

# The Tartan Times

*Volume LXXI, Number 2*  
*March & April 2023*



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

## WHO'S WHO IN THE BOSTON BRANCH

### Executive Committee

*President:* Linda McJannet — [president@rscdsboston.org](mailto:president@rscdsboston.org)

*Vice President* — Marsha Byrnes

*Secretary:* Alena Taylor — [secretary@rscdsboston.org](mailto:secretary@rscdsboston.org)

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*Members at Large:* Bill Card, David Grubb, Emily Russell

Ted Randolph, Anne Johnson, Connie Kent

**Teaching & Music Committee** *Chair:* Debbie Jarvis — [tmc@rscdsboston.org](mailto:tmc@rscdsboston.org)

**Nominating Committee** *Chair:* Lucinda Brandt

**Membership & Directory** Peter & Mary Olszowka — [membership@rscdsboston.org](mailto:membership@rscdsboston.org)

**Highland Ball 2023** Elizabeth Anderson — [highlandball@rscdsboston.org](mailto:highlandball@rscdsboston.org)

**Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2023** MaryEllen Scannell

**Pinewoods Scottish 2023** *Co-Chairs:* Catherine Scannell & Debbie Jarvis

[SCDpinewoods2022@gmail.com](mailto:SCDpinewoods2022@gmail.com)

**Pinewoods ESC 2023** *Contact:* April Birnie & Daniel Potter — [esc@cds-boston.org](mailto:esc@cds-boston.org)

**Fall 2023 Concert** *Producers:* Linda McJannet & Cathy Crabtree; *Artistic Director:* Robert McOwen

**NH Highlands 2022** *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

**Boston Scottish Country Dancers** *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Laura DeCesare

**TAC Representative** Charles Liu

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**Mailing List & Database** John Crabtree

**The Boston Branch Website is [www.rscdsboston.org](http://www.rscdsboston.org)**

**Webmasters** Laura and Meyer Billmers • **Back-up Webmaster** Matt Billmers

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### Exec Committee Class Liaisons:

*Great Barrington & Northampton MA and Albany NY:* Ted Randolph

*Greenland & Nashua NH; Kennebunk ME:* Bill Card

*Brunswick, Bucksport & Belfast ME:* Anne Johnson

*Lancaster NH & Fairlee VT:* David Grubb

*Burlington VT:* Connie Kent

*Cambridge, Brookline, Bedford MA:* Emily Russell

*Chelmsford, Salem & Stow MA:* Alena Taylor

**The Tartan Times — [tartantimes@rscdsboston.org](mailto:tartantimes@rscdsboston.org)**

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### THE TARTAN TIMES

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

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Copy due date for the May / June 2023 issue is **April 20th**

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

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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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:highlandball@rscdsboston.org)

**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE MARCH 11**



Not ready for the Highland Ball fun to stop? Make a weekend of it!



## Welcome Dance

8 pm, Friday, May 12

First Parish Church

349 Boston Post Road

Weston, MA 02493

*\$18 in advance, \$20 at the door*

**Music by Anne Hooper and  
Beth Murray**

## Family Brunch

11 am, Sunday, May 14

Location TBA

*Free with Saturday Ball ticket*

*\$10 without Ball ticket*

**Music by Tom Pixton**

*Information and tickets available at*

*<https://rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html>*



## Summer's End\*

Scottish Country Dance Weekend

(\*formerly known as "New Hampshire Highlands")

August 25-27, 2023 (save the dates)

**NEW LOCATION:** Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, VT – minutes from Interstate 91

- Peter Macfarlane will be music director and Jen Schoonover will be one of the teachers. Other musicians and teachers to be announced.
- The weekend includes four dance sessions and two evening parties – all with live music! Dance venues have excellent floors.
- Other features – swimming and boating in the nearby lake, a benefit auction, evening Ceilidh, welcome party, afternoon tea and much more!
- You can expect the cost to be \$300 - \$325 per person for the weekend.
- Accommodations are in winterized bunkhouses – 4 beds per spacious room – with toilets, sinks and showers just down the hall.
- Look for flyers and information for online registration --- coming soon!

Join us in Maine for  
A Special  
Scottish Country Dance Workshop



*Music is an integral part of Scottish Country Dancing, and it consists of more than just strathspeys, jigs and reels! Through dancing, listening, and discussion, the workshop will explore, compare and contrast the different types of Scottish music to which we dance and enhance our ability to appreciate musical aspects of Scottish Country Dancing. Basic music reading knowledge is helpful but not necessary. The workshop will be followed by a brief session of social dancing.*

**When:** Saturday, March 18, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Where:** Topsham Grange, 47 Pleasant St., Topsham, Maine

**Presenter:** Charles Liu

**Musicians:** Terry Traub and Malka Traub Pomerantz

Social Dance Program

Joie de Vivre	32J	RSCDS Bk 39
Jimmy's Fancy	32S	RSCDS Bk 14
One More Time	32R	Birdsall
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder	128J	Hamilton
The Duchess Tree	32S	Brodie
The Montgomeries' Rant	32R	RSCDS Bk 10

Cost: Donation of \$3-5 requested to help pay for the hall

Covid precaution: full vaccination or negative rapid test the day of required, masks optional

FMI: Merrill Henderson, crone4702@gmail.com, 207-409-9050



## News from the RSCDS

The latest podcast [[soundcloud.com/rscds](https://soundcloud.com/rscds)] from the RSCDS Music Director sees Luke Brady joined by Angela Young, convenor of Membership Services, to discuss the latest RSCDS CD, *Dance Through the Decades, a Celebration of 100 years through Scottish Music and Dance*. The CD features 10 newly recorded dances by Gordon Shand and his Scottish Dance Band and includes a 6-page booklet with cribs and facts for each dance. The CD is out now in a limited edition and is available through the RSCDS. ~

## Class News


### **Newton Class**

*by Heather Day*

The seeds of the idea for daytime classes were sown one Sunday evening (2008 or 2009) at a regular Brookline class when a couple visiting from Britain attended and showed us Tambourine (it's a fun dance – look it up). They were an older couple who said they had learnt it at their local senior center. Fast forward to 2011: I talked to the coordinator of the “Over 55” programs run by Newton rec dept, and the Newton class was born. We met on Wednesday mornings from 10.30-12, with mostly me teaching but also Flo Hearn and Naomi Lev on occasion, and for a while the class was very active, even having a demo at the American Legion Post in Newton. Sadly, advancing old age for some, along with balance and memory difficulties meant depletion of numbers, and Covid finally ended the group. But as they say, it was fun while it lasted.

While I was still teaching in Newton, I had moved to Bedford MA and was encouraged to start a class at the Senior center there also. This I did in 2016 and until Covid, continued to teach both. The Bedford class has several experienced dancers – some from the Newton class – and also happily some who have been introduced to SCD in their retirement, and are now sufficiently confident to dance elsewhere as well. In the early stages we welcomed a couple of home-schooled kids, and some high schoolers on school break, so it really was a class for anyone from 8-80+

The group is very enthusiastic and while not adhering strictly to the precepts of a former RSCDS chairman, of the three F's (fun, flight and formations), we do our best with the last two and definitely agree with the first. Covid shut us down for a while, but we reopened when the Senior center erected a canopy in the parking lot in July 2021 and have been dancing ever since (thankfully now indoors on a better floor). We meet every Tuesday from 12.30-2 pm in the Union room of the Senior Center (COA), 12 Mudge Way, Bedford. Please sign in as a guest.

If you would like to join us, just come, or call me at 617 244 6914 to confirm. There is plenty of on-site parking on both sides of the building. 

### **Cambridge Class**

*from Alex Bowers, on behalf of the Committee*

January at Cambridge Class culminated in a very successful Burns Night celebration at the end of the month! We were pleased to share the event with many of our regular dancers as well as many newer dancers, in-person and on Zoom for Monday, Jan 30th. Led by MC Jen Schoonover, dancers enjoyed a program of easy Scottish Country and Ceilidh dances with a Burns theme. Awesome live music was provided by Susie Petrov (piano) with Terry Traub (fiddle) and Malka Traub Pomerantz (fiddle). There was a stirring rendition of the “Address to the Haggis” given by Susie Petrov and an amusing “Response from the Haggis” given by Sharon Gilmour. Susie led the dancers in a “choral” version of Scotland the Brave in the bagpipe style, complete with drones. Much fun was had by all! But the real star of the evening was our whimsical, masked, haggis (see photo) created by John and Cathy Crabtree [*see opposite page*].

## Calendar — Events Near and Afar

### March

- 11 New Jersey Branch Workshop & Tea Dance, Maplewood, N.J. – p 11  
11-12 New Haven Highland Ball & Brunch – nhrscds.com  
18 \*\* Special Scottish Country Dance Workshop – p 5  
25 RSCDS Centenary Ball, Edinburgh, Scotland – rscds.org  
30 New York Branch RSCDS Centenary Celebration – rscdsnewyork.org

### April

- 13-16 \* Fiddle Hell ONLINE – fiddlehell.org  
21-23 \*\*\* NEFFA (New England Folk Festival), Marlborough, Mass. – p 11  
20 \*\*\* Copy due date for the May 1st Tartan Times – p 2  
22 \* New Hampshire Indoor Games, Salem, N.H. – nhssa.org

### May

- 12-14 \*\*\* Boston Highland Ball Weekend, Melrose, Mass. – p 3 & 4  
12-14 \* Alasdair Fraser's String Fling, Ashokan Center, N.Y. – alasdairfraser.com  
19-21 Pawling Weekend, N.Y. Branch, Copake, N.Y. – rscdsnewyork.org  
26-28 Toronto Branch Spring Fling – May 26-28, 2023 – dancescottish.ca

### Save the Date

- Flurry Festival, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. – June 2-4, 2023 – flurryfestival.org  
Blue Ridge Scottish Country Dance School, Boone, N.C. – July 2-8, 2023 – blueridgesds.org  
Pinewoods ESC Session – July 3-7, 2023 – p 11  
Pinewoods Scottish Sessions – July 7-15, 2023 – p 8  
RSCDS Summer School at St. Andrews – July 16 - August 13 – rscds.org  
TAC Summer School, Halifax, N.S. – July 30 - August 6, 2023 – p 10  
Summer's End (formerly New Hampshire Highlands) – August 25-27, 2023 – p 4  
Quechee Games, Quechee, Vt. – August 26, 2023 – scottisharts.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.



John & Cathy Crabtree's waggish Haggis creation

*Cambridge Class, continued from previous page*

In March, Cambridge Class teachers will be Kat Dutton and Keira Hartstein with Elizabeth Anderson as bandleader. And in April, teachers will be Roberta Lasnik and Laura DeCesare with Barbara McOwen as bandleader. We hope you can join us in person or on Zoom (we are continuing to livestream on Zoom once a month, usually the last Monday of the month).

## **Notes from the Executive Committee**

*[Here is the Exec Report for November through February. – Ed.]*

Happy New Year from the Executive Board! We are happy to report that as of November, we are on target with last year for membership. If you haven't renewed, please do! We are pleased that classes continue to meet, and communication remains positive.

The upcoming topics of discussion include website content, updates and improvements on the Tartan Times (thank you Barbara!), and continued preparations for the Highland Ball. If you have an interest or input on any of these topics, please reach out to me at [secretary@rscdsboston.org](mailto:secretary@rscdsboston.org). I will be happy to share your thoughts and direct you to the people leading these projects.

A hearty thank you to all who attended the Fall Concert, the Pinewoods Benefit Ball, and any class parties over the holidays. Don't forget to invite your friends! -- *Alena Taylor, Branch Secretary* ~

## **Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing**

Opposite is the updated Class Listing. Bill Tobin's email has been added (see the Lancaster, N.H. class), and the Newton Class has been removed (see page 6). – *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* ~

## **Pinewoods Scottish Sessions**

*["Oh so lovely sittin abso-bloomin-lutely still, I would never budge til spring crept onto me window sil." Well, it's time to budge, and start checking your In Box and the web for the Pinewoods applications. And to start dreaming of thrilling dances, engaging teachers, amazing music, cool pond waters, spontaneous festivities day and night, nourishing meals, communing with nature, renewing friendships. -- Ed.]*

We expect to have camp applications out for the beginning of March *[breaking news - the applications are now out!]* with a deadline for priority applications by April 1st. Camp tends to fill up early; if we receive more applications than spaces, any applications received by the April 1st deadline will be placed in a lottery for available slots. After that, campers will be placed on a waitlist. These are expected dates and subject to change based on our current health climate. Please watch the RSCDS Boston website for up-to-date information regarding application dates, Covid policies, and other (more fun) session information.

We look forward to seeing you for a fabulous Scottish Pinewoods 2023. Please email [scdpinewoods2022@gmail.com](mailto:scdpinewoods2022@gmail.com) with any questions. – *Debbie Jarvis and Catherine Scannell, Scottish Pinewoods 2023 co-chairs* ~



# 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](http://www.canadianamericanclub.com)) 202 Arlington Street, Watertown. Beginners welcome! Contact Alex Bowers, cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org
- \* **Chelmsford:** Year-round, First Fridays 7-9 pm at the Chelmsford Community Center at 31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford. Beginner & family-friendly. Contact Rebecca Gore, chelmsfordclass@rscdsboston.org or 508-574-1533
- \* **Great Barrington:** Year-round, new night and time: Thursdays 7-9 pm at Berkshire Pulse, 420 Park Street (3rd floor), Housatonic. Dancers must be fully vaccinated. Contact Ted Randolph: (413) 822-0539; greatbarringtonclass@rscdsboston.org
- \* **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. The Bridge at 211, 211 Bridge St, Salem. Contact MaryEllen Scannell, weebluets@rscdsboston.org, 617-462-1925
- \* **Stow:** Sept-June, 2nd and 4th Fridays. Footwork/figures: 7:30, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contact: Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, stowclass@rscdsboston.org

## MAINE

- \* **Belfast:** Year-round Experienced Social Class, Wednesdays 7-9 pm at Waterfall Arts, 256 High Street, Belfast. Vaccinated dancers only. Contact Gayle Koyanagi, 207-322-7727 (cell), Donna Griffith at 207-785-2216 or belfastclass@rscdsboston.org
- \* **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-841-3232, brunswickclass@rscdsboston.org
- Bucksport:** 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

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

## NEW YORK

- \* **Albany:** Year-round, Sundays, 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](http://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](http://www.rscdsboston.org/pdf/FullFlyer.pdf). Class Contacts: when changes occur, please notify [classes@rscdsboston.org](mailto:classes@rscdsboston.org)



## Flowers of the Forest

*[Peter Tandy, a pillar of the Boston Branch for decades, died in his sleep on January 20th in Waltham, Mass. His life had many interesting facets and a fuller remembrance of him will appear in the next issue. For now, here is a brief description of his contributions by Howard Lasnik, who designated Peter an “Unsung Hero.” – Ed.]*

Peter Tandy, the kind of person every group needs and too few have. He has served the Boston Branch of the RSCDS in every conceivable way, held every office, joined every committee, transported and set up every piece of equipment and, best of all, danced at every event. He always sees what needs to be done and does it, never complaining or asking for credit. He is a true unsung hero. 



## 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 Thwigg (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 50<sup>th</sup>**  
Summer School

## NEFFA – In-Person – Mansfield, Mass. – April 21-23

And these are just the Scottish-themed hours; go to [neffa.org](http://neffa.org) if you're interested in contra dancing, Greek dancing, Beatles sing-along, high-octane bluegrass concert, Croatian singalong, a ukelele jam, a whistling workshop, Jewish papercut art and so much more!

Saturday 11 am - Family Scottish Dancing with Karen Sollins & Terry Traub

Saturday 4 pm - Intro to SCD with Charles Liu, Sue Chari, Terry Traub

Saturday 5 pm - Scottish Country Dancing with Howard Lasnik & Terry Traub

Saturday 6 pm - Scottish Fiddle Session with Barbara & Robert McOwen


Saturday 7 pm - Shetland Fiddle Workshop with Becky Miller & Avi Randall

Saturday 7:30 pm – Scots Revolt! Presentation with Anne Kaslauskas & Ishmael Stevanov

Sunday 11 am - Scottish Ceilidh Party with Hila Lez & Torrent

Sunday 2 pm - Music of Scotland & Cape Breton - Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra

Sunday 3 pm - Tunes from Cape Breton, Scotland, Scandia with Northern Mix 



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

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](http://bit.ly/ESCAPE2023)

**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.



**July 3-7, 2023**  
**Pinewoods Camp**

## RSCDS NJ Branch

# Workshop and Tea Dance

Saturday, March 11, 2023

The Woodland

60 Woodland Road, Maplewood NJ 07040

Workshop Teacher – Steven Rusche, RSCDS-DelVal

Music by Terry Traub and Anne Hooper

with Malka Pomerantz-Traub

Questions? Email Debbie Saunders [debbiesanders@gmail.com](mailto:debbiesanders@gmail.com) or call (201) 315 9373



## ***Looking Back, Looking Forward: A Letter from the President***

*Dear Branch members and other readers of the Tartan Times,*

Greetings from the Executive Committee as we enter a new year of SCD in the (almost) post-Covid era. Thank you for your resilience and flexibility as we (and many other dance and cultural groups) negotiated three difficult years of pandemic restrictions and (more important) illness among our friends and loved ones.

In many ways, the months since the new Exec was elected have been both challenging and uplifting. We had to deal with Omicron during Scottish Sessions at Pinewoods, but in the fall many Branch classes embraced in-person dancing, with masks required or optional. In November, our Celebration of Scottish Music and Dance returned after a three-year hiatus, with Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, Highland Dance Boston, and our own Boston Scottish Country Dancers. It was our 25th concert at the Lexington venue – a significant achievement.



With support from the Branch, the Pinewoods Benefit Ball was held in December; MaryEllen Scannell and the Salem dancers provided a wonderful evening. We are looking forward to our first post-pandemic in-person workshop with Charles Liu in Topsham, ME and the return of the SDCEA Scholarship Dance, both in March. A gala Highland Ball weekend is planned for May with music by *A Parcel of Rogues* (many thanks to Chair Elizabeth Anderson). Finally, bringing us full circle, applications for ESCape and Scottish Sessions at Pinewoods are now live (or will be by the time you read this letter). I hope to see many of many of you at these signature Branch events and activities!

We can and should celebrate our past resilience, but Exec is also looking forward. While class liaisons keep Exec up to date on class activities, we decided to facilitate a chance for class leaders to talk to each other, to share good ideas (for recruitment, for Covid protocols, etc.), and to find ways to support one another. A Class Leaders' get-together is scheduled for March via Zoom. We are also hard at work updating some areas of the website that were on hold during the pandemic. Other developments are also in the works. Stay tuned as “the Scots” continue to show their mettle in the face of adversity and adapt to the ever-changing dance and music environment.

Finally, this year is the 100th anniversary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society worldwide! That's an accomplishment, too. We'll be sharing some ways to celebrate with event organizers and Class leaders

Please alert us to topics or areas that need attention or share good ideas of your own that could help the Branch to thrive. (Some of you have already done so—thank you!). – *With warm regards,*  
*Linda McJannet, President, Boston Branch RSCDS* ~

## ***Dancing Through the Ages and Friends I Have Met!***

*by Vickery Trinkaus-Randall*

It was little over a half century ago when one of the favorite activities of our family was to attend “junkets” at the home of Barbara & Bert Little in Newton, MA. Families came with instruments and set them down. In the large room, contras were danced throughout the night and all danced independent of age. Supper was put on a table that seemed enormous as a kid and housed many strange foods. After eating and more dancing it was time for the kids to disperse into other rooms or upstairs. It was truly a community event. So where does the Scottish dancing come in?

After a trip to Nova Scotia and the Gaelic school with my family, we asked Barbara Little if she would teach dancing and in typical fashion she said if we got a group she would teach and so on Thursday afternoons a carload of kids would come from my hometown in Wayland. In addition there were many members of the Little family – some even crossed a generation, and Duncan and Cindy Smith, the Kendalls, the Pattersons and that year the Morettis arrived from Scotland and there were others including a boy named Ian.

I think what made the dancing successful and long-lasting is that we encompassed a large range of ages and sexes from 4 through teens. Many a down and up was danced down the room, through the foyer into the next room – we were a lively group! Our teachers were Barbara Little, her daughter Liz (a student at Harvard I think) and Jean Kendall. Each had their own role. We even participated in Liz’s wedding at the Harvard Chapel. At the same time there was a very large children’s group in New Hampshire and we would go and dance and they would come down to the Littles. I remember as a girl having to wait to be asked, which was more formal than the Newton Class. My first introduction to Miss Milligan was also at the Littles’ as some of us were selected to dance (with as I remember older folks) and I remember being rather terrified!

A number of us started dancing in the high school group in Lexington on Saturdays with a gentleman called Charlie Campbell. He was quite a bit more proper but our friendships from those days lasted for decades. Some of us went to the Boston Ball, which at that time was a real treat and competitive to attend with several hundred dancing at the Copley. During this time there were several other active groups and a number of us who grew up in the suburbs danced in the Weston group taught by Ed Rawson, and Alan and Lydia Smith. By that time we were coming from other activities but again a community was built. It was there I met Mark Ward, the Morrows’ and the Rawsons’ kids. I think most of us split during college but upon returning a number danced at the Cambridge Y and that is where I met Gregor.

Gregor and I became good friends and spent time skiing and bicycling along with dancing. At that time as Jeanetta would often tell you – the groups were more formal and one had to be reviewed to go to the advanced class. While I had not thought of teaching, at that time you didn’t ask to become a teacher – you were tapped to take the course and so my teaching training started.

*continued on p. 14*

Gregor and I married in 1976 and we spent 6 weeks bicycling through England and Scotland, and along the way had tea with Nancy McClaren, and were surprised when Kathy Little jumped out of a car in Edinburgh in middle of traffic when she saw us on bikes! How funny. We ended at St Andrews and took what was then the preliminary certificate course. Gregor and I took the class with 2 other good friends from America, Anne Tufts and Duncan Smith. We were taught by Duncan MacLeod.

After the course Gregor and I left for graduate school at the U of Wisconsin-Madison where we started a group that is still going 40 years later. During that first year we received a heartbreaking call that Buck Little was killed in a house fire. To teach, Gregor and I used records and taught the group for 5-6 years and made some wonderful friends including Lois New, who was a graduate student. We met Lois at a New Year's dance in Concord, MA that first year when Laura, Doug and Ray Scott introduced us. Most of our class were students or faculty. During that time, we made "fieldtrips" to Minnesota where we introduced our class to larger groups of dancers and to Ron Wallace. We kept up with many throughout the years. Several persons became leaders after we left and some took the teaching course such as Lois and Chuck Snowdon. Gregor and I returned twice to Wisconsin to lead dancing, most recently staying with Chuck where we participated in MCing the yearly dance with Natalie and Alasdair playing.

After returning to the Boston area for my postdoc fellowship in 1980, we and many others (among them Robert and Barbara McOwen, the Conants, Jeanne Morrill, Duncan Smith, Anne Tufts, Margaret Lpley, Jay Flynn, Ken Launie, Beth Murray, Pat McPherson, Ed Pearlman, and Anthony Moretti)

joined together and formed the New Caledonians where

we danced many times a week for several years. It was a time when many of us lived in the Arlington area and gathered frequently to practice and socialize. We even practiced on the third floor of our rental. Many of us started highland with Lezlie Patterson in a small dance studio in Arlington. Around that time Jen was born and we just brought her along to practices or social events. I do remember one time at a social gathering at the McOwens that I went up to see how she was and she was under a pile of coats in her basket! After panicking at first it was funny that no one saw her.




Vickery and Gregor Trinkaus-Randall leading the Grand March, Wisconsin, 2017

Trips were also made to Cardigan where we skied and danced. The request to write this brings back many memories as Jen was only months old and we traveled up on one of those icy snowy days and couldn't make it up the last hill. The excitement began when our car slid into Cary and Nick Browse's car and we rotated around each other. When we stopped and assessed that all were fine and praised the car seat, we started walking up. In the almost blizzard conditions, Nick carried Jen face down the whole way up the hill while Gregor, Cary and I carried other stuff. The next day in true New England fashion was a beautiful sunny day and we all skied. Those were also the days my parents who also danced came up for skiing. I have one photo from another trip of my dad skiing with Jen who might have been 3 or 4.

One day we were all roofing the Rawson's house as Ed Rawson was fighting cancer. We formed a scholarship trust (SDCEA) in honor of Ed Rawson. It quickly grew and honored others whose lives were cut short (Marianne Taylor, Isolde Lamont) and a yearly dance was held for many years. In fact, after we heard Natalie and Alasdair play in Wisconsin in 2018, Gregor invited Natalie and she and others played for a scholarship dance. I served on this committee for over 30 years and recently handed it over to others to continue its mission. Peter Tandy, our unsung hero, was another member for many years as were others. The scholarships are intended to make it a bit easier for people to attend events such as the ball, Pinewoods, NH Highlands and even facilitate attendance at teacher training or musician training.

As I think Gregor and I were one of the earlier ones to have children, we dropped out of the active dance community as children were not always desired. I'm glad times have changed. In the past 15 years we returned to dance at the Stow group, which was around the corner and helped Jeanetta teach. When Gregor became sicker with cancer, Jeanetta was right there ready to help me, another evidence of the continuing supportive community of Scottish dancing. I thank those of you personally who visited him in the hospital, in hospice and helped with his celebration of life. You know who you are.

I of course served on Exec for a number of years to help out the community of dancing. The occurrence of COVID hurt dancing but it also opened up the dance community and this time it was with Lois New who taught the Albany group. Lois reached out and we and others taught dancing via zoom with the benefit of Barbara Bemis and her son, Sam. It was a good time for the two of us, as Gregor had lost his battle with cancer and allowed us to be there for Lois when Cecil lost his battle with time. Over the last couple of years, a number across the country and world have participated and we continue to make new acquaintances and friends in the spirit of Scottish dancing. 



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## **Old News**

*From the September 1978 issue of the Tartan Times*

To: All Office Bearers, Secretaries of all Branches, Secretary TAC

It is with deepest sorrow that I have to intimate that Dr. Jean C. Milligan, Co-Founder of the Society and Honorary Vice President, died in Gartnaval Hospital, Glasgow, on 28th July.

M. Muriel Gibson, Secretary



To: Miss M. Gibson

The Boston Branch is deeply grieved to hear of the passing of Miss Jean Milligan. Not many become a legend in their time but Miss Milligan was one of those rare people who combined Scholarship with humour and determination with diplomacy. We will all miss her greatly.

Gillian Charters, Secretary, Boston Branch RSCDS 