

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXVIII, Number 1
September/October 2019*



**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:* Karen Gansz,
Sharon Gilmour, Winifred McGowan, Linda McJannet, Lance Ramshaw, John Salyards

Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Charles Liu

Nominating Committee *Chair:* MaryEllen Scannell

Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2018 MaryEllen Scannell

Highland Ball 2019: *Contact:* Marsha Byrnes & TBD

Scottish Ceilidh 2019: Robert McOwen (for Highland Dance Boston),

Linda McJannet and Cathy Crabtree (for the Boston Branch RSCDS)

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 • **Equipment** Thomas Howe • **Archives** Jeffrey Hopper

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 & Newton MA:* Linda McJannet

Cambridge MA: Lance Ramshaw • *Salem & Stow MA:* Sharon Gilmour

Brunswick & Belfast ME, and Burlington, Montpelier & Fairlee VT: Karen Gansz

Greenland & Nashua NH, Kennebunk ME, and Chelmsford MA: John Salyards

Great Barrington & Northampton MA and Albany NY: Winifred McGowan

THE TARTAN TIMES is published by the Boston Branch for its members. A free copy is sent to every North American Branch and to nearby Affiliated groups if they send their email address. Annual subscriptions are available for \$10. Checks should be made payable to RSCDS Boston Branch (Canadians, please send a money order in U.S. funds).

Mail to Cathy Crabtree, Boston Branch Treasurer, 3 Patriots Dr., Lexington, MA 02420

The Tartan Times Editor, Evelyn Murray, may be reached at 617-864-8945, by email at athollbrose@verizon.net or by snail mail at 37 Blanchard Road, Cambridge, MA 02138-1010

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 hopes that everyone had a great summer and that you're ready for a wonderful new year of dancing! • Thank you to Linda McJannet and Lance Ramshaw who stepped forward to fill the two vacant at-large positions on the Executive Committee. Thank you also to everyone who took the time to cast their ballot to officially get them elected! Linda and Lance hit the ground running by attending the change-over meeting held on August 27th and assuming their fair share of liaison positions. • There are still plenty of opportunities for anyone wishing to share their talents. A co-chair is needed for the Highland Ball, a third member is needed for the Nominating Committee, and the Bookstore Managers would like to hand the job over to someone else (a job description is coming soon). Do any of these roles spark your interest? If so, then please contact any member of the Executive Committee. • As always, please consult the website and the Tartan Times to find information on upcoming events. Your support of the Branch and its events is greatly appreciated. Have a great year! — *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary*

St. Andrew's Day Ceilidh

AN EVENING OF
SCOTTISH MUSIC AND DANCE

Hosted by
The Scots' Charitable Society,
Highland Dance Boston, and the
Boston Scottish Country Dancers

IRISH SOCIAL CLUB OF BOSTON

119 PARK STREET WEST ROXBURY, MA 02132

Scottish Highland and Scottish Country dance performances, and ceilidh dancing for all.

Cash bar. Raffle prizes. Lite Scottish fare available at a higher ticket cost.



Music will be provided by
"A Parcel of Rogues"

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
6:30 - 10:30 PM

ADVANCE SALE TICKET PRICES

Adults	Child (u12)
\$15 / \$30	\$8 / \$23
without meal with meal	without meal with meal

*all advance sale tickets are subject to a service fee

AT THE DOOR PRICES:

Adults **\$20** Children **\$11**

Available through Brown Paper Tickets:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4281482

For parking and other info:
ceilidh@rscdsboston.org

Alan McCall, President SCS 857-919-1583

www.rscdsboston.org/event-fall-ceilidh.html
www.highlanddanceboston.org/hdbceilidh.html
www.scots-charitable.org/upcoming-events-2



Scan me

*The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont
14th Annual Autumn Social*

SUSIE PETROV (KEYBOARDS), DAN HOUGHTON (PIPES & FLUTE), DAN FOSTER (FIDDLE), AND DIRK TIEDE (BASS)

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Walk Through at 12:00 p.m., Dance at 2:30 p.m.

Potluck Following the Dance

Fairlee Town Hall – 75 Town Common Road – Fairlee, Vermont

**Admission: Adults - \$11.00 (RSCDS Members) \$13.00 (Non-members),
Students/Under 18 - \$5.00**

*For more information, dance instructions, or to arrange hospitality, contact
Gary Apfel – (802) 439-3459 or GaryApfel@gmail.com
Dance instructions can also be found at <http://www.rscdsboston.org/event-calendar.html>*



RSCDS Boston Branch Family Picnic and Dance

Sat, September 7, 1pm – 4pm
Salem Willows Park, 165 Fort Ave, Salem, MA 01970, USA

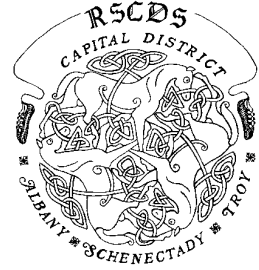
Led by Jen Schoonover

Come celebrate our Scottish Culture, Music and Dance
Adults and children of all ages are welcome
Donations to the musician fund appreciated

Please RSVP to MaryEllen Scannell at 617-462-1925 or weeblyets@rscdsboston.org



The Capital District NY Scottish Country Dancers
(RSCDS Boston Branch)



NY Capital District Fall Frolic

Save the Date!

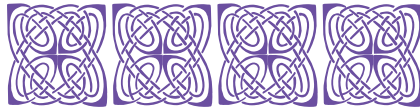
October 26-27, 2019

YWCA, 44 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY

Music by Peter MacFarlane and Terry Traub

Saturday: 12:00-1:30 Workshop - Newbitz House
2:00-3:00 Party Review - Newbitz House
6:30 Dance Party at the YWCA (\$25 at the door)
Sunday: 10:30 Brunch at the Newbitz House (Bringing a dish optional)

Contact: Lois New 518-383-6580 or loisanew@gmail.com



The Brunswick Maine Dance Class

Cordially invites you to join us for our



Fall Dance Party



Saturday, October 19, 2019
Topsham Grange Hall - Topsham, Maine

Potluck Supper 5:45 PM
\$1 & a Pot

Dance 7:00 PM

Admission
\$10 for RSCDS members
\$12 for non-RSCDS members

Music by **Elke Baker** on Fiddle

& **Liz Donaldson** on Piano



For further information contact:

Patti Tillotson

Cell (207) 841-3232 pstillotson@gmail.com



Directions: From the South: At Portland take I-295N to Exit 31. Take Rte 196 E to Rte 201S. Turn Right.
From the North: Route 1 to Exit 196W. Follow to Route 201S, Go Left
Then go approximately 4 miles to Pleasant St (first street on the left after Volvo dealer), turn left on Pleasant St —
Topsham Grange is the yellow building with white trim immediately on the left.

Have Shoes.....Will Travel.....

Weekend of September 6-8, 2019 – **Fort Worden SCD Weekend**, nr. Fort Townsend, Washington. Teachers: Jimmie Hill (Edinburgh), Robert McOwen (Boston), and Marjorie McLaughlin (San Diego). Music by Judi Nicolson (fiddle), Deby Benton Grosjean (fiddle) and Lisa Scott (piano). New this year: Teachers' Workshop on Friday, taught by Jimmie Hill. Info: rscds-seattle.org/fort-worden-workshop-main

Saturday Evening September 28th, 2019 — **Southern California Interbranch Dance**, with music by Fiddlesticks and Ivory

Saturday October 5, 2019 – **Hamilton Workshop & Tea Dance**, Hamilton Ontario. Teachers: Robert McOwen & Claire Collier. Music by Laird Brown & Don Woods

Saturday October 5, 2019 – **Montreal Fall Workshop & Dance**. Workshop in the morning, lunch, social dance party in the afternoon. Teacher: Jody Kulas (Ottawa), music by Torridon

Weekend of October 11-13, 2019 – **Calgary SCD Workshop** with Janet Johnson (Scotland) and Robert McOwen (Massachusetts), Canmore (near Banff), Alberta, Canada, plus other classes offered in music, art, history, Gaelic and dance. Contact info www.calgaryscots.org

Saturday, October 19, 2019 – **Jeannie Carmichael Ball** at the CITG Community House, Forest Hills, N.Y. Music by Tullochgorum. Info: rscdsnewyork.org; see flier on p 14

October 26-27, 2019 — **Kingston Ontario Branch Workshop and Weekend**; Teacher Arthur McNair, music by Torridon Scottish Dance Band. Info at www.rscdskingston.org

Weekend of November 1-3, 2019 – **San Francisco Branch Asilomar Weekend**. Iconic location near Carmel, California. Teachers: Rebecca Blackhall-Peters (Canada), Ellie Briscoe (Virginia), Doug MacDonald (California), Raphaëlle Orgeret (France), Tim Wilson (California). Musicians: Fiddlesticks & Ivory, Keith Smith, Patti Cobb. Info: rscds-sf.org



News from Evelyn

Speaking of traveling, our intrepid Tartan Times Editor, Boston Branch Teacher and Brookline Class Founder is moving to England, and can be reached, effective October 10th:

Evelyn Murray
65 Windfield
Epsom Road
Leatherhead,
Surrey KT22 8UH
ENGLAND

Telephone is: (dial 01144 and omit first zero for the UK) 01372 376 205. It is a landline with message machine. I am hoping to be able to use my current email but not sure; this is athollbrose@verizon.net.

Cambridge Class Anniversary Party - Celebrating 6 years at the Canadian American Club!

Our first class at the Canadian American Club was on Monday 9th September 2013! We're going to celebrate our 6-year anniversary with an informal party on Monday 9th September 2019! 7:45 – 10:15 pm at the Canadian-American Club, 202 Arlington St, Watertown, MA 02472

Videotape Workshop, 2-5 pm, Saturday, December 7, 211 Bridge St, Salem

This workshop is for Scottish country dancers who are interested in improving their own dancing skills. The workshop will be led by Robert McOwen, and will review the basic elements of steps and figures; subsequently, the class will do a dance while being videotaped and then watch the videotape to see how well they are performing the steps and figures. In watching the video, the emphasis will be on self-critique rather than being critiqued by others. The workshop is especially useful for teachers who want to improve their own demonstration of steps and figures. But it also will be enlightening and fun! If you are interested in attending, contact Robert: rmcowen@comcast.net

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

September

6-8		Fort Worden Scottish Weekend, p 6
7	***	RSCDS Boston Branch Family Picnic & Dance, p 4
9	**	Cambridge Class 6th Year Anniversary Party, p 7
20-22	*	New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain, p 8
28		Southern California Inter-Branch Dance, p 6
29	***	Celebration and Farewell for Evelyn Murray, p 11

October

1	***	Boston Branch RSCDS Membership Year Begins, p 15
1	*	Talisk at Passim, p 10
1	*	Side Street at the Burren, p 10
4-6		Hamilton Weekend, p 6
5		Montreal Fall Workshop & Dance, p 6
11-13		Calgary SCD Workshop, p 6
11-19		Cape Breton Celtic Colours Festival, p 10
12	**	Fairlee Autumn Social, p 4
19		Jeannie Carmichael Ball, p 6; flier on p 14
19	**	Brunswick Maine Fall Dance Party, Topsham, Maine, p 5
26-27	**	New York Capital District Fall Frolic, p 5
26-27		Kingston Ontario Branch Workshop & Weekend, p 6

November

1-3		Asilomar SCD Weekend, San Francisco Branch, p 6
2	***	St. Andrews Day Ceilidh, p 3, p 11
3	*	Canadian-American Club Gala Benefit, p 10
3	*	Fàrsan at the Burren, p 10

December

7	***	Videotape Workshop, p 6
7	**	Pinewoods Benefit Ball, p 7

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.



Pinewoods Benefit Ball

Save the date: This year's Ball will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019 with music by Saucy Bess -- Tom Pixton, Nora Smith, and Elizabeth Anderson!

Pinewoods 2020

Pinewoods 2019 is past, just a wonderful memory. We look forward to seeing you next year in camp. Save these dates:

- English-Scottish-Contra: July 6-10, 2020
- Scottish Session 1: July 10-13, 2020
- Scottish Session 2: July 13-18, 2020

Teacher Candidate Class and Exam Report

by Charles Liu

The Branch held a successful teacher candidate class and examination in June 2019 sponsored by the Teaching and Music Committee. This year, the Branch held both a Part 1 (formerly Preliminary) and Part 2 (formerly Full) certification training class and examination. Three candidate teachers signed up for Part 1, and four signed up for Part 2 certification. Each candidate attended the candidate class for over 40 hours during the fall 2018 and spring 2019 overseen by the tutor Susie Petrov.

We would like to congratulate all of the teacher candidates who completed the class and exam. They worked hard studying dances, perfecting their dancing, and learning teaching skills. Some had more than two hour's drive each way to come to the class! We look forward to seeing them teaching at Scottish Country Dance classes. In addition to the tutor Susie Petrov, there were many Branch members working behind the scenes to make the certification process possible. Most importantly, we would like to thank each and every volunteer dancer (instead of "stooges," they are now often called "angels") who came out to fill the sets during the class and during the exam.

Pinewoods ESC Recap – July 2019

[from the English Society CDS Boston News, Autumn 2019]

Pinewoods ESC 2019 was a rousing success! With 126 total campers and staff, Pinewoods felt full but not bursting. Campers enjoyed the characteristic balance of English, Scottish and Contra dancing found in ESCape, many dancing one of those traditions for the first time.

Our tremendous luck with the weather was offset by a major power outage on Tuesday, the first full day of the session, that lasted from about 5 pm till 1:30 am. However, the dancing could not be stopped. With camp manager Carl Mastendrea and office manager Thom Yarnal collecting dozens of lanterns and flashlights to light C#. All three traditions that night were danced without calls as the band played acoustically, with some musicians taking to roaming around the dance floor with their instruments. As the dusk settled and the dance floor grew darker, the atmosphere turned mystical, reminding many of the special magic that Pinewoods has. So many campers have told us how special that night was and that there should be an acoustic dance next year, whether or not we lose power.

Will it happen? I guess you'll have to come and find out! ESC 2020 will be July 6-10, 2020 at Pinewoods Camp. Staff TBA. Keep in touch at bit.ly/ESC2020 or on Facebook!

New Hampshire Highland Games - Weekend of September 20-22, 2019

New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain, N.H., featuring a fiddle competition and all things Scottish. The fiddle judge will be Calum Pasqua; also performing - the Red Hot Chili Pipers, Katie McNally & Neil Pearlman & "Alias" Alexander, Brigadoons, Albannach, John Carmichael, Strathspey & Reel Society of N.H., Charlie Zahm, more - nhscot.org

BCMFest - Weekend of January 16-19, 2020

The Boston Celtic Music Festival, at Passim and Harvard Square. Save the date now, and in October start checking the website for the schedule of performances, workshops and dance events.

Cardigan Mountain Winter Sports and Scottish Dance Weekend

Fun 'n dancing 'n skiing 'n fiddling 'n more at the AMC Lodge at Mt. Cardigan, Bristol, N.H. It will be held the weekend of January 31-February 2, 2020. If you're not already on Lance's mailing list, go to ramshaw.info/cardigan/index.html for the info.

Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing

Opposite is the revised listing; the latest updates pertain to the Belfast ME class.

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:** Sept-June Beginners: Mondays 6:00-8:00 pm, Year-round Experienced: Mondays 7:30-9:30 pm, American Legion Hall, 143 High St., Belfast. Contact belfastclass@rscdsboston.org; Kim Jacobs/Bob Klein, 207-722-3139; Gayle Koyanagi 207-322-7727, Donna Griffith 207-785-2216
- 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; loisane@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

MUSIC PAGE

Concerts and Events

Tuesday Evening October 1, 2019 - *Talisk*, award-winning band from Scotland, at *Passim*

Tuesday Evening October 1, 2019 - *Side Street*, featuring Bob Littman on fiddle, at the Burren

Wednesday Evening October 9, 2019: Jenna Moynihan & Màiri Chaimbeul & Alan Reid at the Burren Back Room

Week of October 11-19, 2019: *Celtic Colours*. Concerts, Workshops, Dances all over Cape Breton Island; sign up early and often at celtic-colours.com

Week of October 14-18, 2019 - *Blazin' in Beaulieu*, great fiddle festival and workshops near Inverness in Scotland, with Troy MacGillivray as featured guest

Sunday November 3, 2019: *Gala Benefit for the Canadian American Club*. Watch for further info. A star-studded lineup performs upstairs through the afternoon and evening.

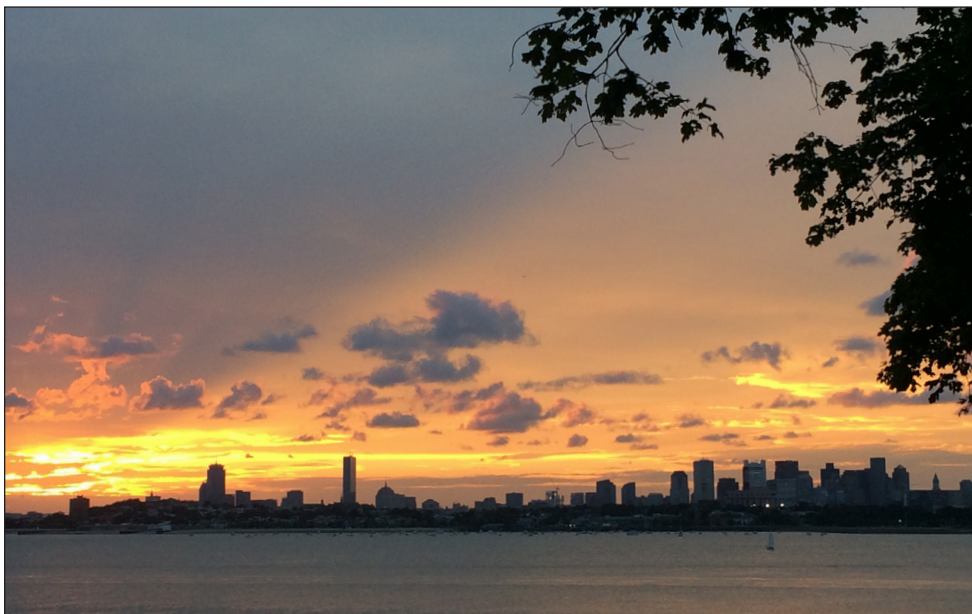
Sunday Afternoon November 3, 2019 - *Fàrsan* - Màiri Britton, Elías Alexander, Kàtie McNally and Neil Pearlman - at the Burren Back Room

Weekend of November 7-10, 2019 - *Fiddle Hell* - hundreds of workshops, concerts, dances, music sessions, covering all kinds of fiddle and other acoustic traditions

Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle Week Wraps Up a 17-year Run

by Lance Ramshaw

For one week in August each year since 2003, Thompson Island in Boston Harbor has been taken over by Scottish fiddle tunes. The Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School has assembled teachers including guests from Scotland and Cape Breton with eager students, including a large contingent of younger players. Classes, concerts, and jam sessions filled the days and far into the nights, and tunes taught there have become staples of the local Scottish repertoire. The island, which historically housed a “farm school” for Boston orphans, is currently run by Outward Bound, with a program of outdoor and ecological education in partnership with the Boston schools. It provided a unique setting for a fiddle camp, a 25-minute ferry ride away from downtown and with spectacular sunset views of the Boston skyline, which guests could also enjoy when they joined the campers on Visitors’ Days. Originally the idea of Barbara McOwen, the event was organized and sponsored by the Folk Arts Center of New England, which supports so many dance and music events in the area. While 2019 was the last year for this Thompson Island event, we’re hoping that Boston will continue to benefit from Scottish fiddle camps and musical energy for years to come.



Celebration and Farewell Party for Evelyn Murray

[from MaryEllen Scannell, co-chair]

Evelyn Murray is relocating from the Boston area to the U.K. in October. You are invited to a farewell party for Evelyn to celebrate her many contributions to Scottish dance, music and culture.

Evelyn, a long-time teacher and member of the RSCDS Boston Branch, has made tremendous contributions to promoting Scottish dancing, music and cultural heritage in the New England area and beyond. She has been a tireless editor of RSCDS Boston's newsletter Tartan Times, and a founder of the Brookline Scottish Country Dance Class, the New Hampshire Highland Games, and the Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire.

Please join us to celebrate her achievements and bid her farewell. There will be time to mingle and socialize, as well as a program of easy Scottish Country Dances and a jam session to honor her. So bring your dance shoes and instruments!

Time: Sunday Afternoon, September 29, 2019, 1:00-4:00

Place: Canadian American Club, 202 Arlington Street, Watertown MA

Music led by Barbara McOwen

Dance program led by Howard Lasnik

Contributions to the refreshment table and donations at the door are welcome. Do pass along the invitation to anybody else who might like to say thank you and good-bye to Evelyn.

Questions? Contact: MaryEllen Scannell at webluets@rscdsboston.org or Charles Liu at charles.liu@alum.mit.edu. Hosted by the Boston Branch, RSCDS.



More Notes on the St. Andrews Day Ceilidh

[from Linda McJannet, co-chair]

An evening of music and dance — Saturday, November 2, 2019 — 6:30-10:30 PM

Irish Social Club of Boston — 119 Park St., West Roxbury, MA 02132

Join us this fall for a Scottish ceilidh, co-hosted by the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Highland Dance Boston and Scots' Charitable Society. The ceilidh will include performances by Highland Dance Boston and the Boston Scottish Country Dancers interspersed with easy-to-learn ceilidh dances for all! Music will be provided by A Parcel of Rogues: Susie Petrov (keyboards), Calum Pasqua (fiddle), and Dan Houghton (pipes).

The club bar will be open, and we will provide complimentary salty snacks, coffee, and tea. You can also purchase a light Scottish buffet (meat pies, etc.) in advance, if you plan to arrive hungry. Family friendly, and a good time for all ages!

For advance general admission tickets visit: Brown Paper Tickets. Tickets are \$15 adults/ \$30 with meal, \$8 for children under 12, \$23 with meal. A small service fee will be added to the ticket price. Tickets will also be available at the door for the program only (no meal): \$20 adults, \$11 for children under 12.

To help with refreshments or decorations in exchange for reduced price or complimentary ticket, visit our volunteer signup page. For more information, see the poster on page 3, consult the Branch web page at rscdsboston.org, or contact ceilidh@rscdsboston.org.

Hope to see you there!

Flowers of the Forest — Gregor Trinkaus-Randall – A Tribute to His 45 Years of Dedication to Scottish Country Dancing, by Lois New with Vickery Trinkaus-Randall

The Boston Branch recently lost another dedicated member, when Gregor Trinkaus-Randall passed away on August 16, 2019. Gregor was a stalwart advocate for maintaining the highest standards of Scottish Country dancing, and his influence lives on in the classes he helped establish, the teachers he coached and the dancers he inspired. This is a remembrance of how Gregor and his wife and best friend, Vickery, contributed to the dancing I have enjoyed over more than four decades.

Gregor and Vickery met in 1974 at a Scottish country dance party. Gregor had just started dancing, having been drawn in by his work colleague, Barbara Little, while Vickery started as a kid in the company of the Smiths, Morettis and many others at the Little home in Newton, MA. Gregor became an immediate convert, quickly focusing on the technique essential to meet the standards of the RSCDS. Gregor and Vickery married in May 1976 and biked several weeks in England and Scotland, ending in Edinburgh where they attended St Andrews and earned their preliminary Scottish Country Dance certificates. Then it was off to Madison, Wisconsin to work on Gregor's second Masters degree in Library Conservation and Vickery's Ph.D. in Neuroscience.

I met them at the Hogmanay in Concord, MA, on December 31, 1976. A mutual friend and my first Scottish dance teacher, Ray Scott, introduced us, gleefully announcing that we had all three just begun graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.



Returning to Madison after the holidays was filled with new purpose as we had committed to start a Scottish Country Dance group in January. My roommate Ruthie was immediately bitten by the Scottish dancing bug and so the four of us started a vibrant and joyful class. We danced at the Student Union on Sunday nights, and the class was the highlight of our week. Our energy, enthusiasm and effervescence together with the clarity, precision and joy of Gregor and Vickery's teaching quickly attracted a strong following comprised primarily of graduate students and faculty. Undergraduates and a high school student contributed to the youthful energy of our group. Like many Scottish groups, romance bloomed, and my roomie married a

handsome mathematician which further cemented the family feeling that provided a foundation for our group.

We traveled many times to Minneapolis to dance with Ron Wallace at parties, perform with him at the annual Renaissance Fair and study with him prior to Gregor earning his full teaching certificate and Lois her prelim in 1981 while Vickery was back East completing her PhD. This was the end of our Madison sojourn, as we all moved East together for our new jobs, the Trinkaus-Randalls to Boston and me to Albany, NY. However, Mike and Norma Briggs, Chuck Snowdon, and Deb Nelson kept the flame alive and the Madison class grew to become the Madison Branch. Gregor and Vickery were featured as honored guests at various anniversaries, including the recent 40-year Madison Branch celebration.

Traveling together to the East Coast in May of 1981, we maintained our strong family tie. I quickly became a member of the Boston Branch as I joined Gregor and Vickery for every major event, and many weekends between. As I started to build a Scottish dance group in Albany, Gregor came often to teach, to encourage, and to uphold the RSCD standards. Together, Gregor, Vickery and I organized events and repeated our successful blend of technique and fun that established the Albany class the same way we built Madison. Barbara and Robert McOwen, and Ed Pearlman and Beth Murray, took turns supporting our fledgling group

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with live music, while Evelyn Murray brought dance shoes and accoutrements needed by a budding dance group. The members of our Albany class began participating in Branch events and we became the western-most class of the Boston Branch. Over the years, the Trinkaus-Randall support, together with generous contributions by other members of the Branch, have ensured connection, continuity and inspiration for our group.

Gregor was a great one for initiating, organizing and following through. He loved to teach and to help people reach their best potential. Demanding, but understanding, he set standards and then facilitated dancers achieving them. He served in several capacities of the Boston Branch executive committee, taught regularly at Stow, championed the Ed Rawson scholarship program and taught workshops for Scottish Country dance classes in many parts of the country. Many of you reading this will have experienced your own inspiration and growth as a result of his dedication to the art and perfection of Scottish Country dancing.

In 2014-15, Gregor, along with Andy Taylor-Blenis, taught the Boston Branch RSCDS Candidate Class, and helped many teacher candidates prepare for and pass their teaching certificates. It became one of those classes that bonded together and with their teachers. It meant many many hours of not only footwork but comportment, individual analysis, taping, analysis and teaching and more analysis and thoughts about who danced best with whom for the examination. It is our next generation of dancers and teachers who will look to Gregor and Andy as their inspiration.



Fast forward to 2018, when Gregor taught a stellar workshop our Capital District (Albany, NY) Fall Frolic, while undergoing treatment. For those who danced with me at Pinewoods this past summer, Gregor was there on my shoulder the entire time. We planned the lessons together, in-person and by phone, and his dances were featured in my classes. His grace, vigor and joy are always in my mind when I dance and when I teach. The gifts he leaves for Scottish dancers will multiply across the years, radiating outward and onward through all those he befriended, taught, danced with and inspired.

Vickery would like everyone to join her and their family, at a Celebration of Life to be held on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at 2:00 PM at the Pompositticut Community Hall. The Community Center is located at 509 Great Road (Rte. 117) in Stow. It will represent the different facets of life. Children are welcome. There will be a reception following there.



New Hampshire Highlands August 23-25, 2019

by Roberta Lasnik

About 70 dancers enjoyed the teaching of Chris Ronald, Linda Henderson & Robert McOwen all to the fantastic music of Terry Traub along with Barbara McOwen & Emerald Rae on fiddles and Howard Lasnik on percussion. The weather was perfect for dancing - warm days and cool nights and Elizabeth Anderson was our Lifeguard on Saturday. Thom Howe brought up the branch sound equipment and the music filled the dance hall. Mike Little brought the branch Book Store and did a brisk business. Many thanks to all who helped out at the ice cream party, Saturday Afternoon Tea, silent auction, candlelight supper on Saturday and hanging and packing away the 'blue bunting.' All the dances taught in the classes will be posted on the RSCDS Boston Branch website. Save the date! August 28-30, 2020.



The New York Branch
of the
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

JEANNIE CARMICHAEL BALL

Saturday, October 19, 2019

music by
TULLOCHGORUM

The Community House, Forest Hills Gardens
15 Borage Place, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Easy access by public transportation -
NYC MTA or LIRR
Free on-street parking with guest pass
from Community House

Sherry Party - 5:30 Dinner - 6:00
Grand March - 7:15

Dinner & Dancing \$95 Dancing & Dessert \$70
Dinner only (non-dancer) \$40

Programme and registration information
available soon.
Meanwhile visit us at
www.rscdsnewyork.org
Facebook RSCDS New York
or email to iasmithi@verizon.net

Membership Application for the RSCDS Boston Branch

October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020

Branch Class eligibility is based on applications received by **Nov. 4, 2019**

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 Yes

Age Under 25? Yes / No
RSCDS Teacher 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 4, 2019 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

From: RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH
The Folk Arts Center
10 Franklin Street
Stoneham, MA 02180-1862
(781) 438-4387

FIRST CLASS MAIL

• **COPY DUE DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 ISSUE IS OCTOBER 10TH •**
CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR FALL AND WINTER 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

Petronella

[by Hugh Thurston; Note from the Editor: In going through piles of paper I have come across some of Hugh Thurston's writing about Scottish dances. Hugh in the early 1960s lived in Boston and then moved to Vancouver, to teach at the University of British Columbia. There he published another newsletter called *The Thistle* for a number of years. Whilst here he was the original editor of *The Tartan Times*. Here are his thoughts about a very familiar dance.]

There was more than one dance of this name, the tune and "cutting the diamond" being common in each. The first occurrence in print of the tune is in 'The Cries of Edinburgh' to which are added Petronella and a favorite medley composed and arranged by Nathaniel Gow and performed at his annual ball on 14th March 1820.

Dances called Petronella (or rather Petronelle) first appeared in print in J.P. Boulogne's "The Ballroom" 1827. One was called an "English quadrille," one a "Hungarian waltz" and the third, the one we know, an "English Country dance" (about half the dances in the book are called English including also Triumph and about half Scottish). Wm. Smith, in his "Pocket Companion," 1831, called it Scottish; J. Thompson (whose "Ballroom Guide" was published in Glasgow at about this date) agreed with Boulogne. But about now the country dance was dying out in the English ballroom, and those that survived, including Petronella, were inevitably regarded as Scottish.

Note added to the above: For modern dancers schooled in the disciplines of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society it may seem incredible that dances could be messed about like this. We are used to having every detail about a dance explained by teachers who themselves have been taught to teach that dance in a very precise and particular way. The printed instructions for the dance are easily available throughout the world and it is expected that the dance will be performed in exactly the same way in Auckland as in Aberdeen. Today we are also told a lot about the distinctive Scottish style of dance, so it is revealing to be reminded that the origins of traditional Scottish dances are intertwined with English and even Continental dances.