

the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 41 Number 3

Burns Supper and Ball 2010

March 2010



Ann McBride

We sang and we danced; we feasted and we toasted; we kept all those favorite traditions of honoring Scotland's favorite poet, Robert Burns, at this year's Burns Supper and Ball. Hosted with the Orange County Branch, the gala evening was held Jan. 23 in O'Donnell Hall of the American Martyrs Church in Manhattan Beach.

It was a wonderful evening of dancing to lively music by Calum McKinnon on fiddle and Lisa Scott on piano. With no curfew to worry about, we were able to enjoy the entire 18-dance program, which lasted until nearly midnight. A late night (and, for some, a

few aches the next day), but so worth it!

Ann McBride's Immortal Memory of Robert Burns was an interesting and instructive review of what else was happening during the years Burns was writing his songs and poems, from world news to British politics to the classical composers of his era. It helped put his life and work into perspective for us.



Ray Tucker

Ray Tucker gave the Toast to the Lassies, with many Burns lines noting women's attributes from fragile to strong and determined. Wilma Fee's Toast to the Laddies was a clever rejoinder with humorous reminders of the other, less flattering meanings of the words Ray had intended with such kindness.

With a nod to Burns' "O my luvie is like a red, red rose," the beautiful and spacious hall was decorated by Linda Boucher in black, white and red ribbons and twinkle lights, plus red roses printed in various sizes mixed with silhouettes of dancers on the walls. Line Anderson arranged vases of red roses for each of the 12 dinner tables set for more than 100 dancers and their guests.



Jim Bell with help from John Zeigler, Bill Hartung and Terri Speakman.

Norm McCallum took the stage to sing all the verses of “A Red, Red Rose” and lead us in “The Star o’ Rabbie Burns.” And before dinner, Frank Ibbott recited the Selkirk Grace.

Jim Bell gave the Address to the Haggis, comfortably speaking the old Scots dialect as if those unfamiliar words were everyday conversation. The haggis — possibly the tastiest Jon Reeves has ever cooked for us — was piped in by John Cahill, accompanied by Terri Speakman as Poosie Nancy and Bill Hartung, Chuck Olsen and John Ziegler as the Henchmen.

In addition to celebrating Robert Burns’ 251st birthday, we also sang and celebrated the 95th birthday of longtime member Forrest MacDonald, plus acknowledging the birthdays that week of other members Gil Gotfried and Pete Kier, our reliable sound technician.



Wilma Fee

Chair of the evening was Jan Lauer; her committee included Bill Hartung, Janet Olsen, Deanna St. Amand, Shirley Saturensky, Dianne Wilson and John Ziegler. Sandy Waddell handled reservations, and Wilma Fee was liaison with the hall.

Grand marshals were Bob Harmon and Aase Hansen. Emcees were Deanna St. Amand, Roberta Gotfried and Shirley Saturensky.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this such a fabulous event!

Audrey Ramsay Prest



Norm McCallum



CATALINA ISLAND WORKSHOP & BALL.....LAST CHANCE!

Did you think you had missed the boat on the Catalina Island Workshop & Ball? Never fear....there are still a few openings to be had, if you act quickly! Go to the website and download the registration form at www.rscds-interbranch.org or call Doris Fisher at 310.782.8300. If you call by March 31st we can still fit you in. This event, which takes place from April 30-May 2, 2010, may not be repeated in the near future, so don't miss out!

**DEADLINE FOR
THE JUNE
GHILLIE CALLUM
APRIL 19, 2010**



LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES 2010

MARCH

27 Beginner Dance. Torrance Cultural Arts Center. Torrance Blvd. at Madrona. 7:00 p.m. Recorded music. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

APRIL

24 Monthly Dance. Culver City Senior Center, 4095 Overland, Culver City. 7:00 p.m. Recorded music. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

MAY

29 Costa Mesa Games Dance

JUNE

26 AGM. Van Nuys Sherman Oaks. Senior Center. 5040 Van Nuys Blvd. Sherman Oaks. 7:00 p.m. Recorded music. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

JULY

24 Summer Dance. Culver City Senior Center. 4095 Overland, Culver City. 7:00 p.m. Recorded music. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

AUGUST

27-29 Harwood Lodge Weekend. Mt. Baldy. Call Doris Fisher at 310.782.8300.

28 Summer Dance. Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Senior Center. 5040 Van Nuys Blvd. Sherman Oaks. 7:00 p.m. Recorded music. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

SEPTEMBER

25 Interbranch Dance. Tustin Area Senior Center.

OCTOBER

23 Beginner Dance. Van Nuys Sherman Oaks. Senior Center. 5040 Van Nuys Blvd. Sherman Oaks. 7:00 p.m. Recorded music. Members \$10, non-members \$15.

NOVEMBER

27 St. Andrews Ball. South Bay Masonic Center.

DECEMBER

31 Hogmanay. El Segundo Woman's Club. 8:00 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS

The Branch is pleased to welcome two new members: Judy Fey, who is also a member of the San Gabriel Valley Branch, and Orisja Sarles-Nesbitt. We hope you enjoy dancing with us.

Melinda & Frank

March 2010

OTHER EVENTS OC= Orange County Branch SD = San Diego Branch SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch 2010

MARCH

13 SGV Monthly Dance. Pasadena City College, Women's Gym Room W203, 1570 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena 7:30 p.m. Bring food to share.

APRIL

17 SGV Monthly Dance. Linberg Park in Culver City. 7:30 p.m. Bring food to share.

MAY

15 SGV AGM Dinner and Dance. St Barnabas Episcopal Church, 2109 Chickasaw Ave., Eagle Rock.

JUNE

19 SGV Monthly Dance. Dabney Lounge, Caltech, Pasadena. 7:30 p.m. Bring food to share.

JULY

18 SGV 4th Annual Summer Picnic. Palisades Park, Pacific Palisades. 11 a.m.-5p.m.

AUGUST

14 SGV Scottish Luau. Dabney Lounge, Caltech, Pasadena. 7:30 p.m. Please bring food to share.



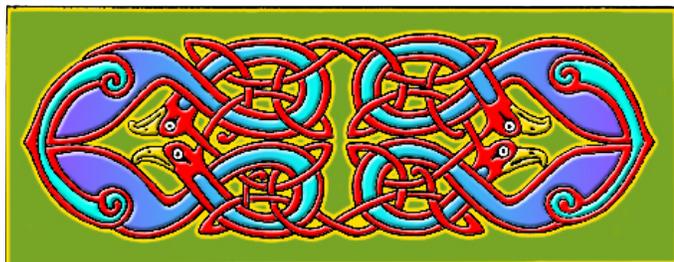
DANCE PROGRAMS

Monthly Dance
April 24, 2010
Culver City Senior Center
4095 Overland Ave, Culver City
7 p.m. Music recorded

Blue Bonnets	JB	Book 3
Swiss Lassie	RI	Book 39
Blackadder House	SI	Blackadder Collection
Weathercock	JA	Silver Jubilee 25
Lea Rig, The	SB	Book 21
Starlight	RI	Book 44
Joie de Vivre	JI	Book 39
Preston Mill	RA	Book 45
Gramachie	SB	MMM I
Rover's Rant, The	JI	12 More Social Dances
Clydeside Lassies	RB	MMM I
Douro Sixsome Jig, The	JI	Peterborough 2000
Mary Erskine	RB	15 Social Dances
Dancing Master of Moncton	SA	Mel Briscoe
Bramble Bush, The	JB	Book 25
May Yarker	SI	Book 42
Ferla Mor	RI	Deeside Book Part 1

Catalina Island Workshop Ball
May 1, 2010
Catalina Island

The Machine Without Horses	JB	Book 12
Swiss Lassie	RI	Book 39
Balquidder Strathspey	SI	Book 24
Burns Night	JB/I	Boston 50th
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	SI	3 for 2006
Lady Susan Stewart's Reel	RI	Book 5
A Capital Jig	JI	5 for 2009
Casting Glances	SI	T. Wilson
J. B. Milne	RI	H. Foss
Joie de Vivre	JB/I	Book 39
Cadgers in the Cannongate	RA	Book 9
Maitland to Manchester	JI	Wallace/Thomas
Invercauld's Reel	SB	Book 11
Flowers of Edinburgh	RB	Book 1
Adieu Mon Ami	SB/I	Book 24
The Magic of Merrill	RI	L. Ramshaw



AGM Dance
June 26, 2010
Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Senior Center
7:00 p.m. Music: recorded

Moudiwort, The	JB	Book 11
Arthur's Seat	RI	18th Century
Dream Catcher, The	SA	Book 45
Best Set in the Hall	JI	Greenwood Leaflet
In Campbell Country	SI	Social Dances 2002
Clydeside Lassies	RB	MMM I
La Flora	JB	Book 27
Trip to Bavaria, A	RI	Collins SCD Book
Glasgow Lassies	SB	Book 34
Weathercock	JA	Silver Jubilee 25
Lochalsh Reel	RI	Skye Book Vol 2
Joie de Vivre	JI	Book 39
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloich	RA	RSCDS Leaflet
Gramachie	SB	MMM I
Maitland to Manchester	JI	Wallace/Thomas
Cashmere Shawl, The	SI	Strathtay Album
Catch The Wind	RB	Book 45

ST. ANDREWS BALL



Valerie Rogers, Fred DeMarse, Anne Clarke



Valerie Rogers and Anne Clarke

MANHATTAN BEACH CLASS



Photo by Bob Brooks



BOOK 46 WORKSHOP

On Nov. 15, 2009, 22 dancers from the L.A., O.C. and SGV branches gathered at Stoner Park to evaluate a set of nine dances sent to us by Headquarters.

These dances were part of the 97 new dances submitted to Headquarters by devisors around the world for consideration as part of the next Society book of dances, Book 46.

Since there was no way that so many dances could be danced and evaluated by the Society's team, the decision was made to divide the dances into sets of eight or nine dances, which would then be sent out any branch worldwide that wished to be part of the evaluation process.

As of October, when the testing began, there were 81 branches participating in the process. It was up to each participating branch to determine how they would run the evaluation. The dancers would select their favorite jig, reel and strathspey from their set of dances and then their overall favorite. The dances had been retyped to eliminate anything that might give a hint as to the identity of the dance, the devisor, the part of the world where the devisor lives, or suggested music. The dances were identified simply by a number, the number of bars and tempo.

Our set of dances consisted of two jigs, three strathspeys, three reels and a hornpipe. As it happened, one of the two jigs we were asked to evaluate was one easily identified by Southland dancers, "Best Set In The Hall." As soon as I recognized the dance from the notes, I notified the project coordinator but was told to treat the dance like all the others.

As you may imagine, "Best Set" easily won the competition as favorite jig, but when it came to overall favorite, our dancers were split between this dance and a very lovely three-couple strathspey. The report I sent to the project coordinator informed him of the tie between these two dances.

All of us involved in the evaluation enjoyed the experience and eagerly await the arrival of Book 46 to see whether one, or perhaps both, of our favorites have become part of the Society's next publication.

Deanna St. Amand

MUSIC AND DANCE WORKSHOP

On Nov. 28 and 29, 2009, the first Music and Dance Workshop in the Los Angeles area was held in El Segundo. This event was made possible by donations to the L.A. Branch Memorial Fund by two long-time teachers of the Branch, Mary Brandon and Wilma Fee. There was also a generous donation received from Melinda Brown's employer, which rounded out the fund. Mary and Wilma's donations were made in memory of their husbands (David Brandon, teacher and past Branch chairman, and Jim Fee, the techy guy who kept the music equipment repaired and would start-up a ceilidh anywhere.) Both David and Jim were very active members of the Los Angeles Branch for many years and both worked in front of and behind the scenes in keeping the Branch's activities going.

The idea of the music portion of the workshop was initiated by Mary Brandon, who wanted to encourage the musical talent in the L.A. area to consider playing for Scottish dance events.

The plans for this event started in the early part of 2008. Doris Fisher, then chair of the L.A. Branch approached both Mary and Wilma and along with Doris's prodding, Wilma formed and chaired a committee who worked on making the Music and Dance Workshop happen.

The lucky musicians who were able to attend the two music classes got excellent instructions on playing for Scottish Country Dancing, from both Andy Imbrie for keyboard players and Susan Worland for fiddlers. Jan Tappan assisted Andy in the keyboard session, by playing the melody on her fiddle while the keyboard players learned the chording from Andy. After the formal music classes ended on Saturday, all the musicians got together for a one hour jamming session, which turned out to be a great experience for the newer musicians to Scottish music.

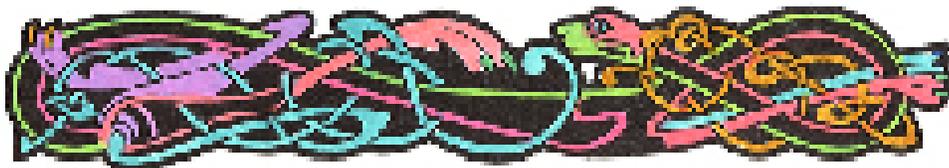
Four sets of advanced dancers (mainly teachers) turned out for the dance workshop. They received excellent instruction and a chance to work on improving their own dancing style and technique from Simon Scott of Vancouver. Simon taught some very nice advanced-level dances, with challenges, but much enjoyed by the teachers.

On Sunday morning the musicians joined Andy and Susan on stage to form a combined music group. They worked very hard producing great music for the morning dance class. It was very uplifting to watch the teachers dance with improved form, grace and ease, as the music group played with great enthusiasm. At this point, a cell phone call was made to Mary Brandon (who was unable to attend the workshop) so she could listen to the result of her initial idea.

General feedback indicated this was a successful and enjoyable event, for both teachers and musicians. It has produced four local musicians getting together for a few dance class parties and they hope to start playing for regular dance classes.

Mary and I would like to express our thanks to all who contributed their time and talent, on the teaching staff, on the Workshop Committee or helping out at the actual event.

Wilma Fee



Bob Brooks reports that in December some of the South Bay dancers did a demo for the Manhattan Beach Community Church. Here are some photos and along with a link to a YouTube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GDD0gCUihM>. This is good -- take a look!



March 2010

CLASS NOTES

SIMI VALLEY

Our class has resumed once again. Last term we did not have enough people to sign up (the recreation center requires a minimum of six). This term we had six at the first meeting: Alan and Barbara Hoff, Linda Draeger, Deresa Teller, Phyllis Huntley and me, your humble correspondent. Frank Ibbott is the instructor.

By the second week, we had three new members, high school students. One, Shannon, was in the summer class with others of the marching band (the Highlanders). The other two dancers are her friends, Maddy and Katie. They are enthusiastic and enjoy the class greatly.

Don Cutler



LONG BEACH

The end of the year was a whirlwind of activity. But what holiday season is anything but a blur as it passes?

Reaching back to October, three class members – Randi Kraemer, Roberta Gotfried, and Jim Bell, – attended the Asilomar Workshop, and Diane Reince’s newest granddaughter, Tessa, was born Oct. 21. November blew in with Roberta and Jim traveling to West Point, N.Y., to attend the RSCDS New York Branch’s 50th Anniversary Ball. “It was a great event — good dancing, music and a very friendly group of dancers,” reported Roberta.

We finished our fall term with a party/dance, leaving us ready for the Christmas Ball and Hogmanay. As the new term commences, we are preparing for the Queen Mary Festival demonstration, reviewing/learning the necessary dances. This preparation includes the Burns Ball, as well as programs for future dances in February and March.

A delightful treat greeted us Saturday, Jan. 9, for our first class meeting: live music! Fellow dancer and pianist Guinevere Saenger played a keyboard, providing the lively music we all love. It was an enjoyable session with highly spirited dancing. Thank you, Guinevere, for the music, and thank you, Roberta, for trying this experiment. Guinevere herself passed her Unit 1-3 exams last May and serves as the substitute/alternative teacher for the SGV Branch’s Caltech class as well as the Eagle Rock class, where her husband

Ian Sullivan is the regular teacher.

Cindy Duden is our newest class member. New to the area, she was searching communities for a place with lots of activities to offer. Browsing the LB Parks & Recreation website, she found the listing for Scottish Country Dance. Although, she was not sure what SCD included, Cindy decided to give us a try. She comes to us with a variety of dancing experiences — mainly recreation classes, ballroom dancing, etc. Welcome, Cindy, and may you enjoy your Scottish country dancing experiences and the delightful people you meet.

Karen Kerman



NORTH VALLEY

The Holiday Season of 2009 was a time of renewed family activity for our North Valley class. Angela Tennyson went to Houston to visit her daughter Elizabeth and family, and Audrey Prest flew to Iowa to be with daughter Julie and her family. The challenge of cold wet weather added to the Christmas festivities and made everyone glad to return home.

Deanna St. Amand enjoyed a visit from her son Mike, who flew in from Michigan to join family celebrations, and Claudia Pedersen had guests from the San Diego area when her son Chad arrived with his wife and daughter.

We are very happy to have Linda McWade back and dancing regularly again, and hats off to Terry Schaeffer, who has continued to dance/walk in spite of a torn achilles tendon.

The class welcomed two visiting husbands, Matt Husman and Jim Schaeffer, who came to class to prepare for the Burns Supper. We enjoyed having them and hope they’ll come again soon.

And perhaps the best for last, Deanna continued her tradition of ushering in the New Year with a class party – and a great time was had by all. There is something special about having time to see friends and their spouses and get caught up on news that we don’t always have time for in regular class meetings. Thank you, Deanna.

Claudia Pedersen
GHILLIE CALLUM

REDONDO BEACH & MANHATTAN BEACH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, Dec. 13, was the Christmas party for Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach classes, a joint affair. We had live music for some dances, which was a result of interest generated at the recent music workshop in conjunction with the St. Andrews Ball. Musicians are L-R: Margaret Otell, Alaina Smith, Guinevere Saenger and Bill Hartung.

I played (keyboard) for a couple of dances, but of course I'm behind the camera, not in the photos.

Bob Brooks



March 2010

GHILLIE CALLUM

(CLASS REPORTS CONTINUED)
VALLEY COLLEGE

Steve Kaplan and Kathrin King Segal were in Florida for a week, visiting Steve's parents. They are home now, thawing out. And, on the bright side, Kathrin's bikini now has matching scarf and mittens. Audrey Prest visited her grandkids in Iowa over Christmas and caught a cold she's still trying to shake. She probably blames the Iowa cold and snow, and the plethora of strangers sneezing on the plane, but I happen to know kids can bring down an immune system in a nano second just by looking at you ... not her own sweet grandchildren, of course. Must have been their friends!

Deborah Ash says nothing of particular note is currently happening in her life, but I happen to know she's doing some essential work on the big woolly sweater I wore as a belt over Christmas. Thank you, Deb!!!! She's our own, "in house" fashion wizard!

Jon Reeves has begun to recover from his annual Rose Parade exhaustion. But all the hard work was worth it because his Burbank float won the trophy for animation. Congratulations, Jon!

Aase had a busy, fun-filled Christmas with her family. Lisbeth and Rick (daughter and son-in-law) were here for the holidays from their new home in Norfolk, VA. Rick had to leave early to resume his duties as commander of the HM-15 helicopter squadron — and in January was sent to Haiti to help out with the rescue effort after the earthquake there. But Lisbeth was able to stay for the baptism of her niece, Aase's granddaughter Freya.

Audrey Prest, Jon Reeves and Aase Hansen attended the San Diego Branch Julian Weekend in November. The event had been on hold for two years due to the terrible fires late in the summer of 2007 that destroyed half the camp, including the lodge. The weekend was sold out as soon as it was listed, so next year a larger lodge will be used that can accommodate more people. It's a fun weekend of games, eating, hiking, shopping, and possibly dancing as well this time, since there will be a wooden floor. It doesn't get much better than that, so watch for the fliers later this spring!

My daughter Jessie was home from UBC for the holidays with her boyfriend Michael, who is from Dumfries in Scotland. We enjoyed our usual Christmas of hockey games (my son Robert bought us all Kings caps so we were uniformly attired!), annual get-togethers with friends, and over-indulgence in almost every area. Jess is in her last year of college but will be in Vancouver for the Winter Olympics.

And we are pleased to have a new class member on Mondays, Judy Fey, who previously danced in Seattle. She's a great addition to our wonderful group!

I'm sure you join me in looking forward to a brand new year chock full of classes and dances! Happy New Year!

Robyn MacGarva George



MANHATTAN BEACH

During the past few months the Manhattan Beach class has had some dancers nursing injuries, etc.

Wilma Fee and Chris Brooks both had injuries (not from dancing) to their right shoulders, which resulted in ongoing therapies and treatments. They both ended up with the same physical therapist, who was wondering what type of dancing we do to cause these injuries. It just means no dancing allemandes these days until treatments are complete.

Bob Brooks recently had knee replacement surgery and is recuperating nicely at home.

In December the class welcomed a dancer, Harry Khamis visiting from Dayton, Ohio.

Over the Holidays: Carol Johnson enjoyed Thanksgiving dancing with SKANDIA (a Scandinavian folk dancing group).

Irv Cohen visited his son David, also a dancer, in Eugene, Ore. Yes, it was snowing!

Bonnie Waters visited her new third grandchild, Sabastian, back in Kansas. She was there during the snow blizzards.

Wilma Fee visited her large family in Toronto, Canada. The weather was very cold, 9 degrees, but it was great to watch the skaters on the lakes and rivers playing ice hockey or snowboarding.

Bob Harmon joined his family to attend the show "Mary Poppins," which was enjoyed by all.

Last October, Wilma and her family visited Scotland and also did a tour of the British Isles on the Queen Mary 2. Nan Werner joined them for the cruise portion, which was a very memorable event for the Cunard Cruise Line and all onboard.

Wilma Fee