

the GHILLIE CALLUM

Volume 55 Number 1

September 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Dancers,

I hope your summer was filled with many happy memories. It's a time to relax and travel and make new friends.

Looking forward to the fall, the year kicks off with the 34th annual Interbranch Dance on Sept. 30 at the Tustin Senior Center. We are lucky to have Andy Imbrie and Judi Nicolson provide music for us. It is always a great time to meet and visit with dancers from the four Southern California branches.

In keeping with the RSCDS Centenary Celebrations, many of the dances on that evening's program are from the "Dances Through the Decades," list provided by the Society. We will have a ball review the preceding Sunday, Sept. 24. Details to follow soon.

It's not too early to start thinking about your costumes for our Halloween Dance and Costume Party on Oct. 28 in Studio City. We are certainly looking forward to seeing the creative ways you can represent the name of a dance.

The St. Andrew's Ball will be held at the Masonic Lodge in El Segundo on Nov. 25. Musicians will be Patti Cobb and Caroline McCaskey. If you are interested in joining in the kitchen *fun*, please let us know!

Our annual Hogmanay Party will be held in person again this year, with the doors opening earlier and with us celebrating a "New York" New Year's Eve. This worked out well last year, and even the rain held off as we traveled home.

For more information on all these events, check out the L.A. Branch's new and improved website: <http://www.rscds-losangeles.org/Home>.

I am looking forward to seeing you all soon!
Happy dancing,

Kris McGinnis



AGM

Highlights of the Annual General Meeting included retiring Chair Ann McBride surprising MALs Dana Dunaway, top, and Jon Reeves, center, with the Branch Award. At left, Ann with flowers she was given as a thanks for her leadership.

Dem Team

While many classes had the summer off, the Dem Team took advantage of the cool ocean breezes of Santa Monica to keep dancing. Some team members were away in New York, Canada or Germany, but we were joined by dancers from other classes: Anne Clark and Rosemary Abend from Torrance; Ilse and John Gilbert from Santa Barbara; Jeff Altman, Dawn Bertani, Callan Edwards, Carmen Silva-Corvalán and Terry Schaeffer from Valley College.

We are also happy to have dancers who are new to some of us (Jared Bishop who is on summer break from the Delaware Valley Branch), or with whom we danced in Culver City many years ago (a happy reunion with Samantha, Alissa and Shannon).

Roberta set aside our long-standing project of focusing on dances from the L.A. 50th Anniversary Book in favor of explorations of dances from near and far. Most were unfamiliar, so team members and guests were on equal footing.

Ann McBride made a guest appearance in August, when Roberta took her annual trip to Europe to visit friends. Ann brought her own selections of dances from around the world, adding her regular doses of dance technique and performance skills to our classes.

It's possible that the Santa Monica weekly dance party may continue. Roberta announced that she was willing to start a new class in the facility where Dem Team meets if there are at least 10 people interested in a class on Wednesday or Thursday nights. For more information, contact her at rgotfried@alum.vassar.edu

Alice Allen

BRANCH FINANCES

Treasurer's Report for fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023: We ended the year with \$22,855 in cash and checking accounts. We had net income of \$361 from general activities for the year. Special funds were reduced by \$350 during the year. For a more detailed report, please see the website. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at doris.fisher@gmail.com.

Doris Fisher, treasurer

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

SEPTEMBER

30 INTERBRANCH DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7:30 p.m. Music: Andy Imbrie and Judi Nicolson. Also: Scottish Miscellany Sale.

OCTOBER

28 HALLOWEEN DANCE AND COSTUME PARTY. First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded. Awards for costumes best representing the name of a Scottish country dance.

NOVEMBER

25 ST. ANDREW'S BALL. South Bay Masonic Center, 520 Main St., El Segundo. Music: Patti Cobb and Caroline McCaskey.

DECEMBER

31 HOGMANAY PARTY. South Bay Masonic Center, 520 Main St., El Segundo. Music: recorded.

OTHER BRANCHES

SEPTEMBER

9 OC BRANCH DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7:30 p.m. Music: recorded.

OCTOBER

21 SGV CAKEWALK DANCE. Church of Our Saviour, 535 W. Roses Road, San Gabriel. 4 p.m.

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

9 OC CHRISTMAS BALL. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: Flindrikin.

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.

COSTA MESA GAMES



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

INTERBRANCH DANCE

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023

Tustin Area Senior Center

200 S. C St., Tustin

Hospitality Circle	B J	Let's All Dance Too
The Old Man of Storr	B R	SCDs for Children
A Summer Meeting	I S	Book 48
IP's Farewell to Auchterarder	A J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Bonnie Stronshiray	I S	Glasgow Assembly
None So Pretty	I R	Book 19
The Wild Geese	B J	Book 24
Scott Meikle	I R	Book 46
Invercauld's Reel	B S	Book 11
Gothenburg's Welcome	I J	Book 37
The Montgomerie's Rant	I R	Book 10
Farewell to Balfour Road	I J	Book 52
Spark o' Water	B S	Spark o' Water
Bratach Bana	A R	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Neidpath Castle	I S	Book 22
Flowers of Edinburgh	B R	Book 1



HOGMANAY

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023

South Bay Masonic Center

520 Main St., El Segundo

Come Under My Plaidie	B J	SCDs for Children
Sueno's Stone	I R	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
First Love	B S	Let's All Dance Too
Best Set in the Hall	A J	Book 46
A Summer Meeting	I S	Book 48
The Deil Amang the Tailors	B R	Book 14
The Aviator	I J	Book 52
Miss Jane Muirhead/Dunsmuir	B S	Dunsmuir Dances
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloch	A R	The Leaflet Dances w/ Music
Follow Me Home	I J	Book 38
The Poppy and the Thistle	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Dancing Bees	B R	24 Graded & Social Dances

Les Remparts de Séville	I J	Book 50
Gramachie	B S	MMM I
Whigmaleeries	I R	Imperial Book of SCDs, Vol. 2
Foxhill Court	A S	Canadian Book
Joie de Vivre	B J	Book 39
Trip to Timber Ridge	I R	Book 52

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023

First Christian Church

4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

It's Nae Bother	B J	A 2nd Book of Graded SCDs
The Ambassadors' Reel	B R	Vienna Book of SCDs
Slytherin House	I S	Book 52
The Aviator	I J	Book 52
The Rambling Pitchfork	B R	All Kinds of Everything
Joie de Vivre	B J	Book 39
Foxhill Court	A S	Canadian Book
Lady Dumfries	B R	MMM I
Largo Law	B S	MMM I
Whigmaleeries	I R	Imperial Book of SCDs, Vol. 2
Napier's Index	B J	Book 45
Neidpath Castle	I S	Book 22
Farewell to Balfour Road	I J	Book 52
Redwood Arbor	B S	Dragonfly
The Dancing Bees	B R	24 Graded & Social Dances

ST. ANDREW'S BALL

Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023

South Bay Masonic Center

520 Main St., El Segundo

Come Under My Plaidie	B J	SCDs for Children
Bea's Delight	I R	Book 43
Foxhill Court	A S	Canadian Book
The Scallywag	I J	Book 52
Largo Law	B S	MMM I
Arthur's Seat	I R	SCDs of the 18th Century
Alan J. Smith	B J	Book 45
The Westminster Reel	I R	Book 45
Neidpath Castle	I S	Book 22
Best Set in the Hall	A J	Book 46
The Ambassadors' Reel	B R	Vienna Book of SCDs
Farewell to Balfour Road	I J	Book 52
Gramachie	B S	MMM I
Forty and Counting	A R	Book 52
Chased Lovers	I J	World Wide Weavings
The Poppy and the Thistle	I S	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Deil amang the Tailors	B R	Book 14

NEW MEMBERS

The branch welcomes new members Dawn Bertani, Kaisa Schmitt and David Mason.

Melinda Brown, membership chair

CLASSES

Redondo Beach

The Senior Class has been meeting in Redondo Beach for more than a year now. Kris McGinnis and I have been teaching a group of diligent ladies who laugh and have a good time dancing to the music. It is a low-impact class with little attention to footwork or formations.

In July the senior center where we dance had an open house. We were invited to do a demonstration followed by audience participation. The ladies did a very nice performance of Blue Bonnets, followed by Cumberland Reel to involve members of the audience.

Rosemary Abend



Valley College

While the class is on summer break, many of our dancers have been enjoying travel and visits from family.

Teacher Aase Hansen spent a week being grandma in Idaho, where they did fun activities like picking blueberries and peaches, until it got too warm. She was barely home a few days, then flew off to Denmark for two weeks with daughter Lisbeth.

Jim Bell spent three weeks in Troon, Scotland, dancing two evenings a week to fabulous music. And by “fabulous,” he means the classes had famous Scottish country dance musicians Sandy Nixon and Colin Dewar playing while he was there. Jim says, “It’s amazing how uplifting live music by fabulous musicians is.”

In June, Carmen Silva-Corvalán and husband Scott went on a seven-day cruise in the Adriatic Sea, with stops in Croatia and Montenegro. They very much enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere on board a 300-passenger French ship. They had been to Spain before the cruise, and, after disembarking in Venice, they spent a week in the Tuscany region of Italy.

Also visiting Europe, Lindsey Courtney went to London, hiked in rural areas of Scotland, plus Finland, Estonia and Paris (for Bastille Day!). She reported, “Joe Biden and I were in Helsinki at the same time, but we neglected to spend any time together; it’s possible (maybe)

that he had more urgent matters to attend to.” She also went to Disneyland multiple times, as well as Santa Barbara for a couple of days. Now she’s already back teaching because the new school year has already started.

Terry Schaeffer and husband Jim made two trips to the mountains in August — one to the southern Colorado Rockies to visit his college roommate and the other to the northern Sierras for family gatherings in Sierra City and Grass Valley.

Jon Reeves spent eight days in July “dressing up in silly costumes” at conventions (Anime Expo and Comic-Con). He also took a course to learn how to drive his new Corvette more to its potential. And he’s been video-chatting weekly with a student in Ukraine who is trying to improve his English.

Audrey Prest spent a week in Washington, D.C., at the national meeting of Daughters of the American Revolution. In addition to being a voting delegate from her local chapter, she enjoyed spending time researching in the DAR’s vast genealogy library.

In July, Betty Petitt had complicated surgery on her left knee (the same leg as her fractured femur last year). After a long stint on a walker, she was able to get around short distances with a cane — which allowed her to get back to attending the Hollywood Bowl.

Steve Kaplan and Kathrin King Segal re-

turned to class this spring after a long (pandemic) hiatus. In the past year, they have traveled to Costa Rica, Maui and New York City, where they saw lots of friends and cousins, and four Broadway shows.

Audrey Ramsay Prest

Simi Valley

My new class in Simi Valley has had four to six dancers each week, though we are looking forward to increases in attendance soon.

Deresa Kenney

Torrance

Bill Hartung has been playing a lot of pickleball, including winning a few medals in tournaments!

Doris and Eric Fisher are headed to New England in early September to visit the Maine coastline, then on to New Hampshire to ride some small trains at Crawford Notch and Mt. Washington with the Road Scholar program. They are planning to join the SCD cruise in April up the Pacific Coast, which is being organized by Flora Morgan of the Orange County Branch.

Linda Chicoine-Armijo moved to Texas, but she has been zooming in occasionally. We had visitors from Texas dance with us, Kelly and Judith.

Tony McQuilkin



PAST CHAIRS

Erik Edmunds, former chair (1989-1990), was in Los Angeles in June and had lunch with Rosemary Abend. He was also a member of the demonstration team. He has lived in the UK for more than 30 years.

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 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.



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

Branch chair: Kris McGinnis
Phone: 310-963-8829
Email: krismcginnis@gmail.com

Membership chair: Melinda Brown
Address: 30547 Mehrten Dr.
Exeter, CA 93221
Cell phone: 805-368-7057
Email: mjt1002@hotmail.com

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

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