

the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 39 No. 3

March 2008

Burns Ball 2008

There was such a variety of Robert Burns poems and songs at the 2008 Burns Ball that we could all take away a new appreciation for Scotland's favorite bard.

The theme was his poem "Fete Champete," which chair and mistress of ceremonies Anthea Macdonald described as a ball in a pastoral (outdoor) setting. To illustrate the flier, table programs and cue books, Frank Ibbott used the Internet to track down a painting of the same name. For a nod to Burns' "Red, Red Rose," the centerpieces were red roses and the place cards were printed with red roses. Norm McCallum was the main speaker, for The Immortal Memory, which he focused on the poem "The Twa Dogs." Norm livened up his presentation by handing out a small quiz about the work, with the winner receiving a small bottle of spirits, a wee dram.

It wouldn't have been a Burns night without the requisite haggis, made by Jon Reeves and addressed by Jim Bell. And, of course, the evening closed with "Auld Lang Syne," perhaps the best known of all Burns' efforts.

The piper was Dakota Lewis, Poosie Nancy was Alison McAlpine, the Henchmen were Jeff Altman, Eric Fisher and Frank Searle. Ann McBride recited the Selkirk Grace, yet another of Burns' credits. Grand marshals were Lea and Jim Maiolo, treasurer.

It was a fabulous evening, enjoyed by 117 dancers and guests. With the cooperation of Ports O' Call Restaurant, we were able to dance our way through the entire program, right up to midnight. Callum MacKinnon played fiddle and Lisa Scott piano, with Pete Kier handling the sound system for an evening of truly wonderful music.

Robyn and Brian George offered humorous toasts to the lads and lassies. They began by saying that in solidarity with their brethren in the Writers Guild, they hadn't written speeches, and Brian went on to mime a few thoughts with Robyn at the microphone attempting to interpret. For the actual toasts, they swapped roles: Brian called himself "girlie enough" to toast the men, "the best gender in the world." Robyn declared herself "man enough" to raise her glass to the ladies: "Long may we reign."

Special thanks go to the planning committee representing the three host branches: Linda Boucher, Doris Fisher, Jan Lauer, Anthea, Janet Olsen, Chuck Porter, Shirley Saturensky and Ray Tucker. Also thanks to Robb Quint, registrar; Nancy and Bill Hartung, musicians' hosts; Doris, Nancy and Susie Smythe-Tucker, raffle; Doris, restaurant liason; Jim, treasurer.

Briefing the dances were Doug Macdonald, Jack Rennie and Shirley. Anthea and Linda McWade did the decorations and Frank Ibbott the graphics.

Audrey Ramsay Prest



**LOS ANGELES BRANCH
SCHEDULE OF DANCES
2008**

March

22 Beginner Dance. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madona. 7:00 pm. Recorded music. Members \$10, Non-members \$12.

April

26 Monthly Dance. Culver City Senior Center, 4095 Overland. Culver City. 7:00 pm. Recorded music. Members \$10, Non-members \$12.

May

24 Costa Mesa Games Dance. Columbus Tustin Activity Center Gym. 6:30 pm. Members \$12, Non-members \$14.

June

28 AGM. Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. Potluck dinner: 5:00 pm, AGM Meeting: 6:00 pm. dance: 7:00 pm. Recorded music. Members \$10, Non-members \$12.

July

26 Summer Dance. To be announced.

August

23 Summer Dance. Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. 7:00 pm. Recorded music. Members \$10, Non-members \$12.



**DEADLINE FOR
THE JUNE GHILLIE
CALLUM
APRIL 21, 2008**

OTHER EVENTS

**OC = Orange County Branch;
SD = San Diego;
SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.
2008**

March

29 SD Workshop.

May

3 OC Anniversary Ball. Women's Club of Orange. Music: Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith.

September

12-14 34th Fort Worden Weekend, Pacific Northwest. Teachers: Eric Finley, Ayrshire, Scotland: Ruth Jappy, British Columbia, Canada: Marjorie McLaughlin, California, USA: Geoffrey Selling, Pennsylvania, USA. Musicians: Brian Crisafulli, Washington, USA: Ralph Gordon, Massachusetts, USA: Deby Benton Grosjean, California, USA: Muriel Johnstone, British Columbia, Canada: Calum Mackinnon, Washington, USA. Contact: Irene Paterson: SDMC.1@comca

2010

**July 28-August 1
Int'l SCD School.**

Windsor, Nova Scotia

Music Class: Keith Smith (Cambridge, UK).
Music: Hood, Wink and Swagger (CA, USA).
The Macadians (NS, Canada)

Teachers: Steve Wyrick (CA, USA), Duncan Keppie (NS, Canada), Elma Grech (ON, Canada) and Helen Murray (NS, Canada)

Registration - January of 2009

Website available now:

<http://www.rscdsnovascotia.ca/ISCDS2010/ISCDS10.html>

Lydia Hedge

lydiahedge@accesswave.ca

Notes from the Chair Lady,

It's hard to believe that we are already three-fourths of the way through this 2007-2008 dance year. We have celebrated New Year's with another successful Hogmanay at the El Segundo Woman's Club, thanks to Bill and Nancy Hartung, who have been responsible for at least the last four such celebrations. Thank you from all of us! And, we certainly enjoyed a very stylish Burns Ball at Ports O'Call thanks to all three branches' efforts, but with a special vote of thanks to Anthea Macdonald, who coordinated this outstanding event. And, did you all enjoy our fun and friendly dinner and dance in Long Beach following the Queen Mary Event, another three-branch effort?

Speaking of people to thank, we send our thanks across the ocean to Anne Grant and Kathleen Thomas who willingly (and without compensation) represented us at the Society AGM in Scotland last November. We were fortunate to have a voice in this affair. One of the items brought up at the AGM and confirmed in further mailings from Headquarters (referred to as "HQ" in the rest of this article) is that our member fees to Scotland will be going up by five pounds per member (approximately equivalent to \$10) for the 2008-2009 dance year. Apparently, HQ has been charging us ten pounds while their actual operating costs per member are about 17.85 pounds. I think we can all see there had to be an increase in fees. As a branch we will be looking at our own budget, factoring in this increase from HQ, and trying to come up with a reasonable adjustment in our L.A. membership fees.

You may ask, what are the benefits of membership anyway? At the international level, we benefit from the many resources we have access to. Check out the website "www.rscds.org" and take a look at the information and help available. We receive regular mailings from HQ with information about summer school, winter school, Dance Scottish Week, Spring Fling, as well as information on dancing proficiency and the new dance booklets each year. We each (hopefully!) receive our own copy of the Scottish Dancer magazine several times a year, as another perk of membership. Maybe one of the most exciting benefits for most dancers is the ability to locate Scottish dancing literally anywhere in the world (see our new feature "Where in the World Have You Danced?"). Having a central organization ensures that wherever you travel in the world, you can "waltz" in and do a dance because we all learn the dance from the same cues (and often to the same music!). As for the benefits of local membership, you can add in the dancing insurance we purchase for each member, as well as this newsletter, fliers, and the organization of all monthly and special events at the local level.

As we look forward to our March and April monthly dances, the Costa Mesa Games and Dance in May, and our own AGM in June, enjoy yourselves! By the way, don't miss the AGM this year as we are planning a special and very secret feature for the event (board members keep your lips sealed....). Speaking of the AGM, if you have ideas to share and time to attend bi-monthly board meetings, please seriously consider a job on our board. If you are interested, let me or Frank Ibbott, chair of the nominating committee, know that you are available. (Don't make us beg, now, or try to read your mind, which is even harder...)

On a light note, I received a very "fun" Christmas gift from a cousin; a square foot of land in the Glencoe Estate in Scotland, which, according to my fancy certificate, entitles me to use the moniker "Lady".

Therefore, I am your humble....

Lady Chair Lady Doris of Glencoe Estates





April 26, 2008, Monthly Dance
Culver City Senior Center
4095 Overland, Culver City
7:00 P.M.

Auld Gray Cat	R B	Let's All Dance
Quarries' Jig	J I	Book 36
Bridge at Ballachullish	S A	Bridge of Earn
Captain White	J B	MMM I
Arthur's Seat	R I	18th Century
The Duoro Sixsome Jig	J I	Peterborough 2000
Jimmy's Fancy	S B	Book 14
Starlight	R A	Book 44
The Silver Strathspey	S I	Book 44
A Trip to the Drakensberg	J I	Book 38
The Sailor	R B	Book 24
It's About Time	S I	TAC Leaflet
Fifty Years On	J A	Book 43
Ferla Mor	R I	Deeside Book 1
The Cabrach	M B	Goldring
Collichur	J B	Book 30
Swiss Lassie	R I	Book 39



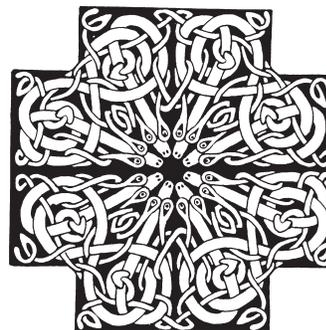
June 28, 2008, AGM Dance
Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center
5040 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks.
Potluck at 5:00 P.M. Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Dance at 7:00 P.M.

Miss Welsh's Reel	J B	Graded Book
Ferla Mor	R I	Deeside Book 1
Bonnie Ina Campbell	S A	Book 37
The Rover's Rant	J I	Goldring 12 More
Bonnie Charlie	R B	Let's All Dance
Captain White	J B	MMM I
The Corian Strathspey	S A	Book 43
Whigmaleeries	R I	Imperial Book
Lady Lucy Ramsay	S B	MMM II
The Duoro Sixsome Jig	J I	Peterborough 2000
Starlight	R A	Book 44
Casting Glances	S I	Solstice Party Bk
Lady In Red	J A	Ruby Anniversary
Lady Glasgow	S B	MMM I
A Trip to Bavaria	R I	Collins SCD Book
Follow Me Home	J I	Book 38
Catch The Wind	R B	Book 45



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

The end of 2007 saw the passing of another former member of the Los Angeles Branch. Miss Joan Hopgood died peacefully in her sleep on December 30. She was a member for many years attending the Manhattan Beach class and also the Santa Monica College class. Her love of dance started in England where, as a young girl, she attended the Royal Academy of Ballet. When she retired from UCLA she returned to England but missed the warm climate of Southern California and returned a year later. She danced again till she was in her seventies. In 2006 when her health deteriorated, Joan lived at Vista Del Sol Nursing Home in Mar Vista. She celebrated her 86th birthday there on July 29, 2007 in grand style, thanks to several members of the branch who danced for her and attended her birthday party. She was absolutely thrilled and thoroughly enjoyed the day. It was her best day of 2007 – all thanks to R.S.C.D.S. Lorna Edmond was Joan's conservator and did a grand job of making sure all Joan's needs were met – including organizing the party. The friends Joan met through Scottish dancing became her family – isn't it wonderful to be part of such an organization!





NEWS FROM THE NORTH - BURNS EVENT!

Former L.A. Branch members Leone and Robert Burger were the organizers of a dinner/dance event honoring Robert Burns on Saturday night, January 19th, in Eugene, OR. This was the first party event for their dance class, and was generously supported by dancers from the Corvallis area, as well as two dancers from Vancouver, WA. There were three sets on the floor for MacDonald of the Isles! Lively music was provided by a local fiddler, Linda Danielson.

Leone and Robert have been living in Veneta, OR, 10 miles west of Eugene, for the past year. They have attended Fort Worden and danced at the High Desert Ball in Bend, OR. Their class meets on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Peace Presbyterian Church, 3060 River Road, in Eugene. If you are traveling to the area, they would be delighted to have you come and dance with them. They can be reached at 541-935-6051, or by e-mail at leonerobert@hotmail.com.

Leone and Robert Burger

THE EXPERT

Another Pat Batt Poem

One evening at a 'Cheese & Wine'
I met - oh, quite by chance
A fellow who made rude remarks
About our Scottish Dance.

"I cannot understand" he said
"Just how you people feel,
Who use up all your energy
On Strathspey, Jig and Reel.

"You could be leaning on a bar
Engaged in merry chat,
Or learning motor maintenance
And useful things like that.

"You stand round holding little books,
All full of funny lines --
It's certainly not shorthand --
More like Masonic signs.

"And when you've worked the symbols
out
And know just where to look,
You find the very dance you want
Is nowhere in the book.

"You stand in rows, and point your
toes
You cast and set and turn --
I don't know why you work so hard -
There isn't much to learn"

At that I lost my temper,
"Well why not take a chance -
Just come along to classes,
We'll see if you can dance'

Imagine our amazement
When he turned up one day,
Imagine our annoyance when
He got it right away !

He picked up things so quickly -
Once told he ne'er forgot,
He mastered chain progression,
Espagnole and the Knot.

His phrasing was impeccable --
He never missed a beat --
And though he took size thirteen
shoes,

His footwork was so neat !
He went to classes twice a week,
And practised every day.
His setting was a joy to watch
And so was his strathspey.

He soon became an addict
And realised his dream
By being made a member
Of the Demonstration Team !

And so we all forgave him
For being such a blight,
And he admitted freely
He'd been wrong and we'd been
right.

And he thanked us very nicely
For giving him the chance
To have good friends and music,
And the joy of Scottish dance.

Ever wonder what the title of our newsletter, Ghillie Callum, means?

(Well, Eric and Doris Fisher did! And they thought it would be a good article for the newsletter! Mary Brandon remembers that C. Stewart Smith suggested this name for the newsletter when it first started.)

Gille Callum (aka the Sword Dance)*

The Sword Dance that is performed at SOBHD competitions around the world is also known by its tune, Gille Callum (or other English spellings of the original Gaelic). It consists of at least two (and as many as four) slow steps, followed by one or two quicker steps, all danced around and over two crossed swords laid upon the ground.

There is much speculation and controversy about the age and origins of the dance. Certainly, dancing with swords or dirks was an ancient tradition of the Highlanders, and some believe that this dance represents a jubilant warrior dancing with his own sword and that of his vanquished foe. Some authors (cf. MacLennan) claim that the dance originated with Malcolm Canmore celebrating in the above manner after defeating one of MacBeath's chiefs in 1054. However, while Malcolm's skill as a swordsman is documented, there is little evidence that he ever danced over crossed swords. Nevertheless, it is thought that at least the tune refers to Malcolm; some of the words of a Gaelic song that uses the tune seem to ridicule the king for introducing a contemptibly small coin, the "bodle," that was worth two pennies.

The tune was used for country dances in the middle of the 18th C (cf. Bremner), and Elizabeth Grant mentions doing a presumably well-known solo dance, Gille Callum, as a young girl in 1804 (although it is not clear that it was a sword dance). However, throughout the 19th C, there are numerous references and clear descriptions of Gille Callum as a solo dance over crossed swords, including competition programmes, paintings, and even the journals of Queen Victoria!

*From the website of Robert and Barbara McOwen, under Programs then Highland Dance Boston!



March 2008

NEW MEMBERS

The Branch is pleased to welcome the following new members: Judy & Thomas King; Angie Outmesguine, and Michael McIntosh.

We hope you will enjoy dancing with us.

Melinda & Frank

Anselm Lingnau, Frankfurt, Germany
..... anselm@strathspey.org
You can create a good impression on yourself by being right, [...] but for creating a good impression on others there's nothing to beat being totally and catastrophically wrong.

-- Michael Frayn

Lisa and Emma Sage from the Ventura Class.
Photo sent by Lillian Goldstein.

CLASS REPORTS

SANTA BARBARA



From Left: Deedy King, Ilse Gilbert, Sarah Stelck, John Gilbert, Susan McNeill, Eileen Gray, Robert Winokur, Gary Shapiro.

The Santa Barbara class has been meeting approximately twice a month on Thursdays at Serra Hall for the last few years. Several members are required to travel as part of their jobs and this wreaks havoc with regular scheduling.

However, we have managed on two occasions to rehearse our group sufficiently to go and entertain at Santa Barbara Scottish Society functions, most recently their Burns Supper.

You may recall that the date occurred while the area was having severe rain and thunderstorms. During the group's performance at the Burns Supper, a "lightning bolt" reset the music back to the beginning so that it had to be re-cued. It was already a successful event but this made it memorable as well.

Frsn  Ibbott

VALLEY COLLEGE

Deborah Ash: "I went up to a very, very small town (permanent population - 32!) called Sheep Ranch up in Calaveras County (Gold Country) where I'd been invited to a New Year's Eve party. My friend, who lives up there, is part owner of the historic Pioneer Hotel, built in the late 1800's by William Randolph Hearst's grandfather to house the miners who worked his gold mine.

The hotel has 17 rooms, three communal bathrooms, a kitchen and dining room with long, com-

munal tables, a bar and a "great room" with a wood-burning stove. There were about 35 people who stayed there and we had a blast.

"I ended up staying an extra five days with two of my friends and we explored the quaint, nearest town of Murphys, went wine-tasting and hung out while it poured rain and snowed."

Steve Kaplan and Kathrin Segal headed off to Kauai the week before Christmas, their second trip to this most beautiful island in Hawaii. They stayed at a condo in Poipu near the beach and did a lot of snorkeling, lying about and staring at the water with glass of wine or umbrella drink in hand. It was just the rest they needed (especially Steve) and a flawless trip. Steve is in the final year of his masters program at CSUN. When he finishes, he'll be able to get to Monday classes more regularly, and will of course be much smarter.

Aase Hansen's daughter, Lisbeth Hencke, arrived from Florida in time for Christmas, while Lisbeth's husband, Rick, Pat Ziegler's son, came from Virginia. All their belongings were moved into storage in January. For five months they will be traveling while Rick takes courses in preparation for his next assignment in Corpus Christi, Texas, which starts in June. Christmas went too fast, and it could be a year before they are back.

Robyn MacGarva George had her kids home with boyfriends/girlfriends for the holidays, which was really fun. She's been flying a lot and plans to visit daughter, Jess, in Vancouver for a few days at the end of the month.

Sue Higgins insists that nothing exciting is going on in her life, and I should just make something up. So: Sue won the lottery and the Nobel Prize.

Kathrin King Segal

SIMI VALLEY

The Simi Valley class has been active for all of 2007, even though your humble correspondent was not present. The class even functioned well without him. But now he's baaaaaack. Mary Lund is on hiatus, so Frank Ibbott is taking over the teaching. We have six returning dancers and hope for more. We're working on dances for the Burns Ball. Hope to see y'all at the dances.

Don Cutler

NORTHRIDGE

Between Christmas and Hogmany, Deanna hosted a delightful party for the Northridge class. Good food and visiting time were enjoyed by all, flavored by an occasional challenge at the pool table.

Congratulations are in order for Linda McWade's daughter, who has received her masters degree in Public Health. She looks forward to earning her doctoral degree and going on to a career in epidemiology.

Family was an important part of holiday festivities for Audrey Prest, who braved the Iowa winter to visit her daughter and son-in-law and two grandchildren in Des Moines. The trip was a definite success and the weather behaved well..... on travel days anyway.

Claudia Pedersen's son and his wife came up from San Diego to spend a week and show off their six-week-old daughter to friends and family. Needless to say, she was definitely the star of the show.

Paul and Libby Hollombe greatly enjoyed snorkeling while on their cruise to the Caribbean in early December and the highlight of their season was the arrival of family members for the wedding of their niece, which was celebrated on December 30th.

Our class is already enjoying the 2008 New Year and we look forward to the many RSCDS activities planned for the months ahead.

Claudia Pedersen



SORRY TO BE LATE!

Gremelins in my computer and in the Internet undermined my usual deadline of the Ghillie Callum being delivered by the first of the month. Sorry about that!

The editor,
Carol McOwen

TEACHER'S COMMITTEE

So far this branch year, we have had two meetings and two workshops. The meetings have dealt with updates on classes and selections of MCs (briefers) for the dances. For our local dances we have three different teachers each taking a section, but for events where three branches are involved, a teacher from each branch takes a section.

You may run into somewhat similar dance programs during the winter. That is because we need the support of our neighboring branches to make a ball successful, so we pick a dance program that we hope the dancers from other branches might know.

In case of dances where all three branches are hosting the event, we make an effort to include the same number of dances from the list of dances for the year of each branch. The overlap is somewhat limited, which is why you see some dances so often, but also at times run into a dance you have never heard of before.

This juggling act takes a lot of time/effort to coordinate, but hopefully you will find that we, the teachers from all three branches, have been successful and that you have enjoyed the dances.

To be able to fill the halls with dancers, we of course need to have the dancers. Getting a new dancer to the stage where they can come to a ball takes time. The beginning to it is in a basic class. We have a number of classes that take beginners. If your time allows it, please do go to these basic classes and lend a helping hand to new dancers. The class moves on so much faster when there are intermediate or advanced dancers there to help out.

Also, on March 16, we will have a workshop where we will try out new dances to put on next year's program. If you are an intermediate dancer, please join us for an afternoon of dancing. It will be held at Stoner Park in West L.A. from 1 to 4:30 pm. Please send me a note if you plan to attend: aasehansen@aol.com.

Aase Hansen



WHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE YOU DANCED?

We are introducing a new feature in the GC with this issue. The idea is to see where in the world our Scottish dancing hobby has taken us. We asked Ray Tuckerto be first and share his dancing destinations with us. Here's his quite respectable list. Can you top this?

Ray has attended classes and workshops in the following locations:
California: Arcata, Asilomar (Monterey), Sacramento, Stockton
Florida: Dunedin, Gainesville, Orlando
Illinois: Batavia
Maryland: Bethesda, Greenbelt
New York: Rochester
Ohio: Dayton
Texas: Austin, Grand Prairie
Virginia: Alexandria
Rhode Island: Providence



CORRECTIONS TO THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

In the latest version of the Membership Directory, some email addresses have errors, were omitted, or have changed recently. Here is a list of corrections that have come to my attention. I apologize for any inconvenience.

Frank.

Marta Freixas - mfreixas@roadrunner.com
Madeleine & Sandy Waddell - sandy50m@aol.com
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