

the GHILLIE CALLUM

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March 2016

BURNS SUPPER & BALL

Nearly 100 of us enjoyed the familiar traditions of the Burns Supper & Ball at the end of January at Ports o' Call restaurant — the poetry and song, the toasts and music, the dancing and camaraderie.

The poetry of Robert Burns came in the form of the Selkirk Grace, recited by Ian Clarke, and quoted in the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns, given by Norm Auslander. Norm noted the universal veneration of Burns not just by Scots, Scottish Country Dancers and English majors when he pointed out that you never hear of a Shakespeare supper or a Longfellow lunch.

There was more poetry, this time in the rhyming style of Lewis Carroll, when David Thomforde and Kathryn Hunter did a delightful repartee in Carroll's style of verse as their Toast to the Lassies and Reply to the Laddies.

Our once-a-year taste of haggis was excellent, prepared by Jon Reeves. It was piped in by John Cahill, carried by Martina Hanson as Poosie Nancy and guarded by Henchmen Jeff Altman, Eric Fisher and David Thomforde.

Norm McCallum recited the Address to the Haggis with great enthusiasm. Many of us are beginning to feel that we understand at least some of the old Scots dialect in the poem.

Mistress of Ceremonies was Jan Lauer, chair of the Orange County Branch — which co-hosts the evening with the Los Angeles Branch.

The terrific, get-up-on-your-feet music was provided by Andy Imbrie, piano, and Susan Worland, fiddle. Grand marshals were Roz and Gil Gotfried.

The emcees were Aase Hansen, Shirley Saturensky and Pat Zschoche, with the dance program devised by Shirley and Ann McBride.

A very successful raffle was organized by



Gil and Roz Gotfried served as grand marshals. More photos of the Burns Supper, St. Andrew's Ball and Hogmanay inside.

Dianne Wilson (with two sets of Disneyland tickets among the many prizes). Decorations were done by Nancy Hartung and Kris McGinnis.

Others to be thanked include Kim Cunningham, registrar; Mike McGinnis, sound; Linda Boucher and Bob Harmon, graphics. The Planning Committee included Rosemary Abend, Roberta Gotfried, Nancy Hartung, Jan Lauer, Kris McGinnis, Janet Olsen, Shirley Saturensky and Dianne Wilson.

As Norm Auslander concluded his Immortal Memory, Robert Burns "is one of the reasons I'm proud to be a Scot!"

Audrey Ramsay Prest

BRANCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY

As part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration, I have put together this special column to appear in the Ghillie Callum this year.

1. The first full certificate teachers in the Branch were David Brandon and John Tiffany.
2. Ann McBride, team director at the time, was interviewed for the radio show "Luncheon at the Music Center" in 1981.
3. Dance programs in the '70s consisted of 20-22 dances with three extras.
4. The Branch incorporated as a non-profit in July 1976, which meant that contributions would become tax deductible.
5. John Drewry devised a dance called "The Scotch Thistle," which he dedicated to Jack Renie and the Thistle Band. John also wrote a dance (Summer of '42) to mark the 50th wedding anniversary of Helen and For-

rest MacDonald.

6. Membership fees in 1969 were \$2.00.
7. For several years the Branch held a picnic in Manhattan Beach during the summer.
8. Thirty-four dancers from Southern Califor-

nia participated in the Opening Ceremonies of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

9. The St. Andrew's Ball was originally called the Annual Ball and was held in October.

10. In 1975 women were advised not to wear long skirts to class so their teachers could see their feet and legs "to develop your dancing potential."



Rosemary Abend

At press time, only 16 tickets remain for the 50th Anniversary Ball.

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

MARCH

26 **March Dance.** Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks. 7 p.m. Music: Speyside.

APRIL

30 **50th Anniversary Ball.** Ports o' Call, San Pedro. 6:30 p.m. Music: Scotch Mist. Reservations required.

MAY

28 **Games Dance.** Tustin Area Senior Center. 6:30 p.m. Music: recorded.

JUNE

25 **AGM Potluck and Dance.** First Christian Church, Studio City. 5 p.m. potluck; 6 p.m. meeting; 7 p.m. dance. Music: recorded.

JULY

23 **Summer Dance.** Torrance Cultural Arts Center. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

AUGUST

27 **Summer Dance.** First Christian Church, Studio City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

Deadline for the June issue is May 1.

OTHER BRANCHES

MARCH

12 **OC Monthly Dance.** Anaheim Downtown Community Center. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

19 **SGV St. Patrick's Day Dance.** Pasadena City College. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

APRIL

2 **OC Monthly Dance,** 7 p.m., Anaheim Downtown Community Center. Music: recorded.

16 **SGV April Dance** highlighting dances for L.A. anniversary ball. St. Barnabas Church, Eagle Rock. 6:30 p.m. Music: recorded.

MAY

14 **OC Monthly Dance,** 7 p.m., Anaheim Downtown Community Center. Music: recorded.

21 **SGV AGM dinner and dance.** St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Eagle Rock, 4:00 p.m.

JUNE

11 **OC AGM & Potluck,** 5 p.m., Anaheim Downtown Community Center. Music: recorded.

19 **SGV Summer Tea Dance.** Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church, San Gabriel.

50TH ANNIVERSARY BALL

April 30, 2016

Ports O'Call

Berth 76, 1199 Nagoya Way, San Pedro

AGM DANCE

June 25, 2016

First Christian Church

4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Ladies' Fancy	J B	Book 13	Ecclefechan Feline	J B	Le Petit Chat Celtique
The Montgomeries' Rant	R I	Book 10	The Dalesman	R I	12 More Social Dances
Gang the Same Gate	S A	Book 36	Dear Gladys	S A	Farewell My Fancy
The Kelloholm Jig	J I	RSCDS Leaflet	Welcome to Ayr	J I	Book 47
The Birks of Invermay	S B	Book 16	St. Martin's Strathspey	S B	24 Graded & Social
Founders' Reel	R A	Dances w/ a Difference	The Fireworks Reel	R I	Book 48
Major Ian Stewart	J A	Book 35	The Fairbridge Reel	R A	Book 45
Shiftin' Bobbins	R B	Ormskirk Book 6	Collie Law	J B	24 Graded and Social
1314	M A	Rondel Book	Peggy Spouse MBE	S I	Book 46
Pelorus Jack	J I	Book 41	Captain George Vancouver	J I	Vancouver 50th
Reel of the Royal Scots	R B	RSCDS Leaflet	Susan Scott of San Rafael	R B	Let's All Dance, Too
Glastonbury Tor	R I	Book 47	Marigold	J A	Cosh 22 SCD
The Braes of Tulliemet	S B	Book 7	Glen Feshie	S B	Grampian Coll.
Vintage Simon	J A	Book 47	Flight to Melbourne	R I	Book 47
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S I	RSCDS Leaflet	St. Andrews Links	S A	St. Andrews 75th Anniv.
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	J B	Book 16	The Hunting Horn	J I	SCD Archives #66
Mairi's Wedding	R I	22 by Cosh	Wind That Shakes the Barley	R B	Duthie Eight SCDs

QUEEN MARY DEMONSTRATIONS



The Branch Demonstration Team and dancers from the L.A. and Orange County branches performed at the Queen Mary festival.

NEW MEMBERS

The Los Angeles Branch welcomes new members Frances and Randall Hahn, Ahryun Bunch, Stephanie Tiffany, Minda Hannenberg, Renee Halm, Pamela Morgan and Amy Jones. We also welcome new affiliate member Marsden Macrae from Las Vegas.

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 supplied by Robb Quint.

To be added to the mailing list, contact Robb at volleyballjerry@aol.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Dancers,

Last year I was talking with one of our members who was surprised to learn that we pay dues to Scotland. The Committee of Management felt perhaps I should present an explanation of how the dues you pay are allocated.

Dues to Scotland for our fiscal year 2014-2015 were 18 pounds per person (about \$27) for a total of \$3,748. Our other largest expenses were administrative (\$2,311), which included insurance of \$5 per person and a printing bill of almost \$900 (directory, annual and special cue books, dance fliers, etc.). The bottom line is we can't run the Branch on our dues alone.

Three years ago the Society increased dues by one pound. We did not increase our dues at that time. Then, last November, the Society increased dues another two pounds for a total of 20 pounds. These two increases amount to an additional \$4.50 per person over the last three years. So, the Committee of Management voted to raise our dues by \$5.00 for 2016-17.

Being a member still has its advantages as non-Society dancers now pay an extra \$5 at every event they attend. When it comes time to renew your membership in June, I hope you will feel that Branch membership is still a good investment.

Rosemary Abend

CLASSES

Torrance

Jack's Friday night beginner class was excited to get back to dancing — the first week back we had a few returning faces, a couple of new faces and one stranded snowbird! BDan had a flight cancellation and decided to pop in. He's from the Boston Branch.

Taking time for a photo are, standing from left, Terisa G, Michele M, Evan A, Nikki-Sara, BDan, Jack, Jennifer Kelly, Carmen Reeves, Kris, Margaret and Mike. Kneeling in front are Linda C. and Heather.



Reseda

Norm and Ruby Plotkin had a visit from their son and daughter-in-law over New Year's when they came down from San Francisco for a Grateful Dead concert. Of course, they brought their two children — Zev, who is 5, and Autumn, who is now 3 — and we know who got babysitting privileges! The grandparents thoroughly enjoyed the hugs, fun and laughter and even the process of getting their household back to normal again.

Matt and Laura Husman took their sons Glen and Peter to the Rose Bowl to watch Stanford play Iowa. It's no question as to which team they were rooting for! The boys are pursuing an interest in music this year, Glen playing the clarinet and Peter the saxophone.

Angela Tennyson's daughter took her on a special mother-daughter adventure to celebrate her birthday. Elizabeth planned the November trip to Prague, Czechoslovakia. They bundled up for cold weather while they visited and explored the ancient city.

Our class is welcoming a new family to Scottish Country Dancing. We met the Cervenka daughters at the 2015 Seaside Games, where Jocelyn and Jenelle enthusiastically took part in the audience participation.

The girls and their parents Kym and Allan began attending our Reseda class in the fall and are enjoying the steps, patterns and various dances for this year. We hope to see them all at the February Beginner Dance.

Claudia Pedersen

Thousand Oaks

The Thousand Oaks class is happy to welcome Marcelle MacCulloch of Camarillo as one of our regular dancers. Mary Nisbet of Goleta recovered from her knee surgery and was able to return to us after the holiday break. And she has been bringing her equally enthusiastic husband Roger, who we are very pleased to welcome as another new regular in our class. Mary and Roger are both again (as they did last summer) planning to attend RSCDS Summer School in St. Andrews (fourth week), and Mary would be happy to hear from any other SoCal folks who are planning to go as well next summer.

In the realm of travel, Carmen Silva-Corvalán and husband Scott spent a month in her native land of Chile visiting her home town and relatives elsewhere in the country as well as taking a side trip to Easter Island, from which she even wrote that she was missing her SCD!

Our other Pacific Palisades dancer Christa Wilk and husband Bill were off to Hawaii in February, five days on Oahu and five on the Big Island, with an emphasis on botanic gardens such as the one at Koko Crater with “the largest collection of plumeria in the islands.” Claudia Pedersen and friend Brent traveled more locally to pursue their photography hobby, first to the Morro Bay area, where they photographed the calving of elephant seals, partially fog-shrouded Morro Rock, and enormous, “breathtaking” waves crashing against the high cliff at Montaña de Oro, and then a couple of weeks later they headed to San Diego for more photo snapping.



Representing the Thousand Oaks Class at the Burns Supper & Ball are, from left, Rowena Gillo, Christa Wilk, Robb Quint, Claudia Pedersen, Deresa Kenny and Angela Tennyson.

Rowena Gillo, whose long drive to class from Long Beach is always so greatly appreciated by all of us, took part in the Queen Mary “dems” and was also one of our class dancers, along with Deresa Kenney, Claudia Pedersen, Angela Tennyson, Christa Wilk, and teacher Robb Quint attending this year’s Burns Ball. And speaking of Scottish festival weekends, Carolyn Williams is busy organizing an exhibition for next October’s Seaside Highland Games in Ventura, in this case of classic Chevrolets from her local Chevy Club.

The Thousand Oaks class is looking forward to hosting SoCal dancers at our own weekly venue, the Hillcrest Center for the Arts in Thousand Oaks, for the Los Angeles Branch March monthly dance on the 26th. And we’re very excited that the relatively new SoCal four-musician dance band Speyside will be playing for six of the evening’s dances (and at no additional cost to dancers).

Robb Quint

Valley College

Our class has moved (again)! Being typically strong Scottish Country Dancers, we have put up with the whims of a college campus under construction. For years (even before Aase began teaching), the class was held in a very old Quonset hut-style building (riddled with termites) with ineffective heat and no a/c. That was followed, about a year ago, by a new room in a new building with a super-hard floor. For the

last 10 months, we’ve been dancing in another aging Quonset hut with no heat at all and one restroom with no lock — but a good floor.

This winter we danced wearing coats and scarves! One night a thermometer Aase brought showed 54 degrees indoors. But the final straw was the night we found every single chair and table had been removed. Sitting on a stack of wooden pallets to change shoes and using an upended cardboard box to hold the music equipment got us through one night, but that was it.

MEMORIAL FUND

With some kindness from the Community Services staff at the college, we are now in a reasonably comfy room (with a working thermostat!) in a not-too-old building that actually has two sets of restrooms that work, as well as chairs, tables and a built-in sound system — what luxury!

It's called the North Gym, and the room is next to a dance studio we used about 12-15 years ago. We can leave the mittens at home, and we like it! It's in the red brick building just south of the new parking structure — easy to find — so come join us some Monday evening.

On a personal note, Claudia Pedersen has been traveling — Christmas with her family in Concord, then two photography trips along the California coast. Terry Schaeffer also traveled to Northern California over the holidays, while Aase Hansen hosted family here.

The class was well represented at the Burns Supper by Claudia, Terry, Aase, Alice Allen, Margaret Burnett, Jeff Altman, Jon Reeves and Audrey Prest. Jon has become such an expert at making haggis for the Burns that he also prepared another batch of the traditional dish for the Orange County Burns Club.

Representing our class at the Queen Mary demonstrations were Jon and Alyssa Kennedy. Jeff and Margaret went to the Bay Area for the San Francisco Branch Valentine Ball.

Jon, Terry, Alice and Audrey can claim some bragging rights for the Theme Trophy won Jan. 1 by their “rather large craft project,” also known as the city of Burbank's entry in the Rose Parade.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

Ventura

The Ventura Class continues to dance most Friday nights. We have had several new dancers stop by and give Scottish Country Dancing a try. Getting to share our love for dancing with others always makes the evenings more fun. We are looking forward to the March dance in Thousand Oaks, and many of us will be attending the Anniversary Ball in April.

Lisa Sage

The L.A. Branch has money set aside in a Memorial Fund, to be used for special equipment or special events. It can also be use for scholarships to help members attend a workshop or something else 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 continuing to earn their own Ralphs Rewards points. Pick up a flier and go online to register. You need to re-register annually, beginning Sept. 1. Our Organization Number is 93159.



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