

# the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 54 Number 3

March 2023

## BURNS SUPPER & BALL

Burns Night once again lived up to its reputation as the most important, most elegant and most exciting dance of the year.

Hosted by the Los Angeles, Orange County and San Gabriel Valley branches, 2023's Burns Supper & Ball celebrated Scotland's favorite poet with toasts, speeches, rousing music and fabulous dancing at the Torrance Woman's Club on the last Saturday in January.

There was so much to enjoy, by both dancers and their nondancing spouses and friends (despite a few people seeming not to understand that the A designation for a dance signifies advanced level).

The theme for the eve-



Bringing in the haggis at the 2023 Burns Supper & Ball are, from left, Mike McGinnis, Steve Bryan, Jim Bell, John Allen, Connie Walker and Martin Johnson.

**Continued on page 2**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings, fellow dancers ....

The L.A. Branch welcomed 2023 with a miraculous Hogmanay celebration at the El Segundo Masonic Lodge. I say "miraculous" because at one point, the Committee of Management was on pins and needles, wondering if we were going to have enough dancers to have a celebration. But we did, and it was a wonderful evening. (Apart from heavy rain and the toilets not working!!).

The Jan. 28 Burns' Supper & Ball, co-hosted by the three local branches (L.A., Orange County and San Gabriel Valley) was, I think, one of our best. The venue of the Torrance Woman's Club was a perfect setting for the elegant event. The music, the food, and the ambience were perfect.

Again, this year we had a very successful

**Continued on page 5**

# BURNS SUPPER & BALL

## Continued from page 1

ning was Robert Burns' poem "The Belles of Mauchline," on which Ann McBride based her Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. She spoke of the young women whose beauty and wit captivated the dashing poet in the East Ayrshire town of Mauchline and who inspired his 18th-century poem.

After Orange County chair Terri Speakman welcomed everyone and Karen Kerman recited Burns' Selkirk Grace, the haggis was piped in by Martin Johnson, accompanied by Connie Walker as Poosie Nancy and John Allen, Steve Bryan and Mike McGinnis as the Henchmen.

Jim Bell recited the "Address to the Haggis," and a toast was drunk to that annual delicacy, which was prepared by Jon Reeves.

Norm McCallum gave the Toast to the Lassies, and Christine Grobler gave the Reply.

Grand marshals were Roberta Gotfried and Roz Gotfried — Diamonds Are Forever, written by Roberta for her parents' 60th wedding anniversary, was on the dance program.

Musicians were Andy Imbrie and Judi

and Ian Nicolson. Dances were briefed by Connie Walker and Pat Zschoche (Orange County), Deanna St. Amand (Los Angeles) and Doug Macdonald (San Gabriel Valley). The dance program was devised by Ann McBride, Anthea Macdonald and Connie Walker.

When our feet could dance no more, we retired to Kris and Mike McGinnis' home around the corner for snacking, chatting and listening to more offerings by our musician trio.

Serving on this year's Burns Committee were Doris Fisher, Anthea Macdonald, Ann McBride, Norm McCallum, Kris McGinnis, Audrey Prest, Terri Speakman and Connie Walker. Connie was registrar and Kris was liaison with the catering staff.

Thank you also to: Doris Fisher, desserts; Bob Harmon and Audrey Prest, printing; Pete Anderson, swords; Anthea Macdonald, decorations; Kris McGinnis, place cards; Edie Archibald, Anthea Macdonald and the Torrance and Valley College classes, baskets for the silent auction; Lisa Hancock, musician hospitality; Eric Fisher, Bill Hartung, Lisa Hancock and Mike McGinnis, musician transportation; Jack Rennie, loan of accordion; Alice Allen, donation.

*Audrey Ramsay Prest*

---

## CALENDAR

### LOS ANGELES BRANCH

#### MARCH

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

#### APRIL

**23 RSCDS CENTENNIAL DANCE.** Celebrating 100 years of the RSCDS with a Sunday afternoon dance. El Segundo Woman's Club, 541 Standard St. 1 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### JUNE

**24 AGM, POTLUCK AND DANCE.** First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. Potluck 5 p.m., AGM 6 p.m., dance 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

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

---

### OTHER BRANCHES

#### MARCH

**11 OC BRANCH DANCE.** Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### 18

**SGV JOHN'S ALLEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY.** Clifton C. Miller Community Center, 300 Centennial Way, Tustin. 4 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### APRIL

**1 SD WORKSHOP AND TEA DANCE.** Balboa Park Club. Workshop taught by Jennifer Reiner from Phoenix. Doors open 12:30 p.m.; workshop 1-3; tea 3:30, dance 5:30. Music: SO-CALedonians.

#### MAY

**6 OC 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND RSCDS CENTENARY CELEBRATION.** Danish Lutheran Church, 16881 Bastanchury Road, Yorba Linda. 5 p.m. Music: Patti Cobb and James MacQueen. Advance reservations required.

## BEGINNER DANCE

Saturday, March 25, 2023  
 Torrance Cultural Arts Center  
 Torrance Blvd. at Madrona Ave.

## RSCDS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Sunday, April 23, 2023  
 El Segundo Woman's Club  
 541 Standard St.

The Legacy	B J	Pinewoods Coll., Vol. 2
Bea's Delight	I R	Book 43
Gramachie	B S	MMM I
Les Remparts de Séville	I J	Book 50
MacDonald of Keppoch	I M	Book 49
Lady Dumfries	B R	MMM I
Joie de Vivre	B J	Book 39
Chuck's Strathspey	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Diamonds are Forever	A J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Arniston Glen	B S	Lothian Collection
The Cumbrae Reel	B R	Book 28
It's Nae Bother	B J	2nd Graded Book
Foxhill Court	A S	Canadian Book
The Rambling Pitchfork	B R	All Kinds of Everything
The Craven Jig	I J	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
Redwood Arbor	B S	Dragonfly
Trip to Timber Ridge	I R	Book 52

Joie de Vivre	B J	Book 39
Bea's Delight	I R	Book 43
Foxhill Court	A S	Canadian Book
The Aviator	I J	Book 52
Lady Lucy Ramsay	B S	MMM II
The Westminster Reel	I R	Book 45
It's Nae Bother	B J	2nd Graded Book
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloch	A R	RSCDS Leaflet
The Silver Strathspey	I S	Book 44
Carlin's Cairn	I J	Alexander Dances, Vol. 8
The Provost Wynd	B R	2nd Graded Book
Farewell to Balfour Road	A J	Book 52
Miss Jane Muirhead of Dunsmuir	B S	Dunsmuir Dances
Whigmaleeries	I R	Imperial Book
Neidpath Castle	I S	Book 22
Les Remparts de Séville	I J	Book 50
Flowers of Edinburgh	B R	Book 1

## CLASSES

### Valley College

During December, we were hard at work learning the dances for the Orange County Christmas Ball and also our Hogmanay Party. We had good attendance in classes.

Then the New Year came and what happened? Right of a sudden the class grew and grew. In January, we had anywhere from 21 to 24 in class each week.

Several of them are new dancers or dancers who might have done English country dance before but are new to our form of dancing. Some had danced before with Jack Rennie and wanted to come back. Some had danced before with me and decided to return. We even have two mother-daughter duos.

So all of that is very good for the class. The new/newer dancers are coming along fast so they are able to do more and more dances in class.

One of our most regular dancers, and a big help to me with carrying in and out my music equipment, is John Allen. Feb. 16 was his 90th birthday. I think we would all be happy if



## AGM, POTLUCK & DANCE

Saturday, June 24, 2023  
 First Christian Church  
 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Napier's Index	B J	Book 45
Whigmaleeries	I R	Imperial Book
Round and Roundabout	A S	Book 49
Carlin's Cairn	I J	Alexander Dances, Vol. 8
Lady Lucy Ramsay	B S	MMM II
The Warren	I R	Homemade Dances, Vol.2
Fair Enough	B J	Book 51
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloch	A R	RSCDS Leaflet
Slytherin House	I S	Book 52
The Craven Jig	I J	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
Lady Dumfries	B R	MMM I
The Cumbrae Reel	B R	Book 28
The Poppy and the Thistle	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Scallywag	I J	Book 52
The Inimitable Derek	A R	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
Spark o' Water	B S	Spark o' Water
Les Remparts de Séville	I J	Book 50

we could dance as well as he does at that high age. We wish you many happy returns, John! If you want to celebrate John's birthday, there will be a dance party for him in March. Contact Aase for more information.

We have some exciting news to report: Laura Young is wearing a very beautiful engagement ring. She is engaged to be married to a very nice man, Owais. You may have met him at the Burns Supper, when he danced Flowers of Edinburgh. Who knows, we may one day have yet another dancer in class.

In other dancer news, Audrey Prest was happy to welcome her daughter Julie to spend Christmas with her. I flew the other direction and spent Christmas in Maryland with my daughter and son-in-law.

Lindsey Courtney continued her traveling and spent time over Christmas in Iceland and then went on to spend Hogmanay in Edinburgh. Oh, lucky lady! Unfortunately she picked up Covid for a second time while there but is fully recovered now. She had even more adventures in the Caribbean in February.

Tony McQuilkin was very busy rehearsing for a play in early January. From what I hear, his "1776" was a huge success. Unfortunately, with the singing and other closeness in the theater, several cast members developed Covid, so that problem is not over yet.

We welcome dancers anytime you may be in the San Fernando Valley on a Monday night.

*Aase Hansen*

---

## **Torrance**

The Friday Torrance class continues to meet in "hybrid form" with live dancing and Zoom. Since June of 2021, we have covered a great number of dances (more than 200 at last count), some of which might not have been included on a regular program.

We welcome back Leslie Evans to the class. Ruth Fleming-Stephens and her husband Kyle visited Ruth's daughter Sarah in Augsburg, Germany.

The beginner class continues, starting at 6:30, but it is not Zoomed. Welcome to new dancers Keisha and Elise Schmidt, Henry and Ingrid Lin, and Nina Collins!

For two weekends in January and February, Tony McQuilkin played the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon in the Aerospace Players' production of "1776" at the James Armstrong Theatre in Torrance.

The Torrance class was well represented at the Burns Supper & Ball and provided three baskets for the silent auction. Thanks to all who contributed!

A record of each week's program is published at [my.strathspey.org](https://my.strathspey.org). Dancers and teachers are welcome to join us in person Fridays 7:30-9:00 p.m. at 1530 Cravens Ave., Torrance, 90501 or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8248957840> (meeting ID, if needed: 824 895 7840). Masks are no longer required, but proof of vaccination is.

To be added to the email list, contact Kris at [krismcginnis@gmail.com](mailto:krismcginnis@gmail.com).

*Tony McQuilkin*

---

## **Dem Team**

You may have noticed the video camera on the stage at the St. Andrews and Burns balls and wondered what that was all about. It's part of a new Dem Team project.

We have challenged ourselves to videotape ALL the dances published in the Los Angeles Branch's 50th Anniversary Book. That's 25 dances to become familiar with quickly and to be able to dance through all the prescribed repetitions in one video take. These are not performance videos, they are intended to help dancers and teachers understand the directions and learn the dances. We want people to enjoy dancing all the dances that our members created.

So many people around the world rely on videos to learn new dances, this project is our way of ensuring that accurate videos are available on YouTube.

Here's a photo of the evening we celebrated Jim Bell's retirement from the Demonstration Team. Between his time with the MacLeod Dancers and Los Angeles Demonstration Team, he has been demonstrating Scottish dance for nearly 25 years. Now he wants to simply enjoy dancing in L.A. and Orange County classes and at regular social dances.

The energy he used to spend on demon-

stration rehearsals can now be directed to his other Scottish skill, his golf game. We may not see him on Tuesday nights, but we can still dance with him socially. We will miss him at our rehearsals and performances.

If you are an experienced dancer and interested in joining our video project, contact Roberta Gotfried for additional information. All devisors from the anniversary book are invited to come to our class when we practice and tape your creations!

*Alice Allen*



Jim Bell, center, was toasted by Dem Team members, from left, Kris and Mike McGinnis, Roberta Gotfried, Bill Hartung, Martina Hanson, Larry Kanowsky, Anthea and Doug Macdonald, Carol Madden and Grant Clark.



Santa Barbara class was represented at the Burns Supper by a full set: from left, Nick Burlett, Jessie Dove, Roger Nisbet, Sarah Stelck, Mary Nisbet, Dana Dunaway, Ilse and John Gilbert.

### Santa Barbara

The Santa Barbara class has benefited from the influx of new, but experienced English dancers this past year. We enjoy the energy and enthusiasm they bring.

Likewise, a number of class members join the English dancers at their Sunday dances every other week. It's fun to translate (reel = hey, rights and lefts = four changers of rights and lefts with hands, back-to-back = do-si-do, hands across = star).

This year new members Jessie Dove and Nick Burlett joined us at the Burns Supper and Ball in January, pictured here.

*Ilse Gilbert*

### Continued from page 1

silent auction to help offset expenses. The three branches produced enticing baskets of delights; all this was greatly enhanced by the very generous donations of a truly appropriate art work from Margaret Burnett, hand-crafted jewelry from Chris Brooks and an heirloom-worthy quilt from Terri Speakman. (I have to admit, I fought long and hard to get the quilt!!).

The year ahead is filled with some very exciting events. By the time you read this, we will have had our first beginner dance of the year in February. Looking forward to the months ahead, our March dance will be held at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, and on Sunday, April

23, we will have a very special "Afternoon Tea Dance" at the El Segundo Woman's Club. This is in recognition of the Society's 100th anniversary.

The 2023 Interbranch Dance on Sept. 30 will be when the four local Southern California branches participate in the Society's "World Day of Dance." For 24 hours on that date, dancers worldwide will be reeling, jigging and strathspeying in celebration of the Society's centenary, its diamond anniversary.

So, mark your calendars for these events, and happy dancing in the months ahead. I hope to see many of you at one or another of these upcoming events.

*Ann McBride*

## MOLLY DAWES 1924-2022

Longtime active member of the Los Angeles Branch Molly Dawes passed away on Dec. 2, 2022, at the age of 98.

Described by a fellow South Bay area SCDer as having had “a wicked sense of humor and always laughing with a twinkle in

her eye,” Molly, until the most recent years, had been active with the Los Angeles Branch since 1976.

English-born Molly immigrated to the United States after World War II, married another ex-pat who had served in the Royal Navy and had three children.

Her interests ranged widely beyond SCD from volunteering at an elementary school and at a library to animal activism and to film and the theater.

During her many years of association with the branch Molly was for a time also a member of the branch’s demonstration team.

A memorial service was held Jan. 7.

Condolences may be sent to:

The family of Molly Dawes  
c/o Elizabeth Spencer  
26917 Fond du Lac Road  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-2360

*Robb Quint*

---

### 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 provided by Robb Quint.

To be added to the mailing list, contact Robb at [volleyballjerry@aol.com](mailto:volleyballjerry@aol.com).



## 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.

---

### AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile has discontinued charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations. We appreciated their contribution while it lasted.

---

### RALPHS REWARDS PROGRAM

The branch earns a contribution from the Ralphs Rewards Community Contribution Program when members register to benefit the Branch, while they continue to earn their own Ralphs Rewards points. Pick up a flier and learn how to register or call 800-443-4438. **You may still need to re-register every September.** Our Organization Number is AV732. Then use your Ralphs Rewards card (or phone number) every time you shop.



RSCDS, Los Angeles Branch Inc.  
P.O. Box 90871, Los Angeles, CA 90009  
[chair@rscds-losangeles.org](mailto:chair@rscds-losangeles.org)

**Branch chair:** Ann McBride  
**Home phone:** 818-841-8161  
**Email:** [annmcbride1024@gmail.com](mailto:annmcbride1024@gmail.com)

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

**Ghillie Callum Editor:** Audrey Ramsay Prest  
**Home phone:** 818-708-8125  
**Email:** [aramsapp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aramsapp@sbcglobal.net)