



## Asilomar Wrap-Up

by Patti Cobb

And a good time was had by all.... The Asilomar Committee for 1999 met to go over the feedback from Asilomar weekend attendees. We were delighted to find that 62% of overall ratings were "Excellent," 30% "Very Good," and 8% "Good," with no "Fair" or "Poor" ratings. But we didn't just stop and pat ourselves on the back. Much of the feedback we received will be taken into account to make Asilomar 2000 even more spectacular.

Before summarizing the feedback from this year, here are a few notes about next year. Asilomar 2000 will take place October 27-29. Watch for applications in mid-April. If you are not already on the Branch mailing list, applications will also be made available at the Website ([www.rsdcs-sf.org](http://www.rsdcs-sf.org)) or by contacting Zaza Wu (650-323-0139, [zaza@writeme.com](mailto:zaza@writeme.com)) after April 15, 2000. Also, any accomplished artists seeking recognition, or closet doodlers waiting to be discovered, are invited to submit artistic ideas for next year's logo to Marianna Harvey, Asilomar 2000 Chair, at 2409 Benjamin Dr., Mountain View, CA 94043.

Some of the suggestions the Committee received were these: to use a larger name tag, with the person's first name in a large and easy-to-read typeface; to proof written information for accuracy and consistency; to include course descriptions for the specialty classes; and to arrange the Ball reviews so that attendees could go to both if needed or desired. A few people also expressed concern that they had been assigned to the wrong type or level of classes. Several dancers had suggestions on how we might better accommodate those who no longer wish to submit themselves to a full day of dancing. The suggestions ranged from giving classes in one room especially for dancers who, for medical reasons, may not be able to dance at "full capacity," to offering an alternative, non-dancing elective class on history, dance, music or food of Scotland. The seemingly endless debate of whether and how much to brief dances gained more proponents for both sides. Many people wanted either Pillings diagrams or written descriptions to go out prior to the weekend. And some expressed the wish for teachers of regular Branch classes to teach some dances for the weekend in the preceding month. Though the briefing issue will continue to spark discussion, it is clear dancers desire to be well prepared for a ball.

Of the specific activities we asked attendees to rate, the Friday evening dance was second only to the Ball in the number of "Excellent" ratings. Some of the teachers got less-than-great critiques, but a special commendation goes to Ron Wallace for stepping in as a substitute with almost no notice. A typical comment about Ron's classes was "superb presentation as always." All the musicians got rave reviews. As one person put it, "It will be an extraordinary evening when the dances match the imaginative, innovative music." Even the food seemed to be getting better. Thanks, everyone, for your input. It really helps us try to make each year an even more memorable experience.

## Branch Committee Actions

Saturday, October 2, 1999, at the San Mateo Masonic Temple

Present: Dan Shapiro, Alastair Brown, Nancy Page, Greg Reznick, Paula Jacobson, Miriam Mueller, Larry Wakeman, Jim Pell. Regrets: Patti Cobb. Guest Reports: Fred Sommer, Trina Merriman

### Guest Reports:

Trina Merriman reported that Cindy Sobrero will co-chair (with Trina) this year's Valentine's Ball, but a new ball chairperson is needed for 2001. Cecilia Grote has agreed to be registrar. Pat Lowers and Melinda Reschke will handle publicity. Cameron McDonald will handle pre-ball sherry. We are required to use the in-house caterer, and Trina will endeavor to make him more responsive this year. The date is February 5, 2000. The target date for 2001 is February 10. Trina presented the budget and requested information regarding common party/ball items that might be owned by the Branch and used at various events. Trina agreed to produce a list of common items needed by event organizers. Alastair agreed, acting as Branch Property Master as part of his Treasurer duties, to produce a list of such items already owned by the Branch. It is anticipated that, when complete, the Branch Committee will compare the lists and purchases of items needed but not yet owned will be considered.

Fred Sommer, reporting on Asilomar 1999, showed sample t-shirts and name tags. Fred read his letter to the Asilomar management and reported that Asilomar 2000 will be held on October 27, 28, and 29. Because of better than anticipated participation from first-time attendees in 1999, the expenditure for first-time discounts will be approximately \$2,000 instead of \$1,500.

Alastair reported that he had purchased the additional sound equipment authorized by the Branch Committee at the June meeting. He also reported that he had spent an additional \$750 to purchase a rack, a monitor amp, and a line amp to complete the Branch sound system. He also reported that all classes except Santa

## in this issue

asilomar wrap-up branch committee actions /1

nominees volunteers dance in mountain view ball gown sale /2

monthly parties /3 calendar south bay /4

hogmanay /5 captain topham's letter /6

zoological reflections /7 scd elsewhere dunsmuir scottish dancers /8

branch officers etc. /9 directory /10

classes /11

Cruz have now submitted financial reports.

The Scholarship Committee reported that the Branch would support 5 or 6 scholarships this year, as compared with 3 to 4 in previous years.

The Branch Committee formally appointed Kathleen McAdam as Youth Coordinator.

The Branch Committee discussed various aspects of the Jean Patrick Dance. The Branch Committee recognized that preparation is especially difficult during the summer months and agreed to support the party chairperson in getting more help from other members of the Branch. The Branch Committee also discussed the fees paid for sound engineering and recognized the great service provided by the individuals who provide the service.

The chair of the publicity committee, Susie Langdon Kass, requested that the Branch Committee assist in finding an assistant publicist. The committee agreed to follow up with personal canvassing and the creation of a "help wanted" item for the R&S.

Finally, the committee reviewed requests for a first name index in the Branch Directory.

## Nominees for the Branch Committee

The San Francisco Branch needs volunteers to run for the Branch Committee (Board of Directors). The term of office is two years. Half the board is elected each year. If you would consider running or could suggest someone, please let any Branch Committee member know or contact Susie Langdon Kass at 415-333-9372, susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu.

The deadline for the submission of biographical information is the end of March so the ballots can be prepared. The election ballots will be counted at the Annual General Meeting, May 6, 2000.

New board members' first meeting is the June joint new/old committee meeting at which officers are elected for the year. The Branch Committee meets about eight times a year, usually from 2-5 p.m. the afternoon before a monthly party at someone's house. Send in your suggestions soon!

## Volunteers are Always Needed!

*by Paula Jacobson and Larry Wakeman*

You have all admired those people who volunteer their time to make Branch events run so smoothly. Do you have a desire to assist? There are all kinds of jobs, from the highly artistic to grunt labor, that need to be done at each of these events. These volunteers get the satisfaction of furthering Scottish Country Dancing and supporting the Branch, as well as receiving public recognition for their efforts. These are also the people who seem to know everyone and be known by all.

The Branch Committee is creating a database of volunteers that will be available for event organizers. The possible jobs range from a one-time stint to being on an event committee that meets over a period of several months. What you need to do is to get in touch with one of the contacts below and tell us with what types of volunteer work—publicity, registration, catering, decorations—you would be interested in assisting.

Contact:

Larry Wakeman—lwakeman@clarify.com, (925) 676-1058

Paula Jacobson—Pjacobson@kteh.org, (831) 688-8295

## Scottish Country Dance in Mountain View

*by Carol Ann Krug Graves*

The Mountain View Scottish Country Dancers meet on Wednesday nights, usually at the Mountain View Sports Pavilion. We have had a busy and well-attended fall semester. Alan Twhigg has been teaching the beginning class and Jo Hamilton the intermediates.

In October, Cameron McDonald and Melinda Reschke hosted a ladies-only tea and ball gown swap at Cameron's home. The event was an opportunity to sell ball gowns, dresses and accessories, and buy new ones for Asilomar and future balls.

The Mountain View class co-hosted the October monthly party in San Mateo and the December monthly party in Palo Alto. The last class of November was a festive Thanksgiving dance party, with live music by Lyle Ramshaw and John Taylor.

After a break for the holidays, classes will resume on Wednesday, January 5. The February 2 class will be a Cupid's Bow dance party, and dances for the Valentine's Ball will be on the program. The March 15 class will be an Ides of March dance party.

The second semester will start with classes on February 9. Bruce Hamilton will teach the intermediate class in the spring and Bob McMurtry will teach the beginners. Please call Cameron at (650) 365-5574 or Denise at (510) 713-7813, to confirm date, time, location, and details for Mountain View Scottish Country Dancers events.

## Year 2000 Ball Gown Sale and Tea Party

The annual pre-Valentine's Ball tea party and ball gown swap to be held again at Susie Langdon Kass' home, is now set for Saturday, January 8 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (note change of date from previous notice!) As last year, we are inviting the English Country Dancers, too! Hosts Susie Langdon Kass, Colleen Fawley, Anne Miller-Bagwell, and Helena Ivatt will provide tea and snacks.

Come and join us for a good time selling, buying, trying on, or just browsing. You're sure to find some great bargains! In the past, we've had fun admiring and commenting on dresses others were modeling. If you can't make it, you can still send in garments for possible sale.

The proceeds of each sale go to the seller, but the entry fees (\$3 per person) will be donated to the scholarship fund.

Susie's house has lots of space and a huge mirror. So, don't get rid of that gown that doesn't fit or no longer seems to be the right color. Bring it to the Ball Gown Sale! Look for flyers with directions to Susie's house and save the date!

Since the SCD Monthly Party and the ECD Second Saturday Dance are both happening that night at nearby locations, why not bring along your dance gear and join some other Ball Gown Sale-goers at a local restaurant for dinner. There are many good places close by.

For more information, please call Susie at 415-333-9372.



MONTHLY PARTIES

**JANUARY MONTHLY PARTY**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2000**  
*Temple Methodist United Church*  
 1111 Junipero Serra, San Francisco

<u>Dance</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Source</u>
Cutty Sark+	B	8x32 J3	40/2
The Braes of Mellinish+	I	8x32 S2	25/12
Jennifer's Jig+	A	8x32 J3	Drewry/Silver City
Greig's Pipes	I	8x32 S3	2/8
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	I	8x40 R3	39/7
Linton Ploughman	B	8x32 J2	5/6
Frae A' the Airts	I	8x32 M3	RSCDS Leaflet 8
Polharrow Burn	A	5x32 R5	Glendarroch/Foss
The Rakes of Glasgow	B	8x32 S3	11/11
The Saltire Society Reel+	I	8x32 R3	RSCDS Leaflet 9
Mr. Hamilton's Hornpipe	I	8x32 H3	Goldring leaflet
Casting Glances	I	8x32 S2	Wilson leaflet
Persuasion	B	8x32 J3	LAD Too/Sigg
Jim Dougal of Eyemouth+	A	3x32 S3	Ladies of Dunse Book
The Barmkin	B	88 R4	Goldring/24 Graded & Social

+ New this month

**MARCH MONTHLY PARTY**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2000**  
*Anthony Chabot School*  
 6686 Chabot Road, Oakland

<u>Dance</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Source</u>
Joie de Vivre +	B	8x32 J3	39/2
Greig's Pipes	I	8x32 S3	2/8
Mary Erskine +	B/I	8x32 H3	Goldring - 15 Social Dances
The Braes of Mellinish	I	8x32 S2	25/12
Bauldy Bain's Fiddle +	A	8x32 R3	Dickson - Lothian
Cutty Sark	B	8x32 J3	40/2
Casting Glances	I	8x32 S2	Wilson leaflet
Jennifer's Jig	A	8x32 J3	Drewry-Silver City
Lady Lucy Ramsay +	B	8x32 S3	MMM II
The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh	I	8x40 R3	39/7
Linton Ploughman	B	8x32 J2	5/6
Frae A' the Airts	I	8x32 M3	RSCDS Leaflet 8
The Saltire Society Reel	I	8x32 R3	RSCDS Leaflet 9
Jim Dougal of Eyemouth A		3x32 S3	Ladies of Dunse Book
The Sailor +	B/I	8x32 H3	24/4

+ New this month

**Directions to Temple United Methodist Church:**

**FROM THE EAST:** take 280 South, exit at Sagamore/Mission exit. At light go right on Sagamore, then bear right onto Brotherhood Way. Exit onto 19th Ave. (Rte. 1) North and stay in the rightmost lane. At gas station (first light) bear sharp diagonal right onto 19th Ave. Then immediately turn left onto Beverly. Park in the lot or on the street. Enter church hall from Beverly.

**FROM THE SOUTH:** take 280 North, Exit onto 19th Ave. (Rte. 1) North and stay in the rightmost lane. At gas station (first light) bear sharp diagonal right onto 19th Ave. Then immediately turn left onto Beverly. Park in the lot or on the street. Enter church hall from Beverly.

**FROM THE NORTH:** Take 19th Ave. (Rte. 1) South to intersection with Junipero Serra after the slight curve to the east. Stay to the middle or left. At the light go straight onto 19th Ave. Then immediately turn left onto Beverly. Park in the lot or on the street. Enter church hall from Beverly.

<b>Admission:</b>	
New Dancers, with coupon from teacher .....	\$2
Members .....	\$6
Non-members .....	\$8

**Non-members:** please join the Branch! You can join now as an affiliate member (January to May) for \$9.00. You get the *R & S*, lower Party fees, help the Branch meet insurance requirements, and support the organization. Membership forms are available from your class manager, or at Monthly Parties.

**CALENDAR**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23**

Winter Solstice Party, 7:45 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez at 23rd Street, San Francisco. Music: David Strong and friends.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2000**

Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers perform at the Julia Morgan Center in Berkeley. Look for the flyers! Buy the tickets! Come along!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 8**

Ball Gown Sale & Tea Party, San Francisco, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Call Susie, 415-333-9372.  
January Monthly party, 7:30 p.m., Temple United Methodist Church, 1111 Junipero Serra, San Francisco. Hosting classes: San Francisco & Burlingame.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9**

New Beginners class starts on Sundays at 6:15 p.m. at UCSF Millberry Recreation and Fitness Center. Call Susie, 415-333-9372.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 15**

Sacramento Branch Party and Potluck, 7:30 p.m., YLI, 27th & N Streets, Sacramento.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 29**

Valentine's Ball Preview Session, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, San Francisco. Street parking only—be sure to carpool. Teachers: Bruce Herbold and Susie Langdon Kass. For information, call Linnea Johnson, 415-647-5176 or Susie, 415-333-9372.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

"Cupid's Bow", a Valentine's Ball preview, music by John Taylor and Andy Imbrie, hosted by the Mountain View Class, 7:45 p.m., Mountain View Sports Pavilion, Castro and Miramonte in Mountain View. Call (510) 713-7813 or (650) 365-5574 for further information.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

Teachers' Committee meeting, 2:00 p.m., at the home of Armin and Coletta Busse, 881 Kizer Street, Milpitas.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4**

Music Workshop with Barbara McOwen, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Anthony Chabot School, 6686 Chabot Road, Oakland. Contact Pat Lowers at 408-257-2294 or plowers@pacbell.net.  
March Monthly Party, 7:30 p.m., Anthony Chabot School, 6686 Chabot Road, Oakland, hosted by Berkeley Monday and Friday Classes.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15**

"Ides of March" party, hosted by Mountain View Class, 7:45 p.m., Mountain View Sports Pavilion, Castro and Miramonte in Mountain View. Call (510) 713-7813 or (650) 365-5574 for more information.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 31**

Mountain View Class final party, 7:00 p.m., King's Head Pub, Campbell. Call (510) 713-7813 or (650) 65-5574 for more information.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28**

Dancing in Rinconada Park, Palo Alto, hosted by the Mountain View Class, from about 7:00 p.m. 'til dark. Call (510) 713-7813 or (650) 365-5574 for more information.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22**

Summer Solstice Party, hosted by the San Francisco Class, 7:45 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, San Francisco.

**Musings from the South Bay**

*by Jo Hamilton*

"Twas the first of December and all round the Bay,  
The dancers were honing their steps for the day  
The Christmas parties would start. Oh what delight!  
The music, the goodies, the friendships, so right!

I'm no Clement C. Moore so I'll get back to telling you some of the doings down here.

On November 12th, we welcomed our newest dancer, Mairi Brianna Morrison. Mairi, along with Mom, Linda, and Dad, John, as well as sisters Ceilidh and Aiden came along to the Mountain View Thanksgiving Bash. She was a little doll and had good turnout, too.

After being caught with no roof during the first rain storm of the season, Bob and Mary McMurtry have all but finished having their roof re-shingled. The stories about the roofers are really something out of The Three Stooges movies. It's worthwhile asking. Another great story is having Jennifer tell you about the Kelly's exploits in trying to finish the garage of their cabin in the mountains with the wrong size garage doors before the snow fell, and of her beach exploits while she and John were in Hawaii!

John and Jennifer weren't the only ones from the South Bay who will have been flitting around before the year turns to that dreaded "00". Pat Lowers and Sparky Gregory were in Massachusetts for Thanksgiving and to help celebrate Sparky's Dad's birthday. Doug and Gloria McConnell visited New York for a few days. Then after a week or so at home, they headed off to Australia to visit family and for Doug to attend his primary school anniversary reunion. (His 75th, I think he said.) Mark, Juliet and Iain Davoren also flew off to Australia to visit family. (I think it's just to get away from the cold weather and the rain!) Cameron McDonald and Art Tarsa are off to Hawaii for Christmas with Cameron's family. Elaine

and Bob Salter are also off to Hawaii for a holiday. Olivier Lechenone and Catherine Williams will be spending Christmas in Switzerland with Olivier's family and then popping over to England for a bit before coming back home. Judy Belden and Karen McQuarrie are taking a flying trip to Mexico before Christmas. Catherine and Jim Eick are off to Texas for a visit with family and to attend the St. Andrews Ball in Austin. It's sure nice to just get away! Bruce and I will be celebrating Christmas in the Bahamas with Bruce's family. Bill and Marilyn Stocker will be in Montreal for Marilyn's Mom's 90th birthday before Christmas.

Speaking of Bill... Before his retirement, Bill danced for ten consecutive days! That included Asilomar, where, Bill told me, he danced every dance on the Friday night program and during Saturday classes, the Saturday Ball, and Sunday morning classes. I wonder how many Asilomar attendees could say that! He danced every night of the week after Asilomar up to his retirement dinner on Friday, November 5th. Very impressive, Bill!

The Red Thistles participated in a show, "Raices de Mexico," at the Cubberly Theatre. There were also dance groups from Guatemala, Tahiti, Brazil, and Mexico involved. The show received a very warm reception.

Elheran Francis held his 2nd Ceilidh in Piedmont. Lots of people, some of whom tried Scottish Country Dancing for the first time, had lots of fun!

Another first time event is that our own Steve Glickman will be running for Assembly for the 24th District. We all wish him well. He is talking of a special fund-raiser in the New Year!

The December Monthly party signals the beginning of the Christmas season of dances. Over 100 dancers found their way to St. Marks Church in Palo Alto for the earlier-than-usual beginning of the party. Lots of prizes, wonderful Scottish Country Christmas music, sparkling lights on the tree, goodies and a visit from Father Christmas set the tone for this last Christmas of the century.

We wish you all a warm, happy and safe Holiday season. We look forward to seeing you at San Jose's Robbie Burn's Party or the Cupid's Bow Party Wednesday, February 2nd at 7:45 p.m. at the Mountain View Sports Pavilion, if we don't see you at two or three parties before then!

## Hogmanay! The Scots at New Year

*ex reticulo orbis terrarum*

The Scots have become renowned the world over for the manner in which they celebrate the coming of a new year. Many may say that today the Scottish Hogmanay traditions are vanishing, but there are some areas of Scotland where, even in these modern times, old traditions thankfully die hard! In Lewis, for instance, there has long since been a tradition that, on Hogmanay, the boys form themselves into bands. The leader of each band must wear a sheepskin, while a member must carry a sack. The bands then move from house to house, reciting a Gaelic rhyme. On being invited into the home by the woman of the family, the leader walks clockwise around the fire, or around a chair in these modern times, while everyone else hits the sheepskin with sticks. The boys are given some bannocks for their sack, before moving on to the next house. One of the rhymes went as follows:

Great good luck to the house,  
Good luck to the family,  
Good luck to every rafter of it,  
And to every worldly thing in it.

Good luck to horses and cattle,  
Good luck to sheep,  
Good luck to everything,  
And good luck to all your means.

Luck to the good-wife,  
Good luck to the children,  
Good luck to every friend,  
Great fortune and health to all.

This is a localised tradition, although similar ceremonies are carried out in South Uist. More common throughout the rest of Scotland is the traditional firing of guns at midnight, followed by the men setting out to "first foot" all those houses in which they know they are welcome. The minimum requirement is that he bring a small gift (often a piece of coal), and that he be offered a dram of whisky and a bannock of oatcake, and it is this tradition that is almost universal.

The origins of the Scottish customs are as ancient as the customs are diverse. The very fact that Scotland chose to celebrate the New Year in preference to Christmas is said to have its roots in the Kirk, which viewed the Christmas celebrations as 'popish and superstitious'. Whatever the reasons, it has always been that the further north one travels in Britain, the more intense is the swing in celebrations towards the New Year. Strangely however, in recent years this diversity has become less noticeable, as those in the south have become more aware of Hogmanay as a time of celebration, as evidenced by the large crowds who gather in Trafalgar Square (Scots will tell you that this crowd largely consists of stranded Scots and Irish!).

The name "Hogmanay" is itself locked in some controversy. It is said variously to come from the Anglo-Saxon *Haleg Monath* (Holy Month), or the Gaelic *oge maidne* (New Morning) or the Norman French word *hoguinané*, which was derived from the Old French *anguillanneuf* ("gift at New Year"). Whatever the origin of

### Wanted—children's dance shoes

Do you have any old ballet slippers in kid's sizes? Or very small sized Scottish Country Dance pumps or ghillies? If so, we'd like to help you recycle them! We need some more shoes for the dancers in our kid's classes, particularly for the children to wear in a show or demo. Any small size would be appreciated. If they are fairly new, we'll even pay you for them. Contact Susie Langdon Kass, susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu, 415-333-9372, or Kathleen McAdam, 925-934-6148.

the name, it has remained in the conscience of the Scottish people for many centuries. Such was the importance of Hogmanay, it was once the custom in Scotland to give gifts on the first of January, and, indeed, until the 18th century the number of gifts given then far outshone those given at Christmas, in both number and quality. It is only very recently that some parts of Scotland ended the practice of giving tokens to children, which themselves were called “hogmanays”.

Memories of Hogmanay include images of men carrying coal, black bun and whisky into the house, and of streets in Edinburgh lively and bright with singing until well into the daylight hours. People who throughout the previous year might have been antagonistic and just plain unfriendly towards each other will suddenly become the best of friends, while the practice of kissing absolute strangers never seems to cause embarrassment to either party!

Another Hogmanay tradition is the “Creaming of the Well”. The “cream” referred to was the first water from the local well or spring on a New Year’s Day. Since the well would only be drawn the once, everyone would race to reach it, and in particular the young women, for possession of the first water drawn was said to guarantee marriage within the new year. It was said that for this to work, the young woman concerned would have to get the man she desired to marry to drink the water before the end of that first day. A warning in that for any bachelor who wishes to remain so for the foreseeable future!

In all the traditions and customs of Hogmanay, one theme survives, that the new year must begin on a happy note, with a clean break from all that may have been bad in the old year. It is from this underlying theme that the most common of all Hogmanay traditions has its root, the new year resolution. Sadly, although such resolutions are made in a meaningful and honest manner, few last longer than the third dram!

## Captain Topham’s Letters: An Introduction

by Ken McFarland

In the last letter, our 18th Century correspondent from Edinburgh, Captain Topham, held forth in a fairly general way on dancing in Edinburgh. In this letter he writes about dancing as viewed in one particular circumstance, the “Dancing Masters Balls.” Since we have the good fortune to enjoy lovely Balls with live music, I thought this letter could add a little perspective to the history of the Ball.

An argument could be made that the many dancing masters and balls to which Topham refers in this letter of 225 years ago are similar to our current system of local classes. And while we may not have such frequent events as they did then, we do still have a wealth of holiday parties and other social occasions that include opportunities for dancing.

I thought that you might be interested to know that I’m simply transcribing these letters from an original 1775 book that I purchased; I am not editing them. I am editing the spelling, otherwise you would be reading words such as “miffpelled.” My word processing program has never before noticed as many long, run-on sentences! But that was the writing style of the time. Fancy expression, sometimes stilted, and taking a circuitous route from one end of a sentence to another is another trademark of the times.

Captain Topham’s harsh opinions sometimes make me shudder, but this is such a rare and important document with

regard to Scottish dancing, containing, as it does, so many valuable observations, that in reading it I ignore his extreme subjectivity. For example, we do primarily country dances now, but look for the number of other dance styles that Topham mentions as being taught back then. And notice how he distinguished English Country Dances from Scotch Reels in our last letter. There are subtle lessons to be learned from these letters if you care to pause and visit 18th Century Edinburgh.

## Letter 41, “On the Dancing Masters Balls”

May 15, 1775

(After a few personal words to the recipient, Miss Lucinda B\_\_\_\_\_) I think I have told you everything relating to the public assemblies: but there are others which seem to afford the Scotch great entertainment, as they are much frequented, and in general more crowded than the others. These are Dancing-masters Balls, who swarm in Edinburgh, and who are constantly exhibiting their scholars to the public.

You know ’tis a custom in London for some of the principal Dancing-masters to have balls for their benefit; but here it is a general thing, from the one most in vogue, to the humble teacher of a reel to the drone of a bagpipe. Each has his ball and his public, or his two balls (for I can find no difference) at a particular season of the year, in the Assembly Room, where a degree of emulation fires their breath, and each endeavors to show his own excellence and skill as a master, by the execution and performance of his scholars. It is incredible the pleasure and satisfaction the inhabitants of this City take in this diversion. They seem to enjoy it much more than dancing themselves: I suppose from the pleasing remembrance of those happy times when they themselves made part of the entertainment. But on other accounts I cannot wonder at it: as it is only an entertaining fight, but fills the mind with agreeable reflections, and benevolence to behold the rising generation in any part of their education that may hereafter contribute either to their own pleasure or to the advantage of society and mankind. I could not help but admire the young ambition just glimmering forth in a Minuet or Country-dance, which, when roused into a flame, might hereafter aspire to a peerage and a coronet: and that self same grace and elegance dawning in a Bow, which might be destined to persuade a multitude, or command a senate. But besides the satisfaction arising to a thoughtful mind from the consideration of so many of the human species being rendered completely happy, in the full meridian of innocent youth, without any pain or any anxious care, any world in the opposite scale. I assure you ’tis no despicable enjoyment, even as a puppet-show to behold so many beautiful little figures displaying their agility and graceful attitudes as it were a moving concert.

The children on these occasions are dressed with much elegance, ease, and propriety; without the foppery of the French or negligence of the English. You neither see a Boy of ten years old in the habiliment of a *petit maître*, with bag, solitaire, sword and muff; or the Youth of seventeen with his hair disheveled, in the dress of an infant. The Scotch gain great credit by the apparel of their children, especially the young ones, who indeed are fine subjects for the display of taste in this particular.

I do not suppose any nation in Europe is more beautiful than the Scotch for a certain time; but the shape and symmetry of the boys, the

complexion and features of the female sex, continue for but a short period. As men they are too handsome, as women too masculine and robust to be beauties. They dress their children in fancy-dresses rather than any regular one; particularly the heads of the girls which they ornament in the most unaffected pleasing manner possible with ribbons and flowers: the habit of the boys also is elegant and plain: the performers therefore as to outside appearance have everything to recommend and set off their excellence in dancing.

But I cannot say they are any great proficient in any style of dancing that requires grace: the Scotch are perfect strangers to it in any part of their life. Agility and strength are most natural to them, are their darling delight which they endeavor to improve from their earliest infancy and in which they arrive at much perfection. But as many people take the greatest pains to accomplish what they will never obtain, so the inhabitants of this country exhaust much time in learning a minuet, the most requisite part of which they never arrive at, namely that elegant and graceful air which is the very essence of it, and of which the Italians and French are the only complete masters.

But if the Scotch are deprived of this advantage to their persons, all provident Nature has bestowed on them others, which are of much greater use to themselves and society. The want of grace is abundantly recompensed by a superiority of strength and manliness and that sinewy arm, the very sight of which is sufficient to make a pampered offspring of the South stand amazed and tremble.

At these balls all the children dance minuets which would be very tiresome and disagreeable, as well from the badness of the performance as from the length of time they would take up were they regularly continued. But the Dancing-masters enliven the entertainment by introducing between the minuets their High Dances (which is a kind of double hornpipe) in which the execution of which they excel perhaps the rest of the World. I wish I had it in my power to describe to you the variety of figures and steps they put into it. Besides all those common to the hornpipe, they have a number of their own which I never saw (before) or heard of, and their neatness and quickness in the performance of them is incredible. So amazing is their agility that an Irishman who was standing by me the other night could not help exclaiming to his surprise 'that by Jesus he never saw children so handy with their feet in all his life'.

The motion of the feet is indeed the only thing that is considered in these dances, as they rather neglect to pay any attention to the other parts of the body, which is a great pity since it would render the dance much more complete and agreeable were the attitude of the hands and portions of the body more studied and understood by them. From the practice of these high dances one great advantage is derived to the young men in giving prodigious powers to their ankles and legs. But I cannot say it is an ornamental advantage either to them or to the ladies as it makes them too large in those parts for the proportion of the rest of the body and takes off that fine tapering form which is so essential to real beauty.

I do not know any place in the world where dancing is made so necessary a part of polite education as in Edinburgh. For the number of inhabitants I suppose there are more Dancing-masters than in any other City, who gain large fortunes though they instruct on very moderate terms from the number of scholars who constantly attend them. In general they may be said to be very good ones, as well those of their own Country as Foreigners from most of the polite parts of Europe. Besides minuets and high dances, they instruct the children

in cotillions and allemandes, but not many of them as they are sensible of their incapability of succeeding. In dancing, as in many other things, instruction and precept alone do not convey ideas so well as example and practice. Had they some few as excellent as Miss Lucinda B\_\_\_\_\_ to show them what it was to move gracefully, elegantly and unaffectedly, I do not doubt but that they might make some progress and reach some degree of perfection. I wish, therefore, for the benefit of this City, that you and a half a dozen of your female acquaintances would pass the next winter in Edinburgh in order to give them a model of a complete dancer.

### Some zoological and culinary reflections on a peculiar Scottish Game animal

Documentation on the haggis (*Haggis haggis caledonensis, L.*) is extensive but gives varying accounts of its anatomy. Perhaps the commonest conception of it is as a small three-legged animal having one leg somewhat longer than the others such that it can conveniently run around the Scottish hills in a clockwise direction.

The haggis hunting technique called for great stealth in that the hunter would creep up behind the unsuspecting beast until he approached within three kilt-lengths of it, whereupon he gave vent to a loud sound, produced either by the vocal outburst "gu dearbh!" (freely translated "gotcher") or, in the case of more accomplished hunters, by a sustained note on the bagpipe chanter, with rapidly interpolated grace notes at a frequency interval 25/27 lower, this somewhat eerie sound being said to resemble the call of a long-extinct predatory relative of the curlew (*Numenius arquata, L.*)—also known in Scotland as the "whaup". Only out-of-province hunters would think of taking a complete set of bagpipes on the hill, because of the considerable encumbrance they presented during the stalking.

When the sound had been made, the haggis, surprised, would turn suddenly around and, now unbalanced because of his new attitude upon the slope of the hill, would generally fall over and be unable to regain his feet before capture.

It appears that, as a result of this predation, an evolutionary trend developed in the haggis whereby the beast became more adept at looking behind without moving his feet. While some have attributed this adaptation to interbreeding with the short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus, L.*), no serious credence can be given to this suggestion as the mechanism of turning in the haggis must have arisen from greater flexibility in the pelvic joints rather than in the neck (which, it can be asserted without reasonable doubt, was never part of the haggis anatomy).

As a result of its greater elusiveness, the haggis began to disappear from the dinner table. Fortunately, at this time, it was discovered that a reasonable synthesis could be achieved by the mixing of local grains with the finely chopped pluck of a sheep. Even the original appearance of the table-dressed haggis was realized in facsimile by the introduction of this mixture into the sheep's stomach or intestine, thus making it, at the same time, the first boil-in-bag convenience food.

The coming of the 20th century saw the introduction of plastic substitutes for the intestine bag (which had always been

prone to rupture while boiling) and many haggises are now made this way. It is held, however, that a more convenient way to cook haggis is to use a pudding basin to hold the mixture and thus boil it in a similar way to a steamed (or Christmas) pudding. To some extent this avoids the pretence that the genuine *Haggis haggis caledonensis* is being served up, an affectation which will not impress many people, as it is widely known that the retiring animal is now a protected species, sighted but rarely in the remoter parts of the Scottish Highlands and thought, though not proven, to exist in parts of Cape Breton Island and Otago, New Zealand.

©Alasdair McKay

*The above document was first published by Alasdair McKay in 1977 and has since been plagiarised extensively by other writers. Permission to circulate the text is freely given provided that the origin is acknowledged and the author's name together with this notice is always attached to the text.*

### SCD Events Elsewhere

#### FEBRUARY 13-20

Scottish country dancing in Mexico at the Hotel La Mansion Galindo. Teachers: Maggie & Duncan Keppie. Includes a day at Teotihuacan Pyramids. Contact: Andrea Lindsay 800-538-9721, alindsay@fraserhoyst.com

#### FEBRUARY 25-27

Helen (GA) Unicoi 2000 SCD Workshop Weekend at Unicoi Lodge and Conference Center, Unicoi State Park. Sponsored by RSCDS Atlanta Branch. Teachers: Annette Harris, Norfolk, VA; Steven Rusche, Lansdowne, PA; Susan and Dennis Wood, Nashville, TN. Music: The Music Makars. Contact Becky Sager 770-427-4642, bsager3@juno.com. <http://www.mindspring.com/~atlbrnch/default.htm>.

#### MARCH 18-25

Dance Week on Kauai (HI) Music: Alasdair Fraser & Muriel Johnstone. Cost/person: \$712-\$940 excluding airfare, depending on view/number of people sharing accommodations. Cost includes condo lodging (w/ kitchen), one car/2 people, dinners, dancing, and pool parties. Contact: Ken McFarland, 800-822-3435, e-mail: farlands@ptialaska.net.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Sacramento (CA) Workshop and Ball at St. Francis of Assisi School, 2500 K St., Sacramento. Teachers: Bruce and Jo Hamilton. Saturday classes-10:00-3:00, Formal Ball-7:30-11:00. Beginner-friendly. Sponsored by Sacramento Branch of the RSCDS. Contact: Sherri Hollenbeck, 530-669-7611.

## The Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers

Celebrating  
The Last Hogmanay  
of the 2nd Millennium  
with a  
performance of  
Dance and Music from  
the Last Four Centuries

Music by  
Wild Rose and Friends

1 January, 2000  
7:00 p.m.

The Julia Morgan Theater  
2640 College Avenue,  
Berkeley, California

Tickets: \$15.00 General Admission  
\$25.00 Reserved Seats  
\$10.00 Seniors and Students

Tickets available:  
at the Box Office,  
or via

[www.tixtogo.com/go/juliamorgan](http://www.tixtogo.com/go/juliamorgan)

or ask any Dunsmuir Dancer.



✂ Cut out to fit inside Branch directory ✂

**RSCDS-S.F. BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1999-2000**

If you have any concerns about the S. F. Branch, or would like to attend a Branch Committee (Board of Directors) meeting, please contact one of the members. Branch Committee meetings are usually held in the afternoon before Monthly Parties.

Larry Wakeman, **CHAIR**: 925-676-1058, lwakeman@clarify.com (98-00)  
 Paula Jacobson, **VICE CHAIR, SCHOLARSHIPS**: 831-688-8295, PJacobson@ktech.org (99-01)  
 Alastair Brown, **TREASURER, SCHOLARSHIPS**: 510-222-0871, alastair@centum.com (98-00)  
 Nancy Page, **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**: 510-835-5853, Fax: 510-839-5417, (no email) (98-00)  
 Greg Reznick, **RECORDING SECRETARY, WEBSITE MANAGER**: 925-484-2629, greg@reznickfamily.com (99-01)  
 Jim Pell, **INSURANCE**: 408-263-7902, jimpell@sjm.infi.net (99-01)  
 Dan Shapiro, **SCHOLARSHIPS**: 650-854-3789, dgs@leland.stanford.edu (98-00)  
 Patti Cobb: 415-826-2287, patticobb@aol.com (99-01)  
 Miriam Mueller: 415-648-6062, mimimueller@juno.com (99-01)

**OTHER RSCDS-S. F. BRANCH VOLUNTEERS**

you may want to contact:

**MEMBERSHIP/DIRECTORY/CHANGE OF ADDRESS**: Eugene Bissell: 101 Via Lucia, Alamo, CA 94507; 925-837-9483  
**REEL & STRATHSPEYPER** (S.F. Branch Newsletter), **EDITOR**: Victoria Williams: 1224 Peralta Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94706; 510-526-5854, victoria@uclink.berkeley.edu. **PRODUCTION**: Mike Hird: jmhird@pacbell.net  
**MONTHLY PARTIES COORDINATOR**: George Gates: 925-709-1046, dancingfool56@home.com;  
**ASSISTANT COORDINATOR**: Linda Baptiste: 510-886-5947, landwork@home.com  
**MUSIC FOR MONTHLY PARTIES**: Andy Imbrie, 408-246-9495, andy-sherryl@mindspring.com  
**BOOKSTORE**: Jane Muirhead: 510-782-0519, jane@stat.berkeley.edu  
**BRANCH ARCHIVES**: Virginia Bissell: 925-837-9483  
**TEACHERS' COMMITTEE CHAIR**: David Quarrie 510-233-3359, drquarrie@lbl.gov. •*Teacher's information packet.*  
**MONTHLY PARTY PROGRAMMING CONTINUITY PERSON**: Alan Twhigg: 650-962-1939, alant@net.com  
**TEACHER TRAINING TUTOR**: To be determined.  
**CLASS MANAGERS' COMMITTEE COORDINATOR**: Marva Morris: 408-255-9648, dhmorris@best.com  
**CHILDREN'S CLASSES LIAISON**: Kathleen McAdam: 925-934-6148  
**INSURANCE CONTACT**: Jim Pell: 408-263-7902, jimpell@sjm.infi.net  
**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE**: Susie Langdon Kass: 415-333-9372, susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu; for classes: Class Managers.  
*Volunteer publicist needed! Please call Susie.*  
**CLASSES LIST & VOLUNTEERS LIST (R & S)**: Susie Langdon Kass: 415-333-9372, susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu  
**SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE**: Paula Jacobson: 831-688-8295, PJacobson@ktech.org ; Alastair Brown: 510-222-0871, alastair@centum.com; Dan Shapiro: 650-854-3789, dgs@leland.stanford.edu  
**WEBSITE MANAGER**: Greg Reznick: 925-484-2629, greg@reznickfamily.com, Website: www.rscds-sf.org  
**WEEKEND WORKSHOP AT ASILOMAR**: Marianna Harvey 650-967-8475, aharvey240@aol.com  
**VALENTINES BALL**: Cindy Sobrero: 510-417-0739; Trina Merriman: 415-759-1916; Diane Turechek: 925-335-9995.  
**PLEASANTON GAMES DANCE (Jean Patrick Memorial)**: Larry Wakeman: 925-676-1058, lwakeman@clarify.com  
**SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES**: Monterey (May): Sara Gratiot: 831-384-4783, SEGratiot@aol.com; Campbell (June):  
 Diana Pell: 408-263-7902 & Jo Hamilton 650-328-0474; Oakland/Dunsmuir House (July): Sara Weaver: 415-648-1464; Pleasanton (September): Doug McConnell: JDouglasMcConnell@compuserve.com, 650-493-5974;  
 Information tent (*helpers needed*): Susie Langdon Kass: 415-333-9372; Other games: Sacramento (April); Modesto (June); Incline (July); Loch Lomond (October).

Revised December 1999 • SLK

✂ Cut out to fit inside Branch directory ✂

✂ Cut out to fit inside Branch directory ✂

**DIRECTORY ADDITIONS**

Deby Benton Grosjean  
 PO Box 1363 (H): 408-761-8228  
 Aptos CA 95001  
[grsjn@cruzio.com](mailto:grsjn@cruzio.com)

Jonathan Lovell (O): 408-924-4437  
 614 Peninsula Ave #203 (H): 650-685-8230  
 Burlingame CA 94010-2902  
[jhlovel@pacbell.net](mailto:jhlovel@pacbell.net)

Mary Ann Luce  
 1928 Fallen Leaf Ln (H): 650-961-2184  
 Los Altos CA 94024-7206  
[maluce@juno.com](mailto:maluce@juno.com)

Alfred S McDonald S  
 657 Woodland Dr (H): 626-836-0902  
 Sierra Madre CA 91024-1445

Margaret Randolph  
 PO Box 2000  
 Cottonwood CA 96022

Robert Skurko (O): 408-356-7651  
 Alice Skurko (H): 408-356-7651  
 104 Amanda Ln  
 Los Gatos CA 95032  
[skurko@advantageb12.com](mailto:skurko@advantageb12.com)  
[askurko@advantageb12.com](mailto:askurko@advantageb12.com)

Jacque Whittingham  
 718 Teakwood Dr (H): 530-244-4183  
 Redding CA 96003

Vicki Wildman T (O): 408-741-0508  
 Glenn A Wildman II (H): 408-374-2263  
 2058 Colusa Way fax 408-736-0216  
 San Jose CA 95130-1807  
[gvwildman@aol.com](mailto:gvwildman@aol.com)

**DIRECTORY CHANGES**

Armin Busse LT (H): 925-284-6218  
 Coletta M Busse LT  
 881 Kizer St  
 Milpitas CA 95035  
[arminbusse@hotmail.com](mailto:arminbusse@hotmail.com)  
[cmbusse@hotmail.com](mailto:cmbusse@hotmail.com)

Lowry M Close  
 1300 N 20th St Apt L-1044  
 Renton WA 98056

Mike Hird and Marghie Goff  
[jmhird@pacbell.net](mailto:jmhird@pacbell.net)  
[marghie@pacbell.net](mailto:marghie@pacbell.net)

Ken Hoard  
 PO Box 755 (H): 707-441-0707  
 Eureka CA 95502

Carolyn Yip (H): 925-937-5228  
[carolnyyip1@aol.com](mailto:carolnyyip1@aol.com)

✂ Cut out to fit inside Branch directory ✂

## SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH CLASSES**Berkeley**

**FRIDAYS: Youth Class:** 7:00 PM. Call Kathleen McAdam 925-934-6148; **Beginners:** 8:00 PM; Grace North Church, 2138 Cedar at Walnut. **Experienced: Technique:** 7:30 PM; **Social:** 8:00 PM; All Souls Episcopal Parish, 2220 Cedar at Spruce. Call George Gates 925-252-1048 or John Kadyk 510-524-7376. Teachers: Youth: Kathleen McAdam, Hal O'Brien, Trina Merzian; Adult: Avril Quarrie, David Quarrie, guests.

**Berkeley**

**MONDAYS: Intermediates:** 8:00 PM; St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 2837 Clarendon Blvd. at Russell near Ashby. Call Heather MacKay 510-528-2668. Teacher: David Hewitt. Parties monthly.

**Burlingame (affiliated class)**

**TUESDAYS: Basic:** 7:00 PM; **Experienced Social:** 8:00 PM; Burlingame Recreation Center, 850 Howard Ave. Call Anne MacLver 650-347-5850 or Recreation Center 650-696-8770. Teacher: Anne MacLver.

**Lafayette**

**THURSDAYS: Basic & Social:** 8:00 PM. Call Bill Wickman 925-283-3908. **Step: Beginners:** 6:00 PM & **Experienced:** 7:00 PM. Call Claudette Sigg 510-526-8192. **Children's Classes (3 levels):** 6:00 PM. Call Kathleen McAdam 925-934-6148. Veterans Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. at First Street. Teachers: Eugene Bissell, Claudette Sigg, Kathleen McAdam, Cathy Bertics.

**Livermore**

**MONDAYS: Beginners & Intermediates:** 7:30 PM; Call Gale Holladay 925-447-5771. **Family Class: FRIDAYS:** 7:00 PM (new session starts in January); **Children's Class: MONDAYS:** 6:30 PM; Call Sheena MacQueen 925-447-1833. Livermore Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street at L Street. Teachers: Anne MacLver, Sheena MacQueen, Don MacQueen.

**Monterey**

**MONDAYS: Beginners:** 6:30 PM; **Experienced:** 7:45 PM; temporary location: Hilltop Park Center, 871 Jessie Street. Call Kathy Wersell 831-663-3227 or Brian Campbell 831-656-9923. Teachers: Sara Gratiot, Kathy Conley, Brian Campbell.

**Mountain View**

**WEDNESDAYS: Beginners & Intermediates:** 7:45 PM; Mountain View Sports Pavilion, 1185 Castro Avenue. Call Dennis Francis 510-713-7813. Teachers: Alan Twihigg, Bruce Hamilton, Jo Hamilton, Bob McMurtry.

**San Francisco**

**THURSDAYS: Beginners:** 7:30 PM; **Experienced:** 8:00 PM; Moe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. Call Lynne Johnson 415-841-9456 or Susie Langdon Kass 415-333-9372. Teachers: Susie Langdon Kass, Bruce Heibold, Tina Merzian.

**San Francisco (affiliated class)**

**SUNDAYS: Beginners:** 6:15 PM; Millberry Recreation & Fitness Center at UCSF, 500 Parnassus Avenue. Call Susie Langdon Kass 415-333-9372. Teacher: Susie Langdon Kass. *New session starts: January 9.*

**San Jose**

**MONDAYS: Experienced:** 7:30 PM; **Beginners:** 8:15 PM; American Legion Hall, 1504 Minnesota Avenue. Call Melinda Reschke 408-615-7179 or Sparky Gregory 408-257-2294. Teachers: Marianna Harvey, Lin Pettingill, Don Pettingill.

**Santa Cruz**

**THURSDAYS: Intermediates/Beginners:** 8:00 PM; First Congregational Church, 900 High Street. Call Karen McQuarrie 831-479-1615. Teacher: Howard Leach.

**Santa Rosa**

**MONDAYS: Beginners:** 7:00 PM; **Intermediates:** 8:15 PM; **1st FRIDAYS: Advanced** (call for permission); Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Road. Call Emily or Derek Evers 707-874-2522. Teachers: Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace, Emily Evans.

**Soquel**

**FRIDAYS: Beginners:** 7:00 PM; **Intermediates:** 8:15 PM; Soquel Grange Hall, 2800 Porter Street. Call Mary or Bob McMurtry 831-335-7459. Teachers: Paula Jacobson, Bob McMurtry.

**Stanford**

**TUESDAYS: Basic & Experienced Social:** 7:30 PM; **WEDNESDAYS: Team:** 7:30 PM; J.L. Stanford Middle School, 480 East Meadow Drive. Call Mike Jansousek 408-946-6777 or Doug or Gloria McConnell 650-493-5974. Teachers: Doug McConnell, Gloria McConnell, Juliet Davoren, Rebecca Davis. *Beginners: anytime.*

DEMONSTRATION TEAMS**Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers**

**TUESDAYS: 7:30 PM: Advanced** (by invitation only). Call Shari Sals 510-558-8644 or Ron Wallace 707-795-2185. Teacher: Ron Wallace.

**Red Thistle Dancers**

**THURSDAYS: 8:00 PM: Advanced** (by invitation only). Call Jennifer Kelly 650-327-1350. Teacher: Jennifer Kelly.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH CLASSES**Sacramento**

**FRIDAYS: Beginners:** 6:30 PM; **Combined classes:** 7:30 PM; **Intermediates:** 8:00 PM. Call Kirk Juxis 916-442-1792; **Technique & Demonstration Class: MONDAYS:** 7:00 PM. Call Lynne Lockwood 916-491-4032; **Youth classes: SATURDAYS: Beginners** (10 yrs. Teens): 9:00 AM; **Experienced:** 10:30 AM; White Heather Dancers: 11:45 AM. Call Dottie Carr 916-927-9351. YLI Clubhouse, 1600 27th Street. Teachers: Lynne Lockwood, Peggy Hamilton, Dottie Carr.

**Stockton**

**WEDNESDAYS: Beginners:** 7:00 PM; **Experienced:** 7:30 PM; Unitarian Church, Bristol & Pacific. Call Charles Wood 209-465-8871. Teacher: Carolyn Hunt.

**Truckee**

**TEURSDAYS: Basic:** 7:00 PM; **Intermediates:** 7:30 PM; Truckee-Dorner Recreation Center, Church Street. Call Barbara Sullivan 530-587-5919. Teachers: Dave Wilson, Nancy Wilkins.

OTHER CLASSES**Arcata**

**SATURDAYS: Experienced Social:** Call Virginia Rumble 707-822-1854. Teachers: class members and guests.

**Berkeley (North)**

**SUNDAYS: Beginners/Intermediates:** 7:00 PM; Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Call Don or Kathy Kennedy 510-523-1394. Teachers: Don Kennedy, Kathy Kennedy.

**Grass Valley, Rancho Cordova**

**Beginners/Experienced:** Grass Valley; **MONDAYS:** 7:00 PM; Rancho Cordova; **THURSDAYS:** 7:00 PM. Call Ed Johnston 916-622-1519. Teacher: Ed Johnston. *Beginners: anytime*

**Merced**

**WEDNESDAYS: Beginners/Experienced:** 7:00 PM; Merced High School. Call Merced Recreation & Parks Department 209-385-6851 or Lisa Kayser-Grant 209-384-1016. Teacher: Barry Lewis.

**Mill Valley**

**FRIDAYS: Beginners:** 7:30 PM; **Experienced Social:** 8:15 PM; Almonte Hall, Wisteria Way at Almonte. Call Mike Bird or Marghie Goff 415-884-2716. Teacher: Marghie Goff, guests.

**Redding**

**THURSDAYS: Beginners:** 6:30 PM; **Intermediates:** 7:00 PM. Call Margaret Anne Schlobohm 530-472-1154. Teacher: Margaret Anne Schlobohm. *Beginners: anytime.*

**Reno, Nevada**

**THURSDAYS: Beginners:** 7:00 PM; **Experienced:** 7:30 PM; California Building, Idlewild Park, 1000 Idlewild Drive. Call Martha Norrie 707-829-8680. Teacher: Martha Norrie. *Beginners: anytime.*

STEP DANCING CLASSES**Palo Alto**

**TUESDAYS: Beginners:** Carriage House, Atherton; **THURSDAYS: Intermediates:** Experienced; **FRIDAYS: Twosome:** St. Mark's Church, 500 Colorado Avenue. Call Jo Hamilton 650-328-0474. Teacher: Jo Hamilton.

**Petaluma**

**2nd SUNDAYS: Scottish Step & Cape Breton:** 12:00 noon; Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue. Call Ron Wallace 707-795-2185. Teacher: Ron Wallace.

**Scottish Step or Cape Breton Step** classes are held also in Lafayette, Monterey, Sacramento, Stockton and Santa Rosa. Call Claudette Sigg 510-526-8192, Sara Gratiot 831-384-4783, Jo Hamilton 650-328-0474, Bob Schultheiss 209-745-9063, or Ron Wallace 707-795-2185.

**Class Managers & Teachers:****CHANGES DUE FEBRUARY 1**

Contact: Susie at 415-333-9372  
susie@rscds-sf.org

Visit the S.F. Branch website at:

[www.rscds-sf.org](http://www.rscds-sf.org)

The Reel & Strathspeyer is a bi-monthly publication of the San Francisco Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, a non-profit educational organization. Annual subscription is \$6.00, third class mail. Add \$3 for 1st class. For changes of address, please contact Gene Bissell, 101 Via Lucia, Alamo, CA 94507.

The editor reserves the right to alter or edit any material submitted for publication for reasons of taste, space, style or clarity. All materials for publication should be submitted on diskette in a word processing format, or sent by e-mail prior to the deadline (the 1st of even-numbered months). Exceptions will be made for last-minute notices, or on a space-available basis, when the editor is notified prior to the deadline.

Editors of other newsletters may use or adapt any materials in the Reel & Strathspeyer unless a specific copyright notice is included. Please credit author and original source.

Editor ..... Victoria Williams  
Design ..... Mary Margaret Judé McMurtry  
Production ..... Mike Hinc  
Distributors ..... Robert Behling, Alan Kaplan,  
Hildegard Klee, Taylor Mayes, John McComas, Shari Salis, Bob Scholtz,  
Victoria Williams & Helen Wood

**Next deadline: February 1, 2000**

All articles submitted should be on diskette in a word processing format or sent by e-mail. Please send contributions to:

Victoria Williams, Editor  
1224 Peralta Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94706-2406  
510.526.5854  
e-mail: victoria@uclink4.berkeley.edu



SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.

1224 Peralta Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94706-2406

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Oakland, CA  
Permit No. 555

Dated material –  
please do not delay