

# the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 52 Number 4

June 2021

## AGM

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 26, 2021 VIA ZOOM**

Meeting 7:00 p.m., socializing and dancing to follow

### **NOMINATIONS**

*CHAIR — Ann McBride*

*VICE CHAIR — no nominee*

*TREASURER — Doris Fisher*

*RECORDING SECRETARY — Audrey Prest*

*CORRESPONDING SECRETARY — Robb Quint*

*MEMBERS AT LARGE (vote for four) —*

*Dana Dunaway, Kris McGinnis,*

*Nancy Myers, Jon Reeves*

*If you wish to run for office, please email Nominating Committee Chair Mike McGinnis, [mikeatfmpop@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeatfmpop@yahoo.com). Additional nominations for all positions will be accepted at the meeting.*

The 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Los Angeles Branch will take place on June 26 and will be held via Zoom. Prior to the meeting, an email will be sent out to all members inviting them to join the meeting and giving the Zoom link.

All members will receive the membership renewal form along with a letter from Branch Chair Ann McBride by mail or email.

Please mail your membership form and check to Membership Chair Melinda Brown. In order to vote at the AGM, the mailing deadline for membership is Friday, June 18. If you have already mailed in your membership renewal — thank you for for being early!

### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

Greetings LA members –

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since our AGM last year. And what a year it has been!

We have all become adept at living virtually — dancing together at weekly classes, keeping class members in touch with one another, sharing stories and dances at our periodic Zoom get-togethers. We even had a well-attended com-

bined St. Andrew's Ball/90th Birthday Celebration for Jack Rennie in November.

Our 2021 AGM will again be a virtual meeting held on Saturday, June 26, starting at 7:00 p.m. Details, including the invitation and access code will be emailed to everyone in advance of the meeting.

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A copy of the membership renewal form is included with the Ghillie Callum, so please take this opportunity to renew at this year's reduced, one-time-only price.

Please mark your calendars and join us for the meeting. There will be a time to socialize following the business meeting — perhaps an opportunity to share travel plans as we all look toward opportunities opening up.

In looking toward the road ahead, several factors will impact a return to “live” dancing. Among these are the successfully completed vac-

ination process, the lessening of restrictions for social gatherings, the availability of venues for dances and classes, etc.

At its May 16, 2021, meeting, the Committee of Management (the Board) voted unanimously to approve the following: “At all Los Angeles Branch-related events and classes, all attendees must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. The Branch has chosen to do this to protect all participants.”

See you at the AGM! In the meantime, stay safe and stay in touch with one another.

*Ann McBride*

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## Dem Team

By the time you read this, the LA Dem Team will have restarted classes in our home in Santa Monica. We hope that everyone will get to dance together soon, and we can return to our normal dancing life. The first order of business is getting our bodies and brains back into dancing-fit shape!

Prior to this, we have continued to stay connected. Grant Clark and his class of 14 kindergarten students are back in the classroom together. Grant reports that, although it's day 142 of the school year, they are as squirrely, loud and restless as they would have been on day 1. He reports that they are doing pretty well with masks and social distancing. It's exhausting, but there are only a few weeks left. After that, his challenge will be getting four people and two dogs through Canada's COVID-19 border regulations on the way to six weeks at the family cottage for the summer.

In April, Martina Hanson participated in a virtual dance flash mob for a World-Wide Day of Dance. She made a video of herself doing the

hip-hop choreography, then slipped in a few SCD steps on the break. That should give the German audience something to think about.

If you see a blue Mini Cooper with a black racing stripe in the parking lot for an SCD event, you'll know that Dana Dunaway is there. She traded in her old Prius for the Mini Cooper because she felt it suited her lifestyle better. It may be tiny, but it has a deep trunk. The new owner of the Prius inherited her SCD license plate holder.

Connie Walker has been taking some time to count her blessings. They include Wee Angus McLeod (her now-not-so-little cat), not losing any friends or family to COVID-19, her garden being in full bloom, and being able to spend time with her granddaughter. She also reassured us that the members of the band Thistle Dubh are able to get together in a park every other week to work on their dance repertoire.

Jim Bell missed our meeting, but we all know that his focus is on “Wee James,” his very first grandson, after all his granddaughters.

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## CALENDAR

All in-person events are on hold until our dance venues become available once again.

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

**Deadline for the September issue of the Ghillie Callum is Aug. 1.**

## FEBRUARY VIRTUAL SWEETHEART DANCE



For the February 2021 virtual dance, we celebrated our love of Scottish Country Dancing, as well as taking note of Valentine's Day.

Photo by Kris McGinnis

## MARCH VIRTUAL DANCE



For the March 2021 virtual dance, we wore our spring bonnets and shared stories about our favorite teacups and teapots.

Photo by Carmen Silva-Corvalán

## CLASSES

### Torrance

The Friday Torrance class has been meeting for about a year on Zoom, hosted by Kris and Mike McGinnis. Our teachers have been Kris, Ann McBride, Deanna St. Amand, Bill Hartung and Rosemary Abend. We occasionally have guest teachers, such as Doug and Anthea MacDonald.

Although we are anxious to get back to in-person dancing, there are a few advantages to “zoom” dancing:

1. When dancing at home alone, you dance with ghosts, and ghosts make no mistakes!
2. Commuting to the dance location takes no time at all!
3. You get to watch other dancers, if for some reason you don't feel like dancing through a particular dance!
4. We have covered a great number of dances (294 at last count), some of which might

not have been included on a regular program.

A record of each week's program is published at [strathspey.org](https://strathspey.org). Dancers and teachers are welcome to join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8248957840>. To be added to the email list, contact Kris McGinnis at [krismcginnis@gmail.com](mailto:krismcginnis@gmail.com).

In other news, last summer the Auto Club magazine *Westways* asked readers to submit stories about their “chicken-skin” travel moments. (Chicken-skin is what they call goosebumps in Hawaii.) Rosemary Abend emailed a story about singing the Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah* in St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

It was supposed to be in the Nov/Dec issue of the magazine.

Finally, the “chicken” moments appeared in the current edition — not the Los Angeles edition, but the Orange County edition.

*Tony McQuilkin*

### Santa Barbara

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day and the one-year anniversary of meeting on Zoom, the Santa Barbara class held a virtual ceilidh on March 18.

Fifteen people contributed acts: musical interludes on piano, harp, Irish flute and fiddle; Irish jokes, math jokes, tap dancing, videos from the year past and videos created for the occasion. Roger and Mary Nisbet reprised their wildly popular routine from a previous Burns Night, updated for the pandemic; Teri Reynolds led sing-alongs.

It was great fun to see the hidden talents of our friends from the dance community — who knew? The celebration also marked the beginning of spring and the sense that the lockdown was nearing its end. It was a wonderful evening full of laughter, hope and friendship.

*Ilse Gilbert*



Among the ceilidh acts at the Santa Barbara class party were: Dana Dunaway playing piano, top; Carolyn Shouse doing a tap dance, left; and Deedy King playing piano, above.

## Valley College

Lindsey Courtney has a job — yay! She's spending hours every weekday on Zoom teaching 11th-grade American literature. She's also still in the education master's program at CSUN ... teaching and learning at the same time ... her brain has never looked more fit! Memorial Day weekend she's taking her first flight in a long time, going to Austin! Great city, Lindsey; have fun and wear your mask!

Ingrid Van Dorn is retiring from her long career as a teacher, while her side career as an animal protection supporter, I'm sure, will continue with her usual gusto. Congratulations, Ingrid ... do you have any plans for your post-pandemic retirement life? At least take some time for a few deep breaths ... it's a big, new, wonderful change ... good for you!!!

Margaret and Jeff have been suspiciously quiet since their big day. I'm imagining they are just enjoying their wonderful life as a newly married couple ... which I'm guessing is quite similar to their wonderful life prior to becoming a newly married couple. :) I'm sure Margaret is painting ... she contributes to an art show that is coming up, which I always look forward to. The last one was great! And Jeff is likely doing a lot of golfing. They will be busily planning the travel they want to do when the COVID-19 situation allows.

Jim Bell is once more winging his way to Dallas to visit his completely adorable grandson ... this granddad is totally over the moon in love with the little cuddle bunny — if you've seen his pictures on Facebook you'll understand why!

Jim will also be meeting up with the Dallas SCD class he attends there. I know he was looking forward to seeing them again and maybe even getting to dance ... though now that Texas has been having an upswing in COVID cases, he might have to settle for masked visits.

Audrey Prest says she's done with making felt roses for the Rose River Memorial, a tribute to COVID victims. It's been a project for decorators at the Burbank Rose Float Association during their off-season.

Delivering a batch of completed roses and picking up more fabric has provided opportunities for getting a look at the progress that Jon Reeves' construction crew is making as they build the float for the Rose Parade on Jan. 1,

2022. Burbank is (keeping fingers crossed!) ahead of schedule compared to "normal" years.

Jon says he's working on a new costume (not related to SCD). He took another online cooking class — this time, a Peruvian dish.

Dave and I have ventured out with vaccinated, masked friends a few times, have had well-spaced happy hours with neighbors by the pool and walks around the neighborhood with Buddy ... If you're fully vaccinated, we've been told you don't need a mask outdoors, but I always take one to protect and reassure strangers. The only thing other than the usual hanging around the yard, playing and walking Buddy, weeding and then watching the weeds grow back before my eyes, is the time I spend on the computer chatting with friends from all over ... I prefer emails to Zoom, but that's just me. :) We're disappointed to realize we probably couldn't safely visit my place in Canada this year, but I'll assume there will be other years and make the best of it.

Stay healthy and safe with an eye on the prize ... which, of course, is all the fun we will have with each other dancing and laughing and chatting at our SCD events when all this is just a distant memory. :)

*Robyn MacGarva*

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## Ventura

The Ventura Class continues to be on hiatus, but we have been keeping touch through periodic Zoom chats. I am happy to report that our class members are in good health and in good spirits.

We are all simply looking forward to the day when we can get back to dancing and a greater feeling of normalcy.

We miss you all! Love and hugs!

*Lisa Sage*



Audrey's felt roses with heart-shaped embellishments.

## VACCINE REQUIRED

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## SCOTTISH WORD

Here is a vocabulary word that is Scottish in origin ... sitooterie. Pronounced sih-TOO-ter-ee, it means a small building where people can sit outside, like a summer house.

*Doris Fisher*

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Alice Allen spent one whole day crawling around on her floor to remove the dining area rug and put down a new one. Which meant that she had to first remove the marble-topped dining table, then get it back in its proper place all by herself. (The cat was unimpressed.)

When asked to share his recent activities, John Cahill pulled out his pocket calendar, thumbed through it and wondered why he had even bought it. It was completely blank. Hopefully, there will be classes, dances and piping opportunities coming up in the warmer months.

Larry Kanowsky has continued to work at the Huntington Library and Gardens. Really, is there a prettier place to be sequestered during this past year?

If everything goes according to plan, Dem Team expected to be back to regular Tuesday classes by mid-May. Anyone who is fully vaccinated and wants to join us can contact Roberta Gotfried for details.

*Alice Allen*

**Web site:** RSCDS-losangeles.org

**Facebook:** Los Angeles Branch -rscds

## 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.

## 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>.

## 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 AV732. Then use your Ralphs Rewards card (or phone number) every time you shop.



**RSCDS, Los Angeles Branch Inc.**

**P.O. Box 90871, Los Angeles, CA 90009**

**[chair@rscds-losangeles.org](mailto:chair@rscds-losangeles.org)**

**Branch chair:** Ann McBride  
**Home phone:** 818-841-8161  
**Email:** [annmcbride1024@gmail.com](mailto:annmcbride1024@gmail.com)

**Membership chair:** Melinda Brown  
**Address:** 30547 Mehrten Dr.  
Exeter, CA 93221  
**Cell phone:** 805-368-7057  
**Email:** [mjtb1002@hotmail.com](mailto:mjtb1002@hotmail.com)

**Ghillie Callum Editor:** Audrey Ramsay Prest  
**Home phone:** 818-708-8125  
**Email:** [aramsapp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aramsapp@sbcglobal.net)