

the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 46 Number 1

September 2014

ROBERT McOWEN WORKSHOP

Renowned Scottish dance teacher Robert McOwen will teach a workshop for us Oct. 5 at Stoner Park gym.

Robert began Scottish Country and Highland dancing in Berkeley in 1973. He received his teaching certificate from the RSCDS in Scotland in 1980, and since then has taught at dance camps and workshops across the United States, and in Canada, Japan, New Zealand and Australia.

He also conducted the class for candidates for the teaching certificate for the RSCDS in Boston in 1986.

Robert became a member of the Scottish Dance Teacher's Alliance in 1987 and has taught, competed in and performed Highland dancing across the United States. In 2002, he co-founded Highland Dance Boston. In his "spare time," Robert is a professor of mathematics at Northeastern University. He is also the son of L.A. Branch member Carol McOwen.

See flier for more details.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Dancers,

Welcome back for another full year of dancing. In addition to the regular fall schedule, we have two special events coming up. Robert McOwen will be teaching an afternoon workshop at Stoner Park gym on Oct. 5. Robert was born and raised in Southern California and was a frequent guest teacher at the Los Angeles Branch Memorial Day Weekend. We are fortunate that while he is in Los Angeles for a conference he is willing to teach this mini-workshop for us. (See article above.)

The Demonstration Team will participate in a dance festival at the Los Angeles Theater on Nov. 15. This event is sponsored by the Los Angeles Arts Commission – the first time they have invited us to perform. (See article page 7.)

As I mentioned at the AGM, the Committee of Management is beginning to think about what we might want to do to celebrate our 50th anniversary (April 2016). Right now we are checking into possible sites for a dinner/ball.

Finally, I have two requests. If you have not already done so, please be sure to renew your membership. Also, if you shop at Ralphs, please sign up for their community sponsorship program. You do not pay any more for your groceries and the Branch gets a little contribution from them.

Rosemary Abend



The new Committee of Management (“the Board”) for the 2014-15 dance year was elected at the AGM in June. They are, from left: Roberta Gotfried, Ann McBride, Jon Reeves, Kris McGinnis, Claudia Pedersen, Rosemary Abend, Audrey Prest, Doris Fisher, Deanna St. Amand, Evan Avery.

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

SEPTEMBER

27 Interbranch Dance. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 C St., Tustin, 7:30 p.m. Music: Peat Fire Flame Plus. Information: Jan Lauer, 626-274-6728, sk8njan@yahoo.com.

OCTOBER

5 Robert McOwen Workshop. Stoner Park Gym, 1835 Stoner Ave., West Los Angeles, 1:30-4:30 p.m. RSVP to Ann McBride, 818-841-8161, mcbridea@cshs.org.

25 Halloween Dance. First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

November

22 St. Andrew’s Ball. South Bay Masonic Center, 520 Main St., El Segundo. Music: Andy Imbrie and Deby Benton-Grosjean. Reservations: Ann McBride, 818-841-8161.

December

31 Hogmanay. El Segundo Woman’s Club, Mariposa at Standard, El Segundo. 8 p.m. Music: recorded.

January

24 Burns Supper & Ball. Ports o’ Call Restaurant, San Pedro. Music: String Fire.

AUGUST 2015

28-30 Harwood Lodge Weekend.

OTHER BRANCHES

SEPTEMBER

13 OC Branch Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

OCTOBER

4 OC Branch Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

NOVEMBER

1 OC Branch Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 7:00 p.m. Music: recorded.

DECEMBER

13 OC Christmas Ball. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 C St., Tustin. Music: Hood, Wink & Swagger.

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 supplied by Robb Quint.

To be added to the mailing list, contact Robb at volleyballjerry@aol.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON ... ROSEMARY ABEND

This time the Los Angeles Branch spotlight shines on our chairman Rosemary Abend, previously over the years on our Branch Committee of Management in multiple capacities, recently having now begun her third term in this current position.

Rosemary was born in Los Angeles of an Italian-American mother and a German-American father. Like many of us who have come to love Scottish Country Dancing, yours truly included, she claims no Scottish ancestry whatsoever. Rosemary grew up in and has spent virtually her entire life in Torrance. She is the middle sibling of three, and both of her brothers still live nearby in Orange County.

Completing 12 years of parochial schooling, she graduated from Bishop Montgomery High School in Torrance and then went on to the University of California at Santa Barbara for both her B.A. and M.A. degrees. Many may not know that Rosemary has a Ph.D. as well, earned at UCLA in history with a specialty in early America.

Rosemary returned to her alma mater Bishop Montgomery to teach, primarily classes in American and British history, which she did as well part-time at nearby El Camino College. Eventually she found her way into school administration, holding positions both at Bishop Montgomery and at a local specialty graduate school.

It was an interesting path that led Rosemary to Scottish Country Dancing. At the point that she was teaching full-time but about to return to graduate school to continue her education she had been traveling to Britain every other year and had developed a deep interest in and appreciation for things British. Now that she was going to be leaving her full-time position and would for a while not have the resources for such consistent travel abroad, she decided to do something British locally, if possible, each month.

With that in mind, a flier for Jack Rennie's Torrance class crossed her path in 1984; she gave it a try and of course found it much to her liking. As the years passed and she was again able to travel to Britain, she attended Summer School at Saint Andrews several times, which



Rosemary Abend, chair of the Los Angeles Branch, welcoming attendees at the 2013 Burns Supper and Ball.

photo by
Bob Harmon

is where she also did her SCD teacher training. Putting that to good use, she taught the class in Westchester for a while and then co-taught in Manhattan Beach with Wilma Fee. Rosemary was also a member of the Branch Demonstration Team for a number of years.

Rosemary is now retired and has the time to pursue several interests beyond SCD as well. She is an expert at scrapbooking, as anyone who happened to see her wonderful memorial scrapbooks for Frank Ibbott's family will attest. Her at-home interests hop from there to baking, and she especially enjoys creating nifty desserts. And beyond her interests at home, she is a first-soprano choir member at Saint Lawrence Martyr Catholic Church in Redondo Beach.

Concluding now right where I began, the Los Angeles Branch is most fortunate to have such a multi-talented woman as its current chair.

Robb Quint

INTERBRANCH DANCE

September 27, 2014
Tustin Senior Center
200 C Street, Tustin

EH3 7AF	J B	Book 40
John of Bon Accord	RA	Book 33
Sugar Candie	SI	Book 26
Ladies' Fancy	J B	Book 13
MacDonald of the Isles	SI	3rd Carnforth
J.B. Milne	RA	Hugh Foss
Fair Jenny's Jig	J I	From the Redwood Forest
Sauchie Haugh	SI	RSCDS Leaflet
The Barmkin	RB	2nd Graded Book
Christine M. Phillips	J I	Book 24
Balquidder Strathspey	SI	Book 46
Cadgers in the Canongate	RA	Book 9
Currie Mountain	RB	New Brunswick
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	J I	Drewry (Canadian Book)
Linnea's Strathspey	SI	Book 47
Scotia Sea	RI	Scotia Suite
Flowers of Edinburgh	RB	Book 1



SEASIDE SCOTCH HOP

October 11, 2014
First United Methodist Church
1338 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura

Fair Jenny's Jig	J I	From Redwood Forest
The Barmkin	RB	2nd Graded Book
Hana Strathspey	SI	Alex Gray
Currie Mountain	RB	New Brunswick
Sandy's Scotch Broth	SI	Katannuta
Scotia Sea	RI	Scotia Suite
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	J A	Drewry (Canadian Book)
Ladies' Fancy	J B	Book 13
The Glenalmond Gamekeeper	RI	Bankhead 6
The Braes of Tulliemet	SB	Book 7
John of Bon Accord	RA	Book 33
Bruce's Men	SI	Scotia Suite
EH3 7AF	J B	Book 40
J. B. Milne	RA	Hugh Foss



HALLOWEEN DANCE

October 25, 2014
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Border Meeting	J B	24 Graded and Social
The Lass of Richmond Hill	RB	2nd Graded Book
Barbara's Strathspey	SI	Book 46
Ye Ken It Well NEW	J B	The Devil's Quandary
The Braes of Tulliemet	SB	Book 7
Tomalena	RI	San Francisco Vol. 2
The Hunting Horn NEW	J I	SCD Archives
The Barmkin	RB	2nd Graded Book
Mrs. Hamilton of Wishaw	SA	Book 23
Collie Law	J B	24 Graded and Social
Rite of Spring NEW	RB	Dragonfly
Fair Jenny's Jig	J I	From the Redwood Forest
The Highland Lass	RB	Book 30
Hope Little's Strathspey	SB	Graded & Social 2
EH3 7AF	J B	Book 40
Scotia Sea	RI	Scotia Suite

ST. ANDREW'S BALL

November 22, 2014
South Bay Masonic Center
520 Main St., El Segundo

Border Meeting	J B	24 Graded and Social
Scotia Sea	RI	Scotia Suite
Barbara's Strathspey	SI	Book 46
Pelorus Jack	J I	Book 41
Largo Law	SB	MMM I
Inverneill House NEW	RA	Book 35
The Cocket Hat	J I	Book 44
Rite of Spring	RB	Dragonfly
St. Andrews Links	SA	Georgina Finlay
Ye Ken It Well	J B	The Devil's Quandary
Tomalena	RI	San Francisco Vol. 2
The Hunting Horn	J I	SCD Archives
Hana Strathspey	SI	Alex Gray
The Highland Lass	RB	Book 30
Vintage Simon NEW	JA	Book 47
Bridge of Allan NEW	SB	Simply Strathspeys
Foggy River Reel	RI	Between the Rivers

HOGMANAY

December 31, 2014
 El Segundo Woman's Club
 Mariposa at Standard, El Segundo

Trip to Gretna Green	J B	Unknown
The Dalesman	R I	12 More Social Dances
St. Martin's Strathspey NEW	S B	24 Graded & Social
Inverneill House	R A	Book 35
EH3 7AF	J B	Book 40
Mrs. Hamilton of Wishaw	S A	Book 23
Foggy River Reel	R I	Between the Rivers
The Hunting Horn	J I	SCD Archives
Bridge of Allan	S B	Simply Strathspeys
The Glenalmond Gamekeeper	R I	Bankhead 6
Vintage Simon	J A	Book 47
Bruce's Men	S I	Scotia Suite
The Wind That Shakes the Barley	R B	Duthie
Seton's Ceilidh Band	J A	Morrison Bush
The Lass of Richmond Hill	R B	2nd Graded Book
Hana Strathspey	S I	Alex Gray
Pelorus Jack	J I	Book 41
Sandy's Scotch Broth	S I	Katannuta
Ye Ken It Well	J B	The Devil's Quandary
J. B. Milne	R A	Hugh Foss

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST: John Drewry

SCD devisor and innovator John Drewry died June 18 at the age of 90. We have enjoyed many of his dances over the years.

According to published obituaries, John Drewry began devising dances in the 1960s. His first to be published by the RSCDS, in 1984, was The Silver Tassie, which incorporated a new figure, the rondel. He left us a legacy of more than 800 dances.

In 1999 he was presented the RSCDS Scroll Award for his contributions to dancing and to the Society. Other formations he created: set and rotate, corners pass and turn and petronella in tandem.

In addition to Scottish dancing, John Drewry was a professor of biochemistry in Scotland, and an avid gardener, photographer and hiker. He was born July 14, 1923, in Melton Mowbray in a 15th-century thatched cottage. He took up dancing in Cumbria and later was a member of the Carlisle Branch, when he earned his teaching certificate.

DANCING AT THE AGM



Photos by Bob Harmon



CLASSES



The Valley College class celebrated Aase Hansen's 25 years of teaching SCD. She was surprised with a card, a plant and many hugs and good wishes at the class before summer break. Surrounding Aase are, from left: Dave, Margaret, Steve, John, Robyn, Claudia, Jeff, Deborah, Audrey, Alyssa, Deanna, Jon, Valerie and Yensen. Frances was taking the photo..

Valley College

Our big news this month is Aase's 25th anniversary teaching! I can't believe she started dancing with Mary and David Brandon when they started their class in South Pasadena in 1969! For the next 20 years she took classes all over the Los Angeles area with a myriad of different teachers. After moving to Burbank in '78 she became a regular at the class at Valley College.

In typical Aase fashion, she decided it was time to pay back all that SCD had given her — so much fun, so many dear friends and decades of music, dancing and laughter — so she signed up for the next candidate class in '88. She describes the exam as the most nervous time of her life ... if you failed you had to wait two years to try again, and everyone would know. :)

Anyway, she didn't fail and was offered the Valley College class when the teacher retired ... and so we all lived happily ever after. Thank you, Aase, for so many years of happy dancing!

Our class has had a lucky year or two, or is it three ... they go by so fast! We've been joined by some wonderful new people.

First came Alyssa Kennedy who seemed to skip the beginner stage altogether and jump right into intermediate. For some of us, this is a little annoying, but because she's fun to dance with we forgive her. :)

We also now have Lindsey and Valerie, Val-

erie's friend Yensen, followed closely by another friend, Steve. They're all doing well and are just fun to have around!

Margaret Burnett moved down from the Bay Area ... their loss, our gain. Then just before the summer break, along came John, whose Irish dance history shows up in the ease with which he grasps the dances and steps — and we hope to see him again in September. First Monday after Labor Day!

Dave and I are cottaging in Canada and have been so lucky with the weather (for a change). We are spending our days swimming, canoeing and boating, meeting up with old friends and family, and listening to the loons.

Hope everyone had a wonderful couple of months and is now chomping at the bit to get back into their ghillies. :)

Robyn MacGarva George

NEW MEMBERS

The Los Angeles Branch welcomes new members Margaret Burnett (affiliate), Christa Wilk, Robin Lynn-Jacobs, Kathryn Hawkins, Walter Ranger, Phyllis Gibson and Terisa Goldblatt. The branch also welcomes back Donna Pinckney.

Melinda Brown

Long Beach

After a restful summer, the Long Beach class will reconvene Saturday, Sept. 6, as the new session begins. Everyone with a passion for or willingness to be exposed to SCD is invited. Be warned, however: It is addictive! Join us Saturday mornings, 11:15-1:15, in the El Dorado Park senior center.

Karen Kerman

Thousand Oaks

The Thousand Oaks Class has been on summer break since Memorial Day Weekend and will reconvene as typical nine days after Labor Day, this year Sept. 9, and we'll run through the Tuesday nine days ere Thanksgiving before going onto our winter break (except for Veterans Day, this year a Tuesday, when our class location will be closed).

The Thousand Oaks Class has a geographically diverse group of current regulars hailing from a wide area with Ventura on its west and Tarzana, Topanga and Pacific Palisades on its east. We meet on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and are open to all experienced (which definitely does not mean only advanced) dancers, and new experienced dancers are always warmly welcomed by our rather jolly group, whether on-going or as one-time visitors.

For any questions, feel free to contact me via 805-498-2303 or volleyballjerry@aol.com.

Robb Quint

Santa Barbara

The Santa Barbara class marked the end of the year with a potluck hosted by Mary and Roger Nisbet, at their house high in the hills above Goleta. The decorations were done in UCSB's blue and gold in memory of the previous week's tragedy; the dancing was a celebration of life.

Seventeen class members (plus two tow-headed future dancers and family) enjoyed the Nisbets' beautiful lawn and garden, decked out for the occasion with a rented dance floor! The



The Santa Barbara class party at Mary and Roger Nisbet's home.

previous Thursday we practiced dances requested by the class — old favorites like Postie's Jig, J.B. Milne and Cadgers in the Canongate, plus challenging square set dances Robertson Rant and 1314. So on Saturday, the hills came alive with the sound of music, and with a bow and curtsy, we danced the sun down and the moon up.

Mary Nisbet and Phyllis Gibson (turning in center of top picture) have been practicing dances for their trip to Summer School at St. Andrews this summer. We've enjoyed learning some of the dances with them and can't wait to hear their report when they return!

Class member David Heald married Jo Knatz in May at Cathedral Rock near Sedona, Ariz. We look forward to her dancing with the Santa Barbara class in December when she retires and moves from Flagstaff, to join David in Solvang.

Ilse Gilbert

SAVE THE DATE

The Branch Demonstration Team will be performing as part of a folk dance festival called "Semblanza" at the historic Los Angeles Theater on Nov. 15.

The show will feature local dance groups showing the European influence on dance in the Americas. The LA Branch will receive a portion of all tickets sold by the Team.

Roberta Gotfried

We are very pleased to have Terry Schaefer serving in November as one of the Los Angeles Branch delegates at the Society's AGM in Scotland. She will be consulting with the Branch Committee to learn how L.A. would like to be represented.

Kathrin Segal and her husband Steve took a "bucket list" trip to French Polynesia, spending five days in Mo'orea and six in Bora Bora, swimming, snorkeling and basking in the gorgeous scenery.

A bit closer to home, Alice Allen packed her bags for the TAC Summer School in Greeley, Colo. Besides the dancing, she was delivering Mary Brandon's revised books "Dances With a Difference" and "Memories of Fife" to the TAC store. Before lacing up her ghillies, she planned to spend a couple of days with her brother in Denver, acclimating to the altitude.

And closer still, Claudia Pedersen spent a week in Concord with daughter, Erika and her family. Grandson Gabriel has just celebrated his seventh birthday and looks forward to second grade.

Angela Tennyson didn't travel at all but instead welcomed family from England for a three-week stay at her home.

The North Valley class will begin dancing again Sept. 11 at a new location: Marge Patka Dance Studio, 7215 Tamps Ave., Reseda, CA 91335.

Claudia Pedersen



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If your address label on the envelope for this Ghillie Callum has a ★ or if you receive your Ghillie Callum by email and an application form is included, you need to renew your membership in the Branch. Please contact membership chair Melinda Brown 30547 Mehrten Dr., Exeter, CA 93221 or mjtb1002@hotmail.com

The L.A. Branch has money set aside in a Memorial Fund, to be used for special equipment or special events. It can also be used for scholarships to help members attend a workshop or something else 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 continuing to earn their own Ralphs Rewards points. Go online to register or pick up a flier to take to your store. You need to re-register annually, beginning Sept. 1. Our Organization Number is 93159.



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