

# The Ghillie Callum

Volume 57 Number 1

September 2025

## L.A. BRANCH AGM



The newly elected 2025-2026 Committee of Management, from left: MAL Callan Edwards, Recording Secretary Audrey Ramsay Prest, Treasurer Doris Fisher, Chair Kris McGinnis, MAL Betty Anderson, Corresponding Secretary Robb Quint, MAL Jon Reeves and MAL Christopher Bradley.

Also serving on the board will be Teachers' Chair and Dem Team Director Roberta Gotfried and Vice Chair Tony McQuilkin.

The annual treasurer's report can be found on page 2 and photos from the AGM Dance on pages 3 and 4.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings Dancers,

Summer is winding down, and the California weather is heating up. Many dancers are now back from wonderful vacations and summer school. We are heading into a new season of dancing.

Starting things off is the Interbranch Dance, Sept. 27, at the Tustin Senior Center. The program is lovely, and many of the dances are on the Catalina Weekend Ball program.

Reservations for the Catalina Weekend have had a good start filling to our capacity. It is not too late to sign up, but be aware that the advertising will open up to a broader audience now. There are different ways to attend: Workshop and Ball or Ball Only or as a nondancer for

the Ball. Friday night is the ceilidh. Some meals are included for various events. Check out the website: <https://www.scottishdancecatalinworkshop.com/>

It is great to see so many dancers interested in becoming teachers! Long-time teachers Jack Rennie and Aase Hansen have retired but are still in the area — and they would love to hear from you.

You could contact Aase via email: [aasehansen@aol.com](mailto:aasehansen@aol.com). Jack would love a note, as he doesn't email: Jack Rennie, 6634 Lautrec Place, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275.

Welcome back everyone — we will see you on the dance floor.

*Kris McGinnis*

## BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's report for the fiscal year from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025: The branch ended the year with \$29,220 in cash and checking accounts. We had a net loss of \$1,094 from general activities. Special funds increased by \$5,615 during the year, primarily due to LA's share of the Catalina deposits and to generous donations for the St. Andrew's Ball.

For details, please see the reports posted on our website. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Doris.fisher@gmail.com.

Please note: In regard to the small increase to the primary membership fees for 2025-2026, we had not raised primary membership rates since 2016, yet dues to Scotland have increased by more than 50% in that time period.

And, you will notice an increase in our monthly dance admission price, from \$10 to \$15 for RSCDS members, beginning with our October dance. This will help offset ever-increasing hall rental costs.

*Doris Fisher, treasurer*

## BRANCH TEACHERS

Greetings, Dancers! I'm excited about the dance year ahead. Scottish country dancing continues and thrives, thanks in large part to our teachers. And I'm excited that we have some new (or newly trained) teachers, in addition to those who have been dedicated for many years.

Did you know that in addition to teaching your classes, SCD teachers also select dances and music for our yearly programs (for all levels of dancers), and devise the dance programs?

As the new teachers' rep, I'm always open to feedback about classes and programs, as well as new ideas for classes and workshops, or if you might be interested in teaching. I'd love to hear your ideas. See you on the dance floor!

*Roberta Gotfried*

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## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the branch Kelly Wolshon, George Martin and Debi Robinson.

*Melinda Brown, membership secretary*

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## CALENDAR

### LOS ANGELES BRANCH

#### SEPTEMBER

- 27 INTERBRANCH DANCE.** Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7:30 p.m. Music: SO-CALedonians. Also: Scottish Miscellany Sale begins at 6:30.

#### OCTOBER

- 25 HALLOWEEN DANCE AND COSTUME PARTY.** First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded. Awards for costumes that best represent the names of Scottish country dances.

#### NOVEMBER

- 29 ST. ANDREW'S BALL.** South Bay Masonic Center, 520 Main St., El Segundo. Music: Patti Cobb, Thomas Dewey and Caroline McCaskey.

#### DECEMBER

- 31 HOGMANAY PARTY.** El Segundo Woman's Club, 541 Standard St. 5 p.m. Music: recorded.

## OTHER BRANCHES

#### SEPTEMBER

- 13 OC BRANCH DANCE.** Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.
- 20 SGV INTERBRANCH DANCE REVIEW.** St. James Episcopal Church, 1325 Monterey Rd., South Pasadena. 2 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### OCTOBER

- 18 SGV FALL AFTERNOON DANCE.** St. James Episcopal Church, 1325 Monterey Rd., South Pasadena. 4 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### NOVEMBER

- 8 OC BEGINNER DANCE.** Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.
- 15 SGV CAKEWALK DANCE.** St. James Episcopal Church, 1325 Monterey Rd., South Pasadena. 4 p.m. Music: recorded.

#### DECEMBER

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

## DEMONSTRATING SCD



The Los Angeles Branch Demonstration Team danced at the Celtic Fest in June. From left are Alissa Simon, Martina Hanson, Kris McGinnis, Bill Hartung, director Roberta Gotfried, Mike McGinnis, Connie Walker and Sarah Fox.

Dancers from the Torrance class participating in the Irish Fair in June included, from left: Nancy Hartung, Kaisa Schmitt, Jim Bell, Kelly Wolschon, Christopher Bradley, Lisa Hancock, Doris and Eric Fisher. For more about the event, see the Torrance class report on page 5.



## AGM DANCE



Dancing at the Annual General Meeting in June are Steve Bryan and Sarah Fox, left; Callan Edwards and Dawn Bertani, above; Connie Learn and Eric Fisher, right.

Photos by Claudia Pedersen

## INTERBRANCH DANCE

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025

Tustin Area Senior Center

200 S. C St., Tustin

Looking for a Partner	B J	Carnforth Collection, Vol. 6
Toast to the Mousies	I R	Book 53
John McAlpin	I S	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
Farewell to Auchterarder	A J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Ardnahoe	I S	SCDDB online
The Montgomeries' Rant	I R	Book 10
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	I J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Capelthwaite	I R	San Francisco Collection, Vol. 2
The Dream Catcher	A S	Book 45
The Cranberry Tart	I J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
The Falkirk Lass	B S	Book 53
The Black Leather Jig	I R	Delaware Valley Silver
Mrs. Stewart's Jig	B J	Book 35
Bauldy Bain's Fiddle	I S	The Lothian Collection
The Gentleman	I S	Book 35
Vintage Slmon	A J	Book 47
The Reel of the Royal Scots	B R	The Leaflet Dances with Music



## ST. ANDREW'S BALL

Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025

South Bay Masonic Center

520 Main St., El Segundo

St. Andrew's Fair	B J	Five SCDs 1982
Smiling Lila	I R	Donald J. Bartlett online
The Dean Bridge of Edinburgh	I S	Book 23
Niles Roberts' Farewell to Pas.	A J	Book 53
The Falkirk Lass	B S	Book 53
Toast to the Mousies	I R	Book 53
Light and Airy	B J	Book 4
Scott Meikle	I R	Book 46
Something in the Air	A S	Book 53
Best Set in the Hall	I J	Book 46
The Sailor	B R	Book 24
Major Ian Stewart	I J	Book 35
Largo Law	B S	MMM I
Elsbeth Gray's Reel	A R	Book 53
The Roselath Cross	I J	Book 41
Porchester Hall	I S	London Jubilee Book (1989)
Hedwig's Reel	B R	Second Book of Graded SCDs

## HALLOWEEN DANCE

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025

First Christian Church

4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Come Under My Plaidie	B J	SCDs for Children
Porchester Hall	I S	London Jubilee Book (1989)
The Sailor	B R	Book 24
Largo Law	B S	MMM I
Pinewoods Reel	A R	Book 53
Burns Night	B J	Boston 50th Anniversary
First Love	B S	Let's All Dance Too
Major Ian Stewart	I J	Book 35
Flowers of Edinburgh	B R	Book 1
St. Andrew's Fair	B J	Five SCDs 1982
The Glengarry Homestead	I S	The Kangaroo Paw
Gloria's Wee Jig	B J	The Devil's Quandary
Neidpath Castle	I S	Book 22
The Ambassadors' Reel	B R	Vienna Book of SCDs

## AGM DANCE



Among the dancers at the Annual General Meeting in Studio City are Eric Fisher and Alice Allen.

Photo by Claudia Pedersen

## CLASSES

At Summer School in St. Andrews in July are, from left, Callan Edwards, Elizabeth Seward, David Bertani, Thomas Bertani, John Allen, Dawn and Nick Bertani.



### Valley College

Congratulations to teacher Dawn Bertani for passing Units 2 and 3 of the teaching certificate program at Summer School at St. Andrews, Scotland. Dawn was joined for a second week there by her family, Nick, Thomas and David Bertani; her mom Elizabeth Seward; John Allen and Callan Edwards.

Earlier in the summer, the Bertanis, Elizabeth and John spent a few days in Puerto Vallarta with other family members — a group of 12.

Traveling a much shorter distance, Jon Reeves filled up his Corvette with four days' worth of costumes for Comic-Con in San Diego.

Carmen Silva-Corvalán and husband Scott have been visiting family. And, much to everyone's surprise, they bumped into Jeff Altman and Margaret Burnett in the Seattle airport!

On Fourth of July, Terri Coomes and her husband and daughter joined a professional pyrotechnician friend to set up — and ignite — a fireworks show in Irvine.

On the “disabled list,” Aase Hansen is at home in Burbank with her daughter Lisbeth Hencke; Alice Allen fell and needed surgery on her elbow; my nagging ankle injury ended up in a walking boot after an MRI showed a torn tendon.

*Audrey Ramsay Prest*

### Santa Barbara Thursday

I completed my CTI training, and class is going strong. There was an article in our larg-

est weekly newspaper, The Independent, and that's been bringing in a steady stream of new people of all ages (including three generations of a single family). We usually have at least two full sets of dancers.

*Rachel McDonald*

### Redondo Beach

The Redondo Beach Senior Class celebrated its third anniversary by performing at the Veterans' Park Senior Center Open House. More than two sets of seniors got up to try SCD during audience participation.

Class members have been travelling the world lately visiting Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Finland, Germany, Spain and Portugal.

Finally, I tied for first place in the Redondo Beach History Trivia Contest sponsored by the RB library. How did I achieve this? I knew Demi Moore attended Redondo Union High School, among other things. My winnings included an RB coaster and an RB tea towel.

*Rosemary Abend*

### Torrance

The Torrance beginner class continues, but it is not Zoomed. The intermediate/advanced class continues to meet in “hybrid form” with live dancing and Zoom.

Several members of the Torrance class were elected (or re-elected) to the RSCDS Los Angeles Branch Committee of Management: Kris McGinnis was reelected as chairman, Tony McQuilkin elected as vice chairman, Doris Fisher reelected as treasurer, and Betty Anderson reelected as member-at-large

Ruth took a trip to Germany at the end of July for her twin granddaughters' first birthday. (They were actually born in June, but she aimed to be there for their baptisms.)

Several members of the class participated in a demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing at the Torrance Irish Fair, held over Fathers' Day weekend: Jim Bell, Nancy Hartung, Lisa Hancock, Christopher Bradley, Doris and Eric

Fisher, Kaisa Schmitt and Kelly Wolschon.

Although it seemed that everything that could go wrong did, including no names at the check-in table (fortunately, Rosemary came prepared with a list) and continuing into problems with the music. Despite the mishaps, the dancers laughed it all off. (They did seem to enjoy the corned beef and cabbage afterward!)

Special thanks to Jim who conducted the walk-throughs. And we may have actually picked up three dancers for the intermediate class and one for the beginner class!

A record of each week's program is published at [my.strathspey.org](http://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).

To be added to the email list, contact Kris at [krismcginnis@gmail.com](mailto:krismcginnis@gmail.com).

*Tony McQuilkin*

### Simi Valley

The Simi Valley class is holding, and I believe we may have a new student starting up in September. Two of our students attended most of the San Gabriel Valley Branch Summer Series and absolutely loved it.

I had a total right knee replacement on July 15. In June, I went with two friends to Portugal and Spain. We traveled for almost a month, including a week where we did part of the Santiago walk for 118 km.

*Deresa Kenney*

### 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, 22190 Sierra Drive, Exeter, CA 93221; [mjtb1002@hotmail.com](mailto:mjtb1002@hotmail.com)

### 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).

### 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.



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