

# the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 49 Number 3

March 2018



## **BURNS SUPPER & BALL**

David Thomforde applies the dirk to the steaming haggis — “An’ cut ye up wi’ ready slight” — in his recitation of Robert Burns’ “Address to the Haggis” at the annual celebration of Burns and his poetry and songs at the Ports o’ Call restaurant in January. More photos and story inside.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

The times, they are a-changing ...

It is hard to believe that by the time this edition of the Ghillie Callum reaches your mailbox or inbox, we will already be well into the first quarter of 2018. With the new year come some challenging changes for our Branch.

The most impactful change is that, effective immediately, the First Christian Church of Studio City has raised its fees for the use of the hall for our monthly dances. As a result of the increase (from \$75/hour to \$100/hour), it will mean that we have to use our time in the hall wisely.

In addition, the church had originally required a \$75/event cleaning/janitorial fee; however, with the assurance that we would leave the hall in a pristine state, that fee was waived and

the church accepted a \$100 cleaning fee to cover our four events there this year.

For the three dances that are scheduled for FCC, we have reserved the hall from 6:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. This will give us three whole hours for dancing and 15 minutes at the beginning and end for set-up and clean-up.

We have reserved FCC once again for our AGM with potluck and dance on June 23, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Unfortunately, with the increase in the cost of the hall, we will no longer be able to offer free admission to the dance for those who have attended the AGM. This is regrettable but, as I said, the times they are a-changing.

Happy dancing in the months ahead,

*Ann McBride*

## STRINGFIRE! CONCERT

StringFire! gave a concert the day after the Burns Supper & Ball at Temple Beth Am. One of the band members said it was their best house concert to date!

I counted 65 very enthusiastic dance folks, synagogue members, friends and family (we had to set up extra chairs!).

Some of us (Jim Bell, John Allen, Jeff Altman, Mike, Kris and Marissa McGinnis, Roberta Gotfried, Margaret Burnett and Bruce Herbold of the San Francisco Branch [Patti Cobb's husband]) did a short dance demo that was very well received.

The band sounded fantastic; Diane Frank read one of her poems; Rabbi Kligfeld said a few



StringFire! plays for an enthusiastic audience at Temple Beth Am.

words about connection between the Scottish and Jewish peoples, the sales of Scotch were brisk, and everyone had a great time!

*Margaret Burnett*

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## CALENDAR

### LOS ANGELES BRANCH

#### MARCH

**24 BEGINNER DANCE.** Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### APRIL

**28 MONTHLY DANCE.** Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### MAY

**5 CATALINA ISLAND BALL.** Catalina Casino, Avalon. Pre-registration required.

**26 GAMES DANCE.** Tustin Senior Center, 200 C St., Tustin. Buffet supper 6:00 p.m., dancing 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### JUNE

**23 AGM and Dance.** First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. Potluck Supper 5 p.m., annual meeting 6, dance 7. Music: recorded.

#### JULY

**28 SUMMER DANCE.** Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### AUGUST

**25 SUMMER DANCE.** First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

## OTHER BRANCHES

#### MARCH

**10 OC MONTHLY DANCE,** Tustin Senior Center, 200 C St., Tustin. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### APRIL

**14 OC MONTHLY DANCE,** Tustin Senior Center, 200 C St., Tustin. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

**21/22 SGV CATALINA BALL REVIEW.** Date, details tba.

#### MAY

**12 OC MONTHLY DANCE,** Tustin Senior Center, 200 C St., Tustin. 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

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#### NEW MEMBERS

The Los Angeles Branch welcomes new members Teri Reynolds and Valerie Lykes.

*Melinda Brown*

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#### 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](mailto:volleyballjerry@aol.com).

## APRIL DANCE

April 28, 2018

Hillcrest Center for the Arts

403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

Jill's Gentle Jig	B J	Measures of Pleasure
Eileen Watt's Reel	I R	Magazine Dances 2005
The Glens of Antrim	I S	Belfast Book
Twa Rogueish Een	NEW A J	Rondel Book
Butterscotch and Honey	B S	Alexander Leaflets
The Fusilier's Dream	NEW I R	Jean Patrick Collection
The Happy Dancers	I J	10 Social Dances
Lauderdale Lads	B R	John Duthie 8 SCDs
Eileen Watt's Strathspey	I S	Magazine Dances 2005
John Cass	A J	Book 49
The Reel of the 51st Division	B R	Book 13
A Diamond for Belfast	B J	Belfast Diamond Jubilee
The Countess of Dunmore's Reel	I R	Book 49
1314	A M	Rondel Book
The Zoologist	I J	Book 46
Delvine Side	B S	Book 2
The Fireworks Reel	I R	Book 48

## CATALINA ISLAND BALL

May 5, 2018

Catalina Casino

Avalon

New Year Jig	B J	Book 51
Davy Nick Nack	B R	Glasgow Assembly
Mary Stewart Strathspey	I S	Dances with a Difference
The Festival Man	I J	Book 48
Sarona	A S	Summer Collection #9
The Australian Ladies	I R	Glasgow Assembly
A Capital Jig	I J	RSCDS Magazine Dances
None So Pretty	I R	Book 19
Bridge of Nairn	I S	Book 13
The Starry Eyed Lassie	I J	Book 23
General Stuart's Reel	I R	Book 10
Jill's Gentle Jig	B J	Measures of Pleasure
The Bonnie Tree	I S	Book 46
The Magic of Merrill	I R	SF Branch Dances Online
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	A J	Canadian Book
The Flower of Glasgow	I S	Book 46
Sleepy Maggie	I R	Book 11



## COSTA MESA GAMES DANCE

May 26, 2018

Tustin Senior Center

200 C Street, Tustin

It's Not Rocket Science	B J	Delaware Valley Silver
Miss Eleanor	I S	Book 49
Cape Breton Hornpipe	I R	Ottawa 25 Dances
Amanda Mae's Strathspey	I S	LA 25th Anniversary
The Rutland Reel	I R	Book 48
Beach Dancer	B J	Whangarei Book
A Tribute to Peter McBryde	A S	T.A.C. 50th
The Australian Ladies	I R	Glasgow Assembly
Bridge of Nairn	B S	Book 13
Lady in Red	I J	Book 48
The Ambassadors' Reel	B R	Vienna Book
The Lincoln Imp	I J	World Wide Weavings
Butterscotch & Honey	B S	Alexander Leaflets
Carlin's Cairn	I J	Alexander Dances 8
Sleepy Maggie	I R	Book 11

## AGM DANCE

June 23, 2018

First Christian Church

4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

It's Not Rocket Science	B J	Delaware Valley Silver
The Fusilier's Dream	I R	Jean Patrick Collection
1314	A M	Rondel Book
The Happy Dancers	I J	10 Social Dances
The Birks of Invermay	B S	Book 16
The Fairbridge Reel	A R	Book 45
Lauderdale Lads	B R	John Duthie 8 SCDs
Twa Rogueish Een	A J	Rondel Book
Butterscotch and Honey	B S	Alexander Leaflets
The Fireworks Reel	I R	Book 48
The First Rain of Spring	I J	Book 49
Lady Catherine Bruce's Reel	B J	Graded Book
Double Trouble Triangles	A R	Book 50
Eileen Watt's Strathspey	I S	Magazine Dances 2005
Itchy Feet	I J	Coast to Coast
The Bonnie Tree	I S	Book 46
Davy Nick Nack	B R	Glasgow Assembly



**Deadline for the June Ghillie Callum is May 1.**

## BURNS SUPPER & BALL

We might think of Robert Burns as our own Scottish poet, but he doesn't belong to just Scottish country dancers or even to Scots and those of Scottish descent!

At the Burns Supper & Ball in January, Tony McQuilkin addressed the wider influence that Burns has had through his poetry and vast songbook. Tony told us in his Immortal Memory of Robert Burns how the 1786 publication of "Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect" began Burns' renown.

Shortly after that, Burns contributed to a compilation of old Scots songs called "The Scots Musical Museum." Similar publications followed, with many of the songs being lyrics written by Burns set to traditional Scottish tunes, or arrangements of such tunes.

Burns' contribution as a lyricist, collector and popularizer of Scottish songs is surely one of his most enduring legacies, Tony told us.

Burns' work has since	:		:	Fleming-Stephens, Bill
become known and	:		:	and Nancy Hartung and
loved throughout the	:	<i>O my Luve's like a red, red rose</i>	:	Tony McQuilkin, with
English-speaking world	:	<i>That's newly spring in June;</i>	:	Bill playing guitar.
and through transla-	:	<i>O my Luve's like the melodie</i>	:	As much as we
tions around the world.	:	<i>That's sweetly play'd in tune</i>	:	love the ceremony and
As always, our	:		:	toasting, we dancers
celebration of Burns'	:		:	were there to dance.

birthday was a delightful evening full of tradition, music and dancing. It was co-hosted by the Los Angeles and Orange County branches at Ports o' Call restaurant in San Pedro.

The evening began with the Selkirk Grace recited by Ann McBride. Piper John Cahill led the ceremonial procession, followed by Sarah Stelck in the role of Poosie Nancy carrying the haggis on a silver tray, escorted by henchmen John Allen, Jeff Altman and Bill Hartung.

David Thomforde recited Burns' Address to the Haggis, in an American accent but with all the familiar old Scots words. The haggis — prepared by Jon Reeves with his variation of Mary Brandon's traditional recipe — was enjoyed with the salad course. It was followed by dinner and dessert (chocolate fudge cake, yum!).

Tony's speech ended with a toast to the memory of Burns, the first of three toasts for the festive evening.

Grant Clark's Toast to the Lassies began

with Grant declaring himself proud to be a feminist — he even donned a pink knit hat — and saying that he considered Burns a feminist as well. Despite Burns' well-known romantic exploits, the poet defended women's rights in an era (late 1700s) when few regarded women as having any rights. Grant concluded that "Burns would have been mighty proud" of the women's marches in the past year.

Roberta Gotfried opened her Reply to the Laddies sounding skeptical, saying, "Burns as a feminist, really?" She went on to assess how Burns would have fared in the #MeToo climate, allowing for cultural differences, of course. As she detailed Burns' actions on behalf of women, she actually reached the same conclusion that Grant did.

The evening's theme was the title of one of Burns' best-loved songs, "A Red, Red Rose." It was sung by a group calling itself the Red Rose Singers, which consisted of Heather and Margaret Chaney, Doris and Eric Fisher, Ruth

John Cahill piped the grand march, which had Line and Pete Anderson as grand marshals.

Dance music was provided by StringFire!, with dances briefed by Shirley Saturensky, Robb Quint and Pat Zschoche. The dance program was devised by Shirley and Roberta. Mike McGinnis handled the sound system.

Other acknowledgements: Connie Walker, registration; Nancy Hartung and Kris McGinnis, decorations; Linda Boucher and Bob Harmon, graphic arts; Janet Olsen and Linda, haggis ceremony; Dianne Wilson, raffle; Roberta, hospitality. The Planning Committee included Rosemary Abend, Pete Anderson, Roberta Gotfried, Nancy Hartung, Jan Lauer, Ann McBride, Kris McGinnis and Connie Walker.

In traditional fashion, the evening concluded with the singing of another familiar Robert Burns favorite, "Auld Lang Syne."

*Audrey Ramsay Prest*



## CLASSES

### Valley College

Welcome to a brand new year packed full of good friends, good music, great dancing and fun events! I know there's lots of great stuff already on our schedule and in the works.

As always, our dancers are keeping busy both on and off the dance floor! Margaret Burnett has added an embroidery class to her two painting classes ... I think we should give her a week or so of classes, and then all get together, blue jeans, etc. in hand, to have her teach us, or remind us, how to decorate the pockets and seams like we did in the old days (assuming you're old enough to have old days).

Audrey found that chairing the Burbank Float Design Contest, tearing down and putting away all the float decorating stuff from this year before starting on next year's — about an hour and a half later — just wasn't enough activity to keep her out of trouble. So she, along with Jon, Jeff, Margaret, Jim and Alice, signed up to dance at the Scottish Festival on the Queen Mary in February. Oh, and did I mention that she also

crocheted 182 scarves for Operation Gratitude last year?

Aase reports that the Valley College class is doing very well, with the possibility of two new dancers to add to the already two-plus sets that are regularly there on Monday nights.

We're happy to have Alison McAlpine back dancing after a large block of travelling, and we're sad to lose Angela, at least temporarily, to a broken ankle. I feel Angela is a bit of an over achiever ... not content with just one break like the rest of us, she broke hers in three places! Shameless showmanship, Angela. :)

The Burns Ball was a great success ... but possibly our last in its current location at Ports o' Call. I have no doubt that an equally lovely place will turn up in time for our next Burns if the rumors are true and the restaurant falls victim to a demolition.

I look forward to seeing you all at a multitude of Scottish Country Dance activities in the sparkling new dance year.

*Robyn MacGarva George*

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### Demonstration Team

By the time you read this, the 2018 Queen Mary weekend will be history. The program we presented included some of our old favorites (City of Angels, De'il Amang the Sailors, Reel of the Royal Scots and Preston Mill), dances Ann McBride added to our repertoire (Fairy Caps and the Dashing White Sergeant medley) and newer dances Roberta Gotfried has added (Broadford Bay/Border Meeting and Brecon in March).

Ann led us through many of our rehearsals as Roberta banked time with her beloved grandson, Ivan, before his California cousin is born later this spring.

We are really blessed with two wonderful directors available to work together to prepare us for the two days at the Queen Mary festival.

Our next performance will be at the British Home in June.

We are always looking for new opportunities to dance, so if you hear of any, please let us know.

Injuries, injuries: Grant Clark is back in the lineup with his thumb screwed on tightly (this injury due to hockey and not dancing).

We are happy to report that Dana Dunaway and her dog dealt with the fire and mudslide evacuations and the tsunami alert in Santa Barbara in January. She's OK to dance socially but isn't ready yet for the combination of rehearsals and driving two hours each way.

Connie Walker had her foot surgery in February and is in a boot for several more weeks.

We're hoping both are back in the lineup in time for the Seaside Games. We wish them both a speedy recovery and are looking forward to the next performance when we are all dancing together.

*Alice Allen*

**Web site:** [RSCDS-losangeles.org](http://RSCDS-losangeles.org)

**Facebook:** Los Angeles Branch -rscds

## Thousand Oaks

A “Geranium Ceremony” was held at the Thousand Oaks class to reward dancers for perfect\* and near-perfect attendance during the weeks between the summer and holiday breaks.

Recipients of the potted plants are, left to right, Magda Simonini, Claudia Pedersen, Dana Dunaway, Robb-the-Bestower, Carolyn Williams\*, Val Lykes and Shirley Coleman\*.



## Ventura

Ventura and Santa Barbara counties definitely had a rough December and early January with the fires and mudslide. Many of us were shaken up and definitely inconvenienced, but thankfully our class members made it through everything unscathed.

We unfortunately were unable to dance a few Fridays, due to poor air quality and dancers unable to get to class because of the closure of the 101 Freeway. However, things are starting to get back to normal again, and we are back to dancing most Friday nights. Yay!

As we get rolling into 2018, many of us are looking forward to all of the wonderful dance events coming up. However, I am always especially excited for the April dance in Thousand Oaks because it is much closer to home for many of our class members.

I hope that many of you will be able to be able to attend.

Happy dancing!!

*Lisa Sage*



Those enjoying the Ventura class tradition of going out for pie at the end of the year include, from left, Lisa Sage, Roger Nisbet, Ken Evans, Barbara Evans, Donna Ingram, Christine Carlin, Mary Nisbet and Robb Quint.





At the Torrance class Christmas party are, seated from left, Nancy Myers, Doris and Eric Fisher, Val and Denis Rodgers; back row, Molly Dawes, Elfrida Nord (sister of Carol Johnson, visiting from Juneau, Alaska), Marion Reeve, Rosemary Abend, Tony McQuilkin, Nancy Hartung, Knox and Heather and Margaret Chaney, Kris McGinnis (kneeling), Carol Johnson, Bill Critchfield, Ruth Fleming-Stephens and Jack Rennie.

## Torrance/Redondo Beach

The Torrance/Redondo Beach area dancers enjoyed a lighthearted holiday class party, that included a tasty buffet and a sing-a-long with Jack Rennie on the accordion at his American Legion Hall location in Redondo Beach.

Special gifts and recognition were given to Jack for his dedicated service in the Scottish dance community and to Molly Dawes for her longevity and faithful participation. We expect Jack has become quite informed on the life of Queen Elizabeth from the gift books he received.

We closed the evening by gathering for a holiday photo.

The season was marked as an extra special occasion for some of our dancers as the family of Mike and Kris McGinnis, including Marisa, celebrated the engagement of older daughter Micaela to Steven on Christmas Eve.

Also, Eric and Doris Fisher enjoyed spending some quality cozy time with their first grandchild, Emi, now three months, who is also grandchild to dancer Katsuko Ahn. Eric and Doris, who are recently retired, managed to sneak in a jaunt to the Island of Maui as well.

While many of us were dancing in Studio

City on the evening of Feb. 24, Eric and Doris were welcoming their second grandchild, Luke Fisher, a striking redhead who made his debut at 9 lbs. 6 oz. We wish the family well as they enjoy these treasured moments together!

Our youngest dancer, Knox Chaney, was recently featured in the Orange County Register's photo coverage of the Huntington Beach Historical Society's re-enactment of the American Revolution.

Having delighted in the festive dance and choice musical renditions of StringFire! at the recent Burns Supper & Ball, a number of our class members are participating in a variety of dance engagements beyond the monthly dance opportunities, including a demonstration at the Queen Mary Scots Festival in Long Beach in February and the Catalina Island Dance Workshop and Ball in May.

*Heather Chaney*





McBride Hall at the Ventura County Fairgrounds, home of SCD at the Seaside Highland Games, isn't actually named for Ann McBride, but it still makes a great photo opportunity.

## ROSE PARADE FLOAT

Burbank's entry in the Rose Parade won the Founder Award this year. Could that success have anything to do with the record number of Scottish country dancers who contributed their time and talent?

Dancers who were also "floaters": Jon Reeves, construction; Gail Halverson, supervisor of decorating the octopus; Audrey Prest, supervisor of decorating the beach; Kristen Robertson, supervisor of decorating the sand castle; Terry Schaeffer, decorator of beach sand and roses; Carmen Silva-Corvalán (along with her husband Scott), Deresa Teller and Laura Young, preparers of dry material.

If we'd all been there on the same day, we'd have had a full set and could have (not necessarily *would* have) demonstrated Scottish country dancing!

*Audrey Ramsay Prest*

## RALPHS REWARDS PROGRAM

When RSCDS-LA Branch members register with the Ralphs Rewards Community Contribution Program, the branch receives a contribution every time they shop, and they continue to earn their own Ralphs Rewards points. Pick up a flier and learn how to register or call 800-443-4438. **You still need to re-register every September.** Our Organization Number is 93159. Then use your Ralphs Rewards card (or phone number) every time you shop.

## AMAZON SMILE

The branch has yet another opportunity to earn donations. AmazonSmile will make a contribution when you shop using our account number. Learn how by going to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0205054>.

## MEMORIAL FUND

The branch has money in a Memorial Fund, to be used for equipment purchases or special events. It can be used for scholarships to help members attend a workshop or something related to Scottish Country Dancing but who cannot afford the whole cost on their own. Applications are available from branch teachers.



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