

The Tartan Times

Volume LXIX, Number 2
March / April 2021



**A publication of the Boston Branch of
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**
rscdsboston.org

WHO'S WHO IN THE BOSTON BRANCH

Executive Committee

President: Jeremy Thorpe — president@rscdsboston.org

Vice President: Marsha Byrnes

Secretary: Susan Haines — secretary@rscdsboston.org

Treasurer: Cathy Crabtree — treasurer@rscdsboston.org

Members at Large: Bill Card, Karen Gansz, Winifred McGowan,
Linda McJannet, Lance Ramshaw, plus one TBD

Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Debbie Jarvis

Nominating Committee *Chair:* Gary Apfel

Membership & Directory Peter & Mary Olszowka — membership@rscdsboston.org

Highland Ball 2021 *Chair:* Marsha Byrnes — highlandball@rscdsboston.org

Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 2021 *Co-Chairs:* Kat Dutton, Ellen Scannell-Woods, Laurie Somario
SCDpinewoods2020@gmail.com

Pinewoods ESC 2021 *Contact:* April Birnie and Daniel Potter

Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2021 MaryEllen Scannell

Joint Ceilidh 2020 (cancelled) Robert McOwen (for Highland Dance Boston),
Linda McJannet and Cathy Crabtree (for the RSCDS Boston Branch)

NH Highlands *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

Demonstration Team *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Laura DeCesare

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TAC Representative Patti Tillotson

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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: TBD

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

Greenland & Nashua NH, Kennebunk ME, and Chelmsford MA: TBD

Great Barrington & Northampton MA and Albany NY: Winifred McGowan

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— Copy due date for the May / June 2021 issue is **April 10th** —

CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR SUMMER & FALL EVENTS
(including cancellation / postponement / online / wait-and-see information),
AND DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS, SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR.

Boston Highland Ball Weekend

From Jeremy Thorpe, Boston Branch President:

The Boston Branch Executive Committee has regretfully decided that early May, 2021, is too soon, under current pandemic circumstances, to host the Highland Ball -- even in a giant circus tent (an option that we seriously explored!). Consequently, we have cancelled the Ball, the welcome dance, and the brunch.

We thank Ball Chair Marsha Byrnes for all her work on behalf of the Branch and for handling the cancellation with tact and attention to the interests of the Branch and all concerned. She reports that our preferred Ball caterer has managed to stay afloat, and we look forward to enjoying her buffet in 2022.

While we are disappointed not to be holding a Ball again this year, we are all heartened by the approval of two new COVID vaccines and the efforts at the state and national levels to get people vaccinated as soon as possible. We are hopeful, even cautiously optimistic, that with the help of widespread vaccination we will be able to resume our favorite dance activity and host once more our signature Boston events, including the Highland Ball, in the near future.

In the meantime, we invite you to continue (or to begin) enjoying the virtual SCD classes and dance-related events listed on our website.

Planned for Saturday, May 7-9, 2021

Cancelled

Online Scottish Country Dancing!

Brunswick, Maine Online Class

From Patti Tillotson

This takes place at their regular time, Thursdays, 6:30-7:15 pm, with their regular teacher, Patti Tillotson. The Zoom invitation is sent out to the class members but the class is open to all. To be included in the distribution, contact Patti at pstillotson@gmail.com or phone 207-841-3232. 🏹

Albany, New York Online Class

From Lois New

Dancing via zoom at 7:00 pm on Sundays, taught by Lois New and guest teachers. The class includes warmups, a mini-technique session, and a short program of 6 dances, danced 2-3 times through. Contact Barb Bemis at math.maniac.1@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list. Contact Lois New at Loisscd@gmail.com for more information about the class. 🏹

Great Barrington, Massachusetts Online Class

From Winifred McGowan

The Great Barrington class meets Tuesdays at 11am via Zoom. People should contact Ted Randolph for the Zoom link - his email is tedfr@rnetworx.com. Thank you. 🏹

“Third Sundays” Presented by the Teaching & Music Committee

From Karen Sollins, TMC Secretary and Online Coordinator

The Teaching & Music Committee of the Boston Branch is hosting a series of online events in the afternoon of the “Third Sunday” of each month. These events feature a variety of topics of interest to Scottish country dancers. Time is generally 3:00-4:00 Eastern Time. The Zoom link will be sent out to the membership the night before.

March 21: Early Scottish Country Dances: a dance program based on Book 1 of the RSCDS, taught by a group of recently certified teachers in the Boston Branch.

April 18: Barbara McOwen, fiddler and band leader, Arlington, Mass., will talk about SCD tunes from a historical perspective

May 16: dance topics, TBA 🏹

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Online Class

This is a weekly class offered every Wednesday at 19:00 GMT (which is 2 pm Boston time), taught by a variety of teachers from a variety of international locations. The next class will be Wednesday March 3rd, with a repeat on Friday March 5th. The notification is sent out to all RSCDS members (if you're a member of a Branch, you're a member of the RSCDS) but anyone is welcome to tune in, so if you don't get the notification (for example, RSCDS Headquarters might have an out-of-date email for you), find a buddy who will send it to you.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society continues to email the weekly newsletter *Dance Scottish At Home* to all members worldwide each Friday. There are lots of fun features, and information on each upcoming weekly online class, and it's a great way of connecting with our international family. 🏹

Dancing Online, cont.

Cambridge Class Online SCD Classes!

From Alex Bowers, on behalf of Cambridge Class Committee

Cambridge Class Committee invites you to a series of online Scottish Country Dance classes that we have been hosting every Monday since early September.

On the first Monday of the month we will have a “Focus on Form” class that encourages gentle strengthening and stretching of our feet, legs, core, and arms as a basis for practicing energized, healthy dancing. On the second and third Mondays we will have classes that focus on teaching of Scottish Country Dances. And, on the final Monday of the month, we will feature our traditional Cambridge Class end-of-the-month social hour of dancing (without teaching) with live music.

Everybody is welcome!

- Class starts at 8pm prompt. Doors open at 7:45, Class is 8:00-9:00.
- Zoom link for class: will be provided in an email sent to the Cambridge Class and Boston Branch email lists.
- Any questions, or to get added to the mailing list: please email cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org

Schedule for March and April:

Five Mondays in March!

3/1: Workshop led by Jen Schoonover and Andy Taylor-Blenis discussing “Dance Safety Dos and Don’ts”

3/8: Focus on Form Class led by Andy Taylor-Blenis

3/15: SCD class led by Susie Petrov

3/22: SCD class led by Susie Petrov

3/29: Social hour dancing led by Susie Petrov with live music

4/5: Focus on Form Class

4/12: SCD class led by Holly Sherman

4/19: SCD class led by Holly Sherman

4/26: Social hour dancing led by Holly Sherman with live music

Videos from the Burns Night Social Hour in January and the February Focus on Form class are now on the Boston Branch Movie page.

Any questions: please email cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org 🐉



Boston Branch & Cambridge Videos

Most of the Boston Branch and Cambridge Class online activities are being recorded and are available on the Boston Branch website - rscdsboston.org —> About the Branch —> Movie Gallery. Currently, there are videos covering all our online activities from early May 2020 to early February 2021. Keep checking for the latest! 🐉

This event is pending

Belfast Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday May 29, 2021, 7 - 10 pm
American Legion, 143 Church Street, Belfast, Maine

David Knight, Fiddle & Dave Wiesler, Piano

Friday, May 28 - English Country Dance
Sponsored by Belfast Flying Shoes
More info soon!

Saturday, May 29 - Scottish Country Dance Party
3:30 - 4:45 Dance Review
5:45 - 7:00 Potluck Supper (\$1 + Pot)
7:00 - Dance
\$10 RSCDS members, \$12 nonmembers

Sunday May 30 - Potluck Brunch & Dancing
10:00 - 2:00 pm
At the home of Carlton Smith, 24 Broadway, Northport, ME 04849
and the Bayside Community Hall (walking distance)

Party Information: Gayle Koyanagi 207-322-7727, gkoyanagi20@gmail.com
Hospitality: Kim Jacobs 207-722-3139, zephyrhill@fairpoint.net

Maine Highland Games

The St Andrews Society of Maine has announced the return of the Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival to Thomas Point Beach for the 2021 games. We are looking forward to the return to this venue. Put August 21 on your calendar. ~

Montreal Virtual Spring Dance

From Holly Boyd

Montreal is having a virtual Spring Dance on April 17th, 2021 with music provided by the Tartan Ties. This event is free but we do ask people to register so we can keep track of numbers. Information is available at rscdsmontreal.org/spring-dance.html ~

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

March

--		New Haven Ball & Sunday Brunch – cancelled
11 etc	*	St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn, p 10
12	*	Virtual Concert, Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, p 10
21	***	TMC Third Sunday with Recently-Certificated Teachers, p 4

April

15-18	*	Fiddle Hell, p 10
17		Montreal Virtual Spring Dance, p6
18	***	TMC Third Sunday with Barbara McOwen, p 4
23-25	**	NEFFA, p 13

May

1		Kilts & Ghillies Ball, New Haven Branch, p 11
7-9	***	Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend - cancelled, p 3
15	**	Fairlee Spring Fling - cancelled
21	***	TMC Third Sunday, p 4
28-30	**	Belfast Memorial Weekend - pending, p 6

June

20	***	TMC Third Sunday, p 4
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July

5-9	***	Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra Session - pending
9-17	***	Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 1 & 2, p 8 - pending
TBD		TAC Virtual Event, p 12

Save the Date, Just In Case

August 21, 2021: Maine Highland Games, p 6
August 27-29, 2021: New Hampshire Highlands, see below
October 21-24, 2021: Boston States Fiddle Camp, p 11
October 23, 2021: Fairlee Autumn Social
October 23, 2021: Jeannie Carmichael Ball, New York, p 12
October 29-31, 2021: SF Branch Asilomar Weekend, p 11

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 Branch website. – *Ed.*



News from the New Hampshire Highlands Committee

from Roberta Lasnik for NHH - rlasnik@verizon.net

Our reservation with St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center (Contoocook, N.H.) is still on for August 27-29, 2021. We had hoped that we could safely run camp in 2021, but we all realize that our plans depend on the virus. We expect to have a decision by May 2021. 🌿

Notes from the Executive Committee

As the saying goes, “no news is good news.” What does that mean for our dancing community? It means that just like everyone else, Exec does not have any news concerning when or if we can safely gather and dance. We just have to be vigilant and keep hoping.

We do know that there are people from our community who are struggling. If you know of a teacher, musician, or class that is experiencing a hardship, please direct them to the Financial Aid section of the website. The SDCEA COVID Relief fund application is posted with some different guidelines. These funds are there to help our own, so we should take advantage of them.

We are starting into March so that means the Nominating Committee is hard at work looking for prospective candidates to fill out the expiring positions on the Executive Committee. Please consider saying “Yes” if you are called and being a part of the governing body of the Branch.

That is all for now! Stay safe! – *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary* ~

Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing

Opposite is the Class Listing. There have been no recent changes to the Class Listing, though I believe all in-person Boston Branch classes and events are presently in abeyance, til further notice. See the info on the online classes offered by the Brunswick, Albany, Great Barrington and Cambridge Classes. If you wish to check on the status of a class or class event, feel free to get in touch with the class contact. – *Barbara McOwen* ~

Important Note from the Webmasters

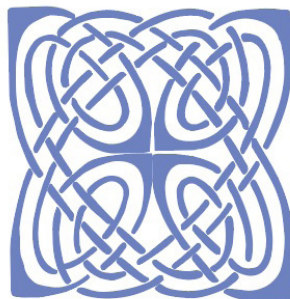
Please proofread all information submitted for publication on the Branch website. The webmasters are happy to post event fliers and minicribs. However, it is considerably more work for us to have to do it more than once! If you have multiple documents to post, please try to submit them all at once, rather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

News from the Teaching & Music Committee

Greetings from TMC! We know that Pinewoods 2021 still holds myriad questions for you, as it does for us. PCI (the Pinewoods Board) will meet on March 7th, after which we expect to have many answers; accordingly, TMC will meet soon thereafter to figure out what to do with our newly gathered information. We hope to start some real planning for whatever this summer’s Pinewoods Scottish Sessions hold.

We are still hosting our Third Sundays workshops; look for some Book workshops as well as featured guest, the unparalleled Barbara McOwen. Please note that you can now watch previous Third Sunday recordings in the “Movie Gallery” on the branch website (at rscdsboston.org/movie-gallery.html). Thank you for your efforts, webmasters Meyer and Laura Billmers!

Finally, the May Ball has been officially canceled for this year, but please see notes here in the Tartan Times about exciting events led and coordinated by some of members including Charles Liu, Jennifer Schoonover, and Tom Pixton at this year’s virtual NEFFA! – *Debbie Jarvis, on behalf of TMC* ~



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. Contact 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 Flo Hearn or Mary Olszowka, brooklineclass@rscdsboston.org
 - * **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, chelmsfordclass@rscdsboston.org or 508-574-1533
 - * **Great Barrington:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, Berkshire Pulse, 420 Park St., Housatonic, 3rd floor. Contact greatbarringtonclass@rscdsboston.org, Ted 413-698-2944 or Maria 413-344-3023.
 - * **Newton:** Sept to mid-June, Wednesdays 10:30 am - noon. Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street, Newton (park in the back parking lot). July-Aug at American Legion Post 440, 295 California St, Newton. Contact Heather Day, 617-244-6914, newtonclass@rscdsboston.org
 - * **Northampton:** Sept-May, Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, Florence Congregational Church, 130 Pine Street, Florence (nr. Northampton). Contact Karen Lavalley-Tente, 413-527-3407, or text to 413-210-8012.
 - * **Salem (Wee Bluets):** Year-round, Thursdays, 8-10 pm, 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: 7:30, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contact: Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, stowclass@rscdsboston.org

MAINE

- * **Belfast:** Beginner: Sept-June: Mondays 6:00-8:00 pm, Experienced: Year-round, Mondays 7:30-9:00 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 6:30-8:30 pm, Halcyon Grange #345, 1157 Pleasant St, Blue Hill. Contact Mike/Dawn Little, 207-702-9294 or 207-469-8747; bluehillclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-841-3232, brunswickclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Kennebunk:** Sept-June, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-409-9050, kennebunkclass@rscdsboston.org

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, 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:** Call to inquire. Contact Connie Kent, burlingtonscd@rscdsboston.org, 802-355-5901
- * **Fairlee:** Sept-June, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (just off Route 5, Main St.). Contact Gary Apfel, FairleeClass@rscdsboston.org, 802-439-3459

NEW YORK

- * **Albany:** Sundays, 7:00 pm, Newbitz House, 85 Mann Blvd, Clifton Park. Contact Lois New, 518-852-5274, albanyclass@rscdsboston.org

* 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

Fiddle Clubs

The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club - Go to bsfc.org for more info and how to join.

- 1st Sunday of the month, 2:00-4:15 pm: Workshops with mostly-local people, via Zoom, for members. March 7 - Katie McNally; April 4 - Mari Black; May 2 - TBA. Members will receive the link the day before.
- 3rd Mondays, 2 pm: workshops led by mostly-out-of-town fiddlers, via Zoom, for members. March 15 - Patsy Reid; April 19 & May 17 - TBA. Members will receive the link the day before.
- 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00: sessions, via facebook.com/groups/www.bsfc.org. All welcome! In fact, non-players can just as well enjoy these mini-concerts, with Katie McNally and Neil Pearlman playing requests from the audience. Next dates are March 17; April 21; May 19.

The Strathspey & Reel Society of New Hampshire: Now meeting online each month on the 2nd Sundays, at 1:00 pm. Go to srsnh.org for information on possible upcoming activities and how to join.

Concerts & Music Workshops

Concert - St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn with Hanneke Cassel and star-studded cast - March 11, 12, 13, 14, 17 - @ 7:30 pm ET - celticsojournlive.com

Fiddle Hell Online, April 15-18, presented by Dave Reiner and Family, will roar into a spring online version, with 200 workshops, 100 instructors from far and wide as well as local, 35 concerts and 35 sessions. Many new instructors & new sessions! Schedule & registration are available now, with early bird discounts and scholarships available. Go to fiddlehell.org for the info.

Concert - Alasdair Fraser - "Highlanders Farewell" Friday, March 12, 7:30-8:30 ET

NHSCOT is pleased to be taking part in *Highlander's Farewell*, a live, virtual concert with Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas. The duo describes their music as "cutting-edge fiddle and cello explorations of Scottish and global music."

This is the third in a six-part retrospective concert celebrating the music that Alasdair and Natalie have recorded over the past 20 years. Each concert in the series contains totally different music from any other shows, and is sponsored by a rotation of the duo's favorite concert venues.

This concert is being produced by the Mandolin Concert Livestreaming Platform in partnership with NHSCOT. A portion of ticket proceeds from *Highlander's Farewell* will benefit NHSCOT, so be sure to use the NHSCOT link when purchasing your tickets – nhscot.org/events. For future concerts in the series, go to alasdairfraser.com.



Breaking news from Sue Chari: "The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club is also participating in promoting the Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas *Highlanders Farewell* concert. I have created an event on the fiddle club's Facebook group and will be sending out an email to the membership soon." ~

Boston States Fiddle Camp

from Katie McNally

Hello everyone – We just wanted to check in and let you know what our plans are for Boston States this year. It seems like August is just at the cusp of when enough folks will be vaccinated to make it safe for small gatherings, so in light of that, we won't be holding Boston States this summer either in-person or online. INSTEAD, we've tentatively, optimistically started to plan an in-person weekend camp at Grotonwood Camp for October 21-24, 2021, Thursday evening through Sunday morning. In the meantime, have a tune and a dram by the fire, and know that there are better times ahead, together. ~

Recent Musical Releases

- ***Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas: SYZYGY !!!*** Look it up, or go to alasdairfraser.com and see what Alasdair has to say about it. Syzygy is derived from a Greek word “to link,” and has applications in science, philosophy, music and the Scottish psyche. Alasdair says, “We have played for many of you in lots of wild & wondrous, crazy & beautiful, far-flung parts of the world and we can't wait to come back and visit!”
- ***Don Bartlett*** is one of the pre-eminent Scottish dance piano soloists of our age. He's from the Toronto area in Canada, and says “After much urging, I have recorded, mixed, mastered, and prepared for distribution, an album of solo piano music. This is my first recording since participating in Memory Lane with Bobby Brown and other band leaders. The Well-Tuned Piano is my first – and probably only – recording of solo piano music.” The download is available on Spotify, iTunes, Amazon, etc., or for the full-on CD including liner notes, email Don at don.bartlett@veritrack.ca or go to TacSound, at sound.tac-rscds.org
- ***Hanneke Cassel*** says, “Late this summer I teamed up with the amazing guitarist Yann Falquet and recorded an album of TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH FIDDLE MUSIC. The first set we recorded had the tunes Brenda Stubbert's and Cape Breton Fiddlers Welcome to Shetland. When we finished the first take, even though we were playing with headphones in separate rooms, it felt like I was at fiddle camp for the first time all summer.” Currently available as a download, possibly later as a CD. Go to hannekecassel.com for all the inside info.
- ***Katie McNally Trio*** - From a review: “Showcasing a mature and self-confident trio, who have truly grown into their sound, *Now More Than Ever* is a body of work that is both ambitious and self-assured. The trio, comprising of Katie McNally, Neil Pearlman and Shauncey Ali, have created an album that explores the possibilities that present themselves when three Americans embark on a career playing Scottish and Cape Breton music.” Available as a CD and digital download at katiemcnally.com
- ***Book Release*** - A historical novel by a member of our music community - *The Secret Music of Tordesillas*, by Marjorie Sandor. It is a thoroughly researched story, with music and musicians the thread which weaves the events. From a review: “The Spanish inquisition in its early years. The secret Judaisers. The secret music. Love and survival. Poor Queen Juana, locked away in a dark castle. Strong and brave women. And the converso vihuela player who chronicles their lives. Beautifully told story. Poetic writing.” ~



Have Shoes.....Might Travel Again Some Day.....

Saturday May 1, 2021 ~ Kilts & Ghillies Ball, presented by the New Haven Branch, usually an October event, now tentatively postponed to May, with music by Peter Macfarlane and Susie Petrov. Please save the date and check the website for confirmation - www.nhrsds.com/kilts-and-ghillies-tea-dance

Weekend of October 29-31, 2021 ~ ***Asilomar Weekend***, presented by the San Francisco Branch. The 2020 weekend has been postponed to 2021, at sasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend ~



2021 TAC Summer School in Calgary

We're going virtual!

We can't meet in person this year,
but we're excited to announce there will be a
'virtual' Summer School in July.

Check the TAC website for ongoing updates and details

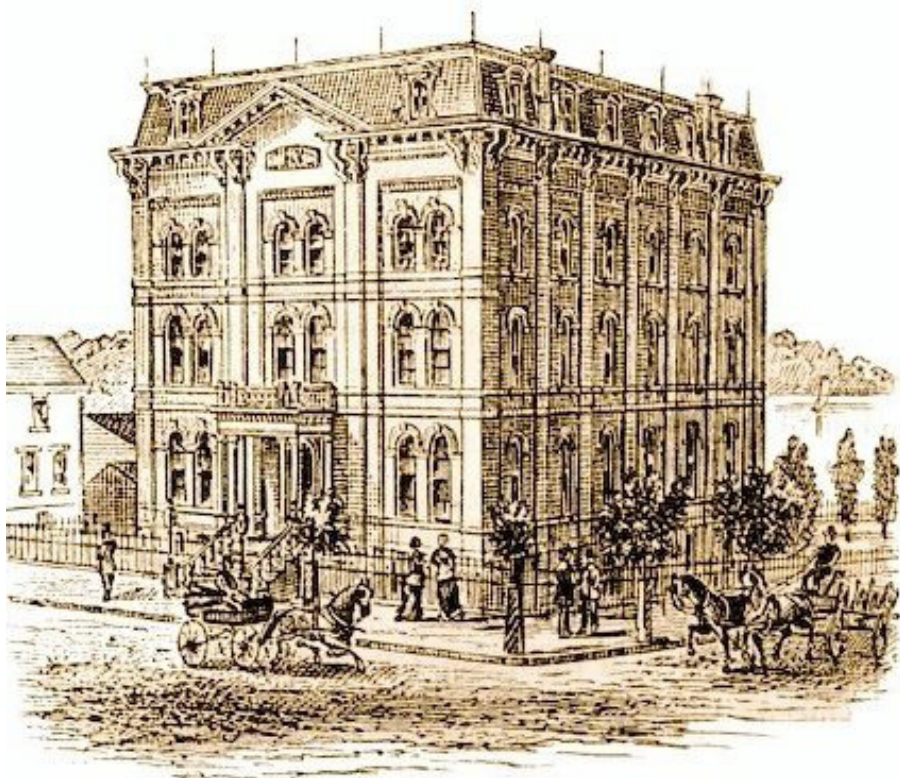
tac-rscds.org

Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)

Jeannie Carmichael Ball 2021

From Isabelle Smith, Ball Chair

We are optimistic for the JC Ball in 2021. It will be on Saturday October 23rd with music by Tullochgorum. Our venue for the ball will be the Grand Auditorium of the historic Poppenhusen Institute in College Point, Queens, NY. 🏹



POPPENHUSEN INSTITUTE.

Boston Branch at NEFFA 2021

By Karen Sollins

[Note: NEFFA is the New England Folk Festival Association. From neffa.org: “The flagship event for NEFFA is the annual Festival, which takes place over the course of three days in the spring and involves roughly 3,000 participants. 2019 marked the 75th anniversary of the New England Folk Festival—it is an event with a long-established tradition of success, an organizational model that has staying power, and a storied history.” – Asst. Ed.]

Our NEFFA this year will be the weekend of April 23-25, and will be all online. So far, the news from the Branch includes two live dance classes and a musical contribution. Although we have times for the live classes, the NEFFA schedule is always subject to change, so watch the NEFFA website at neffa.org.

Charles Liu will be teaching “Beginner Scottish Country Dancing” with live music by Elizabeth Anderson, currently scheduled for 7 pm Saturday, April 24. Charles’s description of this is – “Come and try out Scottish Country Dance live on Zoom! We will go over basic steps and figures and put them together for a few fun Scottish Country Dances.” The class is designed for all ages and levels of dancers, so round up any families and kids who might enjoy it.

Currently scheduled for Sunday, April 25, 12 pm, **Jen Schoonover** will be teaching “Scottish Ceilidh Dancing.” Jen’s description of this offering is - “The word ‘cèilidh’ is a verb meaning ‘visit’ in Scottish Gàidhlig. It’s also come to signify a repertoire of party dances popular at events and celebrations around Scotland. At this virtual workshop, I will share and teach a selection of Cèilidh dances adapted specifically for remote video conferencing. Many of these dances are designed to be done together by couples, but adaptations accommodating both solo and partnering dancers attending will be presented.” Again, this promises to be welcoming to both families and all levels of dancers.

In addition to all this dancing, **Tom Pixton** is creating another musical suite, along the lines of his Scottish Suite. The music will be a combination of Scottish, Irish, Canadian and American with a broad and deep collection of musicians from those traditions. It promises to be a musical highlight of NEFFA this year and will be featured in the NEFFA gallery. ~



Some NEFFA T-Shirt Designs Over the Years

NEFFA News

From neffa.org

[Note: The following event was last week, but there will be another one on March 21st. Go to neffa.org and click on Monthly Online for up-to-date info on future presentations. – Asst. Ed.]

Our February 28th online event will feature concert performances and demonstrations by...

Peregrine Road – Karen Axelrod & Rachel Bell

Homegrown String Band – Georgianne, Rick & Annabel Jackofsky

Andy Taylor-Blenis

After the concert, all are welcome to stay online to learn, socialize, and connect with our beloved NEFFA community! The event is FREE! But please consider donating to our performers, whose livelihoods have been impacted by the pandemic. Links will appear in the chat during the performance.

And the Online NEFFA Festival weekend will be April 23-25! ~

Hullachan, or Reel of Tulloch

From Evelyn Murray, taken from *The White Cockade*, the newsletter of the Vancouver Branch, November 2008. Author not recognised. Here are portions of the original article.

The Reel of Tulloch or *Hullachan* with its simple structure, alternating eight bars of setting with eight bars of swinging with right and then left arms, looks like a traditional dance. Instead it is a product of early 19th century romantic Scottish nationalism. However, the tune accompanying the dance is traditional, and predates the dance by at least 60 years and probably longer. Unusually, RSCDS Book 3 insists that the dance be done to this tune and no other.

Queen Victoria enjoyed both watching and participating in *The Reel of Tulloch*. The diary kept by the royal dancing master Joseph Lowe has this note on the dance, here significantly danced by four aristocratic men:

It was this reel that especially delights Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, when on a visit to Scotland in 1842. At the Ball given by the Marquis of Breadalbane, at Taymouth Castle, the original figure of *The Reel o' Tulloch* was danced in the royal presence, with admirable characteristic spirit, by the Marquis of Abercorn, the Hon. Fox Maule, Cluny MacPherson, and Davidson of Tulloch. The Queen herself seemed quite elated during the performance of this ancient Reel and expressed herself much delighted and astonished at the lively execution displayed by the dancers.

Lowe's diary records several occasions at Balmoral or Windsor when the Queen and her family danced the *Reel*. Clearly they enjoyed the vigour and freedom of the dance, and clearly Lowe is somewhat disapproving. Elsewhere Lowe comments that the Queen's Highland steps were too rough for ladies; as a dancing master he sought to impart smoothness and elegance.

The first version of *The Reel of Tulloch* with its grab-bag of figures lasted for a good half century, from its early publication in *The Ballroom Annual* for 1844 to the publication in the ca. 1890 edition of Allan's popular dance manual. Below is the dance from W.F. Gillies' *Manual of Dancing* (ca. 1890), which is identical to that in *The Ballroom Annual*.

Stand as for a Scotch Reel, or reel of four, all set, and reel figure of eight, the two gentlemen set facing each other, all go round after each other in a circle, ladies take to the centre and set to partners, they reel as before, gentlemen take to centre and set to reverse partners, they circle as before, the two gentlemen set and turn around with right arms locked, they reel as before, ladies take the centre, set and turn each other, first with right arms, and then with left arms locked, they circle as before, gentlemen take the centre, set and turn the ladies.

Lowe's descriptions of *The Reel of Tulloch* danced by the royal family show that its most distinctive and exhilarating part was the swinging turn. On 26 December 1860, for example "They [two princesses and the Prince of Wales] all danced a *Reel*, then *The Reel of Tulloch* with Charlotte, she and the Prince of Wales were the Gentlemen, they had a nice swing...."

As the dance became popular, it was simplified. The version published in many late 19th and early 20th century Guides has the two ladies setting and swinging, opposite partners setting and swinging, the two gentlemen setting and swinging, and partners setting and swinging. This, of course, is the same as the version given by the RSCDS in Book 3.

[Note: The author of the above article cites two references, both by J.T. and T.M. Flett: *Traditional Dancing in Scotland*; and *History of the Scottish Reel as a Dance-Form; II Scottish Studies 17 (1973) 91-107. – Ed.]* ~



News from Down Under

From facebook.com/NZBranchSummerSchool

[Note: The New Zealand Branch is a large one - it covers the whole country. The Branch hosts a week-long Summer School over the New Year, December-into-January, alternating between the North Island and the South Island. The paragraph below describes a kind of fantasy-land ideal of Scottish country dancing, from our current point of view, at least. – Asst. Ed.]

We have an update on the school - We've come to the realisation that travel restrictions are likely to remain pretty tight for the foreseeable future (some even predicting through to June 2022!), which makes it unrealistic to hope that we'll be able to host international guests at this Summer School. So ... we're now focussing on a domestic school - a gathering of our local friends, whanau and clans: **Oor Gaitherin**. We know we're lucky to be able to gather in numbers, in person - to hold hands and dance, to advance and retire without masks, to form sets outside our bubbles. So we're going to celebrate that! Australian mates and cobbers - we're still very hopeful of a trans-Tasman bubble that will allow you to join us ... everyone keep your fingers crossed! All those who had already registered have received this update. Sending much aroha out across the world to all our dancing whanau - hope to be with you in person soon!

From rscds.org.au

[Note: Although Australia, like New Zealand, is close to eliminating the virus, they are not able to host their Winter School this July. This school rotates each year among the 7 Branches. – Asst. Ed.]

Please note that due to the current COVID-19 health situation, this Winter School has been postponed until 2022. The 45th Australian Winter School will take place 25 September – 2 October 2022, at Muresk College, Northam, Western Australia

WINTER SCHOOL SCHEDULE

2022	Western Australia
2023	Sydney
2024	Queensland
2025	Hunter Valley or Adelaide
2026	Hunter Valley or Adelaide
2027	Melbourne
2028	Canberra



Good Times at the Flurry

From Karen Sollins and Lois New

[Note: The Flurry is a traditional dance and music festival held every year since 1988 on Presidents Weekend in February, in the Saratoga Springs, N.Y. area, about a half-hour drive north of Albany. It is one of the largest folk dance and music festivals in North America, drawing roughly 4,500 attendees and 400 performers every year. Last month it was an online event. For more info, go to flurryfestival.org. – Asst. Ed.]

The Albany Class of the Boston Branch, with Lois New as its center of energy and focus, has had a long-standing annual presence at The Flurry. This year was no different, although everything was different. The class has a lengthy relationship with Terpsichore – Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson – both at The Flurry and for other class events. Terpsichore played for all three Scottish Country Dance events as well as a waltz event.

A Demonstration Team has also long been a part of the Albany Class presence at The Flurry. Over the last year, the Albany Class has developed a strong team of teachers as well as a style of demonstrating and dancing. Using Zoom spotlighting, Anita and David Wasson comprised the demonstration team, helping dancers with navigating a ghostly dance floor in their living rooms.

From: Tartan Times Circulation
c/o John Crabtree
9 Birchwood Lane
Lincoln, MA 01773-4907

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Flurry, from p. 15

The Bemises, Barb and Sam, make up the technical team that makes this all possible.

The teaching team of a dozen or more teachers from around North America (as widespread as California, Florida, Nova Scotia, the Washington DC area and teachers from all over New England and New York), collaborated on wonderful programs for an Introduction to Scottish Country Dance and two dance parties, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Because Sunday was the end of The Flurry and Terpsichore were up for it, the group danced a program of fourteen dances and would have done more if they had been programmed. There were easily 100 people at each of the parties from around the world, many of whom would not have been able to make it to The Flurry in person.

As evidenced by this branch-wide participation, the Albany Class both benefits from and contributes to the whole of the Boston Branch. Dancing in cyberspace is definitely not the same, but it did allow for a much broader participation. The Flurry itself also included teachers in many genres from around the world, who would not have been able to participate in person in a normal year, so it was a novel, challenging and joyous weekend. 