbrellas, a Huckleberry Finn raft, and a snorkel ... and she reports that the scent of wet carpet still beats the smell of wet dog. Tove always finds the silver lining!

Jon Reeves' job at IMDb was eliminated in April; the company decided to consolidate his group in England. Right now he is considering his options — including early retirement, which would leave him more time to work on the Rose Parade float, dance, visit food trucks and watch movies. I personally never knew how he managed to fit any work into his schedule anyway. Will he even notice the difference?

Deb Ash is doing her usual interesting stuff ... just to give you a taste, in the last few weeks she's made a custom silver motorcycle-style jacket for a female finalist on "American Idol," she worked for two days on a Huggies commercial with eight rambunctious children running around the set in diapers and pull-ups, and another week she worked on a commercial in Downey (yes, she hits all the glamour spots). She also went with a journalist friend to the Ojai Valley Resort and Spa for a three-day wine and food tasting extravaganza, followed by a two-day mini vacation at the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena! That outing included a five-course tasting menu at the new, highly acclaimed restaurant The Royce, plus

an afternoon tea! She's going to have to do a lot of dancing to work off all that good food!

Steve Kaplan continues to conquer the screenwriting world with his Comedy Intensive workshops. In addition to presenting the seminars in Los Angeles, he's also been to New York and will be heading to Dallas, Galway, London and Sweden, among other destinations. Kathrin King Segal is working on a new novel. Her first book, *Wild Again*, currently out of print, will soon be released as an ebook, available on Kindle, iPad and other electronic devices.

I had a lovely vacation last month visiting my daughter Jess, who's in grad school in London. She's trying out for the woman's roller derby team there ... her team name would be *Furious George!* I finished my holiday with a couple of days golfing in Palm Springs. It was a nice long vacation, but then my reserve month started and I've felt like I've been in the air ever since!

My son Robert is doing a five-mile fund-raising bike ride for AIDS research and is collecting sponsors on-line. Some of you probably got the e-mail or saw the information on my facebook page. And at the end of the month I'm going to Cape Cod to visit my friend Jean's new grandbaby!

We're heading in to spring and I hope to see you all at the various monthly dances and events. I'll try really hard not to trip you up ...

*Robyn MacGarva George*



## **MARY AND ALICE'S ADVENTURE IN SALT SPRING by Alice Allen**

As some of you may know, Mary Brandon is preparing a third book of dances. Recently she and I traveled to Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, to enable her to collaborate with her brother Murray Shoolbraid on music for the new book.

Salt Spring is a small island between Vancouver and Vancouver Island. April was beautiful with daffodils EVERYWHERE. Very pretty, but for me, COLD.

**GHILLIE CALLUM**



Mary Brandon and Murray Shoolbraid at work on the dances for her new book.

Thursday while Mary and Murray worked, I explored Salt Spring in a light rain. After dinner, I went to the high school where the Salt Spring Scottish Country Dance Club was reviewing dances for a workshop to be held on Vancouver Island on Saturday. I skipped the workshop (they left at 7:00 AM!) in favor of the weekly open-air market in the park.

Sunday we were back at Murray's house, this time for Sunday brunch with the entire family (there were 11 around the table) as well as another work session for Mary and Murray. Mary recruited me to walk through dances in a set composed of Murray, me and four ghosts. Quite a challenge.

Monday night Mary and I went to the regular session of the dance club. Between dances from their program they put together a set of experienced dancers to walk through, then dance one of Mary's dances for the book. They picked it up easily. Mary got to see the dance and get a few impressions from the dancers. At the end of the evening, some of the dancers stayed behind to walk through and dance another dance.

Salt Spring dancers are not only friendly and capable dancers, they are very supportive as well. Sunday afternoon Mary told me that I was to teach the dances on Monday. Yes, right there in the church

hall, with Mary Brandon sitting in the front row, I TAUGHT two dances. Afterwards Mary told me I did a good job, but I think at least half of the credit belongs to the Salt Spring dancers.

You too can have your very own Salt Spring dance adventure. June 15-17, 2012, they will be hosting a "Simply Scottish" Weekend on Salt Spring Island. Terry Schaeffer and Linda McWade went to the 2009 weekend and thoroughly enjoyed it. So mark your calendar and watch for details.



These two photos were taken by Bob Harmon at the Los Angeles RSCDS dance in April.

# The GHILLIE CALLUM

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