

the GHILLIE CALLUM

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BURNS SUPPER & BALL

Who knew that Robert Burns shared a song-writing style with Smokey Robinson? Though separated by two centuries, the Motown legend reflected the works of Burns, both in rhythm and phrasing.

Those of us who enjoyed the Burns Supper & Ball in late January were treated to this comparison in the Immortal Memory given by David Tague, longtime teacher of both country and Highland dancing. Recordings of songs by both Burns and Robinson accompanied his talk.

The haggis, cooked by Jon Reeves, was toasted by all, following Norm McCallum's enthusiastic recitation of Burns' poem "The Address to the Haggis."

It was ceremoniously escorted to its place of honor by piper John Cahill; Henchmen Ian Clarke, Roger Nisbet and John Arthur Teague; with Poosie Nancy and Highland Mary portrayed by Angela and Aletheia Teague (in costumes they sewed themselves).

Anne Clarke recited the Selkirk Grace. Ann McBride, chair of the Los Angeles Branch,

Continued on page 4, more photos inside



Evan and Betty Avery posed with the cardboard Robert Burns, a popular photo spot during the evening at Ports o' Call.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The new year of 2017 started off with a bang, and even the inclement weather did not deter the hardy souls who attended the Burns Supper & Ball at the Ports o' Call Restaurant.

After a few worrisome moments (i.e., where's the haggis?!), the traditional Burns celebrations got underway with a few notable "firsts" ... the first time for David Tague to present the Immortal Memory, the first time for our newly-

weds Evan and Betty Avery to present the Toast to the Lassies and the Reply to the Laddies, and the first time for Angela and Aletheia Teague filling the roles of Poosie Nancy and Highland Mary, with their brother John Arthur among the henchmen gallantly protecting them with his trusty claymore.

Continued on page 2

CHAIR'S MESSAGE from page 1

The lively music for the evening was provided by our friends of Peat Fire Flame. Although the attendance this year was a little lower than we had anticipated, thanks to the magnificent raffle baskets we didn't suffer as much of a financial loss as we estimated. Well done, Diane Wilson and her team of helpers! Also a special thanks to the intrepid raffle ticket purveyors.

My sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this such a wonderful Burns evening – and in particular, Jan Lauer who was my guide and mentor for this, my first, foray into planning a Burns Ball.

Due to an unavoidable set of circumstances, our two spring beginner dances will be held in the same month this year – March 4 (Studio City) and March 25 (Torrance). Our April 22 dance will be held in Thousand Oaks.

With the Queen Mary weekend demonstrations behind us, it is now the time of year when we start gearing up with our friends from Orange

County for the Costa Mesa Games demonstration and the after-the-games dance in Tustin.

For your dancing pleasure this year, the Teachers Committee has devised what we believe will be an interesting selection of dances — some old, some new, some challenging and others not-so challenging. So, until the next Ghillie Callum – happy dancing, everyone.

Ann McBride

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.

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

MARCH

- 4** **"February" Beginner Dance.** (Note date change.)
First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

MARCH

- 25** **March Beginner Dance.** Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona, 7 p.m.
Music: recorded.

APRIL

- 22** **April Monthly Dance,** Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks, 7 p.m.
Music: recorded.

MAY

- 27** **Costa Mesa Games Dance.** Tustin Senior Center, 200 C St., Tustin. Doors open 5:30 p.m., buffet supper 6:00, dancing 7:00. Music: recorded.

JUNE

- 24** **AGM and Dance.** First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

Deadline for the June Ghillie Callum is May 1.

OTHER BRANCHES

MARCH

- 11** **OC Monthly Dance.** Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 E. Center St. 7 p.m.
Music: recorded.
- 18** **SGV St. Patrick's Dance.** St. Barnabas Church, Eagle Rock. Irish Stew 6 p.m. Dance 7 p.m.

APRIL

- 8** **OC Monthly Dance.** Tustin Senior Center 200 C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

MAY

- 6** **SD Spring Workshop and Dance.** Dance Workshop with David Tague noon-2 p.m., music for SCD with Marjorie McLaughlin 2:30-4 p.m. Dance 6:30 p.m., St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Del Mar. Music: Judi Nicholson and Andy Imbrie. Pre-registration for workshops.
- 13** **OC Monthly Dance.** Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 E. Center St. 7 p.m.
Music: recorded.

JUNE

- 10** **OC Monthly Dance.** Tustin Senior Center 200 C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

MONTHLY DANCE

April 22, 2017

Hillcrest Center for the Arts

403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

The Duke of Atholl's Reel	B J	Book 16
The Cape Breton Hornpipe	I R	Ottawa 25 Dances
The Library of Birmingham	NEW A S	Book 49
Rite of Spring	B R	Dragonfly
The Rose Garden	I S	San Francisco Vol. 2
The Zoologist	NEW I J	Book 46
Lauderdale Lads	B R	John Duthie 8 SCDs
The First Rain of Spring	NEW I J	Book 49
Bridge of Nairn	B S	Book 13
The Fairbridge Reel	A R	Book 45
The Happy Dancers	I J	10 Social Dances
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	B J	RSCDS Graded Book
The Bonnie Tree	I S	Book 46
The Countess of Dunmore's Reel	I R	Book 49
The Paisley Weavers	B S	3rd Graded Book
Marigold	A J	Cosh 22 SCD
Glastonbury Tor	I R	Book 47



AGM DANCE

June 24, 2017

First Christian Church

4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Ye Ken It Well	B J	The Devil's Quandary
The Fireworks Reel	I R	Book 48
The Library of Birmingham	A S	Book 49
The Zoologist	I J	Book 46
Glen Feshie	B S	Grampian Coll.
The Cape Breton Hornpipe	I R	Ottawa 25 Dances
Captain George Vancouver	A J	Vancouver 50th
The Reel of the 51st Division	B R	Book 13
Mist o'er the Loch	I S	Q.E. Diamond Jubilee
Beach Dancer	B J	Leaflet
Eileen Watt's Reel	I R	Magazine Dances 2005
The First Rain of Spring	I J	Book 49
St. Martin's Strathspey	B S	24 Graded & Social
The Fairbridge Reel	A R	Book 45
The Festival Man	I J	Book 48
The Glens of Antrim	I S	Belfast Book
Davy Nick Nack	B R	Glasgow Assembly

COSTA MESA GAMES DANCE

May 27, 2017

Tustin Senior Center

200 C Street, Tustin

Beach Dancer	J B	Leaflet
Shiftin' Bobbins	R B	Ormskirk 6
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S I	Golden Jubilee
Davy Nick Nack	R B	Glasgow Assembly
Cranberry Tart	J I	7 Year Itch
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	J B	RSCDS Graded Book
1314	M A	Rondel
Scotia Sea	R I	Scotia Suite
The Dundee Whaler	S B	Ormskirk 1
The Festival Man	J I	Book 48
Welcome to Ayr	J I	Book 47
Tap the Barrel	R B	3rd Graded Book
Amanda Mae's Strathspey	S B	LA 25th Anniversary
Vintage Simon	J A	Book 47
The Montgomerie's Rant	R I	Book 10



DEMONSTRATION TEAM

We are celebrating our newest citizen: Martina Hanson is now a United States citizen. She took the oath just a few days before the Burns Ball. Her first election will be March 7, when she can vote for mayor, community college board and various local measures.

By the time you read this, we should be welcoming back Grant Clark, who has been recovering from a nasty auto accident.

In February, we joined other dancers on the Queen Mary for the annual Scots Fest weekend. Although we debuted our new costumes at the Anniversary Ball, this was the first time we wore them for a public performance.

With our expanded team we were able to revive some of our favorite four- and five-couple dances, including Preston Mill and Lord McDonald's Quadrille.

The RSCDS L.A. Dem Team is happy to dance at parties and other private events, and share Scottish culture at community events. If you know of any, contact Roberta Gotfried.

Alice Allen

OJAI RETREAT

What's an "Ojai Retreat," you ask? It's the small-group camaraderie of a Harwood weekend combined with the comforts of a hotel, Catalina Workshop style.

This Aug. 18-20 you will have the opportunity to spend a weekend at the Ojai Retreat Center located about a 20-minute drive from Ventura in the coastal hills (elevation approx. 1,000 ft.). We will have exclusive use of the fully air-conditioned retreat center, which includes 12 charming double-occupancy rooms, many with private patios, on a five-acre hilltop.

Dinners and breakfasts will be included, and you will have free time to explore the nearby unique town of Ojai for lunch on your own on Saturday. There is a winery in the area and also an olive oil farm with tours, shopping and multiple opportunities for hiking and exploring.

Our wonderful teachers Aase Hansen and Anthea and Doug Macdonald plan to teach us challenging dances on a beautiful wood floor in the "great room" on Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday evening and Sunday morning — much of it accompanied by live music provided by the talented team of Steve and Julie Wyrick.



This is the view from the patio off the Great Room at the Ojai Retreat Center.

In addition, there will be time for card games, visiting or just relaxing. Cost is \$285 per person (double occupancy). Contact Doris Fisher (doris.fisher@gmail.com or 310-782-8300) if you are interested.

A \$100 deposit will hold your spot; the balance is due by May 1, 2017. This event is designed for intermediate and advanced dancers only, please. This is a an LA/SGV joint event.

Doris Fisher

LAST-MINUTE UPDATE: The Ojai weekend is sold out; contact Doris to be on the wait list.

BURNS from page 1

welcomed dancers and guests. Jan Lauer, chair of the Orange County Branch, was mistress of ceremonies.

A charming Toast to the Lassies and Reply to the Laddies were given by newlyweds Evan and Betty Avery. Both acknowledged the wisdom of Burns, as expressed in his poetry about women and men and their complex relationship.

Grand marshals were Mike and Kris McGinnis. Music was by Peat Fire Flame. And the dances were briefed by Deanna St. Amand, Ann McBride and Shirley Saturensky. Ann and Shirley devised the dance program.

A highlight of the decorations was the

table centerpieces of a burlap haggis complete with twinkle lights, big eyes and hair of orange fluff. They rested on ornamental purple kale on plaid napkins. Credit Nancy Hartung and Kris McGinnis for the decorations.

Dianne Wilson ran the successful raffle, with help from Terri Speakman, Edie Archibald and Karen Kerman selling tickets. Other chairs: Linda Boucher and Bob Harmon, graphics and printing; Robb Quint, registrar; Mike McGinnis, sound; Bill and Nancy Hartung, hospitality.

The Planning Committee was Nancy Hartung, Jan Lauer, Ann McBride, Kris McGinnis, Janet Olsen, Shirley Saturensky, Dianne Wilson.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

CLASSES

Thousand Oaks



Attending the Thousand Oaks class are, from left, Christa Wilk, Donna Ingram, Claudia Pedersen, Robb Quint, Deresa Kenney, Christine Carlin, Carolyn Williams, Carmen Silva-Corvalán, Mary Nisbet, Magda Simonini, Roger Nisbet and Alan Hoff.



In almost-matching outfits, Carmen Silva-Corvalán's kilt skirt and sweater echo Robb Quint's tartan shorts and sweater.

SANTA BARBARA

This year the Santa Barbara Revels produced “A Scottish Celebration of the Winter Solstice” at the Granada Theatre. The dance director, Susan MacNeil (who occasionally attends the Santa Barbara class), asked Ilse to teach the chorus two Scottish Country Dances.

It was very exciting, and the production — which included beautiful Scottish ballads, expert Highland dancers, Morris sword dancing and a four-member bagpipe team — was a resounding success.

About seven class members attended the final performance as a group and went out to dinner afterwards. It was a fun way to celebrate the holidays together.

Another benefit for us: Two of the chorus members have started coming to class!

A handful of other people have come to class over the last few months to give Scottish country dancing a try. Some heard of us from friends, some found us on the web.

Of these, so far, only Donna Wilkes,

Continued on page 8

Ventura

Happy New Year and greetings from the Ventura Class. We have been having a great time on Friday nights getting together to dance and have lots of fun, as you can see from the photo included in this issue. Since it is the end of the work week for some of us, we are usually ready to cut loose and start the weekend off right.

However, despite all of our silliness, we have gotten back into the swing of things after the holidays and are looking forward to the April dance in Thousand Oaks.

It is always such a lovely and pleasant spring evening dancing at the Thousand Oaks Hillcrest Center. The view of the sunset is always amazing. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for the April dance. You could make it a long weekend and join us for class on Friday night, check out the beach during the day Saturday, and then come to the dance!

Happy Dancing!!!

Lisa Sage



The Ventura Class defines fun on Friday nights with such silliness as Barbara Hoff wearing the dancing-as-a-man necktie around her head like a gypsy scarf.

CELEBRATING MARY BRANDON

April 6 is Mary Brandon's birthday, and on that evening Doug and Anthea Macdonald are offering a special class of Mary Brandon dances. There will be old favorites and a few surprises. All dances will be reviewed before dancing, so the class is open to upper-level beginners as well as more experienced dancers.

The class is held at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church hall, 2109 Chickasaw St., Eagle Rock, from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided, and Mary's books and CDs will be available for purchase at special prices. Cost of the class is \$5. For additional information, contact Anthea at damacdonald@juno.com.

We recently heard from Alan Mair of Cupar, Fife. He reported that Mary's friend Alice Oliphant had organized a small but hearty group



Mary and David Brandon's ashes were scattered around the Bull Stone on Leslie Green in Fife, Scotland, by a group of their friends.

“to dance and enjoy fellowship” while scattering some of the last remains of Mary and David Brandon. The ashes were scattered around the Bull Stone on Leslie Green. They chose to dance Fife Ness before retiring indoors to raise a glass to Mary and David.

Mary and David had requested that their ashes be scattered “widely.” I've been reaching out to their SCD friends to scatter small

amounts of ashes in places Mary and David knew, or were important to the local dance community. So far, ashes have been sent to Leslie, Fife (Mary's home town), Hawaii, Japan and Vancouver. Anyone who wishes to be part of this project can contact me at shoolbraidbrandon@gmail.com.

Alice Allen

SCOTS FEST AT THE QUEEN MARY



Scottish Country Dancing was well represented at the Queen Mary Scots Fest in February. The Los Angeles Branch Demonstration Team, directed by Roberta Gotfried, left, performed twice each day, as did a set made up of dancers from the Los Angeles and Orange County branches, which was organized by Pat Zschoche.

BECOMING AN SCD TEACHER

I hope some of you are considering becoming a SCD teacher since reading my last column.

As promised, I'm going to describe the steps and options for embarking on this fun and satisfying (possibly challenging) endeavor.

After deciding you are going to do it, find an experienced teacher (one who has completed entire RSCDS teaching certificate) to serve as your mentor, and file some RSCDS paperwork.

The teacher training consists of 5 units:

Unit 1 is a written exam on the contents of the RSCDS manual (did you know there is one?) and covers history and music as well as dancing specifics. It was most recently updated in 2013. Congratulations to Kris McGinnis and Connie Walker who recently passed Unit 1.

Unit 2 is a dancing exam of 12 dances identified by the RSCDS, where dancing skills and technique are judged.

Unit 3 is an initial teaching exam where you are asked to teach 16 bars of some of the

basic formations. You have to have a lesson plan and teach steps and formations from your assignment, given to you the day before the exam.

Unit 4 is a record of your teaching. After passing Part 1 (Units 1, 2, 3) you will need to get some experience teaching, either in an existing class, or starting your own class. This unit is a written record of all the teaching done after completion of Part 1.

Unit 5 is the final teaching exam. You are assigned, about 24 hours before your exam, an RSCDS dance to teach. Your lesson will consist of steps and figures from the dance, culminating in the class dancing the entire dance. The candidate has to dance once through with the class to demonstrate dancing proficiency as well as teaching skills.

Units 1-3 are referred to as Part 1, and Units 4-5 are referred to as Part 2.

Candidates are judged in their exams by two examiners assigned by the RSCDS. There are several options to prepare for exams: 1) in

a local or nearby branch that offers classes over about six months, 2) at St. Andrews Summer School where two-week classes are offered nearly every summer — that is what I did for both Parts 1 and 2 — and 3) at TAC Summer School where candidate classes are offered about every other year depending on demand.

Taking the courses and exams at summer schools provides the opportunity to work with musicians and to meet dancers and teachers from other areas and even other countries.

We always need and want new teachers. Interested? Just ask your teacher!

Roberta Gotfried

SCOTTISH ACCENTS

I saw this little notice in the New Scientist magazine (British weekly somewhat like Scientific American) that:

Appen, a voice recognition firm working for Google, has put out a call on the website Reddit for people with Scottish accents to submit recordings of themselves reading certain phrases to help train its software. Users with certain accents — particularly Scottish — have complained that voice recognition systems such as those used in Google Now and Apple's Siri struggle to understand them.

Terry Schaeffer

SANTA BARBARA continued from page 5

a seasonal visitor to the area, seems eager to continue. Her enthusiasm and friendliness endeared her to class immediately. She returns to upstate New York in February, where we hope she will continue dancing Scottish through the year!

Note: Donna comes to the area every year when she can arrange house-sitting engagements. So, if you or anyone you know needs a house-sitter next winter, any time between November and March, please get in touch with Donna at ivytraveler@yahoo.com or call her at 845-774-6218.

Ilse Gilbert

MEMORIAL FUND

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.



Branch chair: Ann McBride
Address: 619 E. Cypress Ave.
Burbank, CA 91501
Home phone: 818-841-8161
Email: mcbridea@cshs.org

Membership chair: Melinda Brown
Address: 30547 Mehrten Dr.
Exeter, CA 93221
Cell phone: 805-368-7057
Email: mjtb1002@hotmail.com

Ghillie Callum Editor: Audrey Ramsay Prest
Address: 19136 Hamlin St.
Reseda, CA 91335
Home phone: 818-708-8125
Email: aramsapp@sbcglobal.net

Web site: RSCDS-losangeles.org
Facebook: Los Angeles Branch -rscds