

The Tartan Times

Volume LXX, Number 2
March / April 2022



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

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Copy due date for the May / June 2022 issue is **April 10th**

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



RSCDS Boston Branch
invites you to the

Boston Highland Ball 2022

Zoom Walkthrough – 2 pm, Sunday, May 1st

Welcome Party – 8 pm, Friday, May 13th

Family Brunch – 11 am, Sunday, May 15th

Highland Ball – 6 pm, Saturday, May 14th

Melrose Memorial Hall

590 Main St, Melrose, MA 02176

Music by Frost and Fire

Peter Macfarlane, Viveka Fox, and Aaron Marcus, & Hollis Easter

EH3 7AF

8x32 J 3C – Book 40

Dashing White Sergeant

6x32 R Trios – Book 3

Light and Airy

8x32 J 3C – Book 4

Monymusk

8x32 S 3C – Book 11

Trip to Gatlinburg

8x32 J 3C – Leaflets

Asilomar Romantic

8x32 S 3C – 30 Popular vol. 2

Flowers of Edinburgh

8x32 R 3C – Book 1

The Robertson Rant

1x80 S Sq – Book 39

Mrs. Macleod

8x32 R 3C – Book 6

Pelorus Jack

8x32 J 3C – Book 41

The Express

8x40 J 3C – Book 20

Chased Lovers

8x32 J 3C – World Wide Weaving

Earl of Northampton

6x32 S 2C – Boston 50th

Bob Campbell

8x32 S 3C – Canadian Book

Braes of Mellinish

6x32 S 2C – Book 25

Da Rain Dancin'

8x32 R 3C – 30 Popular vol. 2

Australian Ladies

8x32 R 3C – Glasgow Assembly

Reel of the 51st Division

8x32 R 3C – Book 13

For more information, contact the ball chairs at highlandball@rscdsboston.org

or visit <http://rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html>

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE MARCH 14



Save the date: May 13, 2022
8:00 pm



RSCDS Boston's

Highland Ball Friday Welcome Dance

Music by

Dirk Tiede - Emily Peterson - Beth Murray

MC: Cathy Fahey

First Parish Church in Weston
349 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA 02493

Contributions to the refreshment table welcome

Highland Ball Sunday Brunch and Dance

Sunday May 15, 2022, 11 am • Location TBA

Potluck brunch and dancing on the lawn!

Music by Elizabeth Anderson and Ben Anderson with other musicians welcome!

MC: Roberta Lasnik

Covid mitigation requirements will be specified on the application

Notes from the Ball Committee

From Marsha Byrnes & Elizabeth Anderson, Co-Chairs

We hope you will be able to join us for the Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend, May 13-15, 2022. It's been a LONG pandemic and it would be wonderful to celebrate our return to dancing with a GALA event. ***Frost and Fire*** will be the band for the Ball, and we will have a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres, a Grand March, and dessert at intermission. Our weekend also includes a Friday Welcome Dance with Dirk Tiede, Emily Peterson, and Beth Murray providing the music, and a Sunday Pot-luck Brunch with outdoor dancing and live music by Elizabeth and Ben Anderson.

The programs and dance directions and more information can be found on the Branch website, <http://rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html>. Scholarships are available from the SDCEA, and we're having a Zoom walk-through of the Ball dances on Sunday, May 1 at 2 pm, so we will be ready to have a great time at the Ball. Mail-in and online applications will be available on March 14. Please come and bring your friends! 🌸

Class News

News from the Albany Class

from Lois New

On Sunday, February 28, the Albany class of the Boston Branch celebrated our 34 years of participation in the Saratoga Flurry Festival. Although this year's festival was cancelled due to COVID concerns, we saw no reason to break our tradition of presenting Scottish Country Dancing for as wide an audience as we could muster. On Saturday evening we taught some beginners at the Newbitz House and they will be looking for a class to attend near their home in the Philadelphia area. On Sunday more than 50 participants by zoom and 2 in-person pods (Northern Virginia led by Yvonne Yang and Newbitz House) spent an inspiring evening dancing to the wonderful music provided by our regular Flurry band, Terpsichore (Elke Baker, Liz Donaldson, Ralph Gordon). The dedicated team of Albany class teachers and technicians continue to keep our class events lively and fun. Credit for the team goes to: Barbara Bemis, Sam Bemis, Beth Birdsall, Dale Birdsall, Polly Birdsall, Alex Bowers, Lydia Hedge, Charles Liu, Lois New, Ted Randolph, Holly Sherman, Karen Sollins, Ellen Ternes, Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, Anita Wasson, David Wasson and Yvonne Yang.

Upcoming events: every Sunday at 7:00 PM; Sally and David Grubb celebrate 50th anniversary (March 20th); Scottish at NEFFA on April 22-24, Peter Macfarlane plays for our Sunday class on April 24th to prompt participation in the Boston Highland Ball to be held May 13-15. 🏹



Dancers at Newbitz House

Cambridge Class Update

by Alex Bowers, on behalf of the Cambridge Class Committee

During January and February, Cambridge Class held an online class via Zoom every Monday evening. We kicked off the year with a fun evening of social dancing led by Roberta and Howard Lasnik. For the rest of January, Susie Petrov took us on a tour of Scotland (castles, people and places) culminating in an evening of poetry, singing, music and dance in celebration of Robert Burns. Live music during January was provided by Dirk Tiede (fiddle), Anne Hooper (fiddle) and Susie Petrov (piano). In February we enjoyed classes taught by Karen Sollins featuring dances devised by members of the Albany Class teachers team with live music provided by Tom Pixton (accordion). In January and February, we continued to invite musicians to play along at home on Zoom (while muted of course) to gain experience in playing for Scottish Dancing. Music was provided in advance to people who wanted to play along. This has been a great way to reach out to musicians who are not Scottish dancers, and we hope to continue with this initiative in the coming months.

After two months of online-only dancing, Cambridge Class Committee is very happy to announce that we will be starting in-person dancing again on Monday 7th March at the Canadian American Club in Watertown. The evening will start with warm ups at 7.45 pm, followed by a class from 8.00 to 8.45 pm and social hour dancing from 9.00 to 10.00 pm. Kat Dutton will be teaching with live music by Dan Wheatley and friends (Sue Chari, Lucinda Brandt and Terry Traub). All in-person participants must be fully vaccinated, boosted when possible, and wear a mask. (For full details of our COVID policy, please see <http://rscdsboston.org/class-cambridge.html>). We will livestream our classes on Zoom on the second and last Monday of each month. Everybody is welcome to join us on Zoom (Zoomlinks from cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org)

We hope to see you soon, in person, on the dance floor! 🏹

News from the Teaching and Music Committee

Greetings from TMC, the Teaching and Music Committee for the Boston Branch. We have been meeting monthly to ensure the smooth running of favorite Branch events including, but not limited to, the May Highland Ball and Scottish sessions at Pinewoods. Additionally, next month (April) is NEFFA, and we are delighted that Jennifer Schoonover, Charles Liu, Howard Lasnik, and Karen Sollins will all represent the Branch, teaching various Scottish workshops, so be sure to look for them on the schedule. Planning for the Ball and for Pinewoods are both going well, and we hope to introduce more workshops as events once again return to “in-person.”

One especially interesting item this past February was discussion of possible submissions for the RSCDS Book 53, which called for “locally popular dances” to be submitted by the Branches. The committee voted overwhelmingly in favor of submitting “Pinewoods Reel” with the title tune “The Tushkar.” Not only does our Branch do this dance frequently, but the dance itself recalls the event at which we welcome our dance and music friends from around the world. Chris Dickson, John Bowie Dickson’s widow, and Kenny Cooper, Ron Cooper’s son, were delighted to give their permissions for publication of this dance and tune, and it was delightful to be in touch with them. We also considered several favorite jigs and ultimately decided to submit “Burns Night,” a very popular, frequently danced jig devised by our own Robert McOwen, a long-time respected and important contributor to our Branch. Moreover, the title tune to this dance (of the same name) was written by Barbara McOwen, one of the most influential musicians and bearers of tradition in our community. The dance and tune commemorate the 18 years that the Boston Branch presented a sparkling celebration of Robert Burns in the historic Sanders Theater. For a strathspey, we submitted “Anna’s Wedding Cake” by Brenda Jansen, on the recommendation of the Albany Class. This flowing dance is partnered with a traditional tune for its title tune.

We look forward to meeting again as we approach some big events and remain optimistic that springtime will bring sunshine, fresh air, and a new “new normal.” – *Respectfully yours, Debbie Jarvis, Chair of TMC* 🏴



JOSE MATEO BALLET THEATRE
DANCE FOR WORLD COMMUNITY
2022
DANCE
Saturdays
APRIL 9 7PM

GANG TAE THE HIELANDS
HIGHLAND DANCE BOSTON and Guests

Dances in various styles from Broadwords to Sailor’s Hornpipe to Cape Breton Step, live music with fiddles, guitars, pipes and songs, and a Ceilidh Dance to invite audience participation, make for an exhilarating experience that will evoke the famed, fantastical spirit of Scotland.

THE SANCTUARY THEATRE
400 HARVARD STREET / CAMBRIDGE
\$35 GENERAL ADMISSION / \$125 (\$60 tax-deductible) includes PARKING & PRE-EVENT VIP RECEPTION at 6:30

Order Tickets at www.ballettheatre.org

Highland Dance Boston in Concert

The Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre offers a series called “Dance Saturdays,” and invites guest dance companies to present their specialties from around the world. Highland Dance Boston, whose dancers are closely aligned with the Boston Branch, is very pleased to present a Highland dance concert, in Cambridge, Mass. on Saturday April 9th. You might know Jen Schoonover, Gregor Williamson, Robert McOwen and Rebecca Crabtree Beltz, as well as musicians Hanneke Cassel, Steven Thomforde and Keith Murphy and MC Jeremy Bell. Old-timers know the hall as the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, an intimate and delightful performance space in Harvard Square. Check the website for the other fascinating programs, and come see HDB in a rare full-length concert. 🏴

Calendar – Events Near and Afar

March

- 6 * Fiddle Workshop with Elizabeth Anderson – p 10
7 ** Cambridge Class re-starting in-person – p 5
16-20 * St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn – p 10
20 * Gaelic Club – p 10
20 ** Sally & David Anniversary Party, Albany Class – p 5, 15

April

- 3 * Fiddle Workshop with Barbara McOwen – p 10
7-10 * Fiddle Hell – p 10
9 * Highland Dance Boston in concert – p 6
22-24 ** NEFFA Festival – see below
24 ** Albany Pre-Ball Party – p 5
25 * Hanneke Cassel at Passim – p 16
29-1 * Fraser-Haas Spring Fling – p 10

May

- 13-15 *** Boston Highland Ball Weekend – p 3-4
20-22 Pawling Weekend, New York Branch – p 13
21 ** Fairlee Spring Fling – CANCELLED, see p 11

Save the Date

- Pinewoods ESCape Session: July 4-8 – p 8
Pinewoods Scottish Session I & II: July 8-16, 2022, Massachusetts – p 8
TAC Summer School: July 24-31, 2022, Alberta – p 14
Maine Games: August 20, Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick
Boston Branch Concert with Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas: November 12, 2022 – see website

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. Planners of future Branch and Class events can send to Evelyn and Barbara 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. ~

NEFFA News

by Howard Lasnik

The New England Folk Festival has been a beloved tradition since 1944. This year, the annual festival will be Friday April 22 to Sunday April 24. Sadly, it will all be on Zoom again for health safety reasons, but planning is underway to return to an in-person festival in 2023.

Members of the Boston Branch of the RSCDS have long been involved in the festival, as dancers, leaders and musicians, and this year will be no exception. Here's a tentative schedule of events involving Boston Branch members.

Check the NEFFA web site for final schedule and for Zoom links: www.neffa.org/folk-festival/new-england-folk-festival-2022.

Intro to SCD taught by Charles Liu, Music by Sue Chari and friends	Saturday 1:00-1:45
SCD led by Howard Lasnik, Music by Terry Traub and friends	Saturday 4:00-4:45
Scottish Ceilidh Dancing led by Susie Petrov and Jen Schoonover	Sunday 12:00-12:45
Fun with Uniquely Scottish Dance Figures led by Karen Sollins and Susie Petrov	Sunday 3:00-3:45
Slow Scottish Tune Session led by Barbara and Robert McOwen	Sunday 12:00-12:45
Music of Scotland and Cape Breton, Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra	Sunday 1:15-2:15 ~

Notes from the Executive Committee

As I sit here writing these notes, the wind is howling outside, but, at least, it's not snowing! There is something to be said for a beautiful winter's afternoon.

On the dancing front, many classes have resumed in-person dancing or are planning to start in the next few weeks. That's a step in the right direction!

Many events are planned and returning to some sense of normalcy. The Highland Ball is occurring on May 14, ESCape will be held from July 4 – 8, and Pinewoods Scottish Sessions is July 8 – 16. Be sure to check the Branch website for information and registration forms.

Spring is also the time when the Nominating Committee does its work of preparing a slate of candidates for the election held prior to the Annual General Meeting. If they give you a call, please consider saying "Yes." Volunteers keep the organization running.

As a reminder, Laurie Somario is the new keeper of the Bookstore. If you are looking for an item or would like Laurie to make a visit, please do not hesitate to reach out to her at laurie.somario@gmail.com

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

Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing

Opposite is the Class Listing. There are no changes since the last issue. For late-breaking news on re-opening of classes or ongoing activities, get in touch with each class contact, or check the Branch website.

Note to class contacts: please check over your info in the Class Listing and let the Keeper know of any changes. And, if there's anything you'd like to say about upcoming activities (re-starting; in-person; special events etc), the Assistant Editor would be happy to print your info in the Tartan Times. — *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* ~

Report from the Pinewoods Committee

From Debbie Jarvis and Catherine Scannell, Co-Chairs

We are excited to announce that the application for the Scottish sessions at Pinewoods is up and running! The weekend (Session 1) runs Friday, July 8th through Monday, July 11th, and the week (Session 2) runs Monday, the 11th through Saturday, July 16th. Applications are already pouring in as prospective campers look forward to dancing with old friends and new beneath the pines. Applications received by April 1st will share equal weight in the lottery (if we receive more applications than available camper spots), and those submitted after the 1st or that aren't chosen in the lottery will be waitlisted. Expect to hear about acceptances in mid-April. Apply online at <https://form.jotform.com/213467494866168>; this link is also available on the Boston Branch website under "Events" and then "Pinewoods."

Pinewoods Camp, Inc is still determining how to run camp as safely as possible, but they have decided that camp will be open for the summer. We are grateful that the board has come to this decision and trust that policies will be considered and adjusted as we know more about what is safe for our community.

Programs and grids are being finalized and tickets are being booked. Look to the website at <http://www.rscdsboston.com/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html> for more updates as they become available. As logistics fall into place, these co-chairs are eager to start thinking about this year's theme, and no, covid isn't the theme we have in mind.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions at scdpinewoods2022@gmail.com. ~

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- Bedford:** Year-round 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, new night and time: Thursdays 7-9 pm at Berkshire Pulse, 420 Park Street (3rd floor), Housatonic. Dancers must be fully vaccinated. Contact Ted Randolph: (413) 822-0539; greatbarringtonclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **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 Lavallee-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:** Year-round Experienced Social Class, Wednesdays 7-9 pm at Waterfall Arts, 256 High Street, Belfast. Vaccinated dancers only. Contact Gayle Koyanagi, 207-322-7727 (cell), Donna Griffith at 207-785-2216 or belfastclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-841-3232, brunswickclass@rscdsboston.org
- Bucksport - NEW:** Year-round Beginners Class for fully-vaccinated singles, beginners and seniors, Mondays 5-7 pm, Brown Hall, 31 Elm Street, Bucksport. Contact Dawn Little, 803-319-8374, bucksportclass@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:** Year-round, 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, pandemic and hall variabilities, etc, it's always advisable to get in touch in advance before attending, if you're not on a class contact list. To download this flier as a pdf, go to www.rscdsboston.org/pdf/FullFlyer.pdf. Class Contacts: when changes occur, please notify classes@rscdsboston.org

Music Page

Some Music Events

- **Wednesday Evening March 2, 2022** - Talisk, direct from Scotland - concertina, fiddle and guitar present a ground-breaking, chart-topping, genre-bending program at Passim — passim.org
- **Sunday Afternoon March 6, 2022** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club workshop, with teaching by Elizabeth Anderson — bsfc.org
- **Friday Evening March 11, 2022** - Irish/Celtic Session, with Eamon Sefton & Calum Bell, Burren FRONT Room, 9:30 pm — burren.com/music.html
- **Wed-Sun March 16-20, 2022** - A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn, with Brian O'Donovan and top Celtic talent, live & virtual, 5 nights, 5 spectacular New England venues — celticsojournlive.com
- **Sunday Afternoon March 20, 2022** - Gaelic Club featuring local Cape Breton fiddle favorites, Gaelic singing, set dancing — canadianamericanclub.com
- **Wednesday March 23, 2022** - The actual Tannahill Weavers, the great trad band out of Scotland, at The Burren in Somerville — burren.com/music.html
- **Monday Evening March 28, 2022** - Album release by The Carroll Sisters, a lively young Celtic fiddle band from Connecticut, also with Katie McNally & Neil Pearlman, more — passim.org
- **Sunday Afternoon April 3, 2022** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club workshop, with teaching by Barbara McOwen — bsfc.org
- **Long Weekend of April 7-10, 2022** - Fiddle Hell Online; the Scottish includes Katie McNally, Jenna Moynihan, Jeremy Kittel, Alasdair White, Natalie Haas, Abby Newton, Andrea and Betty Beaton, Jennifer Wrigley, Hazel Wrigley and, with his first appearance at FH, Alasdair Fraser. Plus Barbara & Robert McOwen, leading a Slow Session. Registration at — fiddlehell.org.
- **Saturday Evening April 9, 2022** - Highland Dance Boston in concert, with music by Hanneke Cassel, Steven Thomforde and others, in the Jose Mateo Ballet Theater Dance Saturdays series, at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, Cambridge, Mass. — ballettheatre.org/dance-saturdays
- **Friday Evening April 15, 2022** - Irish/Celtic Session, with Eamon Sefton & Calum Bell, Burren FRONT Room, 9:30 pm — burren.com/music.html
- **Weekend of April 22-24, 2022** - NEFFA Festival will be online for 2022. There are several Scottish dance and music events featuring Boston Branch members. Registration and schedule available soon. — neffa.org.
- **Weekend of April 29 - May 1, 2022** - Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas Spring Fling Workshop at Ashoken Center, N.Y. — alasdairandnatalie.com ~



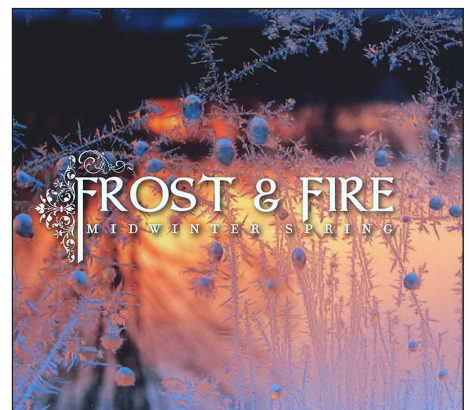
Fiddle Hell

Although some people are just waiting for the good-old-in-person-happily-crowded event in Weston in November, there are some things to be said for the online version coming up in April. For one thing, it exists! For another, workshop leaders and concert stars from anywhere in the world are suddenly available. Registration has opened - check out the schedule and get inspired — www.fiddlehell.org ~

Frost and Fire

The Vermont-based band *Frost and Fire* will be playing for the Boston Highland Ball in May. *Midwinter Spring* is their debut album, featuring a blend of new and traditional Celtic music. It features music for contra dances and waltzes, songs by Robert Burns and Stephen Foster, and a host of tunes by Viveka, Peter, Hollis, and Aaron—many of them never previously recorded.

The CD presents Aaron Marcus: piano, concertina, banjo, foot percussion, backing vocals / Hollis Easter: flute, Scottish border pipes, whistle, guitar, lead vocals / Peter Macfarlane: fiddle, low whistle, backing vocals / Viveka Fox: fiddle, bodhran, djembe



The CD is available from the band's website - frostandfireband.com - and should be available at the Boston Ball Sunday Brunch. ~

Flowers of the Forest

from Betty Allen



Bob Littlehale started Scottish dancing in the Salem class about 25 years ago and quickly immersed himself in the whole dance community. His love of the dancing and the dance community took him on the road where he danced in other classes and attended all parties in the New England region as well as California when he was sent there to work.

But he wasn't just a dancer, he was an active dedicated participant in so many Branch events. For about 15 years he was the Treasurer of the Boston Branch. He has also served as Co-Chair of Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, the Boston Highland Ball, the Pinewoods Benefit Ball and more recently as a member of the SDCEA scholarship committee. He danced on the Demo Team and helped with the Scottish food booth at NEFFA in Natick. Above all, he was always there and one of the first to volunteer to help, whether for the Branch or for his many friends. And always with that great big smile! He will truly be missed by all. 🐾



People News

Campbell Webster, already a member of the *Red Hot Chili Pipers*, has been invited to join up with the Boston-based punk Celtic band, the *Dropkick Murphys*, originally formed in Quincy and now touring extensively internationally. Cam has a lot of tunes to learn between now and the beginning of the touring season. Unfortunately for us, he will be less available for our local events going forward, but this is a really big gig for him! We might catch a glimpse of him during their 4-night engagement in Boston in mid-March.

Cam's sister Marielle is currently at the University of New Hampshire pursuing a graduate degree in Computer Science, with possibly an emphasis in Artificial Intelligence, and has been awarded a full scholarship for outstanding achievement in graduate studies. She's also moonlighting as a Highland dance teacher and fiddle teacher, and was on the music staff for Pinewoods last summer. 🐾



The Scottish Dance and Cultural Education Association

The SDCEA Committee has decided there will be no Scholarship Dance this year. It is usually held in March. 🐾

The Fairlee Spring Fling

Note from Gary Apfel: We held a class meeting tonight and decided that it is too risky to commit to having a social in May. It was originally tentatively scheduled for May 21st. 🐾

Have Shoes, Might Travel

New Haven Branch: One class is currently active: Purple Heather Dancers is dancing Monday evenings in New Canaan. The 2021 and 2022 RSCDS New Haven Branch Highland Ball Weekends have been cancelled. We hope to be able to hold the ball again in March of 2023. The annual Kilts & Ghillies Tea Dance - a date for 2022 has not been selected. The date depends on when the South Britain church hall is available and when other spring 2022 dance events are scheduled.

Montreal Branch: Most classes and all Branch-wide events are cancelled til further notice. One class is online every Tuesday, taught by Holly Boyd. Go to rscdsmontreal.org for more info.

New York Branch: The Jeannie Carmichael Ball for October 2020 and 2021 was cancelled, but plans are underway for October 22nd, 2022. The Pawling Weekend for May 20-22, 2022 is a great big go - see opposite.

Delaware Valley Branch: "Our classes will be starting up soon after our omicron hiatus. The classes in Chestnut Hill, Newark, and Clifton Heights are beginning - please go to www.delvalscottishdance.org for details."

International Branch: IB members will be dancing and discovering the charm of two regions of Italy: Le Marche and Emilia-Romagna, September 30 - October 9, 2022. The weekend and the tour are now full - you may still apply, but you will be placed on a waiting list for the time being. Go to the website to gain the particulars of the IB and the tour - www.rscds-ib.org. ~



Need Shoes?

If you are in need of a pair of ghillies or pumps for Scottish country dancing, Thistles & Things is ready to help. Owned by Patti Tillotson of our Branch, she carries the Thistle Shoes ghillies with the Noen technology. For descriptions, visit thistlesandthinggifts.com. If you have questions, email - orders@thistlesandthinggifts.com - or - pstillotson@gmail.com

Check with Patti to see the best method of getting the correct size. In addition to ghillies, various Scottish gift items and jewelry are available. If you are going to the Pawling Weekend in mid-May, she will be there.

Evelyn Murray's stock of ghillies went to the Folk Arts Center - check with Marcie at fac@facone.org to see if there are any left. Also, Lezlie Webster regularly orders shoes and the whole kilt outfit for her highland dancers and the pipe band. Text her at 603-491-2739. ~

Web Tidbits

- *From Jacqueline Schwab:* "If you have time, I'd love to share with you a video of my "pop-up," online New Year's Eve concert for First Night Boston, at First Church Boston (music from Ken Burns' documentaries; other pieces celebrating Boston): www.facebook.com/firstchurchboston/videos/3103987883172144"
- Scottish ice dancing - if Scottish dancers haven't seen this, they must, and if they have, it's time to watch it again - search on youtube for "scottish ice dancing"
- IB Happy Hour - go to the above-mentioned IB website, click on Italy, and enjoy the interviews with Elke Baker and Andy Imbrie
- Hanneke Cassel & Mike Block - a remarkable couple in an astonishing setting - Rockport's Shalin Liu Performance Center
- Nicola Benedetti - a world-renowned classical violinist, and she is Scottish, despite her name. Explore youtube for her Scottish album *Homecoming*, interviews with Aly Bain, gown shopping, her violin lessons and more. ~



Pawling Weekend

May 20-22, 2022

The RSCDS New York Branch invites you to our
59th Annual Spring Weekend
at Berkshire Hills, Copake, NY
<http://www.bhecamp.org/group-rentals/>

Teachers

David Hall, Vienna
Jeanne Moody, San Diego
Jen Schoonover, Boston

Musicians

Terpsichore (Liz Donaldson, Elke Baker, Ralph Gordon)
with Elizabeth Anderson and Jerome Fung

Covid-19 Protocols

Full Vaccination + booster required
Masking is optional
Protocols subject to change as needed

Classes Offered

Basic/Intermediate Technique
Low Impact Advanced Technique
High Impact Advanced Technique

Rates and application form on the back of this flyer
Some scholarships are available; please contact the branch to apply.
For more information, call 201-694-4646, or email pawlingweekend@gmail.com.

Children are welcome — contact us for pricing.
A children's class may be offered depending on demand.

Welcome Dance and Highland Ball programmes will be posted on our website.
www.rscdsnewyork.org/pawling-weekend

Out of Your Depth

By Heinz Duewell, 1985, via Evelyn Murray

[Heinz was a RSCDS teacher in Hunter Valley Branch, N.S.W., Australia. He was a teacher's teacher. He thought about the hows, whys, etc in his great love of SCD. Sadly no longer with us but his words survive.]

Mastery of basic figures combined with good technique will enable you to do any dance. There will be minor problems in phrasing and the linking of formations. Change of feet, by which I do not mean wanting to swap feet with someone else's, may be required. So here is something different to be learnt and practiced and applied. It is sad that many dances are not so popular because often people are lazy and not prepared to spend the necessary time to become proficient in these areas. One must know the basics before becoming an "expert."

Another feature that marks out the good dancer is his/her knowledge of a fair repertoire of dances, though that derives largely from experience and not only from deliberately memorising them. Couple with this is a feeling for the apace required to perform a dance satisfactorily. Just watch a good set instinctively adopting the right size for a known dance. Dancers will look at each others as eye contact is a great help in phrasing and in indicating readiness to start a formation. If people are not looking at you you then most likely they would not be ready to dance with you at the appropriate moment in the dance.

Once basics have been thoroughly assimilated you'll be prepared to try some elaborations, unusual combinations and even entirely new figures. Some dances present a real challenge to the mind. They may excel in a highly symmetrical pattern or they may be structured as a fugue with every couple doing something different, but the whole superbly integrated. At that stage you are ready for an advanced class where you work on phrasing and performing ability of even the simplest of dances. Steps are perfected so that changes are managed with consummate ease and your appearance as a dancer will belie all the hard work that has gone before. Also your mind will be sharper and you will experience that exquisite feeling of satisfaction when giving a superb performance of a difficult demonstration dance. You really have arrived!

Get ready ... get set ... and plan to join the fun at

2022 TAC Summer School
Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada
July 24-31, 2022

Welcoming, supportive classes
For dancers of all levels
Basic | Intermediate | Advanced

**Daily classes | evening social dances | formal ball and banquet |
evening after parties | ceilidh | silent auction**

Teachers Raphaëlle Orgeret (France) Robert McOwen (USA) Jeanne Moody (USA) Barbara Johnston (Canada)	Musicians Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins, Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser Collins, <i>not pictured:</i> Terry Traub, Mary Ross
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tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)



A hybrid event optimized for small groups!
 Dance with us by Zoom solo or in a local group, or
 (if fully vaccinated & wearing a mask) join us in person in Albany!



Albany Class of Boston Branch RSCDS
 Invites you to a
**50th Anniversary Celebration and
 Virtual Ball**

In honor of Sally and David Grubb

Sunday, March 20, 7:00–9:00 PM, in Pods, Over Zoom, and at NewBitz House

Live Music by Terpsichore

(Elke Baker, Liz Donaldson & Ralph Gordon)

Dancing Starts at 7:00 pm

GRAND MARCH—Dan Emery on Pipes

Joie de Vivre	32 J 3c	Maarseveen
Minister on the Loch	32 S 3c	Goldring
The Five Star Reel	32 R 4c	Glasspool (music—Miss Baker's Choice*)
Julia's First Cousin	32 J 3c	New, Segedi, Glasspool
Gypsy Dreams	32 S 2c	Glasspool

Intermission and Champagne Toast

V times X	32 R 4c	Grubb (music—Golden Days*)
Celebrating 50 Golden Years	32 J 3c	Watson
Duchess Tree	32 S 3c	Drewry
Reel of the 51st	32 R 3c	Atkinson

**Dancing will finish with a Polka and a Waltz
 Followed by Socializing over Zoom**

David and Sally met on the Scottish Dance floor in Bristol UK, over fifty years ago.

We celebrated our 25th Anniversary in Ithaca at a ball when we danced

The Silver Square a 5 Couple Dance devised by Terry Glasspool.

We are so grateful to Albany Branch for hosting this dance for us, and
 to Terry for writing us another Anniversary dance.

A special thank you to Elke Baker for writing music for two 50th anniversary dances*
 and to Terpsichore for playing for us.

RSVP to Lois New if you wish to dance at NewBitz House. Contact Barb Bemis
math.maniac1@gmail.com or Lois New loisscd@gmail.com for the zoom link or with any questions

Please Join Us as we Celebrate


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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



The Boston Branch Bookstore

From Laurie Somario

I, Laurie Somario, am the new contact for the Boston Branch Bookstore. The Branch Bookstore contains many books and CDs of interest to the Scottish dancing community. Feel free to check out our inventory list, rscdsboston.org/member-bookstore.html. Purchase inquiries can be made by email at bookstore@rscdsboston.org. 

This Just In – Hanneke Cassel In Concert

Hanneke, with Keith Murphy and Jenna Moynihan, is playing at Passim on Monday April 25. Go to hannekecassel.com or passim.org for the details. 