

# The Ghillie Callum

Volume 52 Number 1

September 2020



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

If a pandemic keeps you from dancing, you turn to Zoom and join your friends eating ice cream!

Those attending the Ice Cream Social in July, in alphabetical order: Rosemary Abend, Alice Allen, John Allen, Jeff Altman and Margaret Burnett, Joan Baker, Shirley Coleman, Lindsey Courtney, Dana Dunaway, Ken Evans and Marta Freixas, Doris and Eric Fisher, Gail Halverson, Aase Hansen, Martina Hanson, Bill and Nancy Hartung, Laura Husman, Steve Kaplan and Kathrin Segal, Lynette Kay, Deresa Kenney, Betsy Lewin, Anthea and Doug Macdonald, Barbara and Mike Mackenzie, Claire Marie-Peterson, Ann McBride, Kris and Mike McGinnis, Tony McQuilkin, Nancy Myers, Mary Nisbet, Betty Pettit, Audrey Prest, Robb Quint, Jon Reeves, Denis and Val Rodgers, Lisa Sage and her children Emma and William, Terry Schaeffer, Carmen Silva-Corvalán and Scott Dahlberg, Deanna St. Amand, Christa Wilk, Julie Wyrick. Apologies to anyone who was missed in this list!



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello fellow “at home SCDers” ....

As I set out to prepare my “Message from the Chair” for this edition of the Ghillie Callum, I looked over my message from September 2019. We were eagerly looking forward to a brilliant 30th Anniversary of the Interbranch Dance, the St. Andrew’s Ball and, of course, our Hogmanay Dance to enthusiastically welcome in 2020!

Well, we did welcome in the New Year, but the welcome soon faded as the world plunged into lockdown and our “a guid New Year” chant became a world-wide plea of “stay home, stay safe.”

But, SCDers are never daunted – suddenly “virtual” impromptu classes, discussion groups, sharing of videos and pictures of past events and dances started appearing.

On June 27, we valiantly proceeded with a virtual AGM and, after the essential business was dealt with, it was wonderful to see so many people and to share news.

Our next big “adventure” was our Ice Cream Social, which replaced our usual July dance in Torrance. So many people participated that, in dance equivalent, we had about five sets.

Another such get-together on Zoom was planned for Aug. 22, when the theme (with permission from our friends in the San Gabriel Valley Branch) we have chosen is a “Luau” with a competition for the most creative beverages with umbrellas.

So, in the meantime, be well, be safe and keep in touch with one another.

*Ann McBride*

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## 70TH ANNIVERSARY



Roz and Gil Gotfried celebrated their 70th anniversary in July.

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## INTERBRANCH DANCE

As expected, the Interbranch Dance for 2020 has been cancelled, and so it’s on to September 2021 when we will all be able to celebrate the Interbranch once again.

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## SCOTTISH WORD

Here is a vocabulary word that is Scottish in origin ... sitooterie. Pronounced sih-TOO-ter-ee, it means a small building where people can sit outside, like a summer house.

*Doris Fisher*

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## 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](mailto:volleyballjerry@aol.com).

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**Deadline for the December issue of the Ghillie Callum is Nov. 1.**

## CLASSES

### Santa Barbara

The class continues to meet via Zoom every Thursday at regular class time. We chat for half an hour and then, after a warm-up waltz, dance a jig, a strathspey and a reel, two or three times through.

We have a weekly book club and opera club, we have celebrated three birthdays with virtual parties; smaller groups Zoom together for tea, cocktails, coffee, whatever. On July 4 we had a session to rave about Hamilton after watching it online.

One Thursday in July we celebrated Chris-



Christine Carlin

tine Carlin's 80th birthday with a surprise party — a video of a marching band piping "Happy Birthday" and a slideshow of photos of Christine, gleaned from the last 20 years of the Ghillie Callum!

People read and displayed lovely cards, wore crazy hats, had creative virtual backgrounds (Roger Nisbet's had Christine's home county in Greenock, Scotland; Mary's had a happy birthday message writ large).

Phyllis has a saying on her living room wall: "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's learning to dance in the rain." That could be our motto!

*Ilse Gilbert*

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### Torrance/Redondo Beach

What started out as an opportunity for a weekly chat has now become a Zoom class on Friday nights. Led by teachers Kris McGinnis, Rosemary Abend and Bill Hartung, about a dozen-plus dancers log on every Friday for a chance to say hello and "dance with ghosts in small places."

After much virtual arm-twisting, Ann McBride (who has been logging in) agreed to share the teaching duties. Especially exciting is that former class member Tony McQuilkin has found us and joins us each Friday.

Class members are well and have enjoyed all the summer programs the RSCDS has provided, especially the Wednesday live-streamed class.

Thank you to Kris and Ann who put together our AGM and our ice-cream social in July. Seeing each other (even if only virtually) is so important to all of us.

*Rosemary Abend*

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### Thousand Oaks

It was very nice to see as many as seven Thousand Oakies at the July Zoom Ice Cream Social: Shirley Coleman, Dana Dunaway, Deresa Kenney, Mary Nisbet, Lisa Sage, Carmen Silva-Corvalán and Christa Wilk.

I hope to see an assemblage of Thousand-Oaks-folks at the Aug. 22 Zoom Luau as well.

Alas, the prognosis for class resumption in the not-so-distant future is not good. The only classes that our Hillcrest Center (which as a municipal facility is subject to multiple levels of government requirements) is allowing for September and onward for the immediate future are such things as yoga wherein each participant can remain isolated in a six-foot-or-greater square and, I assume, masked as well.

That does not work at all for Scottish country dancing of course. Perhaps we'll be able to resume class not too long after the beginning of 2021.

*Robb Quint*

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### Valley College

Here's what a few of us have been doing to keep busy:

Jim Bell has a standing golf date with his Scottish mates at Penmar ... probably as much laughter as golf!

In this small world, it's not so surprising that Jeff Altman was in the group just ahead of Jim's group last time out.

Betty Petit is making good use of her Huntington Library membership and visits this beautiful place once or twice a week. She's done some Zoom classes and meetings and spent a lot of time reviewing programs before Emmy voting at the end of August.

Laura Husman reports an ongoing family

mosquito hunt at her house — I'm picturing pith helmets and the business end of a swatter.

Kathrin Segal does yoga and Pilates classes on Zoom, plus online meetings with her writers group. Steve Kaplan said he's bingeing on sci-fi movies, playing online poker and doing some Zoom comedy writing.

Carmen Silva-Corvalán and her husband Scott have begun a new hobby: bird watching in their back yard ... so far they've seen 12 different varieties.

I haven't talked to Margaret Burnett lately but know she's been doing a lot of painting and taking walks in the evening that usually result in some wonderful flower photos. Hope she'll share some of them soon.

Lindsey Courtney is taking online classes through UCLA on Shakespeare and Jane Austin. She's reading and watching more Netflix than she feels is healthy, but still healthier than being out and about in the world ... or as we say in Canada, oot and aboot. :)

Jon Reeves just got news that the 2022 Rose Parade will have the theme that the 2021 parade was supposed to have, so he can get his crew back to work building the design that was chosen for 2021.

Beyond that, he's been doing lots of cooking (surprise! and goodness knows, we'll all benefit from that, eventually!). He's been doing online classes taught by chefs from local restaurants, plus attending virtual conventions.

At the end of July Terry Schaeffer went back to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for the first time since mid February (!) to find the conservation staff settled into the west half of the Pavilion for Japanese Art, most working shifts to avoid overcrowding.

Alice Allen has been listening to audiobooks for her volunteer work, as well as for entertainment during daily walks. That's included learning much about English-to-Japanese translation, thanks to "The Emigrant Scot." Demand for the Mary Brandon book and CD is so great in Japan, that she's set up a press run just for them, which includes the introduction translated into Japanese.

Audrey Prest won a T-shirt from Operation Gratitude, the Chatsworth non-profit that sends care packages to deployed US troops, wounded warriors, first-responders and others. For their

"red scarf challenge" competition in June, she donated 170 hand-made scarves and hats. She took seriously the orders to "stay home and sit on your couch"!

With all family far away, Aase Hansen is staying in contact with the grandkids by FaceTime and the adults by regular phone. She says, thank goodness for the cheap phone service nowadays. She can even get in calls to Denmark at very little extra cost. The highlight of the summer was a Zoom session with her nephew in Denmark and Lisbeth in Maryland.

I'm working two days a week at a homeless shelter at a hotel, a job I got through my library job (which, due to the pandemic, I've never actually worked). And I love it! So interesting and satisfying! Dave and I swim every day ... often attached to our afternoon happy hour by the pool.

Keep safe, healthy and happy.

*Robyn MacGarva*

## 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 the membership chair: Melinda Brown 30547 Mehrten Dr., Exeter, CA 93221 [mjtb1002@hotmail.com](mailto:mjtb1002@hotmail.com)

## Demonstration Team

Here's how the some of the Dem Team members are filling their COVID time:

Grant Clark and his family escaped to their cabin in Manitoba to enjoy a mask-free summer — although that didn't mean he escaped Zoom meetings to prepare for the upcoming school year.

Martina Hanson and her family were unable to have their planned gathering in Croatia. Martina and Jon are consoling themselves with a short visit to the local mountains.

Roberta Gotfried and the local members of her family have been using backyards and parks for their socially distanced time together. So far,

everyone is well. Roz has even figured out grocery shopping online and hopes we can all get back to dancing while she still can!

Jim Bell is using the time to make improvements on his condo. He's using golf to help him reach his 10,000 steps each day.

Carol Madden reported a nice phone visit with Dem Team alum Alison Dival, who is doing fine. Carol is happy that shops have re-opened, allowing her to resume visits to thrift stores in her never-ending search for interesting books.

Alice Allen was surprised to receive a notice for jury duty. She completed her registration, orientation and daily check-in for a week, and now has credit for her civic duty.

Mike and Kris McGinnis have been mastering sourdough bread (kneading is a good cardio workout) and keeping up Skye's canine

agility training. Kris, of course, is one of the instructors of the Torrance class, which meets online on Fridays.

Connie Walker has been taking step dancing classes online. Several of the dancers have been participating in the RSCDS's Dance Scottish classes and newsletter.

Last, but by no means least, John Cahill sent this: "Even without The Virus I lead a fairly uneventful life. With the Virus out there, uneventful would be a step up."

But he did add this thought: "The most improper job of any man, even saints ... is bossing other men. Not one in a million is fit for it, and least of all those who seek the opportunity."  
— J.R.R. Tolkien

*Alice Allen*

## AUGUST LUAU ON ZOOM



Attending the Luau on Zoom (in alphabetical order): Jeff Altman and Margaret Burnett, Patti Cobb and Bruce Herbold, Shirley Coleman, Lindsey Courtney, Carol Dela Cruz, Ken Evans and Marta Freixas, Doris and Eric Fisher, Ruth Fleming-Stephens, Aase Hansen, Bill and Nancy Hartung, Steve Kaplan and Kathrin Segal, Lynette Kay, Ann McBride, Kris and Mike McGinnis, Tony McQuilkin, Betty Petit, Audrey Prest, Robb Quint, Jon Reeves, Lisa Sage, Terry Schaeffer, Carmen Silva-Corvalán and Scott Dahlberg, Deanna St. Amand, David and Elinor Vandegrift, Julie Wyrick. Apologies to anyone who was missed in this list. Thanks to Alice Allen, Lynette Kay and Kris and Mike McGinnis for taking screen shots of our Zoom events.

## TO BURNS OR NOT TO BURNS ... ATTRIBUTED, THAT IS

In my recent copy of the "Burns Chronicle" from The Robert Burns World Federation, there is a fascinating article on a study conducted by two very erudite Burnsian scholars on which poems/songs were actually written by Burns and which were "edited or enhanced" by him.

For example, under "A Song Wholly by Burns" is listed "The De'il's awa wi the Excise-man" and "A Rosebud by my early walk." Under the heading "A Song largely by Burns" is "Scots Wha Hae." Then under the heading "Significantly by Burns, but with lines from earlier: "Ae Fond Kiss." Yet another category is "Heavily Edited by Burns," and this list includes "John Anderson my Jo."

It is a thought-provoking article and makes for interesting reading.

*Ann McBride*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020:

Cash in Bank:

Petty Cash	\$	50
General Checking		19,520
Dem Team Checking		2,358
Interbranch Ckg (1/4)		1,971
		Total Cash
		\$23,899
Net Income		\$693

For all the glorious details, please go to the Los Angeles Branch website. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask me at [doris.fisher@gmail.com](mailto:doris.fisher@gmail.com)

*Doris Fisher*

### NEW MEMBERS

The Los Angeles Branch welcomes new members Rachel and Kevin McDonald.

*Melinda Brown*

## 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.

### AMAZON SMILE

The branch has yet another opportunity to earn donations. AmazonSmile will make a contribution when you shop using our account number. Learn how by going to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0205054>.

### 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 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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