

the Ghillie Callum

Volume 54 Number 1

September 2022

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



The 2022-2023 Committee of Management: from left, Rosemary Abend, MAL; Lisa Hancock, MAL; Dana Dunaway, MAL; Audrey Prest, recording secretary; Robb Quint, corresponding secretary; Kris McGinnis, vice chair; Ann McBride, chair; Deanna St. Amand, teachers representative; and Jon Reeves, MAL. Not shown: Doris Fisher, treasurer, and Roberta Gotfried, Dem Team director.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings dancers – once again, the September edition of the Ghillie Callum heralds the start-up of Branch classes and events after the summer hiatus.

The first major event will be the annual Interbranch Dance on Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Tustin Area Senior Center, when the musicians will be the up-and-coming — and increasingly popular — SO-CAledonians!

Under Anthea Macdonald's stewardship,

we will again have the popular Miscellany Sale. So now is the time to “autumn-clean” your closets and bookshelves of all things Scottish that no longer fit or books and CDs you have enjoyed and want to share.

Other dates for your calendar are: Halloween Costume Dance on Oct. 29 (please note the fifth-Saturday date, due to the unavailability of

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RSCDS BRANCH AWARDS

Before our AGM this year, I had requested Branch Awards for two of our members. Unfortunately, the awards did not arrive from RSCDS Headquarters in Edinburgh in time to be presented at the AGM.

The two awardees are Melinda Brown and Robb Quint.

Melinda has served as our branch membership chair for more than 25 years. In this role, she has diligently recorded and handled every aspect of the membership process, including ensuring that any candidate running for office

was a fully paid-up member — a vital service!

Robb, who has been a member of the Los Angeles Branch for 16 years, inaugurated and taught an SCD class in the Thousand Oaks area for more than 40 years. He has served as the LA Branch's corresponding secretary for several years.

Through his daily and weekly online postings, his outreach encompasses dancers and teachers in an international arena.

The awards will be presented to Melinda and Robb at an upcoming LA dance event.

Ann McBride

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

As of press time, the Los Angeles Branch is planning our usual events for fall.

SEPTEMBER

24 INTERBRANCH DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7:30 p.m. Miscellany Sale fundraiser. Music: SO-CALedonians.

OCTOBER

29 HALLOWEEN DANCE. First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. 7 p.m. Optional: Wear a costume representing the name of a Scottish dance. Music: recorded.

NOVEMBER

26 ST. ANDREW'S BALL. El Segundo Masonic Lodge, 520 Main St., El Segundo. Music: Andy Imbrie, Janet Kurnick and Patty Van Winkle.

DECEMBER

31 HOGMANAY. Location TBA. Music: recorded.

JANUARY

28 BURNS SUPPER & BALL. Location TBA. Music: Andy Imbrie and Judi and Ian Nicholson.

OTHER BRANCHES

SEPTEMBER

10 OC MONTHLY DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

NOVEMBER

12 OC MONTHLY DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary of the Treasurer's Report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2022:

The Los Angeles Branch ended the year with assets of \$22,980, made up of \$22,778 in checking accounts and \$202 in prepaid hall rental fees. We had a liability of \$2,490 for dues paid in advance and designated funds of \$6,138.

Our net loss for the 2021/2022 fiscal year was \$2,367. This was primarily due to donations totaling \$500 to HQ and TAC as well as a 50% reduction in membership fees as a thank you to members for supporting us through COVID. The detailed financials are available for your reading pleasure on the branch website.

Doris Fisher

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our usual venue on Oct. 22.) Our St. Andrew's Ball will be on Nov. 26 at the El Segundo Masonic Center. Also, we hope to have a Hogmanay dance party on Dec. 31 and will share more details as plans evolve.

So, please mark your calendars for all these significant events.

Also, if you have not yet renewed your membership for the coming year, please won't you consider doing so now? We need your support. For those who haven't yet, a membership form is included in this issue.

Ann McBride

INTERBRANCH DANCE

September 24, 2022
Tustin Area Senior Center
200 S. C St., Tustin

New Year Jig	B J	Book 51
The Ruby Rant	I R	Book 49
Miss Jane Muirhead/Dunsmuir	I S	Dunsmuir Dances
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	I J	30 Popular Dances, Vol. 2
A Tribute to Peter McBryde	A S	TAC 50th Anniversary
The Montgomerie's Rant	I R	Book 10
Roaring Jelly	B J	Glendarroch
The Inimitable Derek	A R	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
The Glasgow Highlanders	I S	Book 2
John Cass	A J	Book 49
The Cuckoo Clock	I R	Dance and Celebration
The Legacy	B J	Pinewoods 2
A Summer Meeting	A S	Book 48
Bohemian Reflections	B R	Book 51
The Aviator	I J	Book 52
Balquidder Strathsey	I S	Book 24
Trip to Timber Ridge	I R	Book 52

ST. ANDREW'S BALL

November 26, 2022
El Segundo Masonic Lodge
520 Main St., El Segundo

The Legacy	B J	Pinewoods Coll., Vol. 2
Trip to Timber Ridge	I R	Book 52
Chuck's Strathspey	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Carlin's Cairn	I J	Alexander Dances, Vol. 8
Spark o' Water	B S	Spark o' Water
The Inimitable Derek	A R	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
The Craven Jig	I J	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
Bohemian Reflections	B R	Book 51
Farewell to Balfour Road	A J	Book 52
Gramachie	B S	MMM I
Arthur's Seat	I R	18th Century
Alan J. Smith	B J	Book 45
The Poppy and the Thistle	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Warren	I R	Homemade Dances, Vol.2
The Aviator	I J	Book 52
Round and Roundabout	A S	Book 49
The Deil amang the Tailors	B R	Book 14

HALLOWEEN DANCE

October 29, 2022 (note: fifth Saturday)
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

(Costumes representing the name of a Scottish dance are encouraged but optional)

It's Nae Bother	B J	2nd Graded Book
Gramachie	B S	MMM I
Carlin's Cairn	I J	Alexander Dances, Vol. 8
Lady Lucy Ramsay	B S	MMM II
Forty and Counting	A R	Book 52
The Aviator	I J	Book 52
The Rambling Pitchfork	B R	All Kinds of Everything
The Poppy and the Thistle	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Bow Fiddle Rock	B J	Greenburn Book, Vol. 3
The Dancing Bees	B R	24 Graded & Social Dances
Napier's Index	B J	Book 45
Redwood Arbor	B S	Dragonfly
The Warren	I R	Homemade Dances, Vol.2
A Summer Meeting	I S	Book 48
Bohemian Reflections	B R	Book 51

HOGMANAY PARTY

December 31, 2022
Location TBA

Fair Enough	B J	Book 51
A Summer Meeting	I S	Book 48
Chased Lovers	I J	World Wide Weavings
Farewell to Balfour Road	A J	Book 52
Miss Jane Muirhead/Dunsmuir	B S	Dunsmuir Dances
Arthur's Seat	I R	18th Century
Alan J. Smith	B J	Book 45
MacDonald of Keppoch	I M	Book 49
The Dancing Bees	B R	24 Graded & Social Dances
Round and Roundabout	A S	Book 49
The Rambling Pitchfork	B R	All Kinds of Everything
Trip to Timber Ridge	I R	Book 52
Diamonds Are Forever	A J	L.A. 50th Anniversary
Redwood Arbor	B S	Dragonfly
The Westminster Reel	I R	Book 45
Chuck's Strathspey	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Craven Jig	I J	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
The Deil amang the Tailors	B R	Book 14

VACCINATION REQUIRED

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination, including booster if eligible, is required at all Los Angeles Branch-related events and classes. Masks may be required.

GHILLIES BALL



Scottish Country Dancing was well represented at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Ghillies Ball, an event hosted by the BUSC (British United Services Club) as a celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Above are, from left: Doug Macdonald, Anthea Macdonald, Mike McGinnis, Ann McBride, John Allen, Kris McGinnis, Rosemary Abend and guest dancer Patrick Benn. Missing from the photo are Margaret Burnett, Jeff Altman and Larry Kanowsky.

1923 — WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

At the April dance I wore a shirt emblazoned with the number "1923."

Very few people commented on it and only one person guessed the significance of the date. "1923" means that in 2023 the Society will be 100 years old.

Mrs. Ysobel Stewart, Girl Guide commissioner for Argyll, believed that Scottish girls should learn Scottish country dances. She wrote down notes for the dances she remembered from her youth.

Mrs. Stewart and Miss Jean Milligan, a teacher at Jordonhill College, together arranged a meeting on Nov. 26, 1923; 27 interested people met in Glasgow to form the Scottish Country Dance Society. Mrs. Stewart emigrated from Scotland the following year, leaving Miss Milligan to guide the society for its first 50 years.

In 1951, King George VI added "Royal" to the organization's name, and HRH Princess Elizabeth became the patron.

The society has already put some celebratory plans in place. Sept. 30, 2023, will be another World Day of Dance. Ten dances have been selected (one from each decade) with the hope that they will be danced in each branch at

an appropriate time. Thus, there will be dancing somewhere in the world over 24 hours.

Rosemary Abend

SEASIDE HIGHLAND GAMES

I am very excited to share that SoCal's premier Scottish festival on California's Central Coast is back!

Over the weekend of Oct. 8-9, the Ventura County Fairgrounds will again resound to the skirl of bagpipes, the plucking of harps and the sheer enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing.

This year the country dancing will take place in the Celtic Spring Hall, the large hall where there will also be vendors and the very popular tearoom – guaranteeing a captive audience for showing off our favorite pastime.

The LA Demonstration Team will be to the fore on Saturday, and the general dancing section will focus on how much fun SCD can be – and there will be opportunities for the audience to join in the fun.

Ann McBride

HIGHLAND GAMES



It felt so good to be back at the Orange County Fairgrounds for the annual Scottish Festival and to be dancing again in the Whisky Tavern. This year our booth was moved into the breezeway next to the tavern where we had lots of potential dancers stopping by to pick up information on classes and to learn more about Scottish Country Dancing.

CLASSES

Valley College

The summer is going by quite fast. Laura Young went off on a summer vacation to Germany and visited a class while there.

Lindsey Courtney had her suitcase packed when she discovered that she tested positive for the virus, so Ireland and Scotland will now have to wait a year for her visit.

Jon Reeves attended both Anime Expo in Los Angeles and Comic-Con in San Diego — in costume, of course. Terry Schaeffer and her husband Jim visited friends in Colorado.

John Allen visited family in Florida.

Jim Bell spent several weeks in Scotland and then went to Dallas before returning to L.A.

Jeff Altman and Margaret Burnett were finally able to have a reception/party to celebrate their 2021 wedding.

I finally made it back to Minnesota and Wisconsin and visited friends there. It was lovely to be back after 12 years. I was also able to travel to Denmark to visit family in August.

Aase Hansen

Torrance

The Friday Torrance class has been meeting in “hybrid form” for one year as of June, with both in-person dancing and on-line “Zoom” dancing. To mark this momentous anniversary, Bill and Nancy Hartung hosted a games night party at their house on June 10. Since June of 2021, we have covered a great number of dances (approximately 200 at last count), some of which might not have been included on a regular program.

Eric and Doris Fisher have purchased a vacation home in the desert. Bill and Nancy Hartung went to a wedding in Seattle. Ruth Fleming-Stephens and her husband Kyle Stephens celebrated their 20th anniversary by returning to where they honeymooned in British Columbia. Linda Chicoine-Armijo attended a wedding in Colorado and went zip-lining. Carol De la Cruz has moved to Yuba City.

Mike McGinnis, Bill Hartung, Jeff Altman and Doug Macdonald danced an all-men’s set at the British United Services Jubilee Ball. Rosemary Abend, Kris McGinnis, Margaret Burnett and Anthea Macdonald helped with audience participation.

Rosemary has started to learn bridge from a very sharp lady in her 90s, who kept telling her it was a very difficult game to learn and that maybe she should start with hearts! Rosemary said she has found a very good phone app, which is almost as much fun to play as solitaire!

In addition to our online and zoom class, we now have a beginner class starting at 6:30. Beginning dancers include Betty Anderson and Bill and Marie Reichert.

A record of each week’s program is published at my.strathspey.org.

Dancers and teachers are welcome to join us in person Fridays 7:30-9:00 p.m. at 1530 Cravens Ave, Torrance, CA 90501 or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8248957840> (meeting ID, if needed: 824 895 7840).

Masks are no longer required, but proof of vaccination is.

To be added to the email list, contact Kris at krismcginnis@gmail.com.

Tony McQuilkin

Santa Barbara

We have continued meeting in person, but with travel, isolation due to exposure to COVID, etc., our numbers have varied widely — from seven to as many as 17 (one week).

The class has welcomed a number of dancers from the English dance community, who transition easily into Scottish. They are a tremendous addition to our community.

Ilse Gilbert

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

Dem Team

The Demonstration Team ended its season with a return to Sierra Madre for the annual Spring Fete in support of the British Home for retired members of the Daughters of the British Empire. This is always a delightful event with each chapter of the organization raising funds at their booth or table.

This year was a bit different – fewer booths offering goodies from the kitchen (no cakes!) but more examples of craft skills, including hats and hair fancies. It wouldn't be a Spring Fete without an amazing book sale. Imagine getting up to 10 paperbacks for \$1.00.

Although we love the event, it presents several challenges for the dancers every year: hot weather, uneven terrain (depending on the layout) and many years ago high grass. But they are very happy to have us so we always work together to improve the venue for dancing.

Bill Hartung, in addition to dancing, brought his video equipment, and Nancy was able to film each dance. He not only edited and shared the videos, but also captured the image accompanying this report.

Immediately after our good-bye party, Jim Bell and Grant Clark headed off to their hometowns: Jim to Troon, Scotland, and Grant and



The Branch Demonstration Team performed at the British Home in June. Dancers from left: Connie Walker, Alice Allen, Carol Madden, Kris McGinnis, Bill Hartung and Mike McGinnis.

his family to their cabin in Manitoba.

Connie Walker had a few more weeks to prepare for TAC Summer School, where she had the Bobby Brown scholarship for the music program. She played for classes and sat in with the Summer School musicians at some of the dances.

It was not a long break, though. The team reconvened in late August to prepare for events at the Torrance Library and, of course, the Seaside Highland Games.

Alice Allen

SCOTTISH-AMERICAN HISTORY

Alice Allen stumbled upon a Scottish-American history video from the Los Angeles Public Library's Genealogy Garage series titled Scottish Prisoners of War.

The video's description says, "In the early 1650s ... hundreds of Scottish prisoners were transported to America to become indentured

servants ... And that is why many ancestors with Scottish surnames are in the genealogical records of colonial New England."

The video is a wee bit long but gives a lot of 17th-century Scottish history. You can find the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM3_EiZDPTs

Audrey Ramsay Prest

OBITUARY

Gilbert Gotfried

January 26, 1925 — July 25, 2022

Gilbert Gotfried, long known to us locally as “Gil,” passed away on July 25 at age 97. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and attended Brooklyn College, where he met his wife Rosalind, known to us as “Roz.” He taught mathematics at Brooklyn’s Wingate High School, where he became department chairman.



Gil served in the United States Army during World War II and was among those who liberated Valkenburg aan de Geul in the southeast “tail” of the Netherlands on Sept. 17, 1944, after its more than four years of occupation. He is still personally remembered there, and his obituary appeared in the Limburg provincial newspaper.

Gil and Roz began Scottish country dancing back in 1992 while still in Brooklyn and then continued after they moved to California. Gil had not been physically able to dance in the most recent years, but he and Roz were “fixtures” of the Los Angeles Branch for many years. Their wonderful SCD legacy is their daughter Roberta, one of our branch teachers.

Robb Quint

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the branch, Betty Anderson, Nick Burlett and Jessica Dove.

Melinda Brown

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.

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

MEMORIAL FUND

The branch has money in a Memorial Fund, to be used for equipment purchases or special events. It can be used for scholarships to help members attend a workshop or something related to Scottish Country Dancing but who cannot afford the whole cost on their own. Applications are available from branch teachers.

RALPHS REWARDS PROGRAM

The branch earns a contribution from the Ralphs Rewards Community Contribution Program when members register to benefit the Branch, while they continue to earn their own Ralphs Rewards points. Pick up a flier and learn how to register or call 800-443-4438. **You may need to re-register every September.** Our Organization Number is AV732. Then use your Ralphs Rewards card (or phone number) every time you shop.

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>.



RSCDS, Los Angeles Branch Inc.
P.O. Box 90871, Los Angeles, CA 90009
chair@rscds-losangeles.org

Branch chair: Ann McBride
Home phone: 818-841-8161
Email: annmcbride1024@gmail.com

Membership chair: Melinda Brown
Address: 30547 Mehrten Dr.
Exeter, CA 93221
Cell phone: 805-368-7057
Email: mjtb1002@hotmail.com

Ghillie Callum Editor: Audrey Ramsay Prest
Home phone: 818-708-8125
Email: aramsapp@sbcglobal.net