

the Ghillie Callum

Volume 56 Number 4

June 2025

A G M

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 28, 2025

Potluck 5 p.m.; meeting 6 p.m.; dancing 7 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

CHAIR — Kris McGinnis

VICE CHAIR — Tony McQuilkin

TREASURER — Doris Fisher

RECORDING SECRETARY — Audrey Ramsay Prest

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY — Robb Quint

MEMBERS AT LARGE (vote for four) —

Betty Anderson, Christopher Bradley, Callan Edwards, Jon Reeves

*If you would like to run for office, please email the chair of the Nominating Committee: Nancy Hartung, nancy@hartung.com. **Additional nominations for all positions will be accepted at the meeting.***

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Los Angeles Branch will take place at First Christian Church in Studio City on June 28.

The 2025-2026 membership renewal form is included with this issue of the June Ghillie Callum by mail and email. Note that some membership levels have changed.

Please mail your membership form and check to Membership Chair Melinda Brown prior to the meeting.

If you have already sent in your membership renewal, thank you for being early!

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

I can't believe another year has gone by. We are in the final months of the Committee of Management's 2024-2025 year. We will be saying good-bye to two members of the committee.

Dana Dunaway has been a member at large for several years and will be stepping back in June. Dana has always been the "go to" person to look up information. She has also been the liaison with our webmaster. She will

be greatly missed. Lisa Hancock is also stepping back — saying that her work is interfering. She has been an awesome vice chair (a much-sought-after position). Thank you, both, for all you have done.

Exciting news and congratulations are in order for the dancers who took Unit 1 of the teachers exam — all passed! Not an easy task.

Continued on page 2

ANNUAL DANCE PROGRAM

As the Teachers Committee has recently completed selecting dances for next year's program, I thought it might be a good idea to explain what method goes into our "madness."

Dances are on the program for three years. I know you love Farewell to Balfour Road, but you may love next year's La Ville Lumière just as well. A dance can come back on the program after it has been off for 10 years. This policy ensures that the program stays fresh and allows for the introduction of new dances.

Especially important for the beginner program is that all the basic figures are included. We emphasize selecting beginner dances that are interesting enough that experienced dancers will want to do them too.

We also look at the programs of the other local branches to see if they have a dances that fill our needs. Adding such a dance makes it easier to devise programs for our combined events.

Finally, we want to have a balance of RSCDS dances and non-RSCDS dances. Why? It is easier for visitors to attend a monthly dance if they are familiar with the dances on the program. Conversely, this works to your advantage too when you visit another branch.

So, there you have it. I hope you enjoy next year's dance program.

Rosemary Abend

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

JUNE

- 28 POTLUCK, AGM AND DANCE.** First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. Potluck supper 5 p.m., meeting 6 p.m., dance 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

JULY

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

AUGUST

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

OTHER BRANCHES

JUNE

- 14 OC POTLUCK, AGM AND DANCE.** Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. Potluck 6 p.m., AGM 6:30, dance 7. Music: recorded.

JULY

- 12 OC MONTHLY DANCE.** Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.
- 19 SGV SCOTTISH LUAU.** St. James Episcopal Church, 1325 Monterey Road, South Pasadena. 4 p.m. Music: SO-CALEDONIANS.

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They are Jeff Altman, Dawn Bertani, Callan Edwards, Sarah Fox, Tony McQuilkin and Elizabeth Seward.

With the close of the year, we look forward to seeing you at the AGM and the summer dances. I appreciate everyone who pitches in for set-up and clean-up at our events. It does take a village, or at least a set.

Thank you!

Kris McGinnis

NEW MEMBERS

The branch welcomes new member Marianne Bastecki.

Melinda Brown

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.

TEACHER TRAINING

On March 1 of this year, six of us in the L.A. area took the RSCDS Unit 1 exam for teachers — and everyone passed!

Of those six, Dawn Bertani and Jeff Altman are currently working through their CTI certification; some of us may pursue further teacher training; and some of us joined the group to support the others — and because we wanted to learn more and enjoy each other's company!

We were spurred into action when our beloved teacher, Aase Hansen, had to step back. We wanted to preserve the warm and accepting atmosphere she created in class, always encouraging each dancer to take the next step to improvement, according to their own level.

We are all dedicated to spreading the enjoyment of SCD by renewing and extending the pool of teachers in the L.A. area.

We met once a week on Zoom to go through the (253-page!) RSCDS Manual of Scottish Country Dancing. We took the exam on our own laptops at Jeff's house, ably "invigilated" by Audrey Prest and Grant Clark.

A month later, we heard we had all passed! So we celebrated with friends and family who had supported us along the way. We toasted "to family — however it is defined" — and to Scottish country dancers!

If you are interested in supporting the growth of Scottish country dancing in Southern California; in helping people to identify new teachers (maybe yourself or someone you know) so classes can grow; or to strengthen our So-Cal SCD community across all branches, then I strongly encourage you to investigate the possibilities that fit your situation, and to form a mutually supportive group of dancers — which in itself offers all kinds of rewards!

For more information about different ways



Wearing festive paper crowns to celebrate their achievement, dancers who passed the Unit 1 exam are, from left, Jeff Altman, Tony McQuilkin, Callan Edwards, Elizabeth Seward, Dawn Bertani and Sarah Fox.

you or someone you know might move towards teacher training, mentioned by Roberta Gotfried at the last L.A. AGM, see [Learn > Teacher Training](#) on the RSCDS website. There are now three programs: a short Basic Teaching Skills to get a preliminary taste of teaching; the more extensive CTI (Core Training for Instructors) and the full Teaching Certificate, which requires two to five years of intensive study and practice.

Check it out! It's a way towards strengthening our overall dancing community across the board, a great way to connect with others, and perhaps a mini-example of how members of different branches can work together for the benefit of the larger community.

And it's fun to work with others, to increase our appreciation for the teachers, and to learn more about those great dances!

Elizabeth Seward

TIPS ON WEARING THE KILT

It is wonderful to see so many men wearing their kilts at our dances. However, it is not so wonderful to see so many kilts beginning to slip off the hips as the evening progresses.

Physically, men have much slimmer, less padded hips than women, which can lead to "slippage" as the dancing progresses. So rather

than have to keep "hitching up" your kilt, consider the purchase of a good leather belt with a silver or leather Scottish (or other) buckle, or — guess what, a pair of tartan braces (suspenders).

I have been assured that there will be an assortment of such belts/braces available at the Miscellany Sale in the fall.

Ann McBride

AGM, POTLUCK & DANCE

Saturday, June 28, 2025
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City
(see page 1 for more details)

Granville Market	B J	A 2nd Book of Graded SCDs
Whigmaleeries	I R	Imperial Book of SCDs, Vol. 2
Arniston Glen	B S	Lothian Collection
The Rover's Rant	I J	22 Social Dances by Goldring
Neidpath Castle	I S	Book 22
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloich	A R	The Leaflet Dances with Music
The Scallywag	I J	Book 52
Flowers of Edinburgh	B R	Book 1
The 30th Anniversary Ball	A S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
City Lights	I J	Book 52
Lady Dumfries	B R	MMM I
Burns Night	B J	Boston 50th Anniversary
The Poppy and the Thistle	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Elspeth Gray's Reel	A R	Book 53
Gramachie	B S	MMM I
Toast to the Mousies	I R	Book 53

SUMMER DANCE #1

Saturday, July 26, 2025
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Drive

Laggan Bay	B J	The Second Craigievar Book
Bea's Delight	I R	Book 43
Slytherin House	I S	Book 52
Diamonds Are Forever	A J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Arniston Glen	B S	Lothian Collection
The Dancing Bees	B R	24 Graded & Social Dances
Les Remparts de Séville	I J	Book 50
Whigmaleeries	I R	Imperial Book of SCDs, Vol. 2
First Love	B S	Let's All Dance Too
The Rover's Rant	I J	12 Social Dances by Goldring
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloich	A R	The Leaflet Dances with Music
The Roselath Cross	I J	Book 41
The Poppy and the Thistle	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Elspeth Gray's Reel	A R	Book 53
Fair Enough	B J	Book 51
The Land of Enchantment	A S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Deil amang the Tailors	B R	Book 14



SUMMER DANCE #2

Saturday, August 23, 2025
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Fair Enough	B J	Book 51
Foxhill Court	A S	Canadian Book
City Lights	I J	Book 52
Scott Meikle	I R	Book 46
Slytherin House	I S	Book 52
The Rambling Pitchfork	B R	All Kinds of Everything
Joie de Vivre	B J	Book 39
The Poppy and the Thistle	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Follow Me Home	I J	Book 38
Arniston Glen	B S	Lothian Collection
Pinewoods Reel	A R	Book 53
Bea's Delight	I R	Book 43
Diamonds Are Forever	A J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Gramachie	B S	MMM I
Farewell to Balfour Road	I J	Book 52
The Ambassadors' Reel	B R	Vienna Book of SCD

INTERBRANCH DANCE

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025
Tustin Area Senior Center
200 S. C St., Tustin

Looking for a Partner	B J	Carnforth Collection, Vol. 6
Toast to the Mousies	I R	Book 53
John McAlpin	I S	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
Farewell to Auchterarder	A J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Ardnahoe	B S	SCDDDB online
The Montgomeries' Rant	I R	Book 10
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	I J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Capelthwaite	I R	San Francisco Collection, Vol. 2
The Dream Catcher	A S	Book 45
The Cranberry Tart	I J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
The Falkirk Lass	B S	Book 53
The Black Leather Jig	I R	Delaware Valley Silver
Mrs. Stewart's Jig	B J	Book 35
Bauldy Bain's Fiddle	I R	The Lothian Collection
The Gentleman	I S	Book 35
Vintage Simon	A J	Book 47
The Reel of the Royal Scots	B R	SCD Leaflets

HIGHLAND GAMES



Saturday's dancers, from left: Mike McGinnis, Norm McCallum, Nikki Criss, Kelly Wolschon, Lisa Hancock, Steve Bryan, Randi Kraemer, Jim Bell, Karen Kerman, Connie Learn, David Morgan, Kris McGinnis, Jeff Altman, Connie Walker, Pat Zschoche (director), and Edie Archibald.

Demonstration dances at Costa Mesa were Postie's Jig, The Cape Breton Hornpipe and Glastonbury Tor.



Sunday's dancers, from left: Connie Walker, Kris and Mike McGinnis, Kelly Wolschon, Sheila Siminuk, Norm McCallum, Nikki Criss, Terri Speakman, Connie Learn, Audrey Prest, Jon Reeves, Karen Kerman, Lisa Hancock, Steve Bryan, Flora and David Morgan, Edie Archibald, Pat Zschoche and Christopher Bradley.

RESEARCHING TUNES

If you've watched the video for the dance The 30th Anniversary Ball (a dance from the L.A. Branch 50th anniversary book), you may have noticed that it uses four tunes, all of which are associated with Christmas carols.

The first is "Forest Green," which is a folk tune collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1903 and named for the village in Surrey where he first heard it. This is the usual tune for the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem," as sung in Great Britain.

The second tune is "Noel," a traditional tune arranged by Arthur Sullivan for "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear."

The third tune is "Humility," by John Goss, 1871, and is used for the carol "See, Amid the Winter's Snow," also known by its refrain, "Hail! Redemption's Happy Dawn!"

And the fourth tune is "Cranham," by Gustav Holst. It is used for the carol setting of Christina Rossetti's poem "In the Bleak Mid-Winter."

Tony McQuilkin



New to the Whisky Tavern stage this year was SoCal Scottish Step Dancers. The group, from left: Margaret Burnett, Callan Edwards, Dawn Bertani, Sarah Fox and teacher/director Connie Walker.

Photos by Elizabeth Seward and Terri Speakman

OBITUARY: CAROL McOWEN



Carol McOwen passed away at her Pasadena home on Jan. 6 at the age of 97.

"Catching the bug" for Scottish country dancing from her son Robert and his wife Barbara, Carol danced for many years and served as editor of this newsletter, the

Ghillie Callum.

Carol was president of the local League of Women Voters and was active with her Unitarian church in Pasadena. She earned a B.A. in art history and an M.A. specializing in Chinese art and, while completing the latter, spent a year teaching English in China.

Robb Quint

CLASSES

Torrance

John Allen and Elizabeth Seward took photos at Niagara Falls after a visit with relatives and dancing in Toronto.



Leslie Evans vacationed in the Caribbean, then went to upstate New York to see a new grandbaby. Deby Robinson went to Scotland with her 95-year-old father. Grace and Gabriel White went to Europe. John Allen and Elizabeth Seward danced in Toronto. Eric Fisher had surgery on his knee and is recovering well.

Ruth Fleming-Stephens performed with the Torrance Civic Chorale. And then she and Leslie played with the El Segundo Concert Band the following week at El Segundo United Methodist Church. Both Ruth and Tony will be performing with the NG Space Park Singers on June 10 and 12 in Manhattan Beach. And Tony will be performing with The Concert Singers on June 29 in Westchester.

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