

the Ghillie Callum

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BURNS SUPPER & BALL

Ready to bring in the haggis at the Torrance Woman's Club are, from left, Henchman Ray McEdward, Henchman John Allen, "Poosie Nancy" Callan Edwards, piper Martin Johnson and Henchman Roger Nisbet.

Photo by
Audrey Ramsay Prest

Additional photos inside.

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

A well-attended Hogmanay celebration at the Masonic Lodge ushered out 2023 and welcomed 2024. Our 9 p.m. celebration coinciding with midnight on the East Coast seems to be working well. Even after singing "Auld Lang Syne," the dancers wanted to keep dancing. And it was nice to see some young, new faces with the Bertani family.

The Burns Supper & Ball was a smashing success. The evening started with Eric Fisher reciting the Selkirk Grace. Jeff Altman, answered

the question why we do this. For new attendees, it is nice to know the history of the celebration.

The haggis was piped in by Martin Johnson guarded by the Henchmen John Allen, Roger Nisbet and Ray McEdward. Norm McCallum had the honor of addressing the haggis, which was presented by Callan Edwards.

The Immortal Memory by Mary Nisbet was outstanding. Hearing her recite "Frae a' the Arts the Wind Can Blow" and "John Anderson, My Jo" was truly special. David and Flora Morgan

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OBITUARIES

EILEEN GRAY

In 1985, Eileen Gray's son and daughter-in-law brought her to watch a new Scottish country dance class in Santa Barbara. She came back without them the following week, and didn't stop dancing for 32 years.



A devoted member and later teacher of the class, Eileen is rarely missing in photos from those years: annual Santa Barbara Scottish Society Burns nights, Seaside Games, tea dances, St. Patrick's Day dances and other parties.

Eileen stepped up to lead the Santa Barbara class, taking the place of Donna Pinckney in 2000. During the next decade, she taught or co-taught the class. Polly Holcombe remembers Eileen as her first teacher, explaining skip change with, "Think of being a 6-year-old riding a stick hobby horse."

Eileen was warm and fun-loving, with an insatiable zest for life and for Scottish country dancing. She passed away in Santa Barbara this past October.

Ilse Gilbert

DONNA PINCKNEY

Longtime Santa Barbara teacher Donna Pinckney died Feb. 4. In recent years she lived



in La Jolla and Desert Hot Springs.

A graduate of Santa Barbara High School, Donna studied nursing at Northwestern University and then returned to Santa Barbara, where she

worked in that field for 30 years.

She traveled the world, particularly after retirement, including to RSCDS Summer School in Saint Andrews, and she was an active Scottish country dancer for many years.

BARBARA EVANS

Barbara Evans, a longtime denizen of the Ventura class, died Dec. 12.

She was an accomplished artist and art teacher, and, always very civic-minded, had been a member of several municipal committees in Ventura.

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had the sweetest toast to the Lassies and Lads.

Thank you to the three-branch committee for a truly wonderful evening. The fantastic music was by Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey. I lost track, but we had five or six encores.

Looking toward the spring, we have some exciting events ahead. Our April dance will be held on May 5, a Sunday afternoon dance. Mark your calendars!

See you on the dance floor,

Kris McGinnis

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

MARCH

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

MAY

5 SUNDAY AFTERNOON DANCE. El Segundo Woman's Club, 541 Standard St., El Segundo. 2 p.m. Music: recorded.

JUNE

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

OTHER BRANCHES

MARCH

9 OC AFTERNOON DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 4 p.m. Music: SO-CALedonians.

16 SGV ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE. Church of Our Saviour, 535 W. Roses Road, San Gabriel. 4 p.m. Music: TBA.

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.

MARCH BEGINNER DANCE

Saturday, March 23, 2024
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
Torrance Blvd. at Madrona Ave.

Joie de Vivre	B J	Book 39
Bea's Delight	I R	Book 43
Miss Jane Muirhead/Dunsmuir	B S	Dunsmuir Dances
Les Remparts de Séville	I J	Book 50
Tuolumne Tournée NEW	A S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Rambling Pitchfork	B R	All Kinds of Everything

The Intruders	I J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Hedwig's Reel	B R	2nd Graded Book
Porchester Hall NEW	I S	London Jubilee Book
It's Nae Bother	B J	2nd Graded Book
The Ambassadors' Reel	B R	Vienna Book

Down Under, Hands Up!	A J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Redwood Arbor	B S	Dragonfly
Whigmaleeries	I R	Imperial Book, Vol. 2
First Love	B S	Let's All Dance Too
Burns Night	B J	Boston 50th Anniversary
Trip to Timber Ridge	I R	Book 52



AGM DANCE

Saturday, June 22, 2024
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Fair Enough	B J	Book 51
Bea's Delight	I R	Book 43
Tuolumne Tournée	A S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Follow Me Home	I J	Book 38
Gramachie	B S	MMM I
Arthur's Seat	I R	SCDs of the 18th Century

Hedwig's Reel	B R	2nd Graded Book
Slytherin House	I S	Book 52
Niles Roberts' Farewell...	A J	Book 53
Arniston Glen	B S	Lothian Collection
The Westminster Reel	I R	Book 45

Farewell to Balfour Road	I J	Book 52
The Dancing Bees	B R	24 Graded & Social Dances
Neidpath Castle	I S	Book 22
Diamonds Are Forever	A J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Sueno's Stone	I R	Magazine Dances 2005-2009

MAY FÊTE

Sunday, May 5, 2024
El Segundo Woman's Club
541 Standard St., El Segundo

Napier's Index	B J	Book 45
Arthur's Seat	I R	SCDs of the 18th Century
Tuolumne Tournée	A S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Scallywag	I J	Book 52
Arniston Glen	B S	Lothian Collection
The Warren	I R	Homemade Dances, Vol.2

Fair Enough	B J	Book 51
The Westminster Reel	I R	Book 45
Slytherin House	I S	Book 52
Niles Roberts' Farewell... NEW	A J	Book 53
The Cumbrae Reel	B R	Book 28

Diamonds are Forever	A J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Porchester Hall	I S	London Jubilee Book
The Rambling Pitchfork	B R	All Kinds of Everything
Les Remparts de Séville	I J	Book 50
Gramachie	B S	MMM I
Trip to Timber Ridge	I R	Book 52

CLASSES

Redondo Beach



A holiday lunch potluck included dishes from several cultures.

The Redondo Beach class celebrated the holiday season with a potluck lunch. Many brought food from their cultural backgrounds, then everyone shared their family's traditions for the holiday.

With the help of Kris McGinnis, the class modified a dance — which is now called The Redondo Reel. It will become our “signature dance.”

Carmelita Silvino was part of a dance team that celebrated the Filipino feast of Santo Nino. The team danced in several parishes in the Los Angeles area, but the culminating event was a

Mass held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels on Jan. 21.

Travelling members of the class include Lei She (Scotland), Liz Lewandowska (Las Vegas) and Angeles Haro (Mexico).

Rosemary Abend

Torrance

Kelly Wolschon went on a skiing trip to Colorado. Kaisa Schmitt went to New Hampshire for cross-country skiing. Betty Anderson traveled to Nashville for her 2-year-old grandson's birthday.

Henry Lin, when asked what he thought about Burns night, his first dance, he said it was "interesting." His wife Ingrid added that they really enjoyed the evening!

Tony McQuilkin

Valley College

The Valley College class has had a lot to cheer about lately. Most recently, 17 of our approximately 25 dancers attended the Burns Supper & Ball, along with five non-dancers — making teacher Aase Hansen very proud.

Our own Callan Edwards was chosen for the role of Poosie Nancy, to carry in the haggis, which was prepared by Jon Reeves. And one of the three henchmen was John Allen.

Other class members who played important parts in the wonderful evening: Betty Pettitt served as a grand marshal; Jeff Altman explained the background of Burns suppers; Aase coordinated the dance program with the other branches, and she and Audrey Prest assembled the silent auction baskets contributed by the class.

Starting off the new year, the Burbank float in the Rose Parade won the Mayor's Award — with support from the whole class and lots and lots of hard work by Jon, Audrey and Terry Schaeffer.

Several class members traveled over the holidays, including Aase, who visited her daughter and son-in-law in Maryland; Claudia Pedersen, who visited family in Nevada; Jim Bell, who spent a few weeks in Washington State; Callan, who journeyed to Indonesia, Thailand,

Nepal and other exotic places; Judy Tsay, whose travels took her to several states and countries. Lindsey Courtney went to Florida to run in races at Walt Disney World. She hurried back to California to race again at Disneyland — in the same week! Ask her about all the medals she won.

Aase Hansen and Audrey Prest

A WINNING HORSE

Membership secretary Melinda Brown is a part owner of a horse named Newgrange, who won the San Pasqual Stakes at Santa Anita Racetrack the afternoon of the Burns Supper.

NEW MEMBERS

The branch welcomes new members Julie Marleib and Alissa Simon.

Melinda Brown, membership chair

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



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