

The GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 41 Number 1

September 2009

L.A. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR 2009-2010



Photo by Audrey Prest

The 2009-2010 Committee of Management for the Branch includes, front row from left, corresponding secretary Deborah Ash, Demonstration Team director Ann McBride, teachers representative Deanna St. Amand, and back row, immediate past chairman Doris Fisher, chairman Bill Hartung, vice chairman John Ziegler and members at large Irv Cohen, Barbara Hoff, Meg Hume and Ray Tucker. Also on the board are recording secretary Linda McWade and treasurer Sandy Waddell.

A CREATIVE NEW WORKSHOP

A two-day Workshop for Scottish Country Dance and Music is being planned for the Thanksgiving weekend, Saturday, November 28, and Sunday, November 29, at the Masonic Center and the Woman's Club in El Segundo. Instructors will be Muriel Johnstone for keyboard, Susan Worland for fiddle and Bill Zobel for experienced dancers. If interested, please mark your calendar for these dates. Fliers with further information will be forthcoming.

Wilma Fee

LOS ANGELES BRANCH SCHEDULE OF DANCES 2009

August

30 Santa Barbara Tea Party. 2210 Garden St.,
Santa Barbara, 3-6 p.m.
Let Frank Ibbott know if you are coming.

September

26 Interbranch Dance. Tustin Senior Center.
7:30 p.m.
Music: Andy Imbrie and Deby Grosjean.

October

10-11 Seaside Highland Games. Ventura County
Fairgrounds.

10 Seaside Dance, 1336 East Santa Clara St.,
Ventura.

24 Beginner Dance – costume theme. Van Nuys
Sherman Oaks Senior Center. 7 p.m.
Music: recorded.
Members: \$10, non-members \$15.

November

28-29 Workshop for Scottish Country Dance and
Music. South Bay Masonic Center and El
Segundo Woman's Club.

28 St. Andrews Ball.
South Bay Masonic Center.
Music: Muriel Johnstone and Susan
Worland.

December

31 Hogmanay. El Segundo Woman's Club.
8 p.m.
Music: recorded. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the
door.

OTHER EVENTS

**OC = Orange County Branch;
SD = San Diego;
SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch.
2009**

November:

6-8 SD Weekend at Camp Stevens, Julian.
Waiting list only: please contact Jim
Mosteller: jim.mosteller@cox.net.

December:

5 SD/OC. Christmas Ball, The Barn in
San Marcos.
More information to follow.

SPECIAL NOTICE

**WITH BUDGET PROBLEMS BY THE CITY OF
TORRANCE, ALL CULTURAL AND RECRE-
ATION CLASSES MUST MEET ATTENDANCE
REQUIREMENT!! OUR CLASSES WILL BE CAN-
CELED UNLESS WE HAVE 20 PERSONS REG-
ISTERED BEFORE SEPT. 14 FOR THE CLASS TO
GO ON. WE URGENTLY NEED TO GET SOME
NEW BEGINNER REGISTRATIONS OR OTHER
EXPERIENCED DANCERS TO JOIN US OR THIS
25-YEAR-OLD CLASS WILL BE LOST. THAT
WOULD BE A SHAME FOR THE SOUTH BAY
AND THE BRANCH.**

Jack Rennie

OUR TEACHERS



Photo by Audrey Prest

Branch teachers were honored at the 2009 AGM with little gift baskets. Among those there to accept were Rosemary Abend, Deanna St. Amand, Ann McBride, Frank Ibbott, Tim Harrison, Roberta Gotfried and Wilma Fee.

CATALINA ISLAND COUNTDOWN

Eight months to go....have you sent in your Catalina application yet?

At the time we are writing this article, the Catalina Island Workshop and Ball event, April 30-May 2, 2010, is already 50% filled. If you have been out of the loop and missed the information on this unique event, please visit the Interbranch website at www.rscds-interbranch.org and download the brochure and registration form.

This event will feature the music of Fiddlesticks and Ivory. Workshops will be taught by Elaine Brunken, Eric Finley and Marjorie McLaughlin. Elaine and Marjorie are dynamic and well-known workshop teachers; you will thoroughly enjoy them. This will be Eric's debut in Southern California; he hails from Glasgow, Scotland, and comes highly recommended.

The "Full Workshop Package" includes the hotel, ball, workshops, most meals and the social events at the hotel. You will have free time on Saturday afternoon, and workshop sessions are always optional. If you prefer to design your own Catalina weekend, the other option is to sign up just for the "Ball Package" which includes the Saturday night ball and dinner and one casual dance session on Sunday morning. (It does not include any of the activities at the hotel.) Your first payment (50% of total) is requested no later than Sept. 30, 2009. The balance will be due by Jan. 31, 2010.

FYI: Recent articles in the LA Times have noted that there are plans in the works at Catalina to add a zip-line adventure ride and an underwater walking tour through the kelp beds, which should be up and running by the time we arrive. There are also future plans for expansion and improvement of the facilities at Catalina, but our hotel should not be impacted. If you have any question about this wonderful weekend, email me at doris.fisher@gmail.com or phone me at 310.782.8300 (days) or 310.324.2759. Hoping you have Catalina on your calendar!

Doris Fisher, Registrar & Catalina Chair

FRANK IBBOTT RECEIVES A SPECIAL HONOR

Frank Ibbott was presented the Evelyn Swindle Memorial Trophy at the MacLeod Rant on June 6. In announcing the honor, Deanna St. Amand, director of the Clan MacLeod Dancers, said it was in recognition of Frank's love for Scottish Country Dancing and all he does for the L.A. Branch. This includes the four classes he teaches and the numerous printing and music and other computer tasks he volunteers for so willingly. He even fills in at performances when the MacLeods need an extra man.



Photo by Aase Hansen

THANK YOU!!



Photo by Bob Harmon

Above: Aase Hansen was presented a big thank-you basket at the July dance in recognition of her 24 years serving on the Branch Committee of Management and her 20 years teaching the Valley College class.

I just received a phone call that Margaret Gracie, sister to Nancy Shoolbraid, passed away in August. Margaret and her husband Jack were longtime dancers and members of the Los Angeles Branch, supporting the Downey class and LA Branch weekends for many years.

Wilma Fee

Chairman's Message

Hello fellow dancers,

As the Los Angeles Branch begins a new dance year, I am delighted and honored to address you as the new chairman of the Branch Committee of Management. My wife Nancy and I have enjoyed Scottish Country Dancing for about 10 years now. It has been an experience that has brought us great enjoyment and many good friends. I have always felt that it is important to "give back" in the form of service, to show appreciation for all the benefits one receives in life. And so it is my great pleasure to serve as your new chairman.

Speaking of service to the L.A. Branch, I want to acknowledge the wonderful job that my predecessor Doris Fisher has done as chair of the Branch. Doris is extremely organized and hard-working, and has been very diligent to make sure our Branch functions smoothly. We also have Doris to thank for bringing us many special and memorable events such as the Catalina Island Workshop and Ball, which was such a wonderful treat in 2007 and promises to be another memorable event in 2010.

We have an exciting dance program planned for this dance year. Please mark your calendars for the beginner dance on Oct. 24, when we all get a chance to dress up in a costume to represent a Scottish country dance. We are always entertained by the imagination, creativity and cleverness that our dancers demonstrate in their original costume themes.

We are going to have a very special St. Andrews Ball this year, which will include the music of Susan Worland and Muriel Johnstone, and will be part of a special weekend workshop and ball sponsored by Mary Brandon and Wilma Fee.

Our traditional New Year's Eve Hogmanay Party will once again be held at the El Segundo Woman's Club, where fellow dancers and friends will gather to welcome in the new year.

The joint Burns Ball that we put on along with the Orange County Branch this year was so successful, that the two branches are again going to team up to host another Burns Ball in January. More information will be available soon.

See you at the dance!

Bill Hartung

GHILLIE CALLUM

DANCE PROGRAMS

Interbranch Dance September 26, 2009 Tustin Senior Center

7:30 p.m. Music: Andy Imbrie & Deby Grosjean
Members \$20; Nonmembers \$22; Spectators \$10

Blue Bonnets	JB	Book 3
Currie Mountain	RB	New Brunswick
Invercauld's Reel	SB	Book 11
Quarries Jig	JI	Book 36
Cashmere Shawl, The	SI	Strathtay Album
Cadgers in the Canongate	RA	Book 9
Maitland to Manchester	JI	Wallace/Thomas
Sugar Candie	SI	Book 26
Starlight	RI	Book 44
Roaring Jelly	JB	Foss, Glendarroch
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	SI	3 for 2006
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloch	RA	Leaflet
Joie de Vivre	JI	Book 39
Swiss Lassie	RI	Book 39
The Silver Tassie	SI	Leaflet, Drewry
Capital Jig	JI	RSCDS 2009 Mackay
Montgomerie's Rant	RI	Book 10

Monthly Dance October 24, 2009 – Costume Theme Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Senior Center 7 p.m. Music: recorded

Bramble Bush, The	JB	Book 25
Lady Dumfries	RB	MMM
Dream Catcher, The	SA	Book 45
Pete & Marilyn's Welcome Home	JI	Delaware Valley
Catch The Wind	RB	Book 45
Clydeside Lassies	RB	MMM
Cashmere Shawl, The	SI	Strathtay Album
Lady In Red	JA	Ruby Anniversary
Cabrach, The	MB	Goldring
Dancing Bees	RB	24 Graded and Soc.
Burns Night	JB	Boston 50th
Grants' New Rant, The	SB	15 Social Dances
Chairman, The	RI	Dunedin Book 4
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	SI	3 For 2006
Moudiewort, The	JB	Book 11
The White Cockade	RB	Book 5



Seaside Highland Games

A Scotch Hop
October 10, 2009
First United Methodist Church
1336 East Santa Clara St., Ventura
7:30 p.m. Music: recorded \$10

St. Andrew's Fair	JB	Five for 1982
Trip to Bavaria, A	RI	Collins SCD Book
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	SI	3 For 2006
Dancing Bees, The	RB	24 Graded and Soc.
Best Set In The Hall	JI	Greenwood Leaflet
Lady Lucy Ramsay	SB	MMM II
Polharrow Burn	RI/A	Foss
Burns Night	JB	Boston 50th
Cashmere Shawl, The	SI	Strathtay Album
IP's Farewell to Auchterarder	JA	Hamilton
White Cockade, The	RB	Book 5
Maitland to Manchester	JI	Wallace/Thomas
Dream Catcher, The	SA	Book 45
Montgomerie's Rant, The	RI	Book 10

St. Andrew's Ball

November 28, 2009
South Bay Masonic Center

Music: Susan Worland & Muriel Johnstone

White Cockade, The	RB	Book 5
Best Set in The Hall	JI	Greenwood Leaflet
Balmoral Strathspey	SB	Book 22
Upper Tarr	JI	2 nd Kirkbrae Coll.
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	SI	3 For 2006
Preston Mill	RA	Book 45
Burns Night	JB	Boston 50th
Argyll Strathspey	SA	Book 35
Starlight	RI	Book 44
Bramble Bush, The	JB	Book 25
Silver Tassie, The	SI	RSCDS Leaflet
Swiss Lassie	RI	Book 39
IP's Farewell to Auchterarder	JA	Hamilton
Ferla Mor	RI	Deeside Book Part1
Grants' New Rant, The	SB	15 Social Dances
Joie de Vivre	JI	Book 39
Dancing Bees	RB	24 Graded and Soc.

(Continued on next page)

HOGMANAY
December 31, 2009
El Segundo Woman's Club
8 p.m. Music: recorded
\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Tribute to the Borders	JB	RSCDS Leaflet
Arthur's Seat	RI	18th Century
Silver Tassie, The	SI	RSCDS Leaflet
Upper Tarr	JI	2nd Kirkbrae Coll.
Argyll Strathspey	SA	Book 35
Mary Erskine	RB	15 Social Dances

Maitland to Manchester	JI	Wallace/Thomas
Glasgow Lasses	SB	Book 34
Earl of Mansfield, The	RA	RSCDS Leaflet
Sally's Army	JB	Look We're Dancing
Blackadder House	SI	Blackadder Collection
Preston Mill	RA	Book 45

IP's Farewell to Auchterarder	JA	Hamilton
Lady Dumfries	RB	MMM I
In Campbell Country	SI	Social Dances 2002
Best Set in The Hall	JI	Greenwood Leaflet
Lea Rig, The	SB	Book 21 #5
Trip to Bavaria, A	RI	Collins SCD Book

Rover's Rant, The	JI	Goldring - 12 More
Chairman, The	RI	Dunedin Book 4



THE SEASIDE GAMES

On Oct. 9-11, the Seaside Highland Games will take place at Seaside Park, the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The park is a perfect location for the Games, right along the beach in Ventura.

In addition to the usual sporting events, pipe bands and Highland Dancing, Scottish Country Dancing plays an important role at the Seaside Games.

Events at the Games will begin on Friday night with a whiskey tasting and a dinner held at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, not far from the fairgrounds. The dinner, ceilidh, and tartan fashion show are always well attended.

On Saturday, our participation in the Games will begin at 11:15 a.m. in McBride Hall at the fairgrounds with a performance by the L.A. Branch Demonstration Team. The day will then continue with class performances, entertainment by the music group Rigel and a second performance by the Team.

For the class performances, each class will present a short program of three or four dances of their choosing. The dancers will then invite members of the audience to join them in one or two simple Scottish Country Dances. We hope in this way to attract some new dancers to our classes. Aase Hansen will be in charge of the class performances. Her hope is to have at least five or six classes or groups participating.

Saturday night, we will host our annual Scotch Hop. This is a fun way to spend the evening. We will have recorded music for the dance and a program made up of favorite dances from the L.A., Orange County and San Gabriel Valley branch programs.

On Sunday, we will be back in McBride Hall, this time with a more varied program. There will be performances by the Clan MacLeod Dancers, Irish Set Dancers, English Country Dancers and more class performances.

We hope to see you all at the Games in October – oh, and don't forget to visit the vendors' hall. This is a great place to start your Christmas shopping.

One more thing. We have worked out a special arrangement with the Games organizers in which tickets for Scottish Country Dancers, their families and friends will cost only \$7. Robb Quint of San Gabriel Valley Branch will be handling the sales.

Deanna St. Amand

CLASS REPORTS



VENTURA

The Ventura class really had something to celebrate a short while ago – Jackie Popp’s 90th birthday! A large group of friends plus Jackie’s daughter, down from Santa Barbara, gathered to give the birthday girl a party and their very best wishes. Jackie was in top form making the rounds and chatting happily with everyone. Jackie is the most regular attendee at the Ventura class; almost nothing keeps her away from dancing on Friday nights. However, then you find out that she dances most of the remaining days of the week too: contra, line, round, you name it. Jackie is just amazing with her continual upbeat personality and she makes a wonderful example for us all!

Frank Ibbott

(Photos above: Jackie Popp and Frank Ibbott and Jackie’s cake, were taken by her daughter, Lorraine Woodman.)

SIMI VALLEY

Things are hopping at the Simi Valley class.

Summers are usually slow, but this June saw an influx of 8 new students, 7 from Royal High School and one from Simi Valley High. The seven are in the Royal High marching band (school nickname: the Highlanders) and they march in kilts.

Last week they all wore kilts, so this week we are all going to be wearing kilts and various tartans. That should be a surprise for the staff at the recreation center.

The Seaside Games in Ventura are coming up, so we are looking forward to that event. Stay tuned for more information from your humble correspondent.

Don Cutler, aka fairdonald
(Photo right: Simi Valley Class.)



Summer session at the Simi Valley class. From left to right. Alan Hoff, Deresa Teller, Don Cutler, Linda Draeger, Barbara Hoff, Wagner Harman, Frank Ibbott, Phyllis Huntley, Bethany Stevens, Jamie Honea, Shannon Chapman, Lindsay Foster.

LONG BEACH

The Long Beach class has six new members: Diane Reince, Randi Kraemer, Valerie Miller, Kathy Peña, and Mary and Cecil Fennell.

Diane, new to Scottish Country Dancing, is responding most enthusiastically, while Randi, a more seasoned dancer, adds another person of experience to our group. In fact, it was Randi, Diane's cousin, who urged her to try SCD.

When Valerie began dancing in 1988, she was involved in Irish dancing competition at Renaissance fairs. Later, her group reorganized to include all Celtic dancing. About 10 years ago, she discovered SCD with Orange County Branch. "It was social and fun with no judging," Valerie commented. Meanwhile, Long Beach was closer to her home. The LB Parks & Recreation booklet steered her to us, adding another experienced dancer.

Mary and Cecil attended Scottish festivals and watched the dancing for several years. Why not join the fun? After viewing SCD at the Queen Mary Festival and talking with some of the dancers, they decided to give it a try. Both enjoy the challenge and add fun and laughter.

Our latest addition, Kathy, is also new to SCD. She saw the demonstration at Costa Mesa in May, read the fliers, and followed her ears to our irresistible music. It is hard to believe this is Kathy's introduction to SCD. She is a true dancer.

We are elated that all of you have joined our class. Happy dancing!

Speaking of the Costa Mesa festival in May, 10 Long Beach class members attended, while four – Roberta, Jim, Randi, Norm – danced in the demonstration. Mary Fennell, Kathy Peña and Karen Kerman joined the audience participation. Other attendees included Mary and John Cahill, and Cecil Fennell.

In April Scottish Country Dancing worked toward that elusive cure for cancer. As part of the LA Branch Demonstration Team, Roberta and Jim danced at the Torrance Relay for Life (American Cancer Society). Thank you, Team, for your support.

We all know what a wonderful, aerobic exercise Scottish Country Dancing is. Let's help others observe and connect.

Karen Kerman



Some members of the Long Beach class joined in the demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing at the Costa Mesa festival.



Photos by Karen Kerman

New Member.
The Branch is pleased to welcome Pat Zschoche, who is also a member of the Orange County Branch. We have enjoyed dancing with Pat for quite some time.

Melinda and Frank

BEVERLY HILLS

New Class: Westside/Central Location

In April, a new class was formed in Beverly Hills, near Century City, with a core group of our Branch dancers and has been joined this summer by several new or returning dancers as well as some people looking for summer dancing. There has been interest in having a class near the westside and in a central location of our branch, and we hope this location will attract new dancers to our favorite pastime.

The class, taught by Roberta Gotfried, is run through the Beverly Hills Recreation and Parks Department. Do you have friends who work or live in the area? Please let them know about this new class. The Beverly Hills class meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Roxbury Park, 471 Roxbury Drive, Beverly Hills, 90212.

Contact Roberta for more information.

NORTHRIDGE

Northridge dancers have enjoyed a busy summer. The end of July saw Alice Allen and Mary Brandon at the TAC Workshop in Canada, while Terry and Jim Schaeffer joined by Linda McWade participated in the Salt Springs Island Workshop.

Looking forward toward fall activities, four members of our class will be serving on the LA Branch Committee for the 2009-2010 year: Barbara Hoff, Linda McWade, Meg Hume, who is a first-time member, and Deanna St. Amand, who is serving as Teachers Representative.

Our thanks to all the dancers who volunteer their time to make our activities throughout the year run smoothly.

Our Thursday night dancers will resume classes the week after Labor Day. It will be great to begin work on new dances and see everyone together again.

Claudia Pedersen

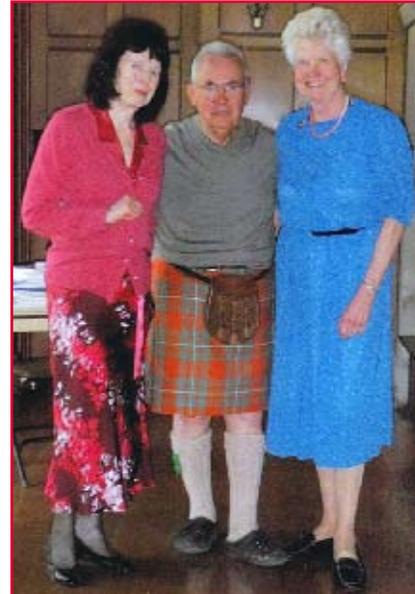


CANDIDATE EXAM

On behalf of the Teachers Committee, it is my great pleasure to congratulate LA Branch members Tim Harrison on passing units 4 and 5 of the Teacher's Examination and Bill Hartung on the successful completion of units 1, 2, 3.

Training of our teachers is quite an involved process and demands a great deal of personal dedication and hard work. It is an accomplishment for which they can be justifiably proud.

Deanna St. Amand



Jack Rennie stopped by the Candidate Exam for a few minutes and had the opportunity to have his photo taken with two longtime friends, who were the examiners, Johan McLain from Glasgow on the left, and Elinor Vandegrift from Seattle on the right.

Please look at the label on your Ghillie Callum. If it has a star, you need to renew your membership in the branch.

Please contact the membership chair:

Melinda Brown: 565 Azure Hills Dr., Simi Valley CA 93065, email: mjt1002@hotmail.com or phone: 805.522.8055.

Frank Ibbott

DEADLINE FOR
THE DECEMBER
GHILLIE CALLUM
OCTOBER 19, 2009

AWARD TO JACK RENNIE

On Sunday, May 31, Jack Rennie was honored at a very beautiful reception arranged by the Cultural Arts Commission of Torrance. Jack was presented with the prestigious “Excellence in Arts” Award from the Arts Commission for the City of Torrance, for his outstanding contribution to the arts in the category of dance. In addition, Jack also received a special Commendation from the County of Los Angeles, which was presented to him by LA County Supervisor Don Knabe. In their presentations of these awards, the presenters pointed out how dedicated Jack has been to the art of dance, sharing his cultural dance form with many people in the Torrance community over the past 30 years.

There were more than 200 people at this reception, where five awards were presented for music, motion picture, art, drama and dance. Jack was interviewed by Channel 3 TV, introduced to the City of Torrance Mayor Pro-Tem and other city and county officials.



Prior to the presentations, Jack gave a history of Scottish Dance to the audience, explaining the differences between Highland Dancing, Ladies Step Dancing, Ceilidh Dancing and Scottish Country Dancing, reiterating how Scotland had greatly contributed to the world of dance. He explained that the dancers he brought along that day would be dancing Scottish Country Dancing and would be performing

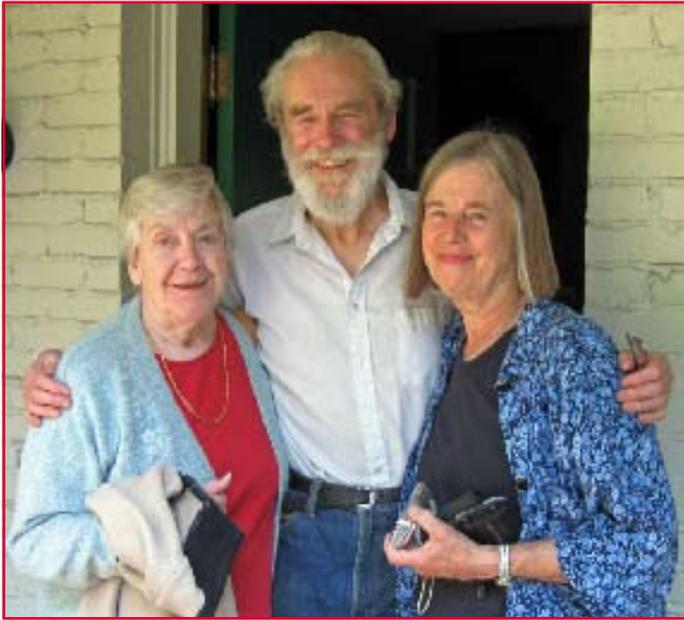
three different types of dances: Tomalina, a 5-couple jig; Neidpath Castle, a 3-couple strathspey; and A Trip to Bavaria, a 4-couple reel. The dancers who performed the dance demo included Eric and Doris Fisher, Val and Denis Rodgers, Kris, Mike and Marisa McGinnis, Ric Simmons, Christine Richard, Tim Harrison, Anne Clarke, Irv Cohen and Wilma Fee.

Several Branch members, many of Jack’s current and past class members and his non-dancing friends were present to see Jack receive this well-deserved award. Jack’s Torrance classes have produced six of the LA Branch Chairs.

Congratulations to Jack for his many, many dedicated years of promoting Scottish Country Dancing and its music.

The Cultural Arts Commission is putting together a CD of the whole presentation and it will be available to the public soon.

Wilma Fee/Rosemary Abend



Mary Brandon with her hosts, Robert and Rosemary Coupe.

MARY BRANDON AND THE TAC 2009 AGM

Last Fall Mary Brandon told me, “You need to expand your dance horizons. You should go to TAC.” Since I’m not a teacher, I was a bit confused until I realized what she meant was that SHE wanted to go to TAC and wanted a traveling companion.

I arranged transportation, registration and logistics for the trip, while Mary arranged for Rosemary Coupe and her husband Robert to be our hosts in Vancouver. As the time for the trip neared, Mary was concerned that there was a new generation of dance teachers and she wouldn’t know many people anymore. After all, she had retired from teaching three years ago.

Mary’s concerns disappeared as soon as we found Rosemary Coupe in the arrival lounge at the airport. Just seeing each other started memories flowing. When we arrived at her home in Burnaby, Robert joined the conversation and even more stories and memories came to light. I couldn’t keep up with all the names and events, so I concentrated on the lovely, fresh-from-the-garden supper.

Friday, Rosemary took us to the Coast Hotel, headquarters for the TAC weekend. Mary had prepared herself to be surrounded by new teachers who would not know her, but she wasn’t prepared for the opposite. Before we even finished

registering, people were recognizing her and coming up to give her a hug and say hello. The scene in the elevator lobby was almost comical, with each opening of the elevator doors bringing someone else to greet.

The warmth of the spontaneous reception overwhelmed Mary and she chose to bypass the Friday dance in favor of a good night’s sleep. She insisted that I go to the dance and get acquainted. Now it was my turn to be a bit intimidated. I knew only a few of the dances on the program, and I knew even fewer dancers. But each dance was walked through, and getting into a dance was as simple as offering to fill in a set.

Saturday morning Mary watched the morning class led by Graham Donald. Lunch followed the class and she managed to eat a bit despite being deluged again with people who wanted to catch up with her. While Mary attended the AGM, I took a leisurely walk, exploring the neighborhood.

The ball on Saturday night was the highlight of the weekend. Mary sat at the side of the room holding court. Each time I looked her way, she had different people surrounding her – and was glowing with pleasure. Mary still loves to listen to dance musicians, and was moved to tears of happiness by the music. She had planned to leave at 10 p.m., but stayed past 11 p.m., finally leaving just before the last dance.

Sunday, Rosemary drove us to the ferry to Vancouver Island. Once again, the ferry trip evoked memories of the time Mary lived in Vancouver and visited the islands. On the island, we drove to a shopping strip where Mary’s brother Murray was waiting. Mary, Murray and Kirsty headed off for a family visit on Salt Spring Island, and Rosemary and I headed for Summer School at Shawnigan Lake.

Ten days later, I picked Mary up in LA to take her back to Santa Barbara. The drive gave us time to relive the trip. I asked Mary if she could summarize the AGM weekend. She smiled broadly and replied, “LUSCIOUS!”

Alice Allen





Photo taken by "team photographer" Shu-Jen Su. "Hollywood Curling Team" members, Alice Allen, Anthea and Doug Macdonald and Marion Reeve.



The official newsletter of the Los Angeles Branch of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Published quarterly and distributed free of charge to current members of the Los Angeles Branch. There is an annual subscription fee of \$8 for those who are not members of the Branch (outside USA - \$10).

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HOT TIME AT TAC SUMMER SCHOOL

The 2009 TAC Summer School was held at Shawnigan Lake School on Vancouver Island July 26-Aug. 2. The dates coincided with a record-breaking heat wave for the area. Dancers discovered that the beautiful campus buildings, built to keep students snug during Canadian winters, became saunas under the August heat. But the heat and humidity did nothing to deter dancers from classes, workshops and evening dances.

Two hundred dancers came from throughout the world. Name tags listed Australia, New Zealand, Japan, of course, along with Canada and the US. There were also a few from the UK, two from Spain and one each from Norway and Switzerland. Southern California was represented by Doug and Anthea Macdonald, Shu-Jen Su, Marion Reeve and Alice Allen. As a group, they took a "silver medal" as the Hollywood Curling Team at the Tuesday costume party. Anthea led a ball practice, Doug briefed on Thursday night and Alice performed for the ceilidh.

The Canadians were wonderful hosts and worked very hard to make the entire week enjoyable, challenging and friendly. Teachers selected older RSCDS dances for the morning technique classes. Ruth Jappy told her classes, "You don't dance on the floor, you dance on the music," and that was definitely the case. Somehow the musicians managed to keep dancers motivated, and their instruments in tune, despite the heat. In addition to specialized SCD topics, afternoon sessions included Japanese folk dance and foot care. With Shawnigan Lake right outside the gate, swimming was also a popular afternoon activity. Evening dances were held in the new gymnasium, the only air-conditioned building on campus. Understandably, attendance was high each night.

But Summer School is more than just classes and workshops. It's also about finding common ground with people from many different lands. It's the delight of listening to English spoken with many different accents. It's using dance to overcome language barriers. It's making new friendships and catching up with old friends. It's a week to remember.

Alice Allen