

The Tartan Times

Volume LXVII, Number 2
November/December, 2018



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch
c/o The Folk Arts Center of New England
10 Franklin Street, Stoneham, MA 02180-1862

WHO'S WHO IN THE BOSTON BRANCH

Executive Committee *President:* Jeremy Thorpe; *Vice President:* Marsha Byrnes;
Secretary: Susan Haines; *Treasurer:* Cathy Crabtree; *Members at Large:* Sue Chari, Karen Gansz,
Sharon Gilmour, Jeffrey Hopper, Winifred McGowan, John Salyards
Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Charles Liu
Nominating Committee *Chair:* Rosemary Jackson
Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2018 MaryEllen Scannell
Highland Ball 2019: *Contact:* To be announced
Joint Ceilidh 2018: Robert McOwen, Linda McJanet, Cathy Crabtree
Pinewoods Scottish 2019 *Co-Chairs:* Kat Dutton, Ellen Scannell-Woods, Laurie Somario
Pinewoods ESC 2019 *Contact:* April Birnie, Daniel Potter • **NH Highlands** *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik
Demonstration Team *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Laura DeCesare
Bookstore Dawn & Mike Little • **Archives** Gregor Trinkaus-Randall
Membership MaryEllen & John Scannell • **Directory** John Scannell
TAC Representative Patti Tillotson • **Mailing List & Database** Peter Tandy
Keeper of the Class Listing Barbara McOwen
Webmasters Laura and Meyer Billmers • **Back-up Webmaster** Matt Billmers
The Boston Branch Website is www.rscdsboston.org
Exec Committee Class Liaisons: *Brookline, Cambridge & Newton MA:* Sue Chari
Brunswick, Kennebunk & Belfast ME, Greenland & Nashua NH, Chelmsford, MA: John Salyards
Salem & Stow MA: Sharon Gilmour • *Burlington, Montpelier & Fairlee VT:* Karen Gansz
Great Barrington & Northampton MA and Albany NY: Winifred McGowan

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Layout Editor Barbara McOwen; **Mailing Coordinators** Marcie Rowland & Cal Perham

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE WEBMASTERS

Please proofread all information submitted for publication on the Branch website. The webmasters are happy to post event fliers and minicribs. However, it is considerably more work for us to have to do it more than once! If you have multiple documents to post, please try to submit them all at once, rather than piecemeal. Thank you in advance.

— Laura and Meyer Billmers



Notes for the Tartan Times from the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has been updating the By-Laws to incorporate current practices. You, the membership, will be asked to approve these changes at the upcoming SAGM on November 5th. Likewise, the Policies and Procedures are also being updated. At the AGM in June, there was a discussion concerning Youth membership in the Branch, but there were no guidelines in place to protect youth participating in a Branch class or attending a Branch event. A set of guidelines is being written to provide a safe environment for both children and vulnerable adults in the Boston Branch and to provide guidance for the adult teachers.

As always, please check out the upcoming events listed in the Tartan Times and on the website calendar. Please also feel free to reach out to any member of the Executive Committee if you have any questions or concerns about the Boston Branch. We welcome your suggestions. — *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary*



scottish

Ceilidh



AN EVENING OF
SCOTTISH MUSIC AND DANCE

Hosted by
Highland Dance Boston and
The Boston Scottish Country Dancers

IRISH SOCIAL CLUB OF BOSTON

119 PARK STREET WEST ROXBURY, MA 02132

Join us for an evening of music and dance! The event will include performances and ceilidh dancing for all. Music will be provided by The Celtic Beats and The New Hampshire Pipes & Drums, organized by Campbell Webster, and a cash bar will be open for refreshments.

A good time is guaranteed for all ages.

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 10
6:30 - 10:30 PM**

TICKETS IN ADVANCE:

Adults **\$10** Children **\$5**
(12 and under)

Available through Brown Paper Tickets:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3573661

TICKETS AT THE DOOR:

Adults **\$15** Children **\$8**
(12 and under)



Scan me

ceilidh@rscdsboston.org 617-413-1476

www.rscdsboston.org/event-fall-ceilidh.html

www.highlanddanceboston.org/hdbceilidh.html



Pinewoods Benefit Ball

Sponsored by the Salem Class of the Boston Branch of the RSCDS

Saturday December 1, 2018

The Bridge at 211

211 Bridge St Salem, MA

Pot luck at 6:30 \$1 and a pot

Dancing @ 7:30

**Tribute to John Bowie Dickson
to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Pinewoods Reel**

Parcel of Rogues

Susie Petrov, Dan Houghton, Calum Pasqua

MCs: Charles Liu & Mary Ellen Scannell

Sheena's Fancy	32 J	JBD Glendarroch
The Wind On Loch Fyne	32 S	JBD Dunedin 1
The Pinewoods Eel	32 R	K Dutton PW 2018
Wild Geese	32 J	RSCDS BK 24
John McAlpin	32 S	Galloway Album
Corn Dawgs	32 R	Torf Lets All Dance Too
Rendez-vous a Vichy	32 J	Paris BK 1
The Gentleman	32 S	RSCDS BK 35
Pinewoods Reel	32 R	JBD Yankee Sampler

Special Presentation ~ Intermission ~ Dessert

The Luckenbooth Brooch	32 J	JBD Glendarroch
The Lang Whang	32 S	JBD Dunedin 1
Angus MacKinnons Hornpipe	32 R	JBD Montreal 60
Major Ian Stewart	32 J	RSCDS BK 35
The Mercat Cross	32 S	JBD Dunedin 3
Bauldy Bains Fiddle	32 R	JBD Montreal 60

~Waltz~

Locals please bring goodies for the refreshment table to share

Questions contact MaryEllen Scannell 617-462-1925 or weeblyets@rscdsboston.org or

Karen Sollins at sollins@weeblyets.org

Reservation Form (space is limited)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____ No. of tickets: _____ Total (\$28 each): _____

Please check if you would like or can offer hospitality. _____

Please make checks payable to "Salem Scottish Dancers" and mail to:

MaryEllen Scannell 97 Birch St Lynn, Ma 01902

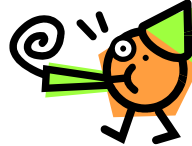


the Cambridge Class at the Can Am Club hosts

a Holiday Dance Party

Monday, December 17, 2018, 8:00 pm
featuring Katie McNally on fiddle and Neil Pearlman on piano

with Beth Birdsall as MC



Canadian American Club, 202 Arlington St, Watertown, MA

Cakes and Ale Raffle in the Pub during intermission

Admission: \$12 RSCDS Boston Branch Members; \$15 non-members

Contributions to the raffle are most welcome and would be appreciated in advance!

Northampton Scottish Country Dance Class

Afternoon Tea & Dance

Saturday November 10, 2018

Florence Civic Center, 90 Park St. (near the Lilly Library. Enter on Cosmian off of Rte 9)



Music by Nora Smith & Friend

Dance program will be posted on the Boston Branch website close to party date

1:00 Tea- \$1 (we will provide tea & light lunch)

2:30 Dance- \$10 RSCDS members

\$12 non-members

Info: Karen 413 527-3407, Ilene 413 268-9391 or text 413 210-8012



RSCDS New Haven Connecticut Branch Highland Ball Weekend

Ball - Saturday, March 2, 2019

5:00 p.m. appetizers

6:00 p.m. dinner and dancing

West Hartford Town Hall Meeting & Conference Center
50 S. Main St., West Hartford, CT 06107

Brunch - Sunday, March 3, 2019

11:00 a.m. brunch and dancing

Polish National Alliance Park

171 N. Plains Industrial Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492



Music provided by:

Jim Stevenson-Matthews, Keyboard

Mara Shea, Fiddle

Rebecca McCallum, Fiddle

Ball Chairs

Barbara Austen barbara_austen@att.net

Sheila Toal cstoal@sbcglobal.net



WORKSHOPS

Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019

1:30pm to 4:30pm

Your Community Yoga Center

39 Putnam Avenue

Hamden, CT 06517

Brian Haeckler – Teacher

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019

2:00pm to 5:00pm

First Church of Christ Congregational

190 Court Street

Middletown, CT 06457

Ken Way, Teacher

*snow date Feb. 23

For more information see:

www.nhrscds.com

Applications will be available after Jan. 1 in local classes and on the websites.

Membership Application for the RSCDS Boston Branch October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019

Branch Class eligibility is based on applications received by **Nov. 5, 2018**

You support the Branch classes you attend by becoming a member. Branch classes with a minimum of **8** members benefit from Branch Insurance & Music subsidies.

Please fill out the form below legibly (even if your information has not changed from the previous year)

Name(s) (1) _____	(2) _____
Address(es) _____	
City, State, Zip _____	
Primary Phone _____	
Secondary Phone _____	
Email(s) _____	
Age Under 25? Yes / No RSCDS Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Age Under 25? Yes / No RSCDS Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Communications Preference (please check one): (If no preference is checked, the default will be electronic only)

- All Branch mailings, including the Tartan Times, in electronic form
- Branch mailings in electronic form, but the Tartan Times in hard copy \$10/ year
- All Branch mailings in hard copy form

Supporting Memberships	
<u>Benefactor</u>	<u>Sustaining</u>
_____ \$170 Couple (same mailing address)	_____ \$125 Couple (same mailing address)
_____ \$100 Single	_____ \$75 Single

Memberships

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ \$92 Couple Membership (same mailing address) | _____ \$55 Single Membership |
| _____ \$35 Single Membership - Student / Limited Income | _____ \$25 Youth Membership (17 & under) |

Boston Branch Class(es) you attend "**Regularly**" _____
(used to determine Class eligibility)

_____ \$20 Associate Membership - Only for members of other Branches. Primary Branch _____

Check if you would like to volunteer for any of the events listed below:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ Boston Highland Ball | _____ Annual Concert | _____ Pinewoods Benefit Ball |
| _____ ESC@ Pinewoods | _____ Pinewoods Scottish Session | _____ New Hampshire Highlands |

Application information received by November 5, 2018 will be listed in the Boston Branch directory.

Make your checks payable (in US funds) to the "RSCDS Boston Branch"

Mail your application to: MaryEllen and John Scannell/ Membership
97 Birch Street
Lynn, MA 01902
Membership Questions Email: membership@rscdsboston.org

CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS AND CONCERTS - LOCAL AND AFAR

November

2-4		RSCDS Annual Conference Weekend and AGM, Perth, Scotland, p 15
5	***	Boston Branch RSCDS Semi-Annual General Meeting, see below
9-11		Northern Virginia Branch RSCDS Argyll Weekend, p 15
10	***	Northampton Tea Dance, p 5
10	***	Boston Branch RSCDS & Highland Dance Boston Scottish Ceilidh, p 3
11	*	Canadian American Club Gala, p 13

December

1	***	Pinewoods Benefit Ball, p 4
17	***	Cambridge Class Holiday Party, p 5

January

1	***	Nashua Class New Year's Party, p 16
6?	*	Brookline Class Holiday Party, see below

February

8-10	*	Cardigan Ski & Dance Weekend, p 10
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Save the Date

Mar 2-3, 2019		New Haven Ball and Brunch, p 6
May 10-12, 2019		Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend, rscdsboston.org
June 7-9, 2019		RSCDS Teacher Candidate Exams
July 1-5, 2019		ESCAPE Session at Pinewoods (English-Scottish-Contra)
July 5-8, 2019		Pinewoods Scottish Session 1
July 8-13, 2019		Pinewoods Scottish Session 2

Code Breaker: *** an event sponsored by the Boston Branch, ** other SD events within the Branch area, and * of possible interest (perhaps a concert) within the Branch geographic area.

The purpose of this Calendar is not only to provide a listing of current events, but also to note future events. This helps in planning an event to avoid clashes and conflicts. So it would be great if future planners of Branch and Class events would send to Evelyn and Barbara even just the date, name of event and if possible a contact name. When all the pieces are together then it would of course be put on the website. – *Ed.*



The Brookline Class has not decided yet whether to hold its traditional dance and supper on or near Twelfth Night this year. One of the problems against is that we are short of helpers to do the work. We will decide soon and notify everyone in the usual way. — Evelyn and Flo



The Northampton Class announces that it will no longer be presenting a New Year's Day Dance Party, due to increased rent at the location. Going forward, the class will now be hosting a Tea Dance in early November. See page 5 for info.



The Boston Branch Semi-Annual General Meeting is Monday, November 5th, at 7:45, at the Canadian American Club, 202 Arlington St., Arlington, Mass. The Branch needs a quorum in order to pass (or not pass) several amendments. There will be free dancing after the meeting to the music of Dan Wheatley and his Band.

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- Bedford:** Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm, Bedford Senior Center (COA), 12 Mudge Way, Bedford (yellow bldg. behind Town Hall). Register at Senior Center as guest. All levels welcome. Heather Day, 617-244-6914, hdshoes14@gmail.com
- * **Brookline:** Sept-May, Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm, Parish House, Church of Our Saviour, 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline. Contact brooklineclass@rscdsboston.org, Evelyn Murray, 617-864-8945; Heather Day, 617-244-6914
 - * **Cambridge:** Year-round, most Mondays 7:45-10:15 pm, at the Canadian American Club (www.canadianamericanclub.com) 202 Arlington Street, Watertown. Beginners welcome! Contact Alex Bowers, cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org
 - * **Chelmsford:** Year-round, First Fridays 7-9 pm at the Chelmsford Community Center at 31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford. Beginner & family-friendly. Contact Rebecca Gore at rgore@gmail.com or 508-574-1533
 - * **Great Barrington:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, Berkshire Pulse, 420 Park St., Housatonic, 3rd floor. Contact Ted, 413-698-2944, tedfr@rnetworx.com or Maria, 413-344-3023, mariaw235@gmail.com
 - * **Newton:** Sept to mid-June Wednesdays 10:30 am - noon. Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street, Newton. July-Aug at VFW Post 440, 295 California St, Newton (park in the back parking lot). Contact Heather Day, 617-244-6914, hdshoes14@gmail.com
 - * **Northampton:** Sept-May, Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, Florence Civic Center, 90 Park St. (enter on Cosmian Ave.), Florence (nr. Northampton). Contact Karen Lavallee-Tente, 413-527-3407, or text to 413-210-8012.
 - * **Salem (Wee Bluets):** Year-round, Thursdays, 8-10 pm, adult beginners 7:30. The Bridge at 211, 211 Bridge St, Salem. Contact MaryEllen Scannell, weebluets@rscdsboston.org, 617-462-1925
 - * **Stow:** Sept-June, 2nd and 4th Fridays. Footwork/figures: 7:15, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contacts: Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, vickery@bu.edu; Marcia Rising, 978-897-2466
- Yarmouth:** Thursdays 7:30 pm, Yarmouthport Congregational Church, 329 Main St (Rt. 6A), Yarmouthport. Contact Marla Menzies, 508-432-3711

MAINE

- * **Belfast:** Year-round, Mondays 7:30 pm, American Legion Hall, 143 High St., Belfast. Contact belfastclass@rscdsboston.org; Kim Jacobs/Bob Klein, 207-722-3139; David Thompson, 207-469-3293
- Blue Hill:** Year-round, Wednesdays 6:30 pm, The Grange, Route 15, Blue Hill. Contact Mike/Dawn Little, 207-348-9308; mjlittle2318@hotmail.com; sugarmaple111@hotmail.com
- * **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329, pstillotson@gmail.com
- * **Kennebunk:** Sept-June, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-409-9050, crone4702@gmail.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- * **Greenland (Seacoast Dancers):** Oct-June, Tuesdays 7:15-9:15 pm. Beginner's class upon demand. Greenland Parish Hall, 44 Post Road (Route 151), Greenland. Contact Merrill Henderson, crone4702@gmail.com, 207-409-9050 or Laurie Stevens, 603-501-9488, seacoastdancers@rscdsboston.org
- Lancaster:** Sept-June, Fridays 7:30 pm, Lancaster Town Hall, Lancaster. Contact Bill Tobin, 802-751-7671
- * **Nashua:** Aug-June, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St., Nashua. Contact Loren Wright, nashuascd@comcast.net, 603-891-2331

VERMONT

- Burlington:** Mondays, 7-9 pm; Champlain Club, 20 Crowley Street, Burlington. Contact Connie Kent, 802-355-5901, constancekent@gmail.com
- * **Fairlee:** Sept-June, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (just off Route 5, Main St.). Contact Gary Apfel, fairleeclub@rscdsboston.org, 802-439-3459
- Manchester Center:** On hiatus until further notice. Contact Holly Sherman, 802-362-3471, hovashe@yahoo.com
- * **Montpelier:** On hiatus until further notice. Contact Martha Kent, mdkent@comcast.net, 802-879-7618

NEW YORK

- * **Albany:** Sundays, 6:30 pm, Newbitz House, 85 Mann Blvd, Clifton Park. Contact Lois New or Cecil Lubitz, 518-383-6580; loisnew@nycap.rr.com; clubitz@nycap.rr.com

* Indicates classes sponsored by the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, www.rscdsboston.org.

NOTE: Because of occasional weather and hall variabilities, etc, it's always advisable to get in touch in advance if you're not on a class contact list. To download this flier as a pdf, go to www.rscdsboston.org/pdf/FullFlyer.pdf. For updates, please email classes@rscdsboston.org

- Expanded Weekend of November 1-4, 2018: **Fiddle Hell**. A yearly gathering of fiddlers to meet, jam, learn, and have tons of fun. Many session & workshop teachers (86 so far) - fiddlehell.org
- Saturday November 10, 2018 - **Scottish Ceilidh**, with Highland Dance Boston, Boston Branch RSCDS, The Celtic Beats with Cam Webster, and the N.H. Pipes and Drums - dance everybody dance!
- Sunday November 11, 2018, 11:30-1:00: Fiddle Workshop with Ian MacDougall. Presented by the Boston *Scottish Fiddle Club*. Location - *Canadian American Club, downstairs*. Ian is one of the great Cape Breton fiddlers, and he has recently re-located to New Hampshire, so this is a good chance to get introduced to our new local fiddler. Info - bsfc.org
- Sunday November 11, 2018, 1-8 pm: **Gala Benefit for the Canadian American Club**. Dance the traditional Mabou set, listen to highland pipes, Cape Breton fiddling, Irish step dancers, featuring Ian MacDougal and Janine Randall at the head of a star-studded cast - canadianamericanclub.com.
- Tuesday November 20, 2018 - **Childsplay** in concert, Somerville Theater - childsplay.org
- Thursday November 29, 2018 - **Rosin at Passim** - string quartet plays “disreputable classical” - passim.org
- Saturday December 8, 2018 - **Scottish Fish** at Passim - Go Fish! - passim.org.
- Weekend of January 17-20, 2019 - **BCMFest** (Boston Celtic Music Festival). We can't get into the BCMFest website without signing up for notifications; if anybody has better luck getting the info, please let me know. So, no details but of course we all must go! - www.passim.org
- Weekend of February 8-10, 2019 - **Cardigan Scottish Weekend** - Fun 'n dancing 'n skiing 'n fiddling 'n more at the AMC Lodge at Mt. Cardigan, Bristol, N.H. - www.ramshaw.info/cardigan
- Thursday Evening February 14, 2019 - **PrePDB Concert**, Groton, Mass., with Hanneke Cassel, Ryan McKasson, Elias Alexander, Colin Cotter, Jeremy Kittel, Natalie Haas, Keith Murphy, Laura Risk, Katie McNally, Neil Pearlman, Eamon Sefton. Info - pdbfiddleweekend.com
- Weekend of February 15-18, 2019 - Hanneke Cassel's **Pure Dead Brilliant Fiddle Weekend**, new location in Groton, Mass., open to all fiddlers, all ages, all levels, but still first-come-first-served, so hurry hurry sign up for this wonderful event, at pdbfiddleweekend.com
- Weekend of February 15-18, 2019 - **San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers Winter Weekend** – wall-to-wall sessions, in a beautiful ranch location in the wine country near Healdsburg, Calif. - sfscottishfiddlers.org



[A story from *The Glengarry Collection*, *The Highland Fiddle Music of Aonghas Grant*, in Aonghas' own words:]

In those days, there were definitely fiddlers that enticed people into the pubs by their playing, leading to such licentious habits as dancing. The Kirk took a dim view of this, but the fiddlers have stayed quite happy in the pubs ever since. James Hill made a living playing in pubs, and Gow himself was at the Inver Inn and he wrote a tune - *The Landlady of Inver Inn*. The Inn is just down below his house a wee bit, outside Dunkeld. There are some couplets associated with Niel Gow: “Niel Gow could play the strathspey and reel, a man who loved the whisky weel.” Of course this was frowned on by the Kirk, which is one of the reasons the fiddle was called “the devil’s instrument.” Another is - “Dunkeld is a bonny toon that lies atween a hough, and if ye want a fiddler loon spier ye for Niel Gow.” And finally - “Time and Gow are even now, Gow beat Time, now Time’s beat Gow!”

People News

From our intrepid *Tartan Times* Editor: Margarita Milot and Evelyn Murray went off to Scotland at the end of August to join the Celtic Homelands Tour of the National Trust for Scotland.

We sailed on the *Saga Pearl II*, a relatively small cruise ship with roughly 200 passengers, sailing from Greenock (near Glasgow),



first to Tarbert, then down to Liverpool, Isles of Scilly, Cornwall, Cardiff, Anglesey for Wales, across the Irish sea to Cork to spend an afternoon in Ireland. Then north to the Inner Hebrides and Canna, a tiny island now owned by the National Trust. The wind having abated somewhat the Captain then headed off into the Atlantic to St Kilda, to the westernmost point of Scotland.

This is a collection of steep rocks with one large rock where people had lived since Neolithic times. St. Kilda is now abandoned, except for the existence of a military post and many sea birds.



Looking back to look forward - from the 1976 RSCDS Bulletin no. 54 Annual Report

One of the first questions that our readership will want answered is “How is Miss Milligan?” as we have been asked this consistently throughout the year. Miss Milligan has weathered major operations on both knees since December last and members far and wide have written of their concern for her. Because of being in hospital twice during this time she has not been able to reply to all her well-wishers but through the medium of the Bulletin thanks everyone who wrote and sent messages.

Membership. It was perhaps one of the most important decisions of the Annual General Meeting to institute Long Term Membership (15 years) and not to offer further Life Membership. The decision was due to the inflationary situation in which the Society ourselves in common with many other Societies. The situation of those already holding Life Membership remains totally unchanged so we now have three types of membership. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking those Life Members who were kind enough to send in additional contributions to the Society during the past year. The year under review has shown a remarkable increase in membership, the total having risen to 22,536, an increase of 4,735 over last year. Life Membership increased to 5,083, Annual members to 17,313 and our newly instituted Long Term Membership has reached 140 already.

Branches. We now have 116 Branches (home 80, Overseas 36) new branches being formed in Australia (1), Canada (2), England (2), Sweden (2), and USA (3). 23 groups are affiliated with the Society.

It was noted under the Summer School that “Fresh from their wedding came Mr. and Mrs. Gregor Trinkaus-Randall (USA) to spend part of their honeymoon at Summer School. We offer them our felicitations.

[Miss Gibson was Secretary in 1976, and would have written the above, which is just an extract of the full published report. — Ed.]

[As it is Halloween season, the following two stories seem appropriate. The author was James G. Hildrick, from a 1992 issue of the Scottish Society of Central California Newsletter. — Ed.]

The Devil, Scottish Style

It is said that a true Scotsman is on nodding terms, at least, with the Devil. The Scottish Devil is a man of ancient pedigree, and only in a very puritan conscience, does he become confused with the relative newcomer, Satan. Side-by-side with the Devil sits the grinning skull of death, another old familiar. The two cronies are sometimes treated with disrespect, or awe, but never with petrified fear given them in other countries.

On the surface there is a mixture of indifference, and callousness, sometimes of sentimentality. In the lowland attitude toward death, personal grief is turned inwards, this is a habit of the people, like a soldier biting the bullet. There is no public lamentation.

There is a story that some find funny, some do not, but is a pointer to a way of looking at things. A Laird was entertaining a number of friends at his country home. It was the day of the three bottle men, and bachelor parties. The party were all tosspots*, ready to carry on until the guttering candles were snuffed out at dawn. A magnificent meal was followed by hours of wine, and stories, and when a man crashed, the servants put him to bed. Around four in the morning, one of the few guests that were left happened to see his host laying under the table looking very pale. The guest turned to his neighbor and said “Whit make the laird see gash*”? The other man held a finger to his lips and replied “whisht,* not a word to the others! Laird is a corpse these twa-three hours, and he himself would not have liked his death to spoil the merriment.

This story may seem to some to be macabre flippancy, but it has a pith of Scottishness that cannot be ignored. Death and merriment often went together, and a funeral was also a revel, a dance funebre. A visitor in the eighteenth century declared that “a Scot’s funeral is merrier than an English wedding.”

* tosspot – drinkers; gash – pale; whisht – hush, quiet.

All in the Family

The children of the head of a Scottish American family wanted to put together a book of the family’s history. The genealogist that they hired was warned of one problem ... Uncle Angus, the “black sheep” of the family, who had gone to Sing Sing’s electric chair for murder. The genealogist promised to handle the situation with tact and diplomacy. “I’ll just say that Uncle Angus occupied a seat of applied electronics at one of our nation’s leading institutions. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties. His death came as a true shock.”



The Mabou Set is a Cape Breton set dance, named after the town on the west coast of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada. It consists of 3 parts - jigs, jigs, reels - with pauses between the parts. The formation is 4-8 couples in a circle. The figures are very simple - setting in place, swing corner or partner, rights and lefts around the circle, down the middle and up. Usually someone in the set spontaneously acts as a leader for changing the figures; the leader can change around during the set. The figures don’t cling to 8-bar phrases or 32-bar sequences. You keep the same partner for the 3 parts, and change partners for the next set. Any Scottish country dancer can fake it the first time, and probably lead it the second time. A typical Cape Breton dance party consists of the Mabou Set danced over and over, interspersed with a waltz and/or a mini-concert by the musicians. There is another set of figures called the Boston Set, but the Mabou Set is more popular these days. — *Asst. Ed.*

Canadian American Club

202 Arlington St.
Watertown, MA



— CELEBRATING —

**Our Heritage through
Music, Song & Dance**



November 11, 2018

1:00-8:00pm

Gala / Fundraiser
\$20 Suggested Donation

Schedule	Performers	Type
1:15-1:30	Michael Kerr - Highland Bagpipes	Scottish
1:30-2:00	Jackie O'Riley's Dancers with Joey Abarta on Pipes	Irish
2:00-2:30	Mabou Set #1 - Rachel Reeds & Jake Brillhart	Cape Breton Fiddle
2:30-3:00	Leland Martin	Cape Breton Fiddle
3:00-3:30	Adrienne Howard & Friends	Quebecois
3:30-4:00	Mabou Set #2 - Roger Treat	Cape Breton Fiddle
4:00-4:30	The Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra	Scottish
4:30-5:00	Boston Comhaltas	Irish
5:00-5:30	Mabou Set #3 - Ian MacDougall	Cape Breton Fiddle
5:30-5:45	Jen Schoonover's Dancers with Ian MacDougall	Cape Breton
6:00-6:30	Lorraine Lynch with Helen Keisel and Bernie Doucet	PEI Fiddle
6:30-7:00	Mabou Set #4 - Gordon Aucoin	Cape Breton Fiddle
7:00-7:30	Canned Ham	Old Time Music
7:30-8:00	***** RAFFLE *****	

Additional piano accompaniment provided by Terry Traub and Lloyd Carr throughout the day

Mabou Set – See p. 12

From the Archives

[Letter from Tony Moretti to the issue of the Tartan Times' 50th celebration. He was president of the Boston Branch during the celebrations of the RSCDS 50th Anniversary (1973) — Ed.]

A very interesting question was asked by one of our members at our last Executive Committee meeting. The question asked was: How closely are we bound to follow the traditions, etc. of our parent body, The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society?

As I thought about it, I arrived at these conclusions. Firstly, we are bound by our Charter from the RSCDS, and secondly by the memory of the late Jeannie R.B. Carmichael, the founder of the Boston Branch. I joined the Branch at a time when Jeannie had retired from teaching; however, she still retained a very active interest in the doings of the group. During my conversations with her I realized that she was a stickler for tradition and I admired her for her very strong point of view; as far as Scottish Country Dancing was concerned, everything had to be just right.

When the Scottish Country Dance Society was formed in 1923, its main objectives as stated in its constitution were:

- A To practise and preserve Country Dances as danced in Scotland.
- B To collect old books and pictures illustrative of Scottish Dances.
- C To publish from time to time descriptions of Country Dances with diagrams and music at a reasonable cost.

At the time the Society was formed the National dances of Scotland were being performed in such a rowdy manner that they bore no resemblance to their original characteristics, which were a blend of elegance, mobility and social graces.

To acquire the mobility to dance well it is essential that the dancers are dancing the same type of steps so that they dance through the figures together, therefore the Society made the discovery and reintroduction of the old traditional standards of technique and performance as one of its main objectives. When we ask ourselves, were the Founders of the Society correct forming the objectives as stated above I can only say, the results speak for themselves.

We are fortunate indeed to have such a person as Miss Jean C. Milligan as one of our Co-Founders of the RSCDS. Miss Milligan is also a Life President of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and she has travelled thousands of miles to further the cause of Scottish Country Dancing. It is mainly through her efforts that we can dance on five continents, from Japan, India, Africa, North and South America and Europe. We who participate in and enjoy Scottish Country dancing are forever indebted to her.

We in the Boston Branch of the RSCDS are fortunate indeed to have such an enthusiastic group of supporters who obviously enjoy our activities. When I think of the hours which our various committee members and all our other volunteer workers put in to keep the Branch running smoothly, I feel happy and proud to be part of the group. The season 1972-73 has been a good and busy season, we had visits from two overseas teachers which were thoroughly enjoyed.

Some members of the Boston Branch were involved with our friends from Concord, and Stow, in running the Teachers Association of Canada annual weekend, which was a great success, we have had some good monthly parties and the joint effort by Concord and Boston was one of the best. We look forward to many more. As usual our 1973 Highland Ball was one of "The Best Ever" and looking ahead to our special 1973 Pinewoods we can be happy that we are continuing in our efforts to encourage Scottish Country Dancing in the traditional manner

May the next fifty years be as fruitful as the first fifty.



HAVE SHOES WILL TRAVEL

RSCDS AGM Conference Weekend – November 2-4, at the Bell Centre, Perth, Scotland. Registration thru HQ - www.rscds.org.

Northern Virginia Branch annual Argyle Weekend – November 9-11, 2018. Workshop and Ball with teaching by Jim Stott and Kate Nelly and music by Terpsichore (Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson) with David Knight. Location is St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Lower School, 400 Fontaine St., Alexandria. More info at Argyle-Weekend.org; 703-569-3090 or argyle@rscds-greaterdc.org

RSCDS New Haven Highland Ball and Brunch – March 2-3, 2019. Hartford Town Hall, Hartford, Conn. Music by Jim Stevenson-Matthews (keyboard), Mara Shea (fiddle) and Rebecca McCallum (fiddle). Info: Sheila Toal, cstoal@sbcglobal.net or Barbara Austen, barbara_austen@att.net. Program to be announced.

San Francisco Branch Winter Ball – February 2, 2019, at the Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, California. Info - rscds-sf.org

Northern Italy Branch, RSCDS – Bologna Workshop & Grand Ball – March 29-31, 2019. Teachers: Ramona Zahm & Samuele Graziani; Musicians: Matthias Rank & Silke Grosholz; MC Alessia Branchi. www.rscds.it



Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada) • 2019

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• COPY DUE DATE FOR THE JAN/FEB 2018 ISSUE IS DEC 10TH •
CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR WINTER & SPRING EVENTS,
AND DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS, SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR.
Note: Class Events flyers are limited to a half page: 8 1/2" wide by 5 1/2" long

New Year's Day Dance & Potluck Dinner

3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 1, 2019
Church of the Good Shepherd
214 Main St., Nashua, NH

Music by Terry Traub
&
Friends (to be announced)

\$15 (\$13 Boston Br. member), plus a main dish, salad, or vegetable to share.
More info? Contact Loren Wright, 603-891-2331 NashuaSCD@comcast.net