

# The Ghillie Callum

Volume 39 No. 1

September 2007



## A STANDING OVATION FOR THE AYRSHIRE FIDDLE ORCHESTRA

On Saturday, July 14th, a well earned standing ovation concluded a wonderful concert and ceilidh provided by the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra. This youth orchestra, plus a dancer, bagpiper and a voice soloist, under the baton of three maestros, played with so much enthusiasm and style that the audience of approximately 370 people had nothing but "high praises" for their performance.

The level of their playing was outstanding from start to finish. The musical arrangements, mostly arranged by Alistair McCulloch, the AFO's Musical Director, were superb. Two of the slower numbers, "Sunset on St. Pete's" and "The New Dawning", are beautiful compositions and were played with so much grace and feeling you found your mind drifting away to a peaceful location.

We often hear the expression "the music tells you what to do" and so it did at this event. During the fast tunes, hands were clapping and feet tapping no matter what nationality you were. At the ceilidh dances, the audience participation saw a very large group of children and adults dancing up and down the aisles, enjoying the music, including some of the orchestra members, the parents and chaperones that traveled with the AFO. It was hard to sit still while this music was playing.

At different intervals of the program each of the maestros took over the baton. Blair Parham, (a former member of the AFO and now assistant musical director and compare) conducted the first half. Alistair McCulloch, the eminent Scots fiddler who holds several National Fiddle Champion titles, incorporated his solo compositions with the orchestra joining in. Wallace Galbraith delighted the audience in the second half by introducing the "Burns Violin", the violin that Robert Burns used to compose tunes for his songs. Wallace explained this violin was found in an attic, refurbished and is now under the care of the National Trust for Scotland. Wallace is one of a few musicians allowed to travel with and play this instrument, and he brought it back to life for us.

The beautiful, graceful Highland dance champion (and fiddler) Suzanne Loch performed a choreographed number that was so perfect and light. Her costume, with its chiffon-draped wings, gave the appearance she was flying across the floor, covering the front and back of the hall, so everyone got a good view of her.

The vocal soloist, Jennifer Gordon (also a fiddler) was a delight with her soft, husky very Scottish-accented voice. To the surprise of many of the SC dancers and LA Fiddle Orchestra members present, we found out Jennifer is the niece of the late Colin Gordon, who played fiddle with the Thistle Band and LA Fiddle Orchestra.

The piper, James Murnin, must have a spare set of lungs; he played so long and with such a variety of tunes, sliding from one tempo to another with ease, hitting every note perfectly. His performance at the end of the

concert had us all holding our breaths in case he would run out of air -- but he didn't.

This lovely group of very disciplined, mannerly young people consisted of 73 extremely talented young Scottish musicians, mostly from the Ayrshire location (west coast of Scotland). The co-founder and director of the AFO, Wallace Galbraith and his wife Lex, formed this group in 1982, to encourage and develop Scots fiddle music among the local youth. The orchestra has steadily matured and now has 130 members, ages 10-18 years. This concert concluded their 15th world tour.

Wallace thanked Wilma and her committee for putting all this together and presented the committee with a box of AFO gifts and their music CDs. He indicated this concert was the highlight and grand finale to the AFO CanAm 2007 tour. CDs of the AFO's music can be obtained from their website [www.fiddleorchestra.com](http://www.fiddleorchestra.com). "New Dawning" and "Silver Strings" have most of the tunes played at this concert.

Wilma would like to thank the LA Branch Committee for backing up her idea and sponsoring this concert. Her committee of workers; Frank, Ray, Roberta, Denis, Irv, Nan, Val, Rosemary, Aase, Susie, Carla, Joan Baker from Phoenix (who encourage this idea and traveled to LA to help out), Jim Bell, Jim Alstad, Jack Rennie, Rena Taylor, and all who helped feed 94 AFO members, the local dancers who circulated flyers, prepared publicity, donated cookies and helped with the set-up/clean-up of the hall - a big THANKS to you all!

*Wilma Fee*



Wallace Galbraith presents "Burns" fiddle!

## LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES 2007-08

### September

**29 Interbranch Dance.** Tustin Senior Center. 200 C. St., Tustin. 7:30 pm. Music: Susan Worland and Lyle Ramshaw.

### October

**29 Beginner Dance/Costume.** Van Nuys/ Sherman Oaks Senior Center. 5040 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks. 7:00 pm. Recorded music.

### November

**24 St. Andrews Ball.** South Bay Masonic Center. 520 Main St., El Segundo. Music: Barbara and Robert McOwen & Barbara Magone.

### December

**31 Hogmanay.** El Segundo Woman's Club. 8:00 p.m. Recorded music.

## 2008

### January

**31 Burns Ball.** Ports O'Call Restaurant. Music: Callum McKinnon and Lisa Scott.

## OTHER EVENTS

OC = Orange County Branch;

SD = San Diego;

SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.

## 2007

### September

**8 OC Monthly Dance**

### October

**6 2007 - White Heather Ball at Trafalgar Castle School (Canada).** Music: Bobby Brown & the Scottish Accent. Cost: \$45/pp. Marita Harding: 905.986.5298

**13-14 Seaside Highland Games, Ventura County Fairgrounds; and Seaside Games Dance, First United Methodist Church, Ventura.** Recorded music.

### November

**9-11 SD Julian Weekend.** \$110/pp. Janet McDaniel 760.929.0103

## 2008

### February

**21-26 Winter School 2008 at Atholl Pallace Hotel, Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland.** Applications on RSCDS web site (waiting list).

### March

**8 OC Anniversary Ball.**

**29 SD Workshop.**

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Well, Dancers, here goes my first article for the Ghille Callum as your newly elected chairperson. Thank you for allowing me to fill this slot for you, and I look forward to doing my best to ensure that the LA Branch continues its long tradition (42 years!) of encouraging and promoting Scottish Country Dancing in LA County. I have large shoes to fill (Ray's feet are definitely larger than mine), but I am willing to give it a go.

At the Interbranch meeting on July 7th at Richard & Marjorie McLaughlin's lovely home, it was agreed that there would be two interbranch events per year: the fall Interbranch dance, that we currently enjoy, and a Spring Ball. We also agreed that we would like to see interbranch workshops in the fall and spring, possibly in conjunction with these dances. The SD Branch will be sponsoring a workshop at the end of March 2008, which may be followed by a tea dance.

It was also generally agreed that we would attempt to support other branches' special events by attending whenever possible and by not having competing events in the same time frame. One such event that we can all look forward to will be the OC Anniversary Ball on March 8, 2008.

Plans for our annual St Andrews Ball are finalized, and we are pleased to announce that we will have Robert & Barbara McOwen for this event. It has been years since they have played for us, and we are in for a real treat. Both Robert & Barbara are Scottish dance teachers and musicians, and play in the band Barbara leads known as "Tullochgorum," based in Boston. Barbara is a world-class fiddler who has composed over 100 prize-winning tunes and is the founder and co-director of the Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School. Robert is a mathematics professor at Northeastern University; his proud mother is our own editor, Carol McOwen. Barbara Magone has agreed to join in the music.

Plan to dance the old year out and the new year in at our annual Hogmanay event at the El Segundo Woman's Club. It's a lovely way to spend New Year's Eve and non-dancers can come and help piece together the jigsaw puzzle. Special thanks to Bill Hartung who is working hard to make sure that both St Andrews and Hogmanay are up to their usual standards.

Burns Supper will be a tri-branch event again this year and will take place at the elegant Ports O'Call Restaurant. We hear there will be plenty of haggis and the usual ceremonies we have all come to know and love, so mark your calendars now for the last Saturday in January 2008.

Cheers & Happy Dancing!

*Doris Fisher, Chair*

To the right;  
members of the  
audience take part  
in the ceilidh with  
the Ayreshire Youth  
Orchestra from  
Scotland.





**Interbranch Dance  
Tustin Senior Center  
200 C. St. Tustin  
September 29, 2007**

Hooper's Jig	BJ	MMM II
General Stuart's Reel	IR	RSCDS Book 10
Delvine Side	BS	RSCDS Book 2
Napier's Index	I J	RSCDS Book 45
Corian Strathspey	AS	RSCDS Book 43
Miss Johnstone/Ardrossan	I R	14 Social Dances
Gloria's Wee Jig	BJ	Devil's Quandary
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	IS	RSCDS Leaflet
The Best Set in the Hall	AJ	Greenwood/Leaflet
Flowers of Edinburgh	BR	RSCDS Book 1
The Dream Catcher	AS	RSCDS Book 45
Pinewoods Reel	IR	Yankee Sampler
The Wild Geese	BJ	RSCDS Book 24
Bratach Bana	AR	Drewry/Bon Accord
Linnea's Strathspey	I S	Dunsmuir Dances
A Trip to Bavaria	I R	MacGregor-Brown/Leaflet
Montgomerie's Rant	IR	RSCDS Book 10



**St. Andrews Ball  
So. Bay Masonic Center  
520 Main St., El Segundo  
November 24, 2007**

Dashing White Sergeant	R B	Book 3
Follow Me Home	J I	Book 38
Bonnie Ina Campbell	S A	Book 37
Alan J. Smith	J B	Book 45
Founders' Reel	R A	Dances/Difference
Quarries' Jig	J I	Book 36
The Lea Rig	S B	Book 21
Farewell to Auchterarder	J A	Hamilton
The Quern	S I	Dunedin Dances
Shiftin' Bobbins	R B	Clowes
Lady Dumfries	R B	MMMI
Bridge at Ballachullish	S A	Bridge of Earn
Best Set in The Hall	J I	Greenwood Leaflet
Blackadder House	S I	Blackadder Collection
Selkirk Settlers	R B	Let's All Dance
Good Hearted Glasgow	J B	Collins SCD Book
Arthur's Seat	R I	18th Century



**October Dance/Costume  
Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center  
5040 Van Nuys Blvd. Sherman Oaks.  
October 29, 2007**

Good Hearted Glasgow	JB	Collins SCD Book
Lady Dumfries	RB	MMMI
Linnea's Strathspey	S I	Dunsmuir
Ladies' Fancy	J B	Book 13
Music Makars	R I	Book 33
Best Set in The Hall	J I	Greenwood Leaflet
Delvine Side	S B	Book 2
Flowers of Edinburgh	R B	Book 1
The Quern	S I	Dunedin Dances
Alan J. Smith	J B	Book 45
Shiftin' Bobbins	R B	Clowes
It's About Time	S I	TAC Leaflet
Follow Me Home	J I	Book 38
The Lea Rig	S B	Book 21
Whigmaleeries	R I	Imperial Book Vol. 2
Miss Welsh's Reel	J B	Graded
The Sailor	R B	Book 24

**Hogmanay  
El Segundo Woman's Club  
8:00 p.m.  
December 31, 2007**

The Cranberry Tart	J I	Glasspool 7 Yr Itch
Music Makars	R I	Book 33
Jimmy's Fancy	S B	Book 14
Follow Me Home	J I	Book 38
The Corian Strathspey	S A	Book 43
Flowers of Edinburgh	R B	Book 1
Farewell/Auchterarder	J A	Hamilton
Blackadder House	S I	Blackadder Collection
Catch The Wind	R B	Book 45
The Rover's Rant	J I	Goldring - 12 More
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S I	RSCDS Leaflets
Selkirk Settlers	R B	Let's All Dance
Quarries' Jig	J I	Book 36
Lady Lucy Ramsay	SB	MMMI
A Trip to Bavaria	R I	Collins SCD Book
Napier's Index	J B	Book 45
The Silver Strathspey	S I	Book 44
Founders' Reel	R A	Dances/Difference
Good Hearted Glasgow	J B	Collins SCD Book
Shiftin' Bobbins	RB	Clowes

## **A SPECIAL THANKS IS DUE.....**

Special thanks is due to Ray Tucker, who has served faithfully on the Los Angeles Board of Management for the last seven years. He first served as a MAL, then as vice chairman in charge of dances for several years, then as chairman for three years. His natural talent for leadership was well used in these positions. During his three years as chair, he accomplished many things, including encouraging the creation of a dedicated L.A. website by Gail Halverson, spearheading a three-branch Burns Supper in 2007, supervising the purchase of new sound equipment, and the promotion of events to encourage new members and keep our branch going strong. So, Ray, you deserve our sincere thanks and admiration for all you have accomplished. You have set the bar high! ....And, he's not done yet! Ray will continue on the board for one year as immediate past chair.

Speaking of the board, Ray has been ably assisted this last year by a Board of Management who also deserve our thanks. They have given up many a Sunday afternoon to attend board meetings. They are a faithful and hard-working group, and some have been on the board for many years and have served in many different positions. The approximate number of years they have served is shown next to their name and totals an amazing 99 years! Be sure and thank these people the next time you see them at a dance!

### **2006-2007 Board**

Chairman: Ray Tucker (7)

Vice-Chairman: Bill Hartung (5)

Recording Secretary: Audrey Prest (9)

Corresponding Secretary: Deborah Ash (3)

Treasurer: Russell Ham (11 +)

MAL's: Irv Cohen (3), Linda McWade (5), Jacquie Sargent (1), Claudia Pedersen (4)

Teacher's Rep: Aase Hansen (21)

Dem Team Director: Ann McBride (30+)

The board is continuing for the most part intact into the new year, with the exception of Linda and Jacquie, whose spots have been filled by Sue Higgins and Tove Olafsen. We will miss Linda's expertise; she has made many an event extra special with those "Linda" touches. And, we will miss Jacquie's enthusiasm and willingness to help. Special thanks to Sue and Tove for coming on board.

Welcome!

*Doris*



### **RAFFLE ITEMS**

The L.A. Branch is having only one raffle this year, at the St. Andrews Ball. Donations of raffle items, complete baskets and even empty baskets are always welcome. Please get them to Aase or me by mid-October, if you can. Thanks!

*Audrey Prest*

### **TECHNIQUE WORKSHOPS**

During the past dance season, the Teachers Committee ran four technique workshops on different Sunday afternoons. Everyone with a year's experience dancing was welcome to come but the attendance in general was low. We worked on steps and formations for the set of exam dances a teacher candidate needs to know to pass the dancing exam.

We have been asked by the Branch Committee to try to incorporate more technique workshops this coming year. We will soon have dates available for the workshops.

Please plan to attend. All dancers who attended last year felt they improved their dancing in some way. We want to do that with more dancers. We often don't have the time in class to spend on breaking down formations, so this is another way of doing it. Also, some of the workshops will be for basic dancers and some for more advanced dancers.

The dances we will do will be new to all. So please come and join us for a fun afternoon of dancing. Please contact me by email to let me know you are interested in receiving more information: [aasehansen@aol.com](mailto:aasehansen@aol.com)

*Aase Hansen*



**BONAVISTA HARBOR**

## **DANCE CLASS IN NEWFOUNDLAND**

We were vacationing in Newfoundland and were fortunate to find a dance class held the day after we arrived in St. John's. We emailed ahead for the location and time. We received a very warm welcome when we arrived at the church where the class was held. Our sincere offer to pay the class fee for the evening was adamantly refused.

During the summer, the class is more informal with reviews of favorite dances. There were at least two sets all evening, with experienced dancers as well as some people who had been dancing for only a year. In the course of the evening, the class did about 10 - 12 dances. We knew only four: Flowers of Edinburgh, Mari's Wedding (the recorded tune was played very differently from what we are accustomed to), Macdonald of the Isles, and Reel of the Royal Scots. We learned several Newfoundland favorites and we were "coached" through a couple of dances that were more difficult. Libby was able to help her set, with the less experienced dancers, get through Macdonald of the Isles.

There were a couple of dances we especially liked, including one in a square set with each side having one man with two women. (We'll try to get the notes to pass on to our teachers.)

We were impressed that during the break, hot tea in ceramic cups was served along with fruit and home-baked goods. When we asked if anyone was going in the direction of our hotel, one class member offered to drive us back to the hotel even though he lived around the corner from the church. He gave us a parting warning: "drive slowly between dusk and dawn, so you don't hit a moose!"

Dancing in St. John's was a wonderful experience, and it was the first time we've been able to find a class in session while traveling outside our country.

Two days later, we picked up our rental car and

headed to the Bonavista Peninsula. The Bonavista dance that we had on our L.A. program was devised by a Newfoundlander about this area.

*Libby & Paul Hollombe*



Photo by Irv Cohen

**James Murnin, the piper, at the AFO Concert.**

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## **UPDATE ON DELEGATES TO AGM, SCOTLAND....**

We are happy to report that the LA Branch will be well represented at the AGM in Perth, Scotland this November by two delegates. Anne Taylor (aka Anne Grant) has been our delegate for sometime and has graciously agreed to continue. She is a professional kilt-maker who hails from Aviemore, Inverness-shire. Kathleen Thomas of Ayr, Ayrshire, has kindly agreed to fill our open delegate slot. Kathleen often comes to our dances when she is here visiting relatives in the area and was one of the participants in our recent Catalina Island Workshop & Ball weekend. Thank you, Kathleen!

## OBSERVATION

I have danced more years that I care to mention. However, it is really only in the last 10 years that I have seen dances changed so as to have more fun.

I don't mean to write this to dampen the fun of dancing the last few dances on a dance program, but what I have seen recently on the dance floor does not resemble Scottish dancing at all. When a dance like Mrs. MacLeod is turned into a wild chase or slipping down the middle and back, and set to and turn corners followed by a reel of three is turned into wild spins that usually don't end facing the right person, the dance is no longer recognizable. Is anyone really listening to the music?

Has our teaching of phasing, being at the right point at the right time, covering with your partner as you come around, covering with other sets even, been completely lost, or is it not fun to dance that way?

Just wondering,

*Aase Hanson*

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### A NEW TEACHER

Just at press time, we learned that the L.A. Branch has a new teacher: Barbara Mackenzie. She attended Summer School at St. Andrews, Scotland, and passed the Pre-lim. Barbara has already been briefing at dances and teaches in Bakersfield and Lancaster.

**Congratulations!**

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## CLASS REPORTS

### SIMI VALLEY

The Simi Valley class is in full swing for the summer months, but your humble correspondent is not enrolled, so this note is just to let y'all know that we're alive and well. The class is well attended with usually four couples. Frank Ibbott is the instructor for the summer. Mary Lund will be back in September.

*Don Cutler*

## VENTURA

Frank Ibbott, teacher of the Scottish Country Dance class, at Ventura College works hard to prepare his lessons for Friday evenings. He gets requests from the dancers to prepare for upcoming events -- for example, Asilomar -- and he tries to accommodate them, like most good teachers. But sometimes he gets to the dance studio and finds that those who requested specific dances, haven't even shown up for the class.

Class members traveling this summer:

Dane and Michelle Baylis attended the Monterey Games.

Barbara Evans flew to Seattle two times, once for her sister's wedding and once for her daughter's birthday.

Ken and Marta Evans celebrated their first wedding anniversary at a lovely inn.

Lillian Goldstein toured Yellowstone Park and the Badlands of South Dakota.

Jackie Popp was in Chicago for a wedding and for family visits.

Pat and Bill Livingston were busy moving to Santa Rosa, and we are sorry to lose them.

Charles and Debra von Bernuth visited Aruba.

Madeleine and Sandy Waddell lived in their house in Sweden -- she for a month, he for two weeks.

Luckily for the rest of us, the travelers were not all out at the same time. And what with certain stalwarts and visitors, Frank usually has two sets which get the benefit of his good teaching.

The class will be on hiatus in August and begin again Friday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m. Call Frank at 805.373.9905 for directions.

*Lillian Goldstein*

## VALLEY COLLEGE

Aase Hansen is heading to Denmark for four weeks this summer, to visit family and friends and attend her niece's wedding. Her daughter, Lisbeth Hencke, a former class member now living in Tampa, Fla. will join her for part of the time. They are all happy that Lisbeth's mother-in-law, Pat Ziegler, has changed her work schedule so she and John can attend class this coming year.

Robin MacGarva George tells us that she and Brian will be going to Canada in August to shoot

their new TV cooking show. "Don't say 'break a leg'," she warns, "because the kids and I are going sky diving in July for my birthday and I don't want any confusion on that front!"

Deborah Ash is driving to Bandon, Oregon with her friend, Elena. They plan to take two days going up, stopping along the way in Ashland and then continuing another three hours to Bandon, which is on the coast near Coos Bay. Elena has a beach cottage there as well as a chunk of hilltop property where she and her boyfriend are building a very large house. During the two weeks Deborah is up there, she'll take a side trip to Portland, and possibly Bend, in Central Oregon where her brother lives.

Claudia Pedersen is leaving for the Island of Guam on July 19th to visit her daughter, Erika, and son-in-law, Steve. They are expecting their first child around the end of July and have learned that it will be a boy. "I'll be staying until September 3rd so that I can help them with the new family member. And as Erika told me, 'Whenever there is a new parent, there is also a new grandparent!' Needless to say, I'm very excited. This will be my first grandchild." Claudia recently found out that her son, Chad, and his wife, Karyn are expecting a little girl around the 10th of November. "Just think, I'm going from no grandchildren to two in about three months. How nice it will be to have both a grandson and a granddaughter!"

Steve Kaplan and Kathrin King Segal are excited to be going to Australia mid August, where Steve will teach his Comedy Intensive Seminar in Sydney and Melbourne. They plan to look for some particularly amusing kangaroos and koala bears, and try not to pick up the Aussie accent.

Frank Ibbott is very busy taking over Mary Lund's class for the summer, as well as three others. He's also celebrating another birthday.

Audrey Prest's destination is Rome, for two days in July, followed by a cruise around the western Mediterranean for ten days. Ports of call include Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Florence, Naples, Sicily, Mallorca and Tunis.

Our class boasts several proud parents of new UCLA grads: Sue Higgins' daughter and Robyn George's son both graduated this June.

*Kathrin Segal*

## **LONG BEACH**

The Long Beach SCD class will completed its summer session on July 28. There is a small group of avid beginners who come ready to learn and practice steps and formations as well as new dances.

Karen Kerman doesn't allow an injured toe stand in the way of attendance; Bob and Carol Taylor interrupted their attendance only for a trip to Scotland (we hope to hear more about that soon).

There are several experienced dancers who come regularly and it is a tremendous help to the new dancers to have them in class. Thanks to all of them.

The Fall session will begin Sept 15 at the same location (El Dorado Park) and time (12-2). The class will be geared to the class composition with a beginner session at 12 transitioning to an intermediate session at 1 if suitable. Contact Roberta Gotfried for additional information.

*Roberta Gotfried*

## **NEW CLASS**

There will be a new class for experienced dancers on Friday evenings beginning September 7 in Santa Monica at the Westside Ballet Studio, 1709 Stewart St (near Olympic). The class will be held 7:45-9:45. There is plenty of parking. Contact Roberta Gotfried for additional information.

*Roberta Gotfried*

THE DEADLINE  
FOR THE DECEMBER  
GHILLIE CALLUM  
IS OCTOBER 22, 2007!

## **MANHATTAN BEACH**

Let's give kudos to Wilma Fee for arranging a concert by the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra on their North American tour. Originally, the teens were in Los Angeles for R & R before returning to Scotland. When Wilma met the director in Phoenix in February she insisted that a concert be added

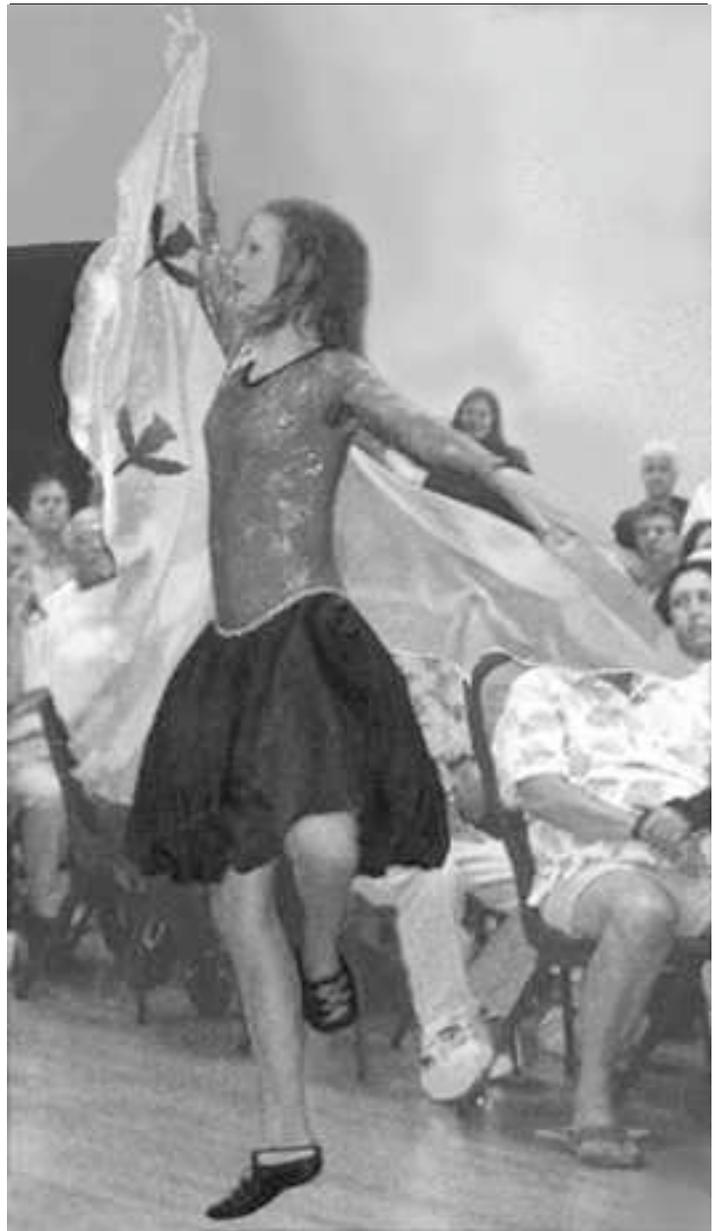
for the L.A. area. In June, just before leaving for Scotland, Wilma and her committee arranged for a location, sound equipment, announcements, and ticket sales. When she got home, she had one week to plan a dinner for 90+ and tie up all the loose ends in an undertaking of this size. In appreciation for all of her work Wallace Galbraith, AFO director, presented Wilma with a Quaich (a friendship cup). Most of the members of the Manhattan Beach Class helped with ticket sales, the setting up of the auditorium, cooking the lasagna, and baking cookies.

Chris Brooks missed the concert because she was teaching a jewelry workshop that weekend. In August she and Bob will travel to Las Vegas for a national jewelry conference. (Bob will not be attending the conference.) In between, they managed to squeeze in trips to Mexico and Northern California. Wilma Fee was in Scotland in June on vacation with four family members. They visited primarily the Outer Hebridean Islands: Tiree, Barra, Eriskay, Uist, Harris and Lewis. Her favorite island was Tiree where she, her mother, and six siblings vacationed after the war. (Wilma was just a wee bairn!) One of the objects of the trip was to try to find the farmhouse they had stayed in so many years ago, and with the help of the personnel in the local heritage center they found it! On the Island of Eriskay the general store was closing at noon so that everyone on the island could attend a local girl's wedding. Wilma and family were told to avoid the wedding traffic; they counted 10 cars! (Not quite L.A. or Toronto)

Val Rodgers hosted two of her sisters this summer: Blanche from New Zealand and Daphne from New Mexico. All three sisters enjoyed a short cruise to Ensenada. (Blanche, staying longer, rose from a sick bed to attend the AFO concert.)

Roberta Gotfried and her husband enjoyed two weeks in Provence and on the French Riviera where they sampled the food and wine. When Jim returned home, Roberta spent a week in Scotland traveling to towns like Carnoustie, Dundee and Troon – all in the pursuit of SCD. Class will resume September 11th.

*Rosemary Abend*



(Except the piper, all the other photographs of the Youth Concert were taken by Deanna Sr. Abend.)

**At the concert the graceful Highland Dance champion (and fiddler) was Suzanne Loch.**

### **NEW MEMBERS**

The Branch is pleased to welcome the following new members: Tim Harrison (who transferred from Texas), Michelle and Dane Baylis, Ginger Moore, Aki Tanimoto, and Suzie Halterman. We hope you will enjoy dancing with us.

Melinda & Frank.

## NORTHRIDGE CLASS

Following a busy Spring in which members of the Northridge class attended the Catalina Workshop, the Highland Games in Pomona and then the MacLeod Rant - all within a one-month period - the class adjourned at the end of June for a two month summer break.

This summer, most of our members anticipated spending their summer break close to home. All that is, except for Audrey Prest, Claudia Pedersen and Jim Bell who were planning to enjoy their summer fun on foreign soil.

Audrey joined three non-dancing friends for a two-week cruise to the western Mediterranean where she was able to take in the sites in places such as Rome, Florence, Barcelona and Tunis. Her photos attest to her fascination with the architecture and culture found in these European cities.

As for Claudia, her destination, Guam, is the current home of her daughter, Erika. Erika and her husband Steve have just become the proud parents of Gabriel Wayne Basak, a seven pound, nine-ounce bouncing baby boy. Gabriel was born on July 27, just a week after his proud Grandma arrived for the big event. Erika is a former member of the class in the days when our class was located in Granada Hills.

At the end of July, Jim left for his home in Troon. His stay this year will be a bit shorter than his usual one-month summer vacation. While in Troon, Jim has the enviable joy of dancing each week to some of Scotland's best bands.

As for myself, I've been busy working on plans for the Adjudication events and the evening dance at this year's Seaside Games in beautiful Ventura. Last year's events were well received and we hope that this year will be even better. Hope to see all of you in Ventura on Oct. 13 and 14 at the 2007 Seaside Highland Games.

*Deanna St Abend*



September 2007

## Seaside Games Dance First United Methodist Church, 1338 E. Santa Clara St, Ventura Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007

Shiftn' Bobbins	R B	Clowes (Ormskirk)
Best Set in The Hall	J I	Greenwood
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S I	RSCDS Leaflet
Farewell to Auchterarder	J A	B. Hamilton
Flowers of Edinburgh	R B	Book 1
Postie's Jig	J B	Clowes
Linnea's Strathspey	S I	Dunsmuir Dances
Lady in Red	J I/A	Scott (Ruby Ann)
Delvine Side	S B	Book 2
Montgomerie's Rant	R I	Book 10
Wild Geese	J B	Book 24
The Quern	S I	Dunedin
The Music Makars	R I	Bk 33
Moneymusk	S B	Book 11
Polharrow Burn	R I	H. Foss
Follow Me Home	J I	Bk 38
De'il Among The Tailors	R B	Book 14

### ON BEING A MEMBER

If you're reading this in the Ghillie Callum, then you probably already have paid your dues for the 2007-08 dancing year. If you haven't paid yet and you notice a star on the mailing label of this issue, this will be your final copy unless you renew your membership soon.

Many of you know the advantages of RSCDS membership, including discounts at dances (sponsored by our branch as well as other branches in the area), a yearlong subscription to our branch newsletter, a branch directory of the members, a cue book with the current year's dances and a magazine from headquarters in Scotland. Your dues also provide insurance at dances. There are monthly dances, such special events as the St. Andrews Ball, the upcoming Interbranch Dance and the Burns Supper, even an occasional weekend workshop, such as the one held in Catalina in May. Our branch also has a demonstration team, and many of our members perform at the various Highland Games in the area.

I know many of you have made new friends as you've gone to classes and dances throughout the area.

Our branch, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2006, has been fortunate that we've maintained about the same number of members in recent years. This includes people who have joined Los Angeles as their primary branch as well as

those who join but are primarily affiliated with another branch. Our members aren't just from the Los Angeles area. We have primary members from as far away as Maryland, Idaho, Nebraska and Arizona. We also have interbranch members who are from San Francisco, Boston, Houston, Orange County, San Gabriel and other branches in the U.S., even one from England. So for those who have already joined, welcome! And for those who haven't yet joined or renewed, now's the time!

Our dancing year runs from July 1 to June 30. Those who join by Dec. 31 and then renew their memberships for the following year will be able

to vote at our Annual General Meeting in June, when new officers are elected, reports are given and other items of interest are discussed.

So if you haven't joined yet for the 2007-08 year, get your applications to me as quickly as possible. Forms were included in the spring Ghillie Callum but are also available at dances and from teachers. Those who join by Oct. 31 will also be listed in our branch directory, which is distributed to members later in the year. If you have questions, feel free to call me at 805.522.8055 or e-mail me at [mjtb1002@hotmail.com](mailto:mjtb1002@hotmail.com).

Hope to see you dancing soon!

*Melinda Brown, Membership Chairman*

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## CELEBRATING AN EIGHTY-SIXTH BIRTHDAY IN STYLE!



On Sunday, July 29th, Joan Hopgood celebrated her 86th birthday in grand style, thanks to dancers from Wilma Fee's Manhattan Beach Class. Joan was a member of the RSCDS for many years, and remained friendly with the dancers.

Four of Joan's old time favorite dances were performed before toe-tapping, hand-clapping residents of Vista Del Sol Nursing Home in Mar Vista. Afterwards cake and ice cream were served to all. Joan enjoyed every minute of the party, surrounded by cards and flowers. Thanks to all those who participated and made this a special day for Joan.

Scottish dance and music lifts the spirits and reaches across all generations and nationalities, and that was true on Sunday.

*Bob Brooks and Valarie Rogers*

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Last minute news: The United Scottish Society announced on Monday that the 2008 Scottish Festival and Games will take place at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa on May 24 and 25. The USS website at <http://www.unitedscottishsociety.com> has not yet been updated as the confirmation of the contract has just been received. The dance held on that weekend should be scheduled for a location in Orange County.

*Russell Ham*



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Jennifer Gordon singing at the AFO concert

**DEADLINE FOR  
THE DECEMBER GHILLIE CALLUM  
OCTOBER 22, 2007**