

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXXI, Number 3
May & June 2023*



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

WHO'S WHO IN THE BOSTON BRANCH

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Ted Randolph, Anne Johnson, Connie Kent

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Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2023 MaryEllen Scannell

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Fall 2023 Concert *Producers:* Linda McJannet & Cathy Crabtree

Summer's End 2023 (formerly N.H. Highlands) *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

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Greenland & Nashua NH; Kennebunk ME: Bill Card

Brunswick, Bucksport & Belfast ME: Anne Johnson

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Cambridge, Brookline, Bedford MA: Emily Russell

Chelmsford, Salem & Stow MA: Connie Kent

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THE TARTAN TIMES

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Members may elect to receive printed copies by US mail for an additional \$10.

Affiliated organizations may subscribe for free by sending their email address.

— The next issue of the Tartan Times will be **September 1st, 2023** —
Inquiries sent to Barbara McOwen, the current Editor, will be forwarded to the
incoming Editor, Cathy Fahey.

A Letter from the President to the Membership

The “Times” they are a-changin’’: A New Era for the Tartan Times

The Tartan Times was born in 1956 (67 years ago) by Hugh Thurston. Evelyn Murray served as its dedicated editor from 1968 to 2017 (49 years!). The current editor, Barbara McOwen, assisted Evelyn for several years, and took over as editor when Evelyn returned to the UK. Barbara worked tirelessly to keep the Branch informed, with flyers, updates from Exec, news from classes, reminiscences, and obituaries (often from Evelyn), and news from our sister classes around the world.

Barbara’s first love, as we all know, is playing and teaching the music of the Scottish fiddle. Last winter she indicated she was ready to hand-off the TT. Exec put out the word, and to our delight, Cathy Fahey, who currently edits the newsletter of the Massachusetts State College Association, the union to which she belongs, agreed to take the job. This will be Barbara’s last issue. Cathy will edit the next one, to be published in early September.

We are all grateful to Barbara for her years of dedicated service and to Cathy for offering her experience and expertise. The Branch absolutely depends on people like them who share their talents and keep our traditions going!

Traditions also evolve. When the TT began, it was our only means of communicating with the members as a group. Now we have email, the Branch website, Facebook, and other media undreamed of in 1956. As Cathy presented her qualifications and ideas to Exec, we were impressed with her vision for the newsletter, namely that it should inform and inspire the membership and celebrate their accomplishments. She will identify, solicit, and edit stories for the TT that will fulfill her three-fold vision. The publication will be “net-native” (designed for the screen with the option of embedded links), but printed copies will still be mailed to those who want them.

We also agreed that differentiation of information flows was in order. Time-sensitive material (event flyers; party programs; class locations, meeting times, Covid protocols) and basic information (Branch officers, event coordinators) will in future appear on the appropriate pages of our website. This will allow rapid updates and avoid duplication between the website and the TT. The TT will also appear quarterly (four rather than six times a year).

I am sure Cathy will have more to say in her first issue, and Exec will follow up with event organizers and class leaders to clarify new information flows.

Please join us in saying Thank you! to Barbara and Cathy next time you see them. We are proud of its long history and look forward to the next chapter in the life of the Tartan Times!

With all best wishes, *Linda McJannet, President of the Boston Branch, for the Executive Committee* ~





RSCDS Boston Branch
invites you to the

Boston Highland Ball 2023

6 pm, Saturday, May 13

Melrose Memorial Hall

590 Main St, Melrose, MA 02176

*Admission: \$75 for dancers
\$50 for non-dancers & students*

Zoom Walkthrough – 2 pm, Sunday, May 7

Music by Parcel of Rogues

Susie Petrov (piano), Calum Pasqua (fiddle/pipes), Laura Risk (fiddle),
and Paul Woodiel (fiddle)

EH3 7AF

8x32 J 3C – Book 40

The Sauchie Haugh

8x32 S 2C – Leaflet 12

Orpington Caledonians

8x32 R 3C – Book 49

My Friend Joe

8x32 S 3C – Book 38

Caberfei

8x32 R 3C – SCD of the 18th Century

Blue Bonnets

8x32 J 2C – Book 3

Slytherin House

8x32 S 3C – Book 52

Follow Me Home

8x32 J 3C – Book 38

The Queen City Salute

4x(32 R + 32 S) – Book 37

The Black Leather Jig

8x32 R 3C – Delaware Valley Silver

The Compleat Gardener

8x32 J 3C – Graded Book 3

The Glasgow Highlanders

8x32 S 2C – Book 2

The Australian Ladies

8x32 R 3C – Glasgow Assembly

The Minister on the Loch

3x32 S 3C – 24 Graded & Social Dances

The Reel of the 51st Division

8x32 R 3C – Book 13

For information and registration, visit <http://rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html>

For questions and scholarship assistance, contact highlandball@rscdsboston.org

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE MARCH 11

Class News

Cambridge Class

from Alex Bowers, on behalf of the Committee

In late March, Cambridge Class Committee conducted a survey of dancers' preferences for mandatory masking and mandatory COVID vaccination requirements. We received 87 completed surveys with many thoughtful comments! Overall, 36% of respondents were in favour of mandatory masking while 69% were in favour of a mandatory COVID vaccination requirement. These are difficult issues and the Cambridge Class Committee knows and respects that many people have strong feelings from different perspectives. Based on the responses received and the current low COVID risk level in Middlesex county, the Cambridge Class COVID policy has been updated. Effective May 1st, masks will be mandatory on the first Monday of the month and optional on all other Mondays. We will continue to require dancers to be fully vaccinated for COVID. (Full details of the revised policy are available on the class webpage).

In May, the teachers will be Lance Ramshaw, Charles Liu and Susie Petrov, with band leader Sue Chari. In June, the teachers will be Jen Schoonover and Karen Sollins, with band leader Susie Petrov

Save the date - Cambridge Class End of Season Party (in person and on Zoom) - Monday June 26th, with MC: Karen Sollins and Band: Anne Hooper and friends.

Cambridge Class will not be dancing on Monday 29th May (Memorial Day) and Mondays 3rd and 10th July (Pinewoods ESCape and Scottish Sessions). Please join us for our summer season starting on Monday 17th July with a "Post-Pinewoods Special" featuring teachers and musicians from Pinewoods Scottish Sessions! Cambridge Class will continue to offer an Essentials class and an Experienced class during May and June, and throughout the summer season. Children, accompanied by an adult, are always welcome to attend. ~

Brunswick, Maine Class

from Patti Tillotson

With the 100th anniversary of the RSCDS, the Brunswick Class has been doing the Dances from the Decades which was published as one way to celebrate the 100th anniversary. We have devoted the month of April to go through the decades, using the list that was put together by Headquarters. Each week we have done a couple. The list contains some that were well known by all, and a few that were not as familiar to our class. Taking them in order by decade, it has been interesting to see how things have changed. The histories behind them has been added to the teaching which has led into some interesting discussions about older vs new dances and the music with them.

We are getting details in place for our Brunswick Annual Fall Dance Party. It will be Saturday, October 14 and will be held at the Topsham Grange Hall in Topsham. We are delighted that our musicians will be Ed and Neil Pearlman. We will revive the potluck this year which will be at 5:45 and then start our wonderful evening of dancing at 7:00. ~

Calendar – Events Near and Afar

May

- 10 * Neil Pearlman CD Release, Newton, Mass. – p 10
12-13 * Hanneke Cassel CD Release, Newton & Yarmouth, Mass. – p 10
12-14 *** Boston Highland Ball Weekend, Melrose, Mass. – p 4-5
12-14 * Alasdair Fraser’s String Fling, Ashokan Center, N.Y. – p 10
14 * Doug Lamey CD Release, Cambridge, Mass. – p 10
16 * Cynthia MacLeod house concert, Wellesley, Mass. – p 10
19-21 Pawling Weekend, N.Y. Branch, Copake, N.Y. – p 14
26-28 Toronto Branch Spring Fling – May 26-28, 2023 – dancescottish.ca

June

- 2-4 Flurry Festival, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. – flurryfestival.org
3 * Boston Scottish Fiddle Club Gala, Watertown, Mass. – p 10
17 ** White Mountain SCD 25th Spring Frolic (2:30-6:00 pm) – p 18
17 ** Downeast Fling, Kennebunk, Maine (7:30-10:30 pm) – p 13
26 ** Cambridge Class End of Season Party – p 6

July

- 2-8 Blue Ridge Scottish Country Dance School, Boone, N.C. – p 20
3-7 *** Pinewoods ESC Session – 2023 – p 11
7-15 *** Pinewoods Scottish Sessions – July 7-15, 2023 – p 8
16 * Alistair McCulloch house concert – info: tom@pixton.org
16-Aug 13 RSCDS Summer School at St. Andrews – July 16 - August 13, 2023 – p 16
30-Aug 6 TAC Summer School, Halifax, N.S. – July 30 - August 6, 2023 – p 10

Save the Date

- Summer’s End (formerly New Hampshire Highlands) – August 25-27, 2023 – p 5
Quechee Games, Quechee, Vt. – August 26, 2023 – scottisharts.org
Next issue of Tartan Times – September 1, 2023 – tartantimes@rscdsboston.org, p 19
New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain – September 15-17, 2023 – nhscot.org
Brunswick, Maine Annual Fall Dance Party – October 14, 2023 – p 6
Jeannie Carmichael Ball – October 21, 2023 – rscdsnewyork.org
Fiddle Hell, Westford, Mass. – November 2-5, 2023 – fiddlehell.org
Boston Branch Celebration of Scottish Music & Dance, Somerville, Mass. – November 12 –
rscdsboston.org

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.



Pinewoods Scottish Sessions Updates

The days are getting longer, and the wait until Pinewoods is getting shorter! We still have space in both Scottish Sessions I (July 7 - 10) and II (July 10 - 15) (as of the time of writing this). If you've never been to camp and wondered what it's all about, now is a great time to apply! Come join us as we celebrate Scottish music and dance, rekindle old and create new friendships, and party into the wee hours (or not, as you so choose). Partial and full scholarships are still available, so don't let financial stress be the reason not to apply.

This year's featured teachers include the West Coast's Bruce Herbold, Boston Branch's own Charles Liu and Jennifer Schoonover, and a special new guest teacher from across The Pond. Our Music Director, Tom Pixton, has lined up a stellar band including talent from near and far and favorite returning guest musicians from Scotland (fiddle) and Norway (piano).

Though we are still waiting for official word on the covid policy from Pinewoods Camp, Inc, it is looking likely that antigen tests will be required at some point, so be sure to go to your local pharmacy and ask for your free test allotment before the May 11 "Public Health Emergency" declaration ends.

Also, we have have listened to your feedback and have lightened the load on the schedule in the afternoon, allowing for more time to enjoy a yoga class, meet up on a friend's cabin's porch, or take a much needed nap.

We look forward to seeing you at camp this year - lounging on the dock on Long Pond, trying your first Highland class, Grand Marching through the pines, or Stripping the Willow until there are no more willows left to strip.

Learn more at <https://rscdsboston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html> – *Debbie Jarvis and Catherine Scannell, Scottish Pinewoods 2023 co-chairs* ~

Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing

Opposite is the updated Class Listing. The Great Barrington Class has updated its covid protocols, the Salem Class has changed its location, the Burlington (Vermont) Class is in abeyance (so is not listed now), and the Bedford Class is now an official Boston Branch Class. – *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* ~



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. Contact Ted Randolph: (413) 822-0539; greatbarringtonclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Northampton:** Sept-June, Thursdays 7-9 pm, Sun Studio at The Arts and Industry Building, 121 Pine St, Florence. Contact: Ilene Goldstein - call or text 413-320-1070, or email dansstep1950@gmail.com
- * **Salem (Wee Bluets):** Year-round, Thursdays, 8-10 pm, beginners 7:30. Purple Door Yoga Studio, 10 Colonial Rd, 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:** 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, billtobinharp@gmail.com
- * **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

- * **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, 6:30 in-person only; 7:45 hybrid class with locals plus zoom participants. Newbitz House, 85 Mann Blvd, Halfmoon. Contact Lois New, 518-852-5274, Loisscd@gmail.com or Math.maniac.1@gmail.com

* 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

Music Events

- **Wednesday May 10, 2023** - Neil Pearlman CD release (see below), Newton, Mass. — neilpearlman.com
- **Friday & Saturday May 12 & 13, 2023** - Hanneke Cassel concerts, Belmont & Yarmouth, Mass. — hannekecassel.org
- **Weekend of May 12-14, 2023** - Boston Highland Ball Weekend with Susie Petrov's band, Melrose, Mass. — rscdsboston.org
- **Weekend of May 12-14, 2023** - Scottish String Fling, with Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, Ashokan Center, N.Y. — alasdairfraser.com
- **Sunday Afternoon May 14, 2023** - Doug Lamey album release, with Janine Randall — burren.com
- **Tuesday Evening May 16, 2023** - Cynthia MacLeod house concert in Wellesley — info: dorene.higgon@gmail.com
- **Wednesday Evening May 17, 2023** - BSFC Session at the CanAm Club with Hanneke Cassel & Rachel Reeds — bsfc.org
- **Sunday Afternoon May 21, 2023** - Gaelic Club with Gordon Aucoin, Canadian American Club — canadianamericanclub.com
- **Saturday Evening June 3, 2023** - BSFC Gala at the CanAm Club, with Concert (BSFC Orchestra and Maura Shawn Scanlin) & Ceilidh Dancing (with Summer McCall), 6:30 - 11:00 pm. Bring dancing shoes and instruments and play in the pickup band (with Elizabeth Anderson) — bsfc.org
- **Sunday July 16, 2023** - Alistair McCulloch house concert, Arlington — info: tom@pixton.org ☞

Interesting Dancing & Listening

from Lyle Ramshaw, San Francisco Branch:

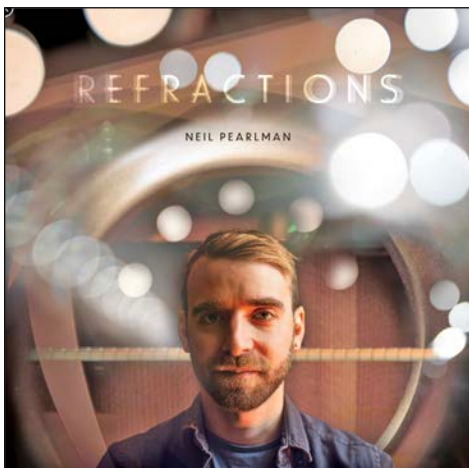
We've re-released "Ghillies on the Golden Gate" on Bandcamp, in digital format:

fiddlesticksivory.bandcamp.com/album/ghillies-on-the-golden-gate

The band Fiddlesticks & Ivory was formed by Kim McGarrity in the 1980s: 3 fiddles, accordion, piano, string bass, and drum. The full band played for Scottish Country Dancing in the San Francisco Bay Area for thirty years, with subsets playing elsewhere in the USA and Canada.

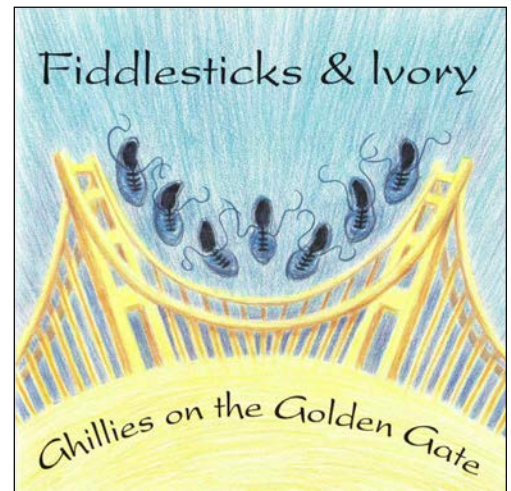
The dances on the CD are: Fair Jenny's Jig, Delvine Side, Lady Susan Stewart, Bonnie Stronshiray, Waverley, Carolynn's Waltz, J. B. Milne, Miss Ogilvie's Fancy, Miss Grace Hay's Delight, Monymusk and The Rendezvous. ☞

from neilpearlman.com and neilpearlman.bandcamp.com:



"*Refractions* is a collection of traditional melodies that inspire me, many from the Scottish Gaelic song tradition and a few from the related bagpipe and fiddle repertoires. Each melody is refracted in its own way through me. On stage I often describe my improvisations around traditional melodies as 'looking at a tune through a prism.'"

[Highly recommended: a video of Neil playing one of the tracks from the CD, at [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neilpearlman) → [neilpearlman](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neilpearlman) → [reel for carl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reelforcarl). I also really like the minimal camera work. The CD or download is available at neilpearlman.bandcamp.com. Also check out Katie McNally's new CD *Now More than Ever*, and Hanneke Cassel's *Infinite Brightness*. Our local Next Generation stars! — ed.] ☞



Flowers of the Forest - Murray Nicolson

from his obituary

Dr. Alexander Murray Nicolson, 84, of Concord, MA passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2023. Murray was born in Edinburgh in 1938, and graduated from Edinburgh University earning his BSc and PhD in Electrical Engineering. Soon after, he and his wife Barbara emigrated to the USA.

Murray had many interests including sailing, music, amateur radio, genealogy and, most importantly, his Scottish heritage. His enjoyment of music and dancing led him to become a certified instructor for the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Murray and Barbara enjoyed weekly dancing with the Concord and Weston groups, and their after-parties lasted well into the wee hours.

In the 1980s Murray became aware of land up for sale near the town of Portree that was destined to be developed with housing. The land was near the ancestral home of the Clan MacNicol chief, Scorrybreac. Murray was able to have the land purchased and put into trust, thus creating the Urras Clann MhicNeacail. Since the creation of the trust, the lands have been popular with locals and tourists alike for walking and sight-seeing. Murray also earned the ranks of Sennachie, Chieftain, and High Commissioner for the Americas allowing him to wear two eagle feathers in his cap.

Contributions may be made in Murray's memory to St. Anne's in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 6, Lincoln, MA 01773 or to the Scottish Dance and Cultural Education Association, c/o Rebecca Gore, 106 Kristin Dr, Chelmsford, Mass. 01824. 🏹



Murray Nicolson



News from the Teaching & Music Committee

from Debbie Jarvis, TMC Chair

We have been busy planning for spring and summer's upcoming events, from an exciting in-person NEFFA to our annual Highland Ball Weekend and Pinewoods Sessions.

We hosted several events at NEFFA: Thanks to Charles Liu for teaching Intro to Scottish Country Dance (music by Terry Traub and Sue Chari), Howard Lasnik and MaryEllen Scannell for leading a Scottish Country Dance session (music by Terry Traub), and to Karen Sollins for her Family Scottish Country Dance (music by Terry Traub). Barbara and Robert McOwen also led a Scottish Fiddle Session, and the Boston Scottish Country Dancers performed on Sunday as usual.

We are excited for the Highland Ball, and chair Elizabeth Anderson has been hard at work to ensure a lively weekend with excellent MCs, a stellar program of dances, and phenomenal music. The Saturday night Ball band is not to be missed, featuring Parcel of Rogues with special guests Laura Risk and Paul Woodiel. Masks are required, but frequent breathing breaks are possible and encouraged.

A highlight of our year is Scottish Sessions at Pinewoods, and we are thrilled to bring local, domestic, and international staff for what we know will be a successful and fun week dancing in the beautiful pines of Plymouth. At the time of writing, space is still available in both Sessions I and II, so if you haven't applied yet, do so now! 🏹

The Music Really Will Tell You!

*Music Workshop in Brunswick with Charles Liu, Terry Traub, and Malka Traub Pomerantz
by Linda McJannet*

Old-style jigs, two-step jigs; 16-bar vs. 32-bar reels; old-style strathspeys vs. lyrical slow airs and marches. Historically, the tunes we dance to come in a variety of forms. Scottish dancers' playful mantra that "the music will tell you what to do," is not far from the truth. A tune's rhythmic character, ornamentations, and tempo really do influence – even determine – what you can or are inspired to do as a dancer. This truth was amply demonstrated in a Music



Workshop arranged by The Teaching and Music Committee (TMC), led by Charles Liu, and hosted by the Brunswick class on March 18, 2023, at the Topsham Grange, Topsham, Maine.

Charles drew on James Stewart-Robertson's *The Athole Collection of the Dance Music of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1884, reprinted 1961) and its meticulous analysis by Barbara McOwen, to enable us to dance the same dance to different tunes or to different versions of the same tune and to see how the variations affected us. By sharing

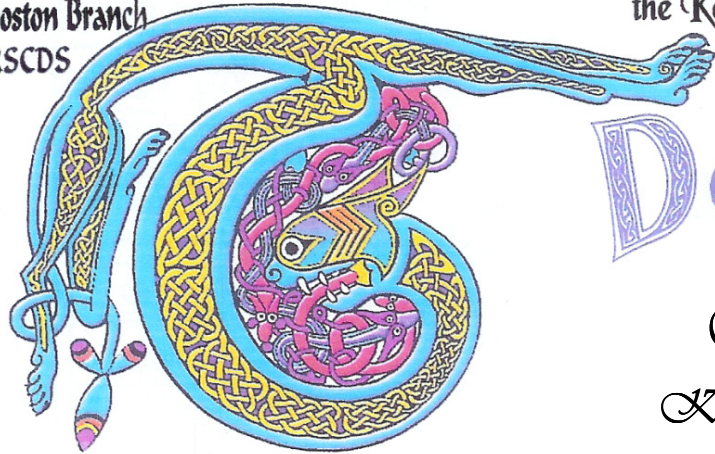
some sheet music in his handout, Charles enabled even the non-musician dancer to compare, for example, the dense ornamentation of the 1757 version of the main tune for *The Duke of Perth* with the sparser notation of the RSCDS version published in 1985. In the former, every bar is crowded with jolly clusters of sixteenth notes leading up to almost as lively clusters of eighth notes; the latter, eighth notes lead up to quarter notes emphasizing the 4/4 rhythm of the reel. Or for another example, we learned that it is difficult (if not impossible!) to dance a strong, old-style strathspey, such as *John McAlpine* or the *Braes of Breadalbane*, to a lyrical slow march, such as *The Duchess Tree*. We need the force of the dotted-eighth and sixteenth notes (and the reverse, known as the Scotch snap) to drive us through the strong two-bar turns and casts.



When the exploratory comparisons were concluded, Terry and Malka played for a set of six dances, in which we all appreciated anew the importance of music and musicality to our love of Scottish country dancing. Many thanks to the TMC, Charles, the Brunswick and other Maine classes, and the musicians for an informative and fun workshop! ~



Boston Branch
RSCDS



the Kennebunkport Scottish Country Dancers

welcome you to our:

Downeast Fling

Saturday, June 17, 2023,

Kennebunk Town Hall 7:30 p.m.

*Preceded by pot luck supper, 5:30 p.m., at the home of Joanne Hulseby and Peter
Sentner, 20 Cottagewood Lane, Kennebunk*



Music by: Terry Traub, Catherine Miller, and Malka Traub Pomerantz.

Limited hospitality will be available

For more information please contact Merrill 207-409-9050 or crone4702@gmail.com or consult the web site calendar listing



Old News, from the January 1978 issue of the Tartan Times

Report on the T.A.C. Regional Workshop, by Barbara Little, Regional Representative

On December 10, 1977, our regional group of members of the Teachers Association of Canada met in Brookline. Julie Smith taught the workshop on Book 28. She gave us the benefit of her 1977 St. Andrews [Summer School] experience, covering all of the dances in the new book. Where there are several interpretations of a dance, she was careful to give us all of them. Among these dances, the three most popular with this group were: Miss Shaftesbury's Fancy, The New Petronella, and Mairi's Fancy.

This occasion was the first time many of us had a chance to welcome Tony Moretti back from Scotland. Bad weather prevented a few people from attending, but those who did come felt richly rewarded. There will be another workshop for teachers in the spring. If any teacher has any strong feeling or even just a good idea of the subject matter of our next meeting, I would appreciate hearing from all of these persons.

At the December meeting it was suggested we could profitably concern ourselves with serious pre-dance warm-up exercises. So many of our dancers just want to come right on the floor and dance. They will even come late to miss the exercises. There have been times in everyone's experience when a class has been so vigorously exercised that some of its members begin the dancing with muscle cramps. Would someone like to take up the challenge and cover the topic, "Technique can be Fun" for our Spring Workshop? ~

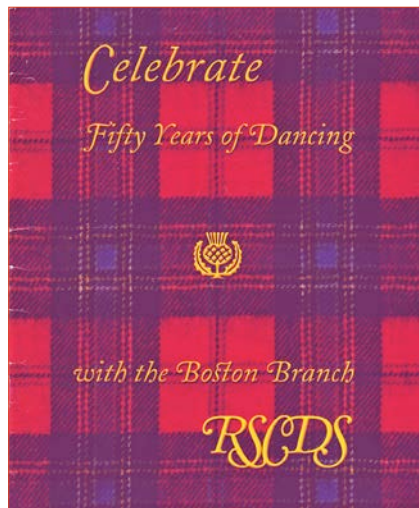
Featured in the Bookstore

from Laurie Somario, Boston Branch Bookstore Manager

Looking for some new tunes or dance books? The Boston Branch Bookstore just may have what you need! Just one of the many options available includes the book *Celebrate 50; Fifty Years of Dancing with the Boston Branch RSCDS*.

From the back cover: “This booklet contains dance directions and music to 14 new country dances and a waltz. It celebrates the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Boston Branch, the first overseas Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.”

A companion CD is also available! It features most of the Boston-area bands and musicians active that year.



The Bookstore has many copies available of both the CD and the booklet! The inventory list can be found here – rscdsboston.org/member-bookstore.html

Purchase inquiries can be made by email to Laurie Somario at bookstore@rscdsboston.org. We would love to hear from you! 🌿

Last chance to register!

RSCDS New York Branch

60th Annual Pawling Weekend

May 19-21, 2023

Copake, New York, USA



Featuring

Teachers: Andy Taylor-Blenis and Janet Johnston

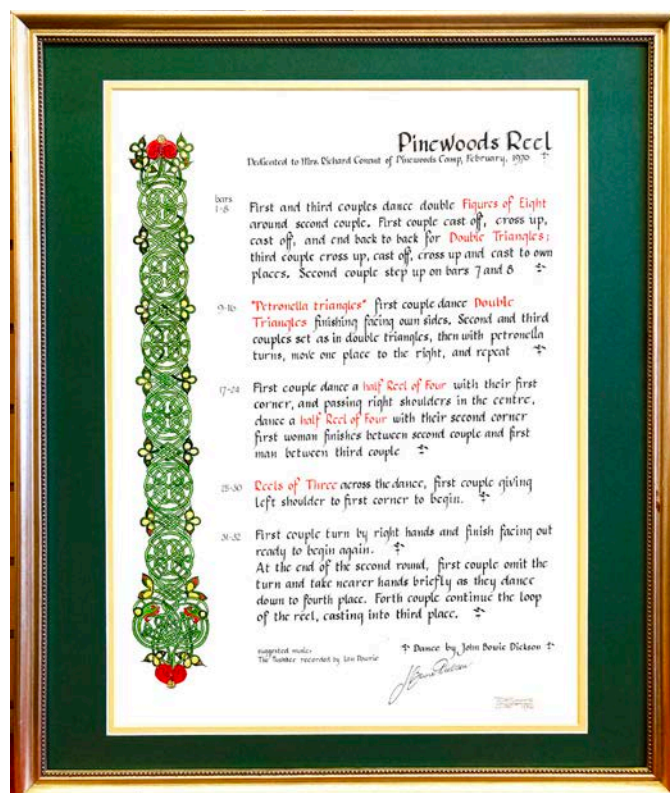
Musicians: Tom Pixton, Mara Shea and Julie Gorka

Visit <https://www.rscdsnewyork.org/pawling-weekend>

Pinewoods Reel to be Published by the RSCDS

from Robert McOwen, a member of the TMC

The popular dance Pinewoods Reel that we perform during every Scottish Session at Pinewoods Camp was selected by the RSCDS as one of the dances to be published in their Book 53 this summer! Moreover, the RSCDS makes videotapes of the dances that they publish and posts them on their website so that anyone learning the dance from the book has a visual representation. Usually these videotapes are made in Scotland, but because Book 53 consists of locally popular dances that were submitted by branches around the globe, the RSCDS is asking those branches to provide the videotapes by the end of June. This is an exciting opportunity for the Boston Branch, and I am working with Andy Taylor-Blenis, director of the Boston Branch's demonstration team, to form a team and make a videotape of Pinewoods Reel for the RSCDS website.



We have obtained permission from the estate of Ronald Cooper for the RSCDS to record his tune "Da Tushkar," and we were delighted to be in touch with Chris Dickson in Edinburgh to ask her permission to publish her late husband's dance. The photo above is the beautifully drawn and framed directions to the dance which hangs in the Pinewoods Camphouse. You can see John Bowie Dickson's signature, and also the signature of the artist, D. Symoss.

Jeanetta McColl was John Bowie Dickson's partner when the dance was debuted at Pinewoods in July, 1960. ~



Come with me and ESCAPE!
English, Scottish, and Contra Dancing
with Singing, Swimming, and More!

ESCAPE 2023 Staff
Teaching and Calling by Miriam Newman (English), Arthur McNair (Scottish), Mary Wesley (Contra), Gillian Stewart (Longsword), and more!
Music by Adam Oleksa, Dan Emery, Karen Axelrod, Dave Wiesler, Catherine Miller, Black River Ironworks (Michael Freeman, Corey Walters, and Jonah Sidman), and more!
Co-Sponsored by RSCDS Boston Branch and CDS Boston Centre.

Whether you're a veteran dancer or excited to try something new, ESCAPE is the perfect week for you! Enjoy amazing dancing, singing, food, and friends at Pinewoods Camp in Plymouth, MA, July 3-7, 2023.

- Scholarships available!
- Dancing will be called and taught using gender-free terms.
- Vaccination and booster required.
- Find more information and register online at bit.ly/ESCAPE2023



July 3-7, 2023
Pinewoods Camp



TAC Summer School July 30 – August 6, 2023

**Register
now!**

*Enjoy a week of dancing in
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Dancers of all levels welcome

Teachers

Sharon Barker (Canada)
Gary Coull (Scotland)
Alan Twigg (USA)
Ron Wallace (USA)

Musicians

Kathy Fraser Collins (Director)
Fred Collins, Ian Muir, Judi
Nicolson, Gary Thomas, Don
Wood

Celebrate!



Register online at:

tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers'
Association (Canada)



Nova Scotia
TAC 50th
Summer School



St. Andrews Beckons

from rscds.org

The RSCDS Summer School at St. Andrews, Fife, is an action-packed four weeks of dancing in the historic town of St Andrews. Come and join with dancers from around the world and be led by some of the best of Scottish Country Dance teachers and musicians. In addition to SCD classes at all levels each week, some weeks also offer something more specific for musicians, potential teachers or young dancers:

Week 1 – Musicians' Ensemble course – July 16-23

Week 3 – Youth Week, including Summer Camp
and 12-15 year olds class – July 30 - August 6

Week 4 – Class Musicians course – August 6-13

Weeks 1 & 2 – Unit 5 – July 16-30

Weeks 3 & 4 – Units 2 and 3 – July 30 - August 13



Double Triangles in the Younger Hall, 2017

A Brief History of the Tartan Times

by Evelyn Murray



Evelyn Murray

The Tartan Times was started some time in the fifties by the Boston Branch. Hugh Thurston was one of the early editors, before he took off for the West Coast and started another Newsletter, called *The Thistle* [see: socalfolkdance.org/master_teachers/thurston_h.htm – ed.]. The editor immediately before me was Alastair Duncan, and I took over in the fall of 1967. At the time the printing procedure was messy and complicated. The materials were typed onto waxed sheets, where making and then correcting a mistake was frustrating to say the least. Then these were placed in turn onto a drum, which was inked and the handle turned for as many copies as were required. The last part was collating, stapling, and then pasting slips with names and addresses, and finally the postage stamp. For the final jobs, Jeanetta McColl and Helen Platt would come from work. We would have dinner, then set up the table and get to work. To save money (and what Scot doesn't do that) some Tartan Times

were distributed at class, the remainder were mailed. Once the print shop system developed in Cambridge the system got much easier. Since then, the development of the internet has meant other short cuts so that now the whole magazine can be emailed to members directly. Over the years there were several people who took on the job of distribution, but the final and longest-serving was a couple in the Salem class, Marcie Rowland and Cal Perham. Cal would pick up the finished issue from the printer, and he and Marcie would complete the mailing using labels supplied by Peter Tandy. They did it as their contribution to the Branch, as they were unable to participate otherwise due to their work obligations.

Early on as Editor I had much help from Maurice Whitby who edited the Montreal Branch SCD Newsletter. One rule he had was that copy from another branch could be shared provided that acknowledgement was made. I learnt a lot from him.

I made two rules, one was that for all letters to the editor and personal articles the writer's name would be published. Nothing of this type could be anonymous. This came from an incident before my time when an anonymous letter accused an innocent party of misinformation, causing a great upset within the branch. The second was to never take advertisements. The reason for this is due to the IRS taxing all ad income to magazines including non-profit ones. It makes the treasurer's life easier. One can get around this last item within the branch to some extent by giving the information that so and so had produced a tape/CD/whatever without giving actual details, such as price. But often people do not understand the reasoning behind this.

An effort I made to help publicise the Boston Branch's events such as Pinewoods, the Ball, etc., was, I contacted all the RSCDS Branches in Canada and the USA plus some affiliated groups near the east coast, about exchanging newsletters. That expanded the numbers printed and mailed. I felt that the extra cost was worth it. Publicity is so important to any organisation such

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continued from p. 12

as ours. One of the benefits of being the editor is making friends not only in one's own area but all over North America plus further afield. For years I corresponded with Heinz Duewell in Australia, until he passed away. It certainly underscores the international aspect of the RSCDS. Contact with Montreal continues to this day, with Jodie Hebert the current editor.

It's always a race to get materials from contributors and event chairs, and then to turn around and get the issue out in a timely manner. Editing is a team function and many people helped over the years. I thank them all, and for the many friendships that arose from the job. A special thank you to Barbara McOwen who took over as I left New England for Old England - she was just marvellous. I hope the Branch will thank her too, as she squeezed this time-consuming job into her already full calendar of responsibilities.

My best wishes to incoming Editor Cathy Fahey and her team. May their problems be small and easily solved.

My life here in England, in my house, south of London - due to Covid and all the lockdowns, etc., I become a 'sheltered' person. As I cannot drive, also due to Covid, I am dependent upon others to drive me to appointments or to shop, amongst other errands. My groceries are shopped for me and delivered to the house, so am very spoiled. Unfortunately my spine is now paying me back for past mis-use, and have trouble with my breathing, so dancing is clearly out of the window. Sadly both cats have died, Shah had a massive heart attack, and Solomon stomach cancer. On the plus side, my garden this spring is lovely, despite the drought last summer. I read, write emails, do crosswords, watch TV and relax! A very different life from Cambridge, Massachusetts. ~



White Mountain SCD 25th Spring Frolic!

Saturday Afternoon, June 17, 2:30- 6:00 pm

Lancaster Town Hall Auditorium, 25 Main St, Lancaster, N.H.

A gala celebration with music by

Vivika Fox, Peter McFarlane, and Hollis Easter

Potluck dinner to follow

For hospitality or more info contact Bill Tobin at 802-751-5512 or

billtobinharp@gmail.com

Admission by donation

The Editor's Farewell

by Barbara McOwen



Barbara McOwen

I'm not so good at deadlines. It's not the work or the time, it's the worry. But I've enjoyed the challenge, the bit of creativity, the working with design, the people connections, the hope that a newsletter would keep some aspects of the Boston Branch, neighboring Branches and the RSCDS informed and unified, especially during Covid. So it is with some measures of both relief and reluctance that I find that the time has come to get on with my other projects.

I've been a subscriber to the Tartan Times since 1975, years before I had any idea I would be moving east and in fact to Boston in 1979. Since joining the Branch I've served on various committees and on Exec as Vice-President when it was decided that Branch materials should be proofed; I offered to my friend Evelyn to proof the TT and thus began my involvement, first as proofer, then with computer assistance, then photographs and layout. When Evelyn announced her big move back to the home country, I assumed she or the Branch would make some decisions about whether to continue the TT, especially in light of the parallel services of our website. When no such decision was forthcoming, I just kept on keeping on, preferring to work in the background, at least temporarily. In effect, I appropriated / seized / usurped the newsletter! I quietly changed my title from "Layout Editor" to "Assistant Editor," then upon President Linda's insistence, finally to "Editor," so this is my third and final issue with the latter title.

In service to my goal to quietly "take over" the TT, I kept Evelyn's layouts and pages consistent, gradually changing some fonts, adding more photos, borders, colors and marginalia, and eventually moving some things around and soliciting and researching articles. In contrast, our new Editor, **Cathy Fahey**, this time duly appointed by Exec, is planning to re-imagine, re-design and re-build the Tartan Times from the ground up. It will be issued 4x a year, instead of the previous 6x, and the next issue will be September 1st or thereabouts. The usual announcements and events can be placed and updated on the website, thanks to Meyer and Laura Billmers.

My thanks go to Evelyn for her many years of surviving all those deadlines; and latterly reversing roles with me and proofing. Gillian Charters was essential in helping me establish a Tartan Times publishing style, and she and Robert McOwen have also helped proof. Many thanks to John Crabtree for his contributions in printing and mailing the paper copies. By the way, it's well worth subscribing to the paper edition as well as the emailed edition - he makes it look so nice! And finally thanks to Linda McJannet for taking on the question of the balance between the Tartan Times, the website, Branch emails and our other means of communications (paging Beth Murray) in serving and unifying the Boston Branch. ~



Cathy Fahey

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School

July 2-8, 2023

Sponsored by RSCDS Atlanta Branch and RSCDS Carolinas Branch

Dance Teachers: Robert McOwen (Boston) • Andrew Nolan (Scotland)

Musicians: Luke Brady (Scotland) • Julie Gorka (Virginia) • Mara Shea (North Carolina)

Location: Appalachian State University • Boone, North Carolina

blueridgesds.org