

the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 40 Number 3

March 2009

Robert Burns — so much a part of our lives!

We learn a little more about Robert Burns every time we celebrate his life and work, and this year it was the discovery of just how much Scotland's favorite poet has a place in our lives today, 250 years after his birth.

In the Immortal Memory that Jim Bell gave at the Burns Supper, he cited portions of Burns' poems to illustrate how many ways we relate to the heartfelt and simple words written so long ago. Jim reminded us that when "Auld Lang Syne" rings out around the world, whenever a love is compared to a red rose, whenever a man dares to consider himself the equal of self-appointed masters, Robert Burns is there.



In support of that, two of our musicians for the evening, Colyn Fischer and Shauna Pickett-Gordon, played a selection of familiar Burns tunes following Jim's talk. Around me, I could hear comments of surprise like, "I didn't know Burns wrote that!"

The Burns Supper & Ball was a combined effort with the Orange County Branch at a location new to all of us, the Hacienda Heights Woman's Club. It has a wonderful wood floor and a cozy atmosphere, very cozy with 80 dancers on the floor.

Norm McCallum recited the Address to the Haggis with dramatic flair. The haggis, prepared by Jon Reeves, ceremoniously arrived to the accompaniment of piper John Cahill and drummer Bill Hartung, with Christine Grobler as Poesie Nancy and Ray Tucker and Frank Ibbott as the sword-carrying henchmen.

The Selkirk Grace was recited by Frank Searle, who noted that, at four lines, it may be Burns' shortest work.

Chuck Olsen led the toast to the lassies, sharing such sentiments as "they improve with time, while we do not." (We lassies do so enjoy hearing compliments and seeing dozens of men in kilts raising a glass in our honor!) Ann McBride gave the reply, a rhyme she composed as an "ode to the laddies who dance" and how much we appreciate them. Leading the traditional singing of "The Star o' Rabbie Burns" were Bill Hartung, Tony McQuilkin,

Eric Fisher and Norm McCallum, accompanied by Shauna Pickett-Gordon on piano. Many special little touches added to the evening — such as the clever labels on the wine bottles on each table. They said: "A Product of the Burns Family Farm, Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland. Bottled by the Mice of the Purple Foot."

Due to the restrictions on sound in the hall's residential neighborhood, festivities started early, with a wine and cheese reception at 4. We danced the complete 16-dance program and still squeezed in "Auld Lang Syne" by 9 the p.m. deadline. We then had time to enjoy dessert before packing up and leaving by 10.

A hearty thank you goes to branch chairs Doris Fisher and Jan Lauer and all their helpers for creating such a wonderful evening.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES

2009

March

28 Beginner Dance. Torrance Cultural Arts Center. Music: recorded. 7 p.m. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

April

25 Monthly Dance. Culver City Senior Center. 4095 Overland Ave., Culver City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

May

23 Costa Mesa Games Dance. 7 p.m. Music recorded. Members: \$10, non-members: \$15.

June

27 AGM VN/SO Senior Center. Potluck dinner: 5 p.m. Dance: 7 p.m. Music: recorded. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

July

25 Summer Dance. Culver City Senior Center. 4095 Overland Ave., Culver City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

August

21-23 Mount Baldy Harwood Lodge Workshop & Dance. Sierra Club's historic Harwood Lodge, Mount Baldy. Cost: \$ 90 per person.

September

26 Interbranch Dance. Tustin. San Diego hosts.

OTHER EVENTS

OC = Orange County Branch;
SD = San Diego;
SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.
2009

March

21 SGV Spring Day School Caltech's Dabney Lounge, Pasadena. Terry Harvey workshop for teachers & candidates. 10 a.m. - noon, \$10. Workshop for dancers: 1 - 4 p.m. Ball review: 4:15 p.m., dinner: 6:30 p.m., ball 7:30 p.m., \$35. Contact: Robb volleyballjerry@aol.com .

22

English/Scottish Dance Event. Lindberg Park, Culver City. 4 p.m. English Country Dancing. 6:00 p.m. Potluck dinner: 7 p.m. Scottish Country Dancing. Musicians: Earl Gaddis, Liz Donaldson & Elke Baker. Members & non-members \$10.

July

19 – August 16. R.S.C.D.S. Summer School. St. Andrews, Scotland. Registration forms at www.rscds.org .

26 – August 2. T.A.C. Summer School. Shawnigan Lake School, Shawnigan Lake, BC, Canada. Registration forms at www.tac-rscds.org. Click on "Summer School".

2010

July

28-Aug 1 Nova Scotia School. Windsor, Nova Scotia, (NS of Halifax), Canada. Flyers and registration forms: <http://www.rscdsnovascotia.ca/ISCDS2010/ISCDS10.html>

A very special opportunity: a musicians' class with Keith Smith.



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR LADY.....

Time flies when you are having fun! Particularly, when you are dancing, it seems! We are already three-fourths of the way through our dance year, and before you know it, it will be time for another AGM and a golden opportunity for you to serve the branch. So, if Nominating Chairman Frank Ibbott calls you, please carefully consider his request and say, "Yes! I'd love to be on the board!"

Wasn't the Burns event grand? It was great to share the work and planning with our good friends in Orange County; it definitely was half the work and twice the fun! The Queen Mary event was another example of cooperation among three branches (LA, OC & SGV) that demonstrates how great it is to share the load and expand the dancing opportunities. (F.Y.I. to our newer members, we only refer to events as "Interbranch" events when they involve all four Southern California branches.)

Here are several new & unique opportunities that you will want to mark on your calendar:

1) On March 22nd we have been invited to be the guests of the English Country Dance Society at their monthly dance in Culver City at Lindberg Park. This Sunday afternoon event will begin at 4 pm with two hours of instruction in English country dance, which we are invited to try, followed by a potluck (please bring a salad or dessert; main dish is provided). The last hour from 7-8 pm will be our turn to introduce the English dancers to some basic Scottish dances. This event will feature the live music of Earl Gaddis, Liz Donaldson and Elke Baker, and you get all this for only \$10. What a great way to spend your Sunday afternoon and evening!

2) You will also want to mark your calendars for August 21-23, when we have reserved the Sierra Club's historic Harwood Lodge in Mount Baldy for a casual slumber party/dance weekend. You can spend your time going on hikes, riding your mountain bike, playing card games or reading a book. LA teachers will hold a workshop teaching new, fun dances, and there will be informal dancing on Friday and Saturday nights. This event runs from Friday evening to Sunday morning and includes your meals and accommodations in dormitory-style quarters. The cost will be about \$90 for the entire weekend. You will provide your own transportation. This event will be limited to 40 people. If you would like to reserve a spot ahead of time, just send me an email. (doris.fisher@gmail.com)

3) The Catalina Island Workshop and Ball is returning in May 2010. You will shortly be receiving preliminary information about this and a chance to reserve a spot. This is a wonderful opportunity to get away from it all for a few days and enjoy the unique beauty and appeal of the island. How does that song go? "Twenty-six miles across the sea, Santa Catalina is awaitin' for me..."

Happy Dancing!

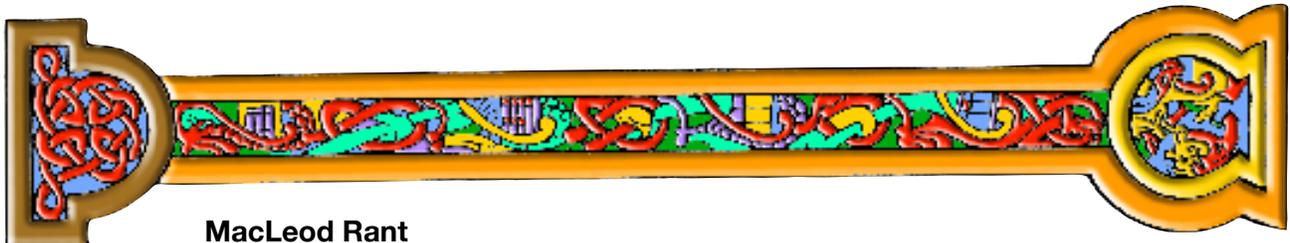
Doris Fisher, Chair Lady



April 25, 2009
Monthly Dance
Culver City Senior Center.
4095 Overland, Culver City.
7 p.m.
Music: recorded

June 27, 2009
AGM
Sherman Oaks/Van Nuys Senior Center
5040 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks
Potluck: 5 pm. Music: recorded.
Members \$10, non-members \$15.

Collichur	J B	Book 30	Joie de Vivre	J E	Book 39
The Chairman	R E	Dunedin Book 4	Clydeside Lassies	R B	MMM I
The Cashmere Shawl	S E	Strathtay Album	The Cashmere Shawl	S E	Strathtay Album
Quarries' Jig	J E	Book 36	La Flora	J B	Book 27
Glasgow Lassies	S B	Book 34	Casting Glances	S E	Solstice Party Bk
The Earl of Mansfield	R E	RSCDS Leaflet	The Earl of Mansfield	R E	RSCDS Leaflet
The Douro Sixsome Jig	J E	Peterborough 2000	Good Hearted Glasgow	J B	Collins SCD Book
Lady Dumfries	R B	MMM I	Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloch	R E	RSCDS Leaflet
Bonnie Ina Campbell	S E	Book 37	Balmoral Strathspey	S B	Book 22
La Flora	J B	Book 27	Maitland to Manchester	J E	Wallace/Thomas
Preston Mill	R E	Book 45	Arthur's Seat	R E	18th Century
Follow Me Home	J E	Book 38	Farewell to Auchterarder	J E	Hamilton
The Cabrach	M B	Goldring	Glasgow Lassies	S B	Book 34
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloch	R E	RSCDS Leaflet	The Music Makars	R E	Book 33
It's About Time	S E	TAC Leaflet	Blackadder House	S E	Blackadder Collec.
Catch The Wind	R B	Book 45	Follow Me Home	J E	Book 38
Pete & Marilyn's Welcome Home	J E	Delaware Valley	Catch The Wind	R B	Book 45



MacLeod Rant
June 6, 2009
South Pasadena War Memorial
Musicians:
Susan Worland and Lisa Scott

2009 MacLeod Rant

I'm very happy to announce that the MacLeod Rant is back on the calendar for 2009.

Kendall's Hornpipe	J B	Graded Book
Angus MacLeod	R A	Queen
Byron Strathspey	S I	Drewry
Farewell to Auchterarder	J I/A	B. Hamilton
Reel of the 51st	R B	Book 13
MacLeod's Fancy	J I/A	Book 33
Lady Lucy Ramsay	S B	MMM II
Polharrow Burn	R I/A	Foss
Dream Catcher	S I/A	Book 45
Skye Light	R A	Metcalf
Machine Without Horses	J B	Book 12
MacDonald of the Isles	S I	Foss
Flowers of Edinburgh	R B	Book 1
Staffin Harvest	S I	Four for 1978
Peat Fire Flame	R A	Drewry
Bees of Maggieknockater	J I	Drewry
Mairi's Wedding	R I	Cosh

As you may recall, we had to cancel last year's event when the Beverly Hills Woman's Club informed us that they would no longer rent to outside groups. This year's event will be held at the South Pasadena War Memorial. The date is Saturday, June 6, and our musicians for this year will be Lisa Scott on piano and Susan Worland on fiddle. As of the date this article was written, the price and hours had not yet been determined. We will have that information for you by the time our flyers are ready for distribution.

We hope that you will save the date and join all of us on the Clan MacLeod team for a special night of music and dance featuring many of your favorite MacLeod dances.

Deanna St.Amand



CHRIS BROOKS HOSTS A TEA PARTY

Left to right: (above) Chris Brooks, Valerie Rodgers , Rosemary Abend, Susie Tucker, Ray Tucker, Bob Brooks, Nan Werner, Wilma Fee and Denis Rodgers



CLASS REPORTS

MANHATTAN BEACH

SIMI VALLEY

The Simi Valley class has its faithful and active core to give us, usually, a complete set. No new members signed up this new term. Alas. We have been represented at the Burns Supper and Hogmanay dances, as well as the beginner dances -- mostly at Van Nuys. We meet Mondays at the recreation center at Stearns and Los Angeles Avenues.

Don Cutler, aka fairdonald



Above: the tour gang

LONG BEACH

The Long Beach class is off and running (or should it be dancing?) for the new year. This enthusiastic group is a blend of beginning and experienced dancers who pool their talents and abilities, learning new dances and reviewing others for upcoming events. Newly certificated (summer 2008) teacher Roberta Gotfried challenges us and leads us to new and better goals.

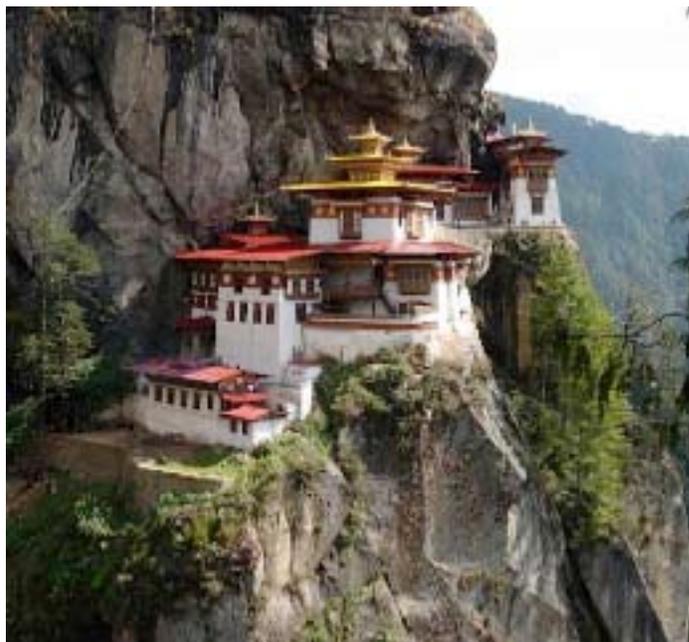
Our resident piper John Cahill and his wife Mary continue to attend as he “works” at various events, including the two Robert Burns celebrations in January. Jim Bell presented the Immortal Memory at the LA-OC Burns Supper and Ball. Several classmates also attended, lending their support and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Talk about enjoyment! While in London recently, Roberta participated in a Burns Supper at the House of Lords.

Deanna is our newest member this term. We welcome her and wish her well in all her dancing ventures. While Sharlene, Caroline, and Karen continue to hone their skills, a handful of experienced dancers—Norman, Carolyn, Roz & Gil, Jim, John & Mary—provides their support weekly, and we are grateful for this involvement and expertise. If you are in the Long Beach area on Saturdays, come join us for fun and fellowship.

Karen Kerman

Chris and Bob Brooks continued their love affair with South-East Asia with a trip to Nepal, India, and Bhutan.

Below: “The Tiger Nests”



Bob and Chris were in Delhi airport when the explosions took place in Mumbai, India.

Leslie Evans visited Nicaragua with a group of USC students. The purpose of the trip was to study women’s issues and immigration.

Wilma Fee spent Thanksgiving and Christmas in Toronto visiting with her sisters. New Year’s Eve was spent dancing to the music of Bobby Brown and his band.

Special thanks is due

Carol Johnson celebrated with her sisters a significant birthday as well as Christmas in Spokane. Carol was caught up in the ice and snow storms affecting the Northwest. Her flight was postponed due to the weather, and the principal form of transportation was by foot.

After 38 years, Wilma Fee has retired from Mattel. So, all your toy inquiries need to be addressed to Val Rodgers, who just came off jury duty.

Irv Cohen continues to square dance two times a week. He discovered that the average age of square dancers is higher (by 10 to 15 years) than that of Scottish country dancers.

Chris Brooks hosted a tea party for members of the class. A "tea lady" provided the food; and, like a Tupperware lady, she sold tea to the attendees. (See photos, page 5).

Rosemary Abend has finally returned to dancing. She found being away from our favorite hobby for three months makes even the good foot weaken. (Use it or lose it!)

Finally, we were all surprised when Bonnie Waters dropped by class at the end of January. Just paying a social visit this time, Bonnie hopes to get back to danc-

....to Bill & Nancy Hartung for organizing the Hogmanay event, along with Ray and Susie Tucker for decorations, Russell Ham for liquid refreshments, and Aase Hansen for bringing her TV, and to all of you for your contributions to the dessert table!

....to everyone who helped make the joint Burns Supper event a success! From the LA side, thanks to Aase Hansen for planning the details of the Burn's traditions; to Jon Reeves for the haggis; to Linda McWade for delivering most of the food from Stonefire Grill (and getting us a good deal, too!). Also to all who agreed to parts in the program and to our great kitchen helpers! (Too many to list, but you know who you are.) You are all wonderful to work with!

...to Frank Ibbott for flyers, programs, cue books, etc., etc. for all of the above events as well as our monthly dances. Frank is indeed a treasure!

...to Ray Tucker for all his hard work on the name badges. It is great to see people wearing them at events. (One hint from Chris Brooks - she keeps her name badge in her dancing shoes, so it is always handy.)

Doris Fisher

Hello Fellow Dancers,
This is your advance notice that plans are underway

for another
**Catalina Island Weekend
Workshop & Ball in 2010.**

(exact dates will be April 30-May 2, 2010).

The cost will be very similar to 2007 - approximately \$390 per person for the weekend, including accommodations at the Catalina Canyon Hotel, meals, and a ball in the historic Casino Ballroom. (Payments can be made in 3 installments over a nine-month period starting in May 2009.)

In order to help us plan, we need to know if you interested in attending. If you ARE LIKELY to attend, please RSVP with a "YES", and you will be placed on the Catalina email list and will receive notice at the first opportunity to register.

Please RSVP, ASAP.

Thanks!
Doris Fisher
Organizer, Catalina Workshop





NEW MEMBERS.

The Branch is pleased to welcome the following new members: Mary McIntyre, Alison McAlpine, Debra Bain, Michael, Kristine & Marisa McGinnis, Theresa Lawler, Susan and Biff Copeland, Leslie Evans, Zaki & Ann Salahuddin. We hope you enjoy dancing with us.

Melinda & Frank

Irene laughed, "Oh, my goodness no, Bertie! Scottish Country Dancing is not like that at all. It's an expression of bourgeois obsession with time and order. That's what's going on there. Look at it! Absurd!"

-- Alexander McCall Smith, "Love Over Scotland."

(A quote by Anselm Lingham, Friedberg, Germany from the Strathspey List.)



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**DEADLINE FOR
THE JUNE
GHILLIE CALLUM
APRIL 20, 2009**

