

the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 47 Number 4

June 2016

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – JUNE 25, 2016

First Christian Church of North Hollywood,
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Potluck Supper 5 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.

Dance 7 p.m. Recorded music.

RSCDS members \$10, non-members \$15

Admission to the dance is free to members who attend the meeting.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

CHAIR – Ann McBride

VICE CHAIR – no nominee

TREASURER – Doris Fisher

RECORDING SECRETARY – Audrey Prest

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – Robb Quint

MEMBERS AT LARGE – Evan Avery, Dana Dunaway, Kris McGinnis, Jon Reeves

Nominations for all positions will be accepted at the AGM.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Dancers,

As I write this, our 50th anniversary year has just come to a close with a gala dinner and ball. We owe Jack Rennie a thank you for making it possible to bring Scotch Mist to Los Angeles. They have the sound of so many bands I have danced to in Scotland; the strathspeys were glorious.

Although we filled the room and the dance floor was, at times, crowded (especially 1314), I think that only contributed to the spirit of the

evening. For those of us who have been dancing for quite a few years, it was so nice to see so many familiar faces long missing from our dance floors. Two of the original team members (Maggie Sear and Anthony Ivancich) were there, as was long-ago past chair Sherman Ostrom (1975-76).

All the members of the Committee of Management pitched in to make April 30 so memorable, but in particular I want to thank the following: Robb Quint (registrar), Jon Reeves (souvenir

Please see Page 2

From Page 1

coffee mugs) and Kris McGinnis (centerpieces and photos). In addition, the following Branch members took on special tasks: Nancy Hartung (musicians' transportation – which turned out to be a much bigger job than anticipated), Nancy Myers (musicians' hospitality baskets) and Alan Hoff (formal photographs). Of course, Bob Harmon's pictures will be available on dancin-fool (www.dancin-fool.com/photos.html).

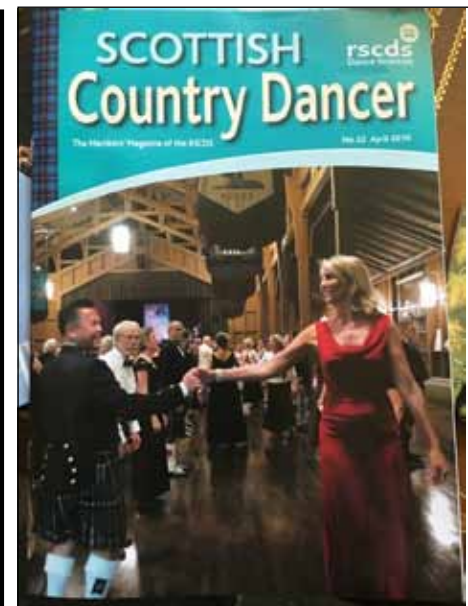
We have also produced a book of dances to commemorate our anniversary. Deanna St. Amand, Aase Hansen, Ann McBride and Audrey Prest made this happen. Countless hours were spent proofreading and formatting the 25 dances by Branch members. (Kudos to one of the above who discovered the misspelling

of a significant word – you know who you are!) For a donation of \$10, you may own a copy of the book; see Page 7.

Finally, this is my last Chair's Letter. Having served four years, I am ready to just dance. It has been a privilege to represent the Branch in so many ways, whether with the other Southern California branches or in correspondence with headquarters. It has given me so much pleasure to see how the hard work of the committee has made possible the many activities of the Los Angeles Branch. For me, that highlight was the 50th Anniversary Dinner and Ball.

As I've said in the past, I hope to see you at our AGM potluck, meeting and dance.

Rosemary Abend



Did you see our own local dancers on the cover of Scottish Country Dancer Magazine's April issue? That's Andy Truong of the Orange County Branch and Martina Hanson of the Los Angeles Branch dancing at the ball during the Asilomar weekend last fall. The magazine is mailed to SCD dancers around the world. More photos of Southern California dancers appeared inside this issue.

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

JUNE

25 AGM Potluck and Dance. First Christian Church, Studio City. 5 p.m. potluck; 6 p.m. meeting; 7 p.m. dance. Music: recorded. See page 1. Scottish items from Mary Brandon's estate will be available for a donation to the Branch.

JULY

23 Summer Dance. Torrance Cultural Arts Center. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

AUGUST

27 Summer Dance. First Christian Church, Studio City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

SEPTEMBER

24 Interbranch Dance. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 C St., Tustin. Music: Steve and Julie Wyrick.

OCTOBER

22 Halloween Dance. Wear a costume representing the name of a dance. First Christian Church, Studio City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

OTHER BRANCHES

JUNE

11 OC AGM & Potluck, 5 p.m., Anaheim Downtown Community Center. Music: recorded.

19 SGV Summer Tea Dance. 4 p.m. Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church, San Gabriel.

JULY

9 OC Monthly Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

17 SGV Summer Tea Dance. 4 p.m. Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church, San Gabriel.

AUGUST

13 OC Monthly Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

SEPTEMBER

10 OC Monthly Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

The Torrance class will have a nine-week summer session beginning July 1. Registration by June 13: 310-618-2720.

PASSINGS

MARY SHOOLBRAID BRANDON

Mary Brandon has made her last curtsy and left the dance floor. She died peacefully in her sleep in her home in Santa Barbara on March 9, 2016.



Mary came from a family steeped in music and dance. Her parents, Willy and Mary (Mamie) Shoolbraid met at the Murray School of Dancing, run by Willy's family, in Leslie, Fife. Mary, their first-born, was a natural dancer; Rodger, their first son, was a singer as well as a dancer; and Murray, the youngest, preferred being a musician.

After attaining her Scottish Country Dance (SCD) teacher's certificate, Mary settled in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1955. She was a driving force behind the formation of a branch there in 1964. She became senior instructor for that branch, planned and organized classes for children, directed the demonstration group and taught classes for prospective teachers. She was officially recognized in 1966 for her "concern with upholding RSCDS standards, which she herself exemplified beautifully in her dancing and teaching."

In 1965, Mary met David Brandon, one of the founders of the Los Angeles Branch, at a dance festival in Northern California. They were married in 1966. Mary again taught all levels of

classes, developed a demonstration group and trained for new teachers. David and Mary took Scottish Country Dance wherever they went, which led to the development of RSCDS branches in Hawaii and Japan, and support for the founding of the San Diego Branch.

After David's retirement, they both taught classes and Mary, in addition to her work with the Los Angeles Branch Demonstration Team and tutoring teacher candidates, also became an RSCDS examiner. Mary was awarded the RSCDS Scroll of Honour in 1987, and David received his Scroll of Honour in 1997. She published two books of her own Scottish Country Dances, "Memories of Fife" and "Dances with a Difference," with music selected and composed by her brother Murray. A third book, "The Emigrant Scot," will be published in late spring 2016.

Mary retired from active participation in RSCDS in 2005 and moved to Santa Barbara two years later. She is survived by her brother Murray and his wife Kristin, their sons Roderick and Malcolm and grandsons Elvin and Ferris. Condolences may be sent to the Murray Shoolbraid family, 160 Pallot Way, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K2M5 or gmhshoolbraid@gmail.com.

Mary directed that there be no memorial but rather asked that her life should be celebrated by gathering together, raising a glass and dancing with "strong arms, proper hands and exact foot positions." Donations in her honor may be sent to the Brandon/Fee Music Workshop Fund, RSCDS -LA, 23920 Anza Ave. #224, Torrance, CA 90505.

Remembering Mary Brandon

April 6 was Mary Brandon's birthday, and her friends in Santa Barbara chose that day to come together for a Birthday Remembrance. They were joined by dancers Barbara Evans, Ilse Gilbert, Dana Dunaway, Anthea and Doug Macdonald, Audrey Prest, Alan and Barbara Hoff, Deanna St. Amand, Aase Hansen and Alice Allen. Mary's brother, Murray Shoolbraid addressed the gathering via recorded letter summarizing her life in dance. That was followed with a photo montage of Mary's life.

Deanna spoke about Mary's influence on her development as a dance teacher. Several of

the residents and staff shared their memories of Mary, which were quite different from the taskmaster teacher the dancers remembered. Aase led the dancers in dancing Mamie's Jig.

Mary was also remembered in Vancouver. On April 5, the Challenge Class danced several of her dances, and on her birthday, the Gleneagles Club enjoyed a whole evening of Mary Brandon dances. The Tokyo Branch dedicated its annual Bluebell Ball to Mary on May 29. Mary will live on in Scottish Country Dancing as dancers continue to learn and enjoy her dances.

Alice Allen

SUMMER DANCE

July 23, 2016
 Torrance Cultural Arts Center
 Torrance Blvd. at Madrona
 7 p.m. Recorded music

EH3 7AF	J B	Book 40
Inverneill House	R A	Book 35
Mist o'er the Loch	S I	Q.E. Diamond Jubilee
Tomalena	R I	San Francisco Vol. 2
St. Martin's Strathspey	S B	24 Graded & Social
Welcome to Ayr	J I	Book 47
Glen Feshie	S B	Grampian Coll.
Flight to Melbourne	R I	Book 47
Tap the Barrel	R B	3rd Graded Book
Seton's Ceilidh Band	J A	Morison's Bush
Peggy Spouse MBE	S I	Book 46
The Dalesman	R I	12 More Social Dances
Beach Dancer	J B	Eddy West Leaflet
St. Andrews Links	S A	St. Andrews 75th Anniv.
The Hunting Horn	J I	SCD Archives #66
The Wind That Shakes the Barley	R B	Duthie Eight SCDs

SUMMER DANCE

August 27, 2016
 First Christian Church
 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City
 7 p.m. Recorded music

Border Meeting	J B	24 Graded and Social
Glenalmond Gamekeeper	R I	Bankhead 6
The Rose Garden	S I	San Francisco Vol. 2
The Barmkin	R B	2nd Graded Book
Bruce's Men	S I	Scotia Suite
Seton's Ceilidh Band	J A	Morison's Bush
Collie Law	J B	24 Graded and Social
J. B. Milne	R A	Hugh Foss
Hope Little's Strathspey	S B	Graded & Social 2
Captain George Vancouver	J I	Vancouver 50th
Tomalena	R I	San Francisco Vol. 2
The Fireworks Reel	R I	Book 48
St. Andrews Links	S A	St. Andrews 75th Anniv.
Ye Ken It Well	J B	The Devil's Quandary
Peggy Spouse MBE	S I	Book 46
Rodney's Rant	J I	Q.E. Diamond Jubilee
Tap the Barrel	R B	3rd Graded Book

PASSINGS

JEAN CRAWFORD DONALD

February of this year saw the passing of one of the early members of the Los Angeles Branch, Jean Crawford Blaker Donald. Jean, who hailed from Edinburgh, was extremely proud of her Scottish heritage and supported country dancing with total enthusiasm. She was a member of the North Hollywood Class and later, the Valley College Class.



Such was her enthusiasm that she convinced her then-husband Bob Blaker to don a kilt and join in the dancing. In this, Bob was in good company; he was a scientist who worked at Bioscience Laboratories alongside two of our past leaders, Jim Demetriou and Frank Ibbott.

Jean had an inborn talent for acting and was instrumental in the early days of the Center Theatre Group of the Music Center. She was also a strong supporter of the Daughters of the British Empire, and it was through her good offices that the Demonstration Team became a longtime fixture at the DBE British Home Fair each June.

Ann R. McBride

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 MEMBER

The Branch welcomes new member Susan Evans.

Melinda Brown

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Deadline for the September Ghillie Callum is Aug. 1

50TH ANNIVERSARY BALL



Souvenir anniversary mugs hold everyone's place cards.



Past chairs attending the 50th Anniversary Ball and serving as grand marshals are, from left, Jack Rennie, Rosemary Abend, Sherm Ostrom, Aase Hansen, Bill Hartung and Doris Fisher.

Planning for the ball at Ports o' Call restaurant in San Pedro took more than a year. Contributing their talents in many ways were members of for the Committee of Management, from left: Dana Dunaway, Ann McBride, Chair Rosemary Abend, Robb Quint, Jon Reeves, Claudia Pedersen, Kris McGinnis, Deanna St. Amand, Audrey Prest, Evan Avery, Roberta Gotfried and Doris Fisher.



Stephanie and Mike Tiffany represented his father, John Tiffany, who co-founded the Branch with David Brandon in 1976.



Scotch Mist, based in Toronto, Ontario, played for the ball. They were brought to Los Angeles through the generosity of Jack Rennie, a founding member of the Branch.



The Branch Demonstration Team performed at the first break, dancing Mary Brandon's Los Angeles Suite, which made its debut at the 25th anniversary. Dancers are, from left: John Cahill, Evan Avery, Grant Clark, Anthea Macdonald, Martina Hanson, Alice Allen, Doug Macdonald, Alison Divall, Larry Kanowsky, Carol Madden, Mike McGinnis, Dana Dunaway and director Roberta Gotfried.

Below, John Cahill pipes for the Grand March, which is led by Doris and Eric Fisher.

Enjoying the first dance of the evening, Ladies Fancy, are Martina Hanson, Steve Kaplan and Kathrin Segal. At right are Grant Clark and Carol Johnson.



Jan Lauer dances with Grant Clark. Abundant smiles like theirs were seen all evening and all around the dance floor.



Photos by Bob Harmon, Alan Hoff, Claudia Pedersen, Audrey Ramsay Prest, Deanna St. Amand



Longtime friends Val Rodgers and Anne Clarke pose with the 50th anniversary banner.



Clockwise from top left: Gail Halverson and Jeanne Moody; Dana Dunaway and Anthea Macdonald; Pete Anderson and Anne Clarke; Paul Hollombe and Alyssa Kennedy; Lisbeth Hencke from Maryland, Marjorie McLaughlin from San Diego with Aase Hansen, who devised the ball program.

50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

The 50th Anniversary Book of Dances is now available for a donation of \$10.

You can find a copy of the order form on the Branch website or send your name, address, phone number and email to Ann McBride, 619 E. Cypress Ave., Apt. F, Burbank, CA 91501. Enclose a check payable to Los Angeles Branch RSCDS for \$10 per copy, plus \$2 postage per copy.

Information:
Ann McBride,
mcbridea@cshs.org



Former L.A. Branch teachers Fred DeMarse and Donna Pinckney return to town to join us for the ball.

CLASSES

Thousand Oaks

The Thousand Oaks Class is very happy to welcome Roger Nisbet, now coming along with wife Mary from fairly distant Goleta to be with us, as a relatively new regular.

In the “new baby”

department Claudia Pedersen has a brand new 23-foot Sprinter motor home. She and Brent are looking forward to “exploring new places and old favorites for photography adventures,” and the first of these is to be the national parks in Utah. Carmen Silva-Corvalán has two “new babies,” and one of them actually is a baby, a new great-granddaughter for her and husband Scott named Zoë Marie. Carmen’s other “new baby,” academic linguist that she is, is a new co-edited book, “Language Dominance in Bilinguals,” published at Cambridge University.

Christa Wilk and husband Bill spent a few days driving around on the Big Island of Hawaii and a few more days on Oahu, where a highlight for Christa and botanist Bill was the world’s largest plumeria grove at Koko Crater Botanical Garden. Continuing on the botanical theme, March saw for them a visit to the Santa Barbara Orchid Show and Palm Desert’s Living Desert

Valley College

I’m sure you’ve all heard that Jeff Altman’s mother recently passed away. She was a stylish, funny, smart, irreverent woman ... a force to be reckoned with. She lived a long, busy, happy life surrounded by family and friends. She and Jeff’s dad started Zucky’s deli at Fifth and Wilshire in Santa Monica — which, before it closed 39 years later, became a much-loved landmark. Jeff’s dad named the restaurant after Jeff’s mom, who was always known as Zucky... an abbreviation of her maiden name, Zuckerman. She will be missed.

Our class has had a number of new members of late ... some just visiting, others, I hope, will stay because they are such a good fit in the fun, sometimes downright silly atmosphere created by Aase and the regulars:) And we’re all



Celebrating Robb Quint’s birthday: from left, Roger Nisbet, Alan Hoff, Marcelle MacCulloch, Donna Ingram, Mary Nisbet, Robb, Barbara Hoff, Sarah Stelck, Dersa Kenney (in the mirror, with camera), Carmen Silva-Corvalán, Angela Tennyson, Christa Wilk and Claudia Pedersen.

Zoo & Garden.

Class teacher Robb Quint was surprised by the class with an April birthday party celebrating his acquisition of yet another decade and wishes to express his gratitude not only for this, but more generally for a wonderful group of folks with whom it is a pleasure to spend a couple of hours dancing every week.

And finally the Thousand Oaks class was most pleased to be able to host, along with our two western-counties sister classes, the Branch’s March dance right at the same Hillcrest Arts Center where we meet for our weekly class. This dance event was made all the more special by the presence of Speyside, a new four-member Scottish dance combo of strings and keyboard, which provided well-received music for several of the evening’s dances.

Robb Quint

very much enjoying our new hall with its wonderful floor and real, working washrooms with doors on the stalls and everything ... woohoo!

On a personal front, my son Robert, who some of you have met in class, has just found out that one of his recently published plays will open in the UK in late summer. We’re all very excited and proud of him, especially his new fiancée! Dave and I have been travelling a lot with a Canada adventure soon and Scotland and Ireland in September.

Aase’s daughter Lisbeth flew all the way from Maryland to participate in our 50th Anniversary Ball, as well as be here for Mother’s Day. Lisbeth started dancing in Mary Brandon’s class when she was 4 years old!

Jon Reeves dressed as a racoon in the Burbank community parade with such success

that even Audrey wasn't sure it was him ... really, Audrey? Who else would it be! Jon says his costume for Wondercon over the Easter Weekend was even crazier. In between, he's been a seat filler (in street clothes) for shows like "America's Got Talent" (though I think the raccoon would have added some pizzazz to the audience).

The Anniversary Ball was spectacular ... Scotch Mist did itself proud, and the music, food and especially the company were magical ... old friends and new jostling good naturedly on the crowded dance floor to a great program backed by the wonderful band.

We had a good turn out from our class: Aase, of course, with the added bonus of her daughter Lisbeth, Jon, Claudia, Kathrin and Steve, Libby and Paul, Alyssa, Audrey, Alice, Jeff and Margaret, Terry and Jim, Dave and Robyn ... I hope I haven't left anyone out! Many thanks to the ones who did all the hard work and planning that made it possible.

Happy dancing!

Robyn MacGarva

Demonstration Team

The first quarter of 2016 was busy for all the members of the Demonstration Team. The year started with a demonstration at the St. Andrews Society of Los Angeles' Burns Supper in Altadena. It was a lively evening with lots of good food, whisky tasting and all the requisite speeches. Even after all of that, when we invited them up to join us, the little dance floor was packed. And, led by the British consul and joined by members of the RAF and the British Army, they knew which dances they wanted to do. They had hired musicians to play for the evening, who stepped up to play for our dancing.

February brought the Queen Mary Scots-Fest over the President's Day weekend. For the team it's a fun weekend because so many other SCD dancers are taking their turn dancing for and with the audience. Roberta gave the team a challenging program, including the Dashing White Sergeant medley that Ann McBride created for the team a few years ago, one of our favorites.

In March we went inland for a Celtic Re-

naissance Fair at the Fairplex in Pomona. For this program, Anthea Macdonald took the mike to introduce our dances. This event has only been presented for a couple of years, so it's still very much a "work in progress."

Between performances, we worked on the dances we would present at the 50th Anniversary Ball. Making his Demonstration Team debut was Grant Clark, our newest team member. Evan Avery returned for a guest appearance, Mike McGinnis stepped in as he has done in the past, and Kris McGinnis filled in during rehearsals. And, of course, our regulars Alice Allen, John Cahill, Alison Divall, Dana Dunaway, Martina Hanson, Larry Kanowsky, Anthea and Doug Macdonald and Carol Madden. We were very pleased that Rachel Watkins, very ably assisted by Mary Nisbet, was able to provide her talents as a costume creator to provide us with our beautiful new gowns.

With the untimely death of Mary Brandon, the choice of her Los Angeles Suite became a bit more personal for the those who had danced on the Demonstration Team when she was director. Mary was very much in our hearts as we danced Angel's Flight, City of Angels and our six-couple version of Founders' Reel.

Alice Allen

Ventura

The Ventura class has spent the last several months preparing for the March dance — which was practically in our backyard, Thousand Oaks —and the 50th Anniversary Ball.

We were all super excited by the terrific attendance of so many dancers in March. It was a wonderful evening with some very nice live music and, of course, lots of tasty treats to enjoy between dances.

Then during April, we shifted our attention to learning the dances for the Anniversary Ball. It was a truly memorable evening with great music, wonderful dancing and amazing people. Thank you to everyone who helped with these events. All of the Friday night dance group truly appreciate everyone's efforts and hard work. Thank you all!!!

Lisa Sage

DANCE SHOES

When my ghillies broke down I realized I needed to find out more about what was available before buying a new pair. I thought other dancers in a similar situation might benefit from my research. Thanks to the many L.A. Branch dancers who helped me with information, comments and suggestions.

An important finding has been that many women like to wear ballet slippers (pumps) or jazz dance shoes for class and ghillies for dances. Therefore, I bought myself a pair of Bloch jazz dance shoes at Capezio Dance Shop in Canoga Park (paradoxically, they don't carry Capezio shoes!), have worn them in class and I'm quite pleased. Ballet slippers and jazz dance shoes may be purchased online or from dance shops (check the Internet).

Ghillies are a different story. Some of us bought them long ago from stores such as Scottish Treasures (San Diego) or Tartan Patch (Orange County). They no longer carry ghillies and have just leftovers in odd sizes. Tartan Patch referred me to a store in San Antonio, Highland X Press, which imports ghillies and keeps many sizes in stock. For further information: <http://highlandxpress.com/> 210-396-7966.

Irish ghillies, model MD02 by So Danca, may be purchased online from Amazon (or directly from So Danca <http://northamerica.sodanca.com/collections/gym-highland-irish>). Keep in mind, however, that Irish ghillies are considered (by some) to be of lower quality than Scottish Country Dance ghillies. One further cautionary note is that So Danca ghillies are large, so the recommendation is to go 2- 2.5 sizes down from street shoe size.

There are two manufacturers of Scottish Country Dance shoes in Scotland: James Senior — <http://www.jamessenior.co.uk/> — and Thistle Shoes — <https://thistleshoes.com/>. Their web sites provide information about how to calculate size, shipping cost, etc. I have received very good recommendations about both manufacturers from some dancers who have had positive experiences purchasing either from here or in Scotland. Of course, those lucky ones traveling to Scotland will buy them there!

Carmen Silva-Corvalán

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.



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