

the Ghillie Callum

Volume 57 Number 4

June 2026



Dancing in a demonstration in downtown Avalon are, from left, Jodi McEdward (San Diego), Bill Hartung (L.A.), Mike McGinnis (L.A.), Dawn Bertani (L.A.), Jeanne Moody (San Diego), Sarah Fox (L.A.), Arthur McNair (Pittsburgh). Musicians are Dan Emery on flute (who also piped them through town) and David Courret-Knight on fiddle. Not visible: Edie Archibald (Orange County) and Callan Edwards (L.A.).

Additional photos of the Catalina Workshop Weekend are on pages 4 and 5.

2026 — SANTA CATALINA REVISITED

To paraphrase the late Noel Coward, “I’ve been to a simply marvelous party!” The Catalina Workshop 2026 was a truly marvelous party!

An enthusiastic group of dancers and non-dancers sailed into Avalon Harbor to dance, to rekindle old friendships and forge new ones. And the workshops lived up to all these expectations and more.

The teaching staff of Gary Coull from Scotland, the current chair of the RSCDS, and Jeanne Moody from San Diego challenged, inspired and delighted dancers of all levels across all the classes. In the Ball Review session, expertly conducted by Anthea and Doug Macdonald, they ensured all the dancers were well prepared for the evening’s dancing.

Saturday evening in the Casino Ballroom was magical — from the beautiful table decorations to the gourmet dinner, to the totally uplift-

ing music from the Thistle House Band. It truly lifted the dancers off the floor. The ghosts of the Casino Ballroom must have been very happy to see the ballroom resounding again to wonderful music, with many happy dancers.

So, hats off to Doris Fisher and her committee for a wonderful renewal of the true meaning of Miss Milligan’s admonition and mantra: “Be joyful and dance with your soul.”

A special and heartfelt thanks to Mike McGinnis and Eric Fisher for their cheerful ferrying of dancers and others to and fro all weekend in the golf carts. A note for those who may never have been to Avalon ... it seems all the streets are vertical!!

On returning to Long Beach, it was a scene of happy hugs and “let’s do this again!”

Ann McBride

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 27, 2026

Potluck 5 p.m.; meeting 6 p.m.; dancing 7 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

CHAIR — Kris McGinnis

VICE CHAIR — Christopher Bradley

TREASURER — Doris Fisher

RECORDING SECRETARY — Audrey Ramsay Prest

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY — Robb Quint

MEMBERS AT LARGE (vote for four) —

Callan Edwards, Jon Reeves, Kaisa Schmitt

If you would like to run for office, please email the chair of the Nominating Committee, Nancy Hartung, nancy@hartung.com. Additional nominations for all positions will be accepted at the meeting.

The 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Los Angeles Branch will take place at First Christian Church in Studio City on June 27.

The 2026-2027 membership renewal form is included with this issue of the June Ghillie Callum by mail and email.

Please mail the form and your check to Membership Chair Melinda Brown prior to the meeting.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings Dancers,

It's almost summer — and what a beautiful spring it has been.

The AGM is upon us and we hope you can come and enjoy the dance and potluck. Did I mention a short meeting as well?

You may have noticed a wee bit of a change to the June dance flier. We will be using a new logo this year celebrating our 60th year as the L.A. Branch of RSCDS. Audrey has certainly packed a lot of info onto the flier. Midway down there is a Mobile Cribs number. This is an app, and the number (69506) represents the dance program for an event.

It has the cribs and videos available to you and, being on your phone, it is always with you. Tony McQuilkin has created the list for this event.

This year we will say good-bye to one of our teachers: Rosemary Abend has decided to retire from teaching after 30 years. She will be greatly missed; she has been a strong influence and mentor for my teaching journey.

As the dance year comes to a close, I'd like to thank all of you who attend classes, enjoy the dances and help with all that needs to be done. We look forward to seeing you this summer. Happy dancing,

Kris McGinnis

CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

JUNE

27

POTLUCK, AGM & DANCE. First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. Potluck 5 p.m., AGM 6 p.m., dance 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

JULY

25

SUMMER DANCE. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

AUGUST

22

SUMMER DANCE. First Christian Church, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

SEPTEMBER

26

INTERBRANCH DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. Details TBA.

NOVEMBER

28

60TH ANNIVERSARY, ST. ANDREW'S BALL & JACK RENNIE MEMORIAL DANCE. Details TBA.

OTHER BRANCHES

JUNE

13

OC AGM & DANCE. Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 S. C St., Tustin. Potluck 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m., dancing 7 p.m. Music: recorded.

20

SGV AGM & DANCE. St. James Episcopal Church, 1325 Monterey Road, South Pasadena. AGM 3 p.m., dance 4 p.m. Music: recorded.

AGM DANCE

Saturday, June 27, 2026
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Granville Market	NEW	B J	A Second Book of Graded SCDs
Smiling Lila		I R	Donald J. Bartlett online
The Robertson Rant	NEW	A S	Book 41
Toast to the Mousies		I R	Book 53
Sugar Candie		I S	Book 26
Hedwig's Reel		B R	A Second Book of Graded SCDs

Follow Me Home		I J	Book 38
The Braes of Tulliemet		B S	Book 7
Sueno's Stone		I R	Magazine Dances 2005-2009
The Dancing Master	NEW	A J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Beth Wilson's Delight		I R	Whetherly Book, Vol. 3

The White Heather Jig	NEW	I J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Sandy o'er the Lea	NEW	B S	MMM II
The Kissing Bridge		B R	Book 47
Something in the Air		A S	Book 53
The Rover's Rant		I J	22 Social Dances by R. Goldring
The Reel of the Royal Scots		B R	The Leaflet Dances with Music



SUMMER DANCE

Saturday, August 22, 2026
First Christian Church
4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Gloria's Wee Jig	B J	The Devil's Quandary
Starry Night	I R	L.A. 50th Anniversary
The Dean Bridge of Edinburgh	I S	Book 23
The Dancing Master	A J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
First Love	B S	Let's All Dance Too
Scott Meikle	I R	Book 46

Follow Me Home	I J	Book 38
Flowers of Edinburgh	B R	Book 1
The Glengarry Homestead	I S	The Kangaroo Paw
Niles Roberts' Farewell to Pas.	A J	Book 53
Da Rain Dancin'	I R	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2

City Lights	I J	Book 52
Pinewoods Reel	A R	Book 53
The Bridge of Sighs	A S	Summer Collection 1986
Burns Night	B J	Boston 50th Anniversary
The Reel of the Royal Scots	B R	The Leaflet Dances with Music

SUMMER DANCE

Saturday, July 25, 2026
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Drive

Laggan Bay	B J	Craigievar Book, Vol. 2
The Falkirk Lass	B S	Book 53
The White Heather Jig	I J	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Elsbeth Gray's Reel	A R	Book 53
Sandy o'er the Lea	B S	MMMII
Sueno's Stone	I R	Magazine Dances 2005-2009

Granville Market	B J	A Second Book of Graded SCDs
Smiling Lila	I R	Donald J. Bartlett online
The Robertson Rant	A S	Book 39
Follow Me Home	I J	Book 38
The Ambassadors' Reel	B R	Vienna Book of SCDs

The Roselath Cross	I J	Book 41
Braes of Tulliemet	B S	Book 7
Best Set in the Hall	A J	Book 46
Da Rain Dancin'	I R	Thirty Popular Dances, Vol. 2
Porchester Hall	I S	London Jubilee
Hedwig's Reel	B R	A Second Book of Graded SCDs

CATALINA WORKSHOP THANK YOU

Someone famous said, "it takes a village"; and the Catalina Island Workshop & Ball is no exception.

To understand how many, please see this list of "Special Thanks" as printed in the week-end booklet.

Doris Fisher

Catalina Committee: Chair Doris Fisher, Jeff Altman and Margaret Burnett, Edie Archibald, Eric Fisher, Bill and Nancy Hartung, Anthea and Doug Macdonald, Jodi and Ray McEdward, Kris and Mike McGinnis, and Terri Speakman.

Teachers: Gary Coull, Jeanne Moody

Musicians: Dave Wiesler (band leader), David Courret-Knight and Dan Emery

Badges, Ball Placecards, Logos: Kris McGinnis

Centerpieces: Nancy Hartung, Kris McGinnis

Ball Program and Ball Review Sessions:

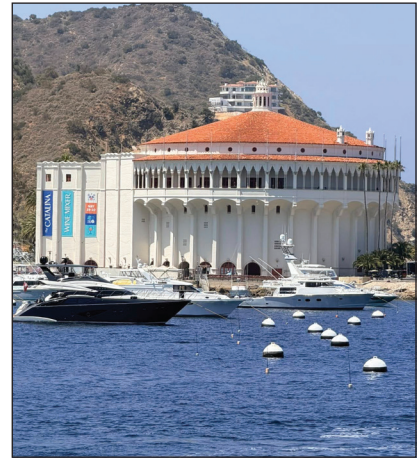
Anthea and Doug Macdonald

Ball Emcees: Marjorie McLaughlin, Roberta Gotfried, Anthea and Doug Macdonald

Ceilidh and Ball Bling: Margaret Burnett and

Continued on page 4

CATALINA WORKSHOP & BALL



At the Catalina Ball, clockwise from top left, Gary Coull, Jeanne Moody, the historic Catalina Casino, Kaisa Schmitt, Kris McGinnis and Rosemary Abend.

Photos by Rosemary Abend, Roberta Gottfried, Connie Learn



Continued from page 3

Jeff Altman

Class Hosts: Jodi McEdward, Caroline Brewer, Nancy and Bill Hartung

Demonstration-Wrigley Stage: Organizer Connie Walker; dancers Edie Archibald, Dawn Bertani, Callan Edwards, Sarah Fox, Jodi McEdward, Bill Hartung, Mike McGinnis, Arthur McNair, Jeanne Moody

First Aid Kits: Edie Archibald

Friday Night Beverages: Ray, Jodi McEdward

Friday Night Decorations and Photo Booth: Nancy Hartung and Kris McGinnis

Friday Night Food: The Committee

Grand Marshals: Gary Coull, Jeanne Moody

Hospitality Baskets: Anthea Macdonald

Mainland Hosts and Transportation: Lisa Hancock and Christopher Bradley, Roberta Gottfried, Grace and Gabriel White

Piper for Grand March: Dan Emery

Printing: Terri Speakman

Maps: Doris Fisher

Proofreaders: Jeff Altman, Margaret Burnett and Doug Macdonald

Registrar/Treasurer: Doris Fisher

Sound: Mike McGinnis, Bill Hartung

Island Transportation: Eric Fisher, Marissa McGinnis, Mike McGinnis and Rajiv Lal

SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

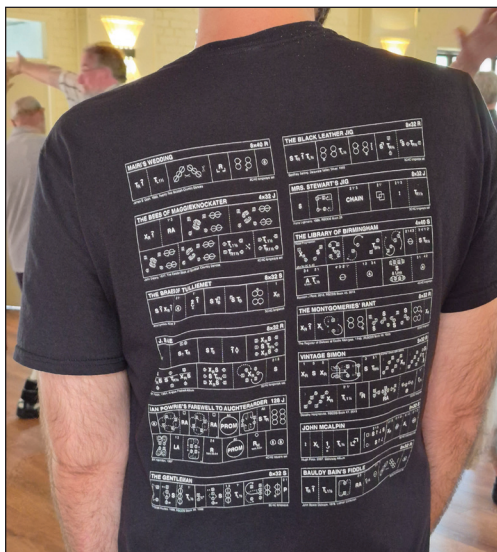
Without these sponsors we would not have attempted Catalina. Our greatest thanks to the following generous donors:

PLATINUM: Eric and Doris Fisher
John and Ilse Gilbert
Roger and Mary Nesbit

GOLD: Karen Kerman
Mike and Kris McGinnis
Seth Weisberg and Nicola Bird

SILVER: Bill and Nancy Hartung
Terri Speakman

BRONZE: Alice Allen
Ann McBride
Anthea and Doug Macdonald



Before walking to the ball, a windblown Doris and Eric Fisher, left; a T-shirt with diagrams for the ball program, center; the elegant centerpieces for the ball, right.



The Valley College Class at the Catalina Ball in the Art Deco Casino Ballroom. From left, Ilse and John Gilbert, Callan Edwards, Jon Reeves, Jim Bell, Sophie Rehrig, Carmen Silva-Corvalán, John Allen, Elizabeth Seward, Dawn Bertani, Seth Weisberg, Margaret Burnett, Sarah Fox, Jeff Altman.

CLASSES

Valley College

As we approach summer and have our final classes of the dance year, I've been reflecting on the transformation Monday class has experienced.

September saw Dawn Bertani step up and take over Aase Hansen's Monday class at LAVC — a daunting challenge for a brand-new teacher. She's deeply grateful for the guidance Ann McBride gave her as she transitioned into the role and for the patience the students have shown while she learns what works for both her and the class as a whole.

So, from Dawn to our wonderful LAVC Class and all who supported her: Thank You. And from Dawn and our class to Ann: Thank you for stepping in for Aase in the interim and keeping us dancing.

We've had the joy of seeing several new faces join our class this year — both beginner and experienced dancers alike. A large welcome to Marianne Bastecki, Elizabeth Beck, Lydia Etman, and Ilse and John Gilbert!

In other news, our class saw strong representation at the Catalina Workshop Weekend with 13 of our dancers attending. In February Jeff Altman, Margaret Burnett and Callan Edwards took a trip to San Francisco to attend the San Francisco Branch's Valentine's Ball.

Carmen Silva-Corvalán was excited to announce that construction has started on the rebuilding of their home in the Pacific Palisades. Jim Bell has been spending much time in Texas and with family. Seth Weisberg has been very active in his community and led this year's Seder. And finally, Audrey Ramsay Prest enjoyed a

cruise with her daughter and granddaughter.

Dawn and I are so happy to have this wonderful community of people, and we both look forward to continuing to dance with everyone in September.

Sarah Fox

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. Quite a few attended the Catalina workshop. Ruth and her husband Kyle visited St. Louis and Chicago for Kyle’s niece’s graduation.

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).

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

Tony McQuilkin

Simi Valley

My class is still going, however, we only have 4-5 people

Deresa Kenney

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome back to the branch Lisbeth Hencke, Aase Hansen’s daughter.

Melinda Brown, membership secretary

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.

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.
2021 W. 177th St., Torrance, CA 90504-4305
chair@rscds-losangeles.org

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

Membership chair: Melinda Brown
Address: 22190 Sierra Drive
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

**Deadline for the September issue
of the Ghillie Callum is August 1.**