

The Ghillie Callum

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BURNS SUPPER & BALL



While reciting the Address to the Haggis, Norm McCallum raises the dirk to make the first cut.

With him are Lisa Hancock as Poesie Nancy, far left, and Sarah Fox and Eric Fisher as Henchmen. Not shown are piper Martin Johnson and the third Henchman, David Morgan.

The Burns Supper & Ball was held once again at the Torrance Woman's Club.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings Dancers,

As I write this, I am still reeling from the Burns Supper & Ball — such a wonderful evening. Thank you all who helped plan and handle the dozens of details, house the musicians, support the auction and attend the event.

This is going to be a very busy and exciting year. Doris Fisher and her merry band of helpers are finalizing the details for the Catalina Workshop and Ball May 1-3. The teachers are choosing dances for upcoming year's program.

And plans are underway to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Los Angeles Branch. In November we will combine our St. Andrew's Ball with the anniversary celebration and a memorial

to Jack Rennie, all in one very special evening.

What a mouthful that is! The event will be held at a unique — and new to us — venue in Long Beach. You'll hear more details soon.

Sorry to say, we will not be hosting an April dance in 2026. The venue we normally use, the El Segundo Woman's Club, is being updated and we can't count on it being ready by then.

If you plan on going to summer workshops, now is the time to arrange your plans. Remember: The branch has scholarships available.

Happy dancing,

Kris McGinnis

FLOAT DECORATING



Scottish country dancers at Burbank's float for the Rose Parade included, from left, Jon Reeves, Audrey Prest, Gail Halverson, Terri Coomes and Audrey's daughter Julie West.

CALENDAR LOS ANGELES BRANCH

MARCH

28 BEGINNER DANCE. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd, at Madrona. 7:30 p.m.
Music: recorded.

JUNE

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

JULY

25 SUMMER DANCE. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd, at Madrona. Music: recorded.

AUGUST

22 SUMMER DANCE. First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. Music: recorded.

SEPTEMBER

26 INTERBRANCH DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. Details TBA.

NOVEMBER

28 60TH ANNIVERSARY, ST. ANDREW'S BALL & JACK RENNIE MEMORIAL DANCE. Details TBA.

OTHER BRANCHES

MARCH

14 OC BRANCH DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m.
Music: SO-CALedonians.

MUSIC AT OUR DANCES AND CLASS-

Have you ever stopped to ponder how our dance class teachers always seem to have precisely the right music for a particular dance?

Well, the answer lies with one very special person: Bill Hartung! When the year's program has been set and all the necessary music identified, Deanna St. Amand sends the music tracks to Bill.

Once Bill has obtained all the required music tracks, it takes hours to copy the music, label the CDs, prepare the "table of contents" insert cards, and distribute the CDs to the teachers. In addition to all this, Bill also provides the CDs for each of our monthly dances.

So, a very special thank you to Bill for making the teacher's job so much easier and our dancers' experience so enjoyable!
Thank you, Bill!!

Ann McBride

BEGINNER DANCE

Saturday, March 28, 2026
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Drive

Come Under My Plaidie	B J	SCDs for Children
The Kissing Bridge	NEW B R	Book 47
The Bridge of Sighs	AS	Summer Collection 1986
Starry Night	I R	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Ardnahoe	B S	SCDDB Online
Light and Airy	B J	Book 4
St. Andrew's Fair	B J	Five SCDs 1982
Scott Meikle	I R	Book 46
Sugar Candie	NEW I S	Book 26
La Ville Lumière	AR	Paris Book, Vol. 2
Flowers of Edinburgh	B R	Book 1
City Lights	I J	Book 52
The Duran Ranger	B R	Book 13
The House Keys of Lisbon	I S	Woodhall Book, Vol. 4
The Rover's Rant	I J	22 Social Dances
The Reel of the Royal Scots	NEW B R	Leaflet Dances with Music



IN MEMORIAM: CAROL MADDEN

A familiar face in the Southern California SCD community for many decades, Carol Madden passed away at the age of 78 on Dec. 8 in Santa Monica following a suddenly appearing serious illness.

Carol was born in Atlanta on Feb. 27, 1947. Because her father was a



well-known pathologist, her family moved and traveled a great deal as her father's projects brought them around the world. In those early years she even had the opportunity to spend a

year in Japan at the age of 11. Eventually her family settled in California, where she spent all of her adult life.

As an adult, Carol's greatest interest without question, and indeed her passion, was Scottish country dancing. Across the years and decades, it was typical to see her enjoying many SCD social events during the year, and she participated in several local performance groups over the decades as well.

Most recently Carol had been regularly dancing at the "Team" class in Santa Monica and at the Los Angeles Branch class in Torrance.

Robb Quint

CLASSES



At the Burns Supper & Ball, enjoying the backdrop of a Burns-era tavern with the cutout of Robert Burns himself are Torrance class teachers, from left, Bill Hartung, Kris McGinnis, Ann McBride and Deanna St. Amand, along with the class tech expert (running the music and Zoom connections from his phone) Mike McGinnis.

Torrance

The Torrance beginner class continues, but it is not Zoomed. The intermediate/advanced class continues to meet in "hybrid form" with both live dancing and Zoom.

Lisa Hancock helped her daughter Sophie move from Phoenix to Oakland. (Sophie is a frequent guest at many of our holiday dances.)

Grace and Gabriel White are planning a trip to Hong Kong. Kaisa Schmitt is visiting Portugal, after surviving the deep freeze of Minnesota!

Debi Robinson and George Martin have also been traveling. Ruth Fleming-Stephens will be visiting Minnesota to help with funeral arrangements for her ex-father-in-law, who lived to be over 100!

A record of each week's program is published at 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, CA 90501 or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8248957840> (meeting ID, if needed: 824 895 7840). To be added to the email list, contact Kris at krismcginnis@gmail.com.

Tony McQuilkin

Valley College

Our class was well represented at the Burns Supper & Ball in January — at least 16 of us dancers, plus three non-dancing spouses!

Prior to that, a few class members were traveling: Lindsey Courtney went to Antarctica for winter break; John Allen and Elizabeth Seward spent time in Galveston; Alice Allen visited family in Denver; Claudia Pedersen visited family in Carson City. And in February Dawn Bertani and her family went skiing and snowboarding.

The winter session introductory class went well, with several dancers trying out Scottish county dancing and many dancers from our regular class arriving early to dance with them.

John Allen celebrated his 93rd birthday. Three Valley dancers worked on Burbank's float for the Rose Parade: Terri Coomes, Audrey Prest, Jon Reeves.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

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.



Lindsey Courtney shared photos of visiting Antarctica.

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.

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.



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