

the GHILLIE CALLUM

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March 2007

THE BURNS BALL

By all accounts, the three-branch Burns Ball was a great success. We filled the hall with as many dancers as it could hold, plus several non-dancers, for a total of 130. It was the first time in more than a decade that the L. A. Branch had joined with the Orange County and San Gabriel Valley branches to celebrate our favorite Scottish poet.

With the terrific music of Fiddlesticks and Ivory, the fun and inspiring speakers and a delicious dinner, everyone had a wonderful time. Robert Burns himself should have been pleased.

Ann McBride, with an assist from Jim Bell, saluted Burns in the Immortal Memory, pointing out how he gave hope to the downtrodden. No wonder the Scots of 200 years ago loved him.

Robyn and Brian George toasted the lads and lassies in an amusing musical duet, a little ditty to the tune of "Frere Jacques." Hum along: "Lads and lassies, lads and lassies; can't live without them, can't live without them..." Amid the flattering stanzas, though, Robyn slipped in a mention of his snoring, Brian countered with a jab about her not doing dishes, and so on.

The traditions of the haggis were upheld well, too. The legendary dish was prepared by Jon Reeves, who learned the secrets of making it in years past from our own Mary Brandon. The haggis was piped in by John Cahill and addressed by Norm McCallum, backed by sword-bearing henchmen Jeff Altman, Bill Hartung and Chuck for ticket sales.

Madeleine Rackley prepared the delicious dinner; Linda McWade organized the reception; Judith Allen ran the raffle; Bob Patterson emceed the program; and Doug Macdonald, Jack Rennie and Shirley Saturensky briefed the dances.

The tri-branch committee that worked so hard to put the event together was Linda Boucher, Bill Hartung, Anthea Macdonald, Andy Perry, Shirley Saturensky and Ray Tucker. Special thanks also

go to Linda and Anthea for decorations, Bill for setting up the hall, Chuck Olsen for ticket sales, Pete Kier for sound and Frank Ibbott for graphic arts.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

A LITTLE ABOUT BURNS HIMSELF

At the Tri-Branch Burns Dinner on January 20, 2007, Jim Bell and I combined to present a slightly different approach to the "Immortal Memory." In his writings Burns broke many boundaries, championing the causes of freedom for nations and rights of women, by grieving for his lost Highland Mary just as deeply as for the little mouse whose nest he destroyed while ploughing.

He had many insights into the strengths and weaknesses of his fellow man, and we are all familiar with at least a few of his quotations. For instance, "O would some power the giftie gie us to see ourselves as others see us"; or -- "the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley", or the more poignant "And Man, whose heaven erected face the smiles of love adorn, Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

Two and a half centuries later, we still wonder that, like many men of passion, he was unable to look away from the great revolutionary movements that were sweeping America and France. He dared to put into words what many had only dared to think and believe in: and that was man's equality. Through heartfelt, honest and simple words in his poem "A Man's a Man for A' That" he gave hope to down-trodden, oppressed and captive people everywhere.

I then read the "English" version of the poem, followed immediately by Jim reciting it in the Scots dialect beloved by Burns himself and with a passion that the poet would have been proud of.

Ann McBride

LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES 2007

March

24 Beginner Dance. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona. Torrance. Recorded music. \$10 member, \$12 non-member.

April

28 Monthly Dance. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona. Torrance. Recorded Music. \$10 member, \$12 non-member.

May

4-6 Catalina Workshop. See page 3.

26 Pomona Games Dance. Claremont Woman's Club.

June

23 AGM and dance. Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center.

July

28 Summer Dance. (Location to be announced/determined.) Recorded Music.

August

25 Summer Dance. Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center.

OTHER EVENTS

OC = Orange County Branch;

SD = San Diego;

SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.

2007

March

10 OC Monthly Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 Center St., Anaheim. 7:30 p.m. Recorded music.

April

14 OC Monthly Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 Center St., Anaheim. 7:30 p.m. Recorded music.

May

12 OC Monthly Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 Center St., Anaheim. 7:30 p.m. Recorded music.

March 2007

June

2 MacLeod Rant. See below.

9 OC AGM & Monthly Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 Center St., Anaheim. 7:30 p.m. Recorded music.

MACLEOD RANT

Saturday, June 2, 2007 has been selected as the date for the 22nd Annual MacLeod Rant. Once again our party will take place at the beautiful Beverly Hills Woman's Club.

As usual, the Ball program will feature many of your favorite MacLeod dances as well as popular local favorites, danced to the exciting music of Lisa Scott (piano) and Calum MacKinnon (fiddle).

This year, the Ball will start at 5:30 p.m., 15 minutes earlier than usual. The City of Beverly Hills has tightened its requirements regarding music or noise after 10:00 p.m. This new requirement means that we must have our music stopped by 9:45 p.m. and the premises vacated by all except the clean-up committee by 10:00 p.m. Since this change will only impact us by 15 minutes, it seems a small price to pay in exchange for our having use of the facility.

In addition to the time change, we have been requested to ensure that all cars are parked in the Woman's Club parking lot or in the driveway at the side of the building. Apparently there have been complaints by the residents on Chevy Chase regarding the parking situation on their street when the Woman's club is hosting an event such as ours. We hope that you will keep this in mind and, if possible, carpool to the Ball.

We look forward to having you join us on June 2 for an evening of good food, good friends, exciting music and your favorite MacLeod dances.

Deanna St. Amand

LAST CALL FOR CATALINA!

The Catalina Island Workshop and Ball (an Interbranch event) will take place this May 4-6th. While there is currently a waiting list for the workshop, it's not too late to sign up for the "Ball Only" option. This includes the Saturday night ball with dinner and the Sunday Morning Casual Dance workshop. You would arrange your own lodging, transportation and other meals. (If you are interested in the workshop, sign up for this option and also ask to be placed on the waiting list.) Please complete the registration form (on the website at www.rscds-interbranch.org) and send with payment no later than March 31st to the address on the form. If you have any questions about the workshop or ball, please call Doris Fisher at (310) 782-8300 or email her at doris@esfcpa.com.



RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR:

Well, the First Annual Tri-Branch Burns Ball is gently fading into memory. From all accounts it was grand success! We all need to again thank the folks who worked behind the scenes for several months to bring it all together. I am looking forward to a bigger and even better affair next year.

The Burns Ball was one of several multi-branch dances are planned for this year. By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed dancing at the third annual Queen Mary Games Dance. Plans are currently underway for a dance in conjunction with the Pomona Games on May 26th. And of course we have the InterBranch Catalina Dance Workshop coming up on May 4-6, 2007. This also promises to be a grand affair, with a Ball in the world-famous Casino. For those planning to attend, remember that you need to book your own reservations for transportation to and from Catalina. We are going at the beginning of their busy season, so book early. Then we will round out our multi-branch functions with the annual Inter-Branch dance in September.

Of course, we will still have our own monthly dances in February, March and April, with the AGM in June. Remember that the reason for our existence is the dancing!!!

My last thought for this issue involves membership--new members as well as existing ones. We have 168 members in the branch this year, which is exactly the same as last year. Your Board of Management is looking for ways to increase our membership with new dancers, and to encourage our existing membership to become more active in our dances and events. Each of you is encouraged to pass your thoughts, ideas and suggestions to me, to your teacher, or to any member of the Board.

Looking forward to Happy Dancing with each of you.

Ray

NEW MEMBERS

The Branch is pleased to welcome the following new members: Tove Olafsen, Zelda Shaffer, Jennie Proctor, and Katie Williams. We hope you will enjoy dancing with us.
Melinda & Frank.

DEADLINE

**FOR
JUNE
GHILLIE CALLUM
APRIL 23, 2007**

**Monthly Dance
April 28, 2007**

**Torrance Cultural Arts Center
Torrance Blvd. at Madrona, Torrance**

Recorded Music

\$ 10 member, \$12 non-member

Miss Welsh's Reel	J B	Graded 13
Royal Yacht Britannia	R I	Book 43 3
Bridge of Ballachullish	S A	Bridge of Earn
Quarries' Jig	J I	Book 36 3
The Duran Ranger	R B	Book 13 1
The Chequered Court	J I	Book 42 3
Lady Glasgow	S B	MMM I 27
Founders' Reel	R A	Dances/Diff.
Andrew's Fancy	S B	L.A. 25th Anniv.
Macleod's Fancy	J A	Book 33 3
Music Makars	R I	Book 33 1
Silver Strathspey	S I	Book 44 3
Collichur	J B	Book 30 1
Corian Strathspey	S A	Book 43 8
Kelso Races	R B	MMM II

Flights of Fancy	J I	Boston 50th
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R I	Goldring 14 Social

**AGM Dance
June 23, 2007**

Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center

Haste To The Wedding	J B	Book 25 6
The Tri-Mariner	R I	Ann Dix Bk 2
Bonnie Ina Campbell	S A	Book 37 6
The Auld Gray Cat	R B	Let's All Dance
Fifty Years On	J A	Book 43 1
Arthur's Seat	R I	18th Century
Lady Glasgow	S B	MMM I 27
The Cranberry Tart	J I	Glasspool 7Yr Itch
Bridge of Ballachullish	S A	Bridge of Earn
Selkirk Settlers	R B	Let's All Dance
Napiers Index	J B	Book 45 8
About Time	S I	TAC Leaflet
Founders' Reel	R A	Dances/Difference
Delvine Side	S B	Book 2 9
Knotwork	J I	Book 44 2
The Chequered Court	J I	Book 42 3
Reel of the 51st Division	R B	Book 13 10

2007 MacLeod Rant

June 2 Grand March 5:30 p.m.

Beverly Hills Woman's Club

Music: Calum MacKinnon and Lisa Scott

Machine Without Horses	B J	Book 12
Peat Fire Flame	A R	Drewry/BonAccord
Delvine Side	B S	Book 2
MacLeod's Fancy	I/A J	Book 3
Skye Lights	A R	Metcalf
Lady in Red	A J	Simon Scott
The Northern Meeting	I S	Campbell/Fare.Fancy
Angus MacLeod	A R	Alex Queen
Blue Bonnets	B J	Book 3
Staffin Harvest	I S	Four for 1978
Reel of the 51 st Div.	B R	Book 13
The Clansman	I R	Book 32
Byron Strathspey	I S	Drewry/ Deeside
Old Man of Storr	B R	Children's Book
White Heather Jig	I/A J	Cosh/Glendarroch
MacDonald of the Isles	I S	Foss
Mrs. MacLeod	I R	Book 6

MY CHRISTMAS SWEATSHIRT SAYS :

YOU MUST BE SCOTTISH IF ...

You actually eat haggis
 You can toss a caber
 You celebrate Tartan Day in April
 The sound of the pipes makes your blood
 race
 You know the Highland fling does not in-
 volve throwing anything
 You know about a loch named Ness...with
 a monster in it
 The Thistle is your favorite flower
 You look good in a kilt
 You know the difference between a plaid
 and a tartan
 Robert Burns is your favorite bard
 Your heart is in the Highlands.

Jack Rennie



FLOWER OF THE FOREST

Older members of the branch will remember Margaret Flannigan, who passed away in Torrance, January 14th. Margaret was originally from Glasgow where she emigrated from Scotland to Canada, and later to Torrance. She had been an active country dancer in Scotland and in Toronto before coming here where she joined the branch. She attended my Palos Verdes class at Peninsula High School and weekend workshops in Santa Barbara and Solvang and the first Catalina, etc.

She had a wonderful sense of humor and usually shared rooms with my mother and Ena Logan, a hilarious trio when they got together. They often threw a party after the dance at the workshops for a wall-to-wall crowd -- the room fairly jumped! Margaret will be fondly remembered by many of us. She is survived by her son, Chris and family of Redondo Beach, to whom we extend our condolences.

Jack Rennie

CLASS REPORTS LOMITA

Anne Dwyer is a grandmother now! Her daughter Siobhan has a cute (we've seen the pictures!) boy named Fionn. His Daddy is in the Army, so he has to live in Hawaii for awhile. His poor Granny has to take frequent vacations in Hawaii so she can play with him!

If someone is absent on Monday night, it is probably due to a TRIP! Anneliese Grohs is going to vacation in Arizona for a few days and will fly to Germany in Spring to visit family and friends. Tony McQuilkin is going to New York to sing. Rose and Joe Peters will definitely be in Colorado when their daughter's baby arrives. It will be their first grandchild! (It will probably be even more fun than the Spam Museum!) After

going to New York (again!) for another big event, Roz and Gil Gotfried went to Sunrise, Florida for their daughter Hillary's "Big Important Birthday" (Those of us who aren't going anywhere are consoling ourselves with dancing!)

One of the best things happening now in the class is to have the people who have been out with health problems now happily dancing with us. Gil Gotfried is dancing with smiles now after his hip surgery and will soon be going to dances. Marion Reeve is going to dances and really dancing. (Hooray!) We are still missing Jimmy and Cris Armstrong, who have been out while Jimmy is recovering from a stroke, and hope they will be back soon.

Marion Reeve

TORRANCE

We are cheering! We have 35 people enrolled, 19 beginners and 16 intermediate/advanced. Hooray! Hooray! Hooray! It is really fun to see all those beginners form two lines, "skoosh" down our large classroom, and barely have enough space. Six of our beginners are starting their second ten-week session. We also have three people out and not enrolled because of injuries. More really is merrier!

We are happy to welcome some new people to our intermediate/advanced class also. Tim Harrison, from Austin, Texas, has his Preliminary Test Pass and has been teaching in Austin. He plans to do his Full Certificate soon. Ginger Moore, who teaches preschool, started this year with a leg injury, but she is healing quickly and will be dancing more very soon. We need her warm smile in the set!

We are so excited about all these beginners and the other new people that we are having an end of class party. This will introduce the beginners to dances, so they will know what it's like and feel more comfortable going to dances. Our last class is March 16, so we'll have the party in our classroom on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17. We'll have some dancing, including Roaring Jelly (B) and Irish Rover (I/A), some food, and sing Irish songs. Come and help us celebrate!

Our intermediate/advanced dancers have been celebrating Robert Burns' Birthday. Many of the class worked hard on the Burn's Ball. Ray Tucker, Bill and Nancy Hartung, and Doris and

Eric Fisher spent a lot of hours preparing and setting up for the dance and taking care of the musicians.

At the ball, we enjoyed socializing with Kim Baily's daughter, Blaire, who is one of our new beginners, and Kim's cousin Nyria, who was visiting from Kent, England, for two weeks. Nyria does English Country dancing at home, so she naturally took to Scottish Dancing at class the night before the ball.

Pete Kier, a 40-year life member who used to dance in the class, did the sound equipment at the ball. He was surprised by the "Happy Birthday" song when being thanked for his work with the sound.

After the ball we enjoyed the After Party at Bill and Nancy's lovely home. We relaxed and ate, and the Fiddlesticks and Ivory musicians played on. It was the "just right" way to wind down after the ball.

Some of our members have been doing things outside of dancing. Doris and Eric sang in the excellent Christmas musical production put on by their church choir. Doris is also chairman for the Catalina workshop, a very big job. Ray and Susie Tucker traveled to Seattle for Christmas with Susie's family, and were going to another Burns night in Northern California.

Betty Findley is having hip surgery on January 23, and will be back to class, dancing, in 3 months. Ruth Fleming-Stevens is going to have bunion surgery in February, on the other foot this time, so it, too, can enjoy dancing. We're looking forward to having you both in class, pain free!

Marion Reeve

SOUTH PASADENA INDEPENDENT CLASS

If you're at a loss for something healthy to do on a Sunday evening, why not consider coming along and dancing with us at the War Memorial in South Pasadena.

Those of you who have been to the War Memorial know that we have a marvelous wooden floor, plenty of easy access parking, and in those months when it really counts, we have fantastic air-conditioning. We cover dances from all three local branch programs, as well as some oldies and goodies, some ceilidh dances and even some Old Tyme favourites. The class meets at 7:00pm and finishes at 9:00 pm. The War Memorial is located at 435 So. Fair Oaks Boulevard in South

Pasadena, easily accessible from the 110 and 210 freeways. We'd love to have you come and join us. If you have any questions, please call me or email me. Tel: (818) 841-8161 or mcbridea@cshs.org.

Ann McBride

VALLEY COLLEGE

Class has been going well. We have been happy to welcome new dancers. Some have already joined the branch and who are participating in the monthly dances and even balls. The dancers are Tove Olafsen and Katie Williams. But we have some that are even newer, a young couple, Melanie and Danny Burns -- she a highland dancer and he is a piper. We hope to see more of this couple at dances.

We missed Claudia Pedersen a lot during late fall. Her mother became very ill and died. However, there is also good news in Claudia's family. Her daughter, Erika, is expecting Claudia's first grandchild in August. So we want to express our sympathies to Claudia but also good wishes.

Jon Reeves missed very few classes although he again was very involved with the Burbank Rose Parade Float. Deborah Ash helped with some of the last preparations on the float. Jon also made a quick business trip to England in December. This time the event took place in Bristol.

Kathrin King was also very busy in the fall. She was working on her second CD, "Land of Beginning Again," which is now out. She devised a number of the songs she sings and plays.

Aase Hansen

NORTHRIDGE

It's hard to believe that we are already well into the year 2007. December was a month of travel for several members of our class. Angela Tennyson traveled to Texas for the holidays with her daughter Elizabeth, her son-in-law Brad **and** her 3-year-old grandson, Kerrick. In addition to the trip, Angela had the joy of baby-sitting Kerrick for a week in early November.

Audrey Prest had also planned to visit her daughter Julie's family in Iowa for the holiday, but Audrey's plans went awry. Early on the morning of departure she discovered that the airport in Denver where she was due for a stop-over was closed due to a snowstorm. Audrey wisely decided to change her plans and stayed home.

TECHNIQUE CLASS

A technique workshop was held on February 4, 2007, at Stoner Park in West Los Angeles. Being Super Bowl Sunday, the attendance was quite small, Deanna St. Amand and Aase Hansen took the dancers through step and formation practice and taught three dances from the list of dances for the teacher candidate exam.

Aase Hansen

Women below are: Roberta Gotfried, Tove Olafsen, Deborah Ash, Kathy Byers, Pat Ziegler and Barbara Mackenzie.



As soon as news got out as to her change of plans she was quickly flooded with invitations for the holiday. Audrey says she missed her grandchildren but had a wonderful Christmas!

Paul and Libby Hollombe enjoyed a cruise to the Caribbean in December. Libby says they enjoyed snorkeling during the day and dancing at night, even taking some tango lessons while on-board. Happily, they were back in time for the annual class Christmas party.

We were happy that Bonnie Waters was able to drive up from Manhattan Beach for the party. She wasn't sure she could drive so far after her latest foot surgery, but she did and it was good to see her again. She assures me she will be back to class as soon as she gets the o.k. from her doctor. Hope that's soon, Bonnie.

We've missed Robyn George since the Holidays, as she, too, has had to have foot surgery and hasn't been able to resume dancing. Hopefully, she will soon.

Madeleine Rackley has been able to fit in more dance time this past year. We love having her when she can come to class, but Maddie is a

very busy lady. When she isn't working, dancing or preparing our wonderful feasts, she sings with the Hollywood Master Chorale.

Claudia Pedersen has been on an emotional roller-coaster, as her mother passed away and daughter Erika, who lives in Guam, came home to help. While here, Erika surprised her mother with the news that she expecting a baby in early Aug. This will be Claudia's first grandchild, so needless to say she is floating on Cloud Nine.

Aase Hansen also had a holiday visit from daughter Lizbeth and her son-in-law Rick, as did Deanna when her son Mike and his wife Tanya were here from Michigan in mid-December.

The class had a surprise visitor on Jan. 18, when Donna Pickney. Donna taught the Santa Barbara class for several years and now lives in La Jolla.

We were happy to hear that Frank Ibbott was un-hurt after his auto accident on January 13.

We hope that if you ever find yourself in our area on a Thursday night, you will join us. We have a great class and would love to have you dance with us.

Deanna St. Amand



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Los Angeles Branch, Inc.
P.O. Box 90871
Los Angeles CA 90009



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Chairman: Ray Tucker
Phone: 310. 514.2694
email: rtuc1@cox.net.

Membership Chairman: Melinda Brown
Address: 565 Azure Hills Dr.
Simi Valley CA 93065
email: mjtb1002@hotmail.com

Ghillie Callum Editor: Carol McOwen
Address: 111 S. Orange Blvd.
Pasadena CA 91105
Phone: 626. 793.8096
email: cmcown@AOL.com

Web Page: www.RSCDS-LosAngeles.org



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