



Scottish Country Dancer NY

A Word from our President, Tom Marshall.....meet your Executive Committee

As we begin a new fiscal year and season of dancing, I'd like to take a moment to introduce you to the individuals who contribute their time and energies to the Executive Committee, the administrative arm of the New York Branch. Without these individuals' generosity of spirit, the Branch simply could not exist. Please join me in welcoming back Lorrie Rosario (VP), Chris Ronald (Corresponding Secretary), Sabrina Kirkpatrick (Recording Secretary), Sheila Wilson (Membership), John Horrell (Ex Officio), and the following Members at Large: Susan Ferguson, Teresa Perez, Rodrigo Quiroz and Estelle Ellis. A special welcome goes out to our new Members at Large, Lauren Cella and Angus Grandfield. A hearty "thank you" to our new Treasurer, Sam Kearns. And of course we cannot forget our teachers, Jim (Fergie) Ferguson (Teacher's Committee Chair), Susan Ferguson, Chris and Sue Ronald, Vivian Anapoll, Ellen Sears, Nancy Pryce, Sheila Wilson, Isabelle Smith and Mary Abdill...each of whom will be teaching at the Branch over the course of the year. And special thanks to our Newsletter Editor, Sue Ronald. If it wasn't for her hard work, you wouldn't be reading this now.

I would be remiss if I didn't single out a special individual, who has been unwavering in her commitment to the Branch for over 30 years, Estelle Ellis, our past Treasurer. Although Estelle has been dancing less and less, she has faithfully maintained her post at the front door, collecting fees, writing checks and keeping the books. Please join me in extending a special, heartfelt "thank you" to Estelle.

Remember, you don't have to be a member of the Executive Committee to join one of our Branch committees...this is your branch, and we need your input. Your skills and expertise can be put to work on any of the following committees:

-Membership.....Pawling.....
-Finance.....Website.....
-Publicity.....Scholarship.....
-50th Anniversary/JC Ball.....

This year marks the Golden Anniversary of the New York Branch...50 years! I encourage each of you to celebrate this special milestone by getting involved. And of course, I'll expect to see you at the culmination of a year of 50th celebrations.....the 50th Anniversary Jeannie Carmichael Ball.

Take partners...



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The Shevock

The Shevock is a small river running through the village of Inch, Aberdeenshire.....

THE SHEVOCK

A 32-bar strathspey for 5 couples in a 5-couple set.

Music: The Shevock, by James Stevenson-Mathews

Suitable recorded music: Kinfauns Castle, on Colin Dewar's Special Requests Volume 4.

Bars

- 1 – 8 1st and 3rd couples cross giving right hands, cast off one place as 2nd and 4th couples step up, and turn with both hands a little more than one and a half times, to finish on the first corner diagonal, facing their partner and first corner.
- 9 - 12 1st and 3rd couples set advancing, passing partner back to back on the second step, and turn first corner with both hands to finish on the second corner diagonal, facing their partner and second corner. First corners also set on bars 9-10.
- 13 - 16 1st and 3rd couples set advancing, passing partner back to back on the second step, and turn second corner with both hands to finish in 2nd and 4th place respectively, on partner's side. Second corners also set on bars 13-14.
- 17 - 24 Taking hands on the sides, all set. 1st and 3rd couples turn partner with both hands half way in one bar to face up, 1st couple followed by 3rd couple dance up to the top, and while 1st couple cast to 5th place, 3rd couple cast to 2nd place. 5th couple step up on bars 5 and 6 of the phrase. Finish in order 2,3,4,5,1.
- 25 - 32 2nd and 3rd couples, and 5th and 1st couples, dance the all-round poussette, while 4th couple set, change places giving right hands, and repeat back to place.

Repeat from new places.

Devised by Chris Ronald, May 2009, in honour of Sheila Wilson, on the occasion of her receiving the RSCDS Branch Award. James Stevenson-Mathews wrote the tune in honour of Sheila. The tune and the dance are named after a small stream in her native village of Inch in Scotland.



The Shevock

Sheila Wilson



At Pawling this year our President, Tom Marshall, presented The RSCDS Branch Award to Sheila Wilson.

“The New York Branch is turning fifty this year (2009), and Sheila Wilson has been a member for over forty of those years. Throughout this period, Sheila has dedicated an incalculable amount of time to supporting the Branch and promoting the RSCDS.

For thirty-five years, since gaining her Preliminary Certificate in 1973, Sheila has been a mainstay of the teaching cadre at the Branch. She is a tremendous resource for all teachers and dancers on dance books, dance descriptions and recorded music. Moreover, she is keenly interested in new dance books and recordings, from the RSCDS and elsewhere.

Sheila is known far beyond New York, as she has served for long periods, from 1971 to the present time, as Secretary or Registrar of the Branch’s two most important annual events: the Pawling weekend workshop, and the Jeannie Carmichael Ball. She has been instrumental in ensuring a consistently high standard of music and teaching at the Pawling weekend, bringing musicians from Canada and teachers from the UK, Canada and the US. The Pawling weekend has often had a waiting list.

Sheila has also been a member of the Branch Executive Committee continuously since 1978, and has filled almost every office. On being elected President in May 1982, she was referred to in the Branch Newsletter as the “tireless toiler”.

As Membership Secretary, a job she has had for many years (and still has), Sheila is often the first point of contact for visitors or newcomers, and always makes them welcome, helps them get settled in New York, and shows them around.

In short, Sheila is deeply devoted to Scottish dance, music and heritage, and has helped inspire countless dancers with the same feelings.”

Thank you, Sheila, on behalf of all the dancers you have welcomed and nurtured throughout the years!

*To the Executive and Teachers Committee
of the New York Branch.*


*I would like to thank all who were
instrumental in nominating me for the
RSCDS Branch Award. Dancing has been
a life-long love affair since I was
introduced to the activity of school
in Scotland. It has afforded me
many wonderful friends in the
global family of Scottish Country dancers.
I'm profoundly humbled and honoured
to have received this award, it will
be treasured for the rest of my days.
A very special heartfelt thanks to all*

*Sincerely
Sheila E. Wilson*

UNICEF thanks the New York Branch

**A record
\$1,800.00
was donated to
UNICEF
this year at
SUMMERDANCE**





unicef
united states fund

125 Maiden Lane
New York, NY 10038
T: 212 688 5523
F: 212 779 1675
www.unicefusa.org

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
44 Mead Rd
Armonk, NY 10504

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, I would like to thank you for your very generous gift of \$1800 received on 6/30/2009, for support to UNICEF's development and relief efforts to assist children and women worldwide.

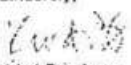
It is wonderful to know that you share our strong commitment to changing the future for the world's children. Now more than ever, the world is seeking committed leadership from all sectors of society to ensure that every child can survive, be protected and develop to his or her full potential in peace and dignity. Through your generous support of UNICEF's work for the world's most vulnerable children, you are providing such exemplary leadership.

The support to UNICEF's work that this gift will make possible means that thousands of children's lives will be improved, and their chances for reaching their full potential will be strengthened. As well, thousands of mothers will also be supported with healthcare and other assistance to ensure their survival and protection. For this we are deeply appreciative.

For more than 60 years, UNICEF has been the world's leading international children's organization and is currently working in more than 150 countries to address the ongoing issues that affect why kids are dying. UNICEF provides lifesaving nutrition, clean water, education, protection and emergency response, saving more young lives than any other humanitarian organization in the world. While millions of children continue to die every year of preventable causes like dehydration, upper respiratory infections and measles, UNICEF, with the support of partnering organizations and donors alike, has the global experience, resources and reach to give children the best hope of survival. As you know, UNICEF is a semi-autonomous agency of the United Nations, supported entirely through voluntary contributions.

We thank you again for supporting UNICEF's vitally important work for children and mothers worldwide, and for being a valued partner to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

Sincerely,



Kristi Burnham
Director, Volunteer and Community Partnerships

Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We have not provided any goods or services in exchange for this gift. Please retain this letter as a record of your contribution.

Whatever it takes to save a child.



Were you there?

NY Branch members (and a former member.....) spotted at Pinewoods, 2009

Pinewoods is notorious for its themed parties.

This year, after the dancing on Monday evening, Oktoberfest was in full swing in the camp house. Two lovely young Fraulein, members of the New York Branch, were joining in the fun.

The day before, at the Famous Lovers "tea" party, a mischievous Cupid was to be seen aiming his arrow at the Owl and the Pussycat in their beautiful pea-green boat.

Hisako Ishigami, not one to miss an event if she can help it, came all the way from Japan to be part of the fun and games. She's seen here with Teresa Perez enjoying a leisurely lunch in the camp's dining room.

Hisako was a regular dancer at the Branch for the three years that she and her husband were living in New York. They returned to Tokyo in March 2008. While she was living in the USA she danced twice at Pawling, twice at TAC, once at St. Andrews and twice at Pinewoods.

July 3rd of this year Hisako and her husband re-



turned to the United States to visit family members in Rhode Island. After a brief holiday in Nova Scotia and Maine, Mr. Ishigami returned to Tokyo and Hisako came to Pinewoods. It was a very pleasant surprise to see her again and have the opportunity to dance with her.

Hisako would very much like to spend some time living in New York again, but her husband's job, and family matters, keep her in Tokyo for the time being. She has two daughters and a son and this coming November is to become a grandmother for the first time. Hisako anticipates that she will be doing a lot of babysitting!

Hisako is now dancing in Tokyo at a regular class that meets once a month, and three or four times a year there is an additional evening class. She told me that she really misses dancing at the New York

Branch with its friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Spending time with her again at Pinewoods made us realize how much we all miss her!

Sue Ronald

New Class structure

The Executive and Teachers' Committees have been concerned recently that we have few new dancers. We are not alone in this. Many RSCDS groups around the world are experiencing an aging and declining membership.

One of the concerns has been the use of the downstairs lunch room for the beginners' class. The floor is hard and the space limited.

We are therefore going to have a **ten week trial period** using only the upstairs room for all dancers.

For the first series (Sept. 17 - Nov. 19) the warm-up will take place as scheduled at 7:20-7:30; 7:30-8:00 will be

work on steps and basic formations. 8:00-8:45 those steps and formations will be incorporated into dances that all can share, interspersed with some more complex step work, formations and dances for intermediate/advanced level. The second half of the evening, 9:00-10:00, will be social dancing.

We stress that this structure is experimental and we welcome your feedback. Chris and Sue Ronald are teaching the first half of the evening with its new structure. Please let them know if you have particular requests for steps, formations or dances to be included. Ellen Sears is the teacher for the second half.

Sister Mary Theresa Dixon and Holy Cross School

Sue Ronald

Have you missed dancing on Thursday evenings? I certainly have! New York Branch members who brave the heat and humidity to come to Holy Cross School during the summer were thwarted in August because the location was being used to make a film. We have now been dancing at the School for over ten years and have always received a friendly smile and warm welcome from the Principal, Sister Mary Theresa Dixon. I recently met Sister and learned more about her religious order, and the history of Holy Cross School.....

The Dominicans, or Order of Preachers (laity, sisters, brothers, priests and contemplative nuns), was founded by Dominic de Guzman in Europe in 1216. Devoted to prayer, study, and the preaching of the Gospel, St. Dominic was intensely involved in the issues of his times, and had a particular sensitivity to the poor. In the 1880s Sister Mary Ann Sammon, a young immigrant inspired by the life of St. Dominic, walked the streets of New York City, gathering orphaned and homeless children. She brought them to her cloistered Dominican convent in New York City. The number of children needing care continued to grow. Eventually, Sister Mary Ann established a home for these children. She began a new congregation of active Dominican Sisters in Blauvelt, New York of which Sister Mary Theresa Dixon is now a member. Blauvelt Dominican Sisters and Associates are committed to continuing Mary Ann Sammon's compassionate presence and ministry to people who are poor and on the



margins of society. While maintaining their commitment to social services, the Blauvelt Dominican Sisters are also teachers, pastoral workers, chaplains, and health care professionals. They serve in schools, parishes, hospitals, community-based agencies and homeless shelters.

Holy Cross Parish was founded in 1852, and the church is the oldest structure on 42nd Street. In the 1850's, when Times Square was still known as Longacre Square, tens of thousands of mostly Irish Catholics lived there and had no place to worship. It was at this time that Archbishop Hughes founded Holy Cross Church to minister to their needs. As the population of the neighborhood and parish exploded, it became necessary to expand. So, between the years 1876 and 1889, the church was enlarged and the Holy Cross School for Boys and Girls was established on West 43rd Street. Today there are 360 girls and boys enrolled in the parish elementary school. The convent was purchased much later on 44th Street for the Dominican Sisters who still administrate the school.

Today, Holy Cross students are a diverse group, representing many ethnic backgrounds and speaking, collectively, 35 differ-

ent languages. Some are middle class, several are from immigrant, poor, working-class and single-parent homes. They come from all five boroughs, traveling 13 different subway lines each day to get to the school, which is known for its nurturing environment.



"The parents know their children are cared for here; that we genuinely want them to succeed," Sister said recently to a New York Post reporter. "We are always looking ahead for them. It's a small enough school that there is a real sense of family and despite coming from different neighborhoods, the children make good friends. It's amazing to see how they care for each other." The Holy Cross graduates, now in high schools across the city, regularly come back to mentor the younger children. "It's not just about how the children do here, or in a particular grade - it's much more global. We need to give them skills, make them well prepared for where they're going when they

leave here. If we can't do that, it's a grave concern to me," said Sister.

We, the RSCDS New York Branch, are very fortunate to be associated with Holy Cross School and Sister Mary Theresa Dixon.



Did anyone discover the identity of this man, whose photograph appeared in last Winter's issue? If you did, you haven't told me! When you are next at the Branch stand outside Sister's office and look up to your right. He is Monsignor Joseph A. McCaffrey, Army Chaplain in the First World War and decorated with both a Silver Star and Croix de Guerre. Also known as "The Bishop of Times Square", he was pastor for 36 years, and chaplain of the New York Police Department for 30 years. Fr. McCaffrey helped convince city officials that the space just off the corner of 43rd Street and 9th was urgently needed for neighborhood children and students of the Holy Cross School, which is why McCaffrey Playground, currently located at the site, is named in his honor. That was not the only thing he did for the children at Holy Cross, however. Sister told me how he was very generous and paid for school uniforms for all the students and every year on his birthday he hosted a big party for the whole school. He encouraged the children to march around and salute him. It took days for the teachers to restore calm and order in their classrooms!

TAKE THE CHALLENGE...
50th ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE
HONORING FREDDY SVERDLOVE



The Branch has received a challenge from two of our members who wish to remain anonymous. These generous members will match contributions which are received before the Jeannie Carmichael Ball for the Auslander Music Fund and for Branch general operating funds, up to a total of \$1,000.

This challenge is to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Branch and to honor the founding teachers, including Freddy Sverdlove.

Help us take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and make your contribution now!

Please fill out the form, make your check payable to RSCDS, New York Branch and bring to class or mail to:

Sheila Wilson
 901 Lexington Avenue, #3S
 New York, NY 10065

RSCDS New York Branch Challenge

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ for The Auslander Music Fund
 Branch general operating funds

Check – payable to RSCDS, New York Branch

Cash (in person only, not by mail)

 Please Print – Name

 Address, City, State, Zip

 Telephone

 Email

RSCDS, New York Branch

www.rscdsnewyork.org

212-849-8282

Dances for our Pre-Season Party, Thursday Sept. 10th, 2009

**THE MACHINE WITHOUT HORSES (J8x32) 3C (4C set)**

- 1- 8 1s set, cast & dance RH across with 3s
 9-16 1s set, cast up & dance LH across with 2s
 17-24 1s followed by 2s dance down, cast up behind 3s, in & dance up to top & 1s cast back to 2nd place
 25-32 2s+1s dance R&L

**THE CRAVEN REEL (R8x32) 3C (4C set)**

- 1- 8 1L followed by partner cast off 2 places & dance RH across with 3s
 9-16 1L followed by partner dance up behind Men to original places & dance RH across with 2s
 17-24 1s+2s+3s dance RSh reels of 3 on own side
 25-32 1L followed by partner cast off 1 place, dance up between 2s cast down round 2M to end 2nd place own side

THE BIRKS OF INVERMAY (S8x32) 3C (4C set)

- 1- 8 1M+2L turn 2H, 1L+2M turn 2H (3 bars) & 1s+2s+3s dance in for...
 9-16 1s+2s+3s Promenade
 17-24 1s cross RH, cast to 2nd place, cross up between 2s & cast to 2nd place
 25-32 2s+1s+3s circle 6H round & back

BRATACH BANA (R8x32) 3C (4C set)

- 1- 8 1s turn RH & cast 1 place, 1s dance LSh round 1st corners to 2nd place opposite side facing 2nd corners
 9-16 1s dance ½ Reel of 3 on the sides & dance ½ Reel of 3 across (1M with 3s at top, 1L with the 2s)
 17-24 1s turn LH, turn 3rd cmrs RH (1st cmr person) & pass RSh to turn 4th cmr RH ending in 2nd pl own side in prom hold with 4th cmr
 25-32 1s+4th cmrs Prom diag across (pass RSh) to diag opp cmr & ½ turn to end 1s in 2nd pl opp side, 1s dance ½ Diag R&L (M up, L dn) to end in 2nd pl

THE HUNTING HORN (J8x32) 3C (4C set)

- 1- 8 1s cast 1 place, cross RH, cast below 3s & dance up middle to 2nd place BtoB in centre for Double Triangles
 9-16 1s dance Double Triangles & end facing 2nd corners
 17-24 1s dance diagonal reels of 4 with 2nd corners, pass partner LSh to face 1st corners
 25-32 1s dance reels of 4 with 1st corners, pass partner LSh to end in 2nd place facing out to start next sequence

MY FRIEND JOE (S8x32) 3C (4C set)

- 1- 8 1s+2s dance the Bourrel & end facing up for Allemande : -
 1M+2L set advancing, ¾ turn 2H & twirl to end BtoB (Lady facing up & Man down) **while** partners chase anticlockwise ½ way
 set & turn RH to face up for Allemande
 9-16 2s+1s dance Allemande (5 bars) & dance into middle M turning partners under their right arms to face up, 1s cast & 2s lead up
 17-24 2s+1s+3s Adv+Ret 1 step, cross RH, 1s+3s circle 4H round to left
 25-32 2s+1s+3s Adv+Ret 1 step, cross LH, 2s+1s circle 4H round to **right**

THE GOLDEN APPLE JIG (J8x40) 3C (4C set)

- 1- 8 1s dance down below 3s, cast up to 2nd place own side & turn LH 1¼ times to face 1st corners
 9-16 1s dance Hello-Goodbye setting & end in centre facing 3rd corners (partner's 1st corner)
 17-24 1s dance full diagonal reel of 4 with 1st corners & pass partner LSh to face own 2nd corners
 25-32 1s dance full diagonal reel of 4 with 2nd corners & end in 2nd place own side
 33-40 Circle 6H round & back.

**MISS HADDEN'S REEL (J8x32) 3C (4C set)**

- 1- 8 1s+2s+3s circle 6H round & back
 9-16 1s set & cast, 2s+1s+3s all turn RH
 17-24 2s+1s+3s dance Allemande
 25-32 3s+1s+2s Adv+Ret, 3s cast to 3rd place **while** 1s+2s lead up
 1s casting to 2nd place

FLOWERS OF EDINBURGH (R8x32) 3C (4C set)

- 1- 8 1L followed by partner casts below 3s, 1L crosses & dances up behind Men **as** 1M dances up centre to 1st places on opposite side & 1s set
 9-16 1M followed by partner repeat above Fig & set in own places
 17-24 1s lead down the middle & up
 25-32 1s+2s dance Poussette

SUGAR CANDIE (S8x32) 3C (4C set)

- 1- 8 1s set & cast 1 place, cross passing LSh & cast RSh round their 1st corner into centre ending BtoB (Lady facing up, Man down)
 9-16 1L circle left with 2s & 1M with 3s, turn to face partner & set, ¾ turn partner 2H to end facing 1st corners
 17-24 1s turn 1st corner RH, partner LH, 2nd corner RH, partner LH & end facing 1st corners
 25-32 1s dance Reel of 3 on opposite sides passing 1st corner LSh & cross RH to 2nd place own sides

**CATCH THE WIND (R8x32) 3C (4C set)**

- 1- 8 1s set, cast 1 place & dance ½ Fig of 8 round 2s
 9-16 1s set twice with 1L turning to face out, 1L followed by partner casts up & dances down the middle 1L to face 3M **while** 1M faces 2M
 17-24 1s RSh reels of 3 across (1M with 2s & 1L with 3s)
 25-32 1L followed by partner dances down cast up round 3M & crosses to end in 2nd place on own sides, 1s turn RH (4 bars)

FOLLOW ME HOME (J8x32) 3C (4C set)

- 1- 8 1s set & cross RH, cast 1 place & turn LH (ending in a diagonal line LH to partner & RH with 1st corner)
 9-16 1s Balance-in-Line with 1st cmrs, ½ turn cmrs & 1s followed by cmrs chase cl'wise to 3rd cmr (pstrn) & 1s dance in to give LH to 2nd cmrs
 17-24 1s Balance-in-Line with 2nd cmrs, ½ turn cmrs & 1s followed by cmrs chase anticl'wise to 4th cmr (pstrn) & 1s end in 2nd pl opp sides
 25-32 3s+1s+2s dance ½ reels of 3 on the sides 1s giving LSh to 2nd corner (pstrn), set & cross RH

CULLA BAY (S4x32) Sq.Set

- 1- 4 1s & 3s advance & ½ turn opposite partner RH, twirl & dance out to opposite side
 5- 8 1s & 3s chase ¼ round set cl'wise & dance in passing 2s/4s RSh curving in to face 2s/4s **as** 2s & 4s repeat bars 1-4 & turn right about to face 1s/3s
 9-16 All dance parallel reels of 4 across set
 17-24 2s+1s **also** 4s+3s circle 4H once round to left, set & dance RH across ½ way
 25-32 2s+4s in centre, dance LH across once round, 2s & 4s dance out through sides passing opp partner RSh & chase round set cl'wise to next pl

SHIFTIN' BOBBINS (R8x32) 3C (4C set)

- 1- 8 1s cross RH to double triangle position with 2s+3s & set, 1s cast up to top & dance down until they are between 2s & 3s
 9-16 1L dances RH across with 2M+3M **while** 1M dances LH across with 2L+3L, 1s followed by 2s+3s dance down centre
 17-24 3s followed by 2s+1s dance up & 3s+2s cast off to places, 1L dances LH across with 2M+3M **while** 1M dances RH across with 2L+3L
 25-32 1s dance up to top & cast down to 2nd place opposite side, 1s dance ½ Fig of 8 around 2s to end in 2nd place on own sides



From the start, publication of the New York Branch *Scottish Country Dancer* has been timed to fit the dance calendar. Since the early 1970s, the *SCD* has generally appeared four or five times during the season between August/September and Spring. All major events have thus been covered—the J.C. Ball, Burns Night, the AGM, and Pawling Weekend—together with other news that has kept the dance world spinning along. As in years past, we head into a new season of Scottish country dancing at the Branch with a fall issue. Here’s a look at some of the ways the *SCD* recorded the opening of a new season in former years:

September 1971

J.K. [editor Joe Kluger] wrote: “The advent of a new dance season brings new faces or old faces new to us. At this time we get our usual complement of true Basics. Sometimes we get Intermediates, not too often we get an Advanced Dancer. And then we get those who think they’re Advanced Dancers....” That same issue held news of a Saturday October workshop to be conducted by “the inimitable Miss Milligan,” followed by a tea dance and refreshments. Annual dues were announced: “\$1.00 pays for membership in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for one year. See Olga Meyer and pay Olga Meyer.”



September 1974

The headlines: “Friar-Wiltshire Nuptials a Gala Event of the Scottish Social Season.” Emma Friar and Les Wiltshire had tied the knot in June, but the excitement continued to light up September. At the reception, “a demonstration set performed the Fireside Reel, John McAlpin, and the Wiltshire Rant, which was especially composed by Freddy Sverdlove for the occasion.”

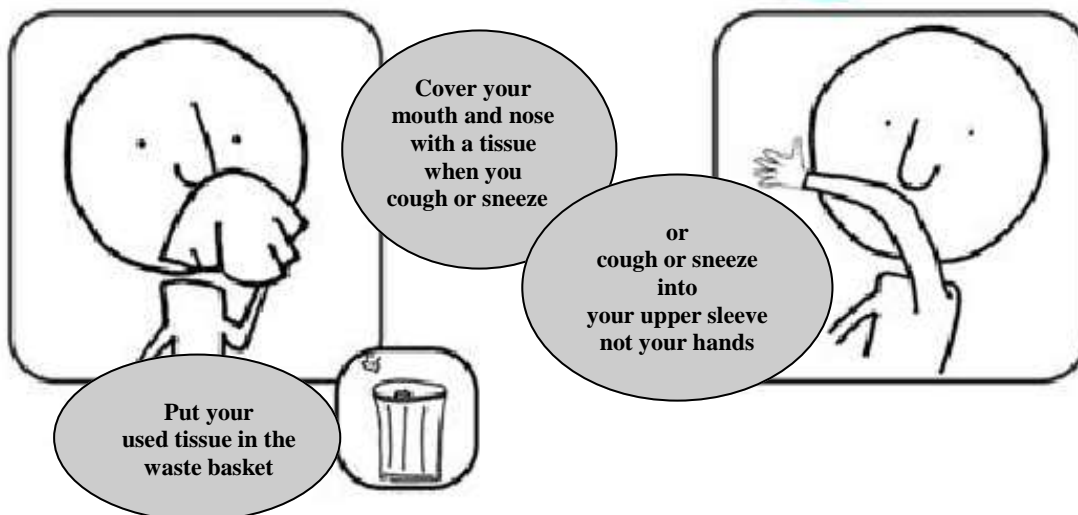
The new dance year got into gear with a “Stretch-your-Legs” party at the YMCA, organized by Joe Kluger, Bernie Weisner, and Norman Shimkin. “Bernie contributed a ‘Rice Imperiale’ and a ‘Chocolate Rum Mousse’ that elevated the refreshments to a gourmet level. Bea Polisson was hostess and Bernie and Freddy Sverdlove and Joan Treble called the dances for a successful evening.”

Zooming ahead to August 2002, we read of big news for the coming season in the *SCD* headlines: “Goodbye Holiday Hills,” “Hello Circle Lodge.” The Holiday Hills Conference Center, in Pawling, NY, where Pawling weekend had been held since its inception, was being sold. With the important 40th Pawling Weekend coming up in May 2003, co-chairs Ellen Sears and Sally Clayton got right on the job and found an alternative. Dancers looked forward all year to kicking up their heels on a wood dance floor beside beautiful Sylvan Lake.

And what’s ahead for 2009-2010? Read all about it in this September issue of the *Scottish Country Dancer*!

Stay healthy this Autumn.....

.....and help your fellow dancers to stay healthy too.....





2009 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, one of the world's best-known and best loved poets. This is the third and last in our series of articles about Burns.

Robert Burns, and traditional songs and dances

With the publication of his first book, *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, in 1776, Robert Burns had achieved instant celebrity, as a great "peasant-poet." Shortly afterwards, he and his wife, Jean Armour, settled in Ellisland, where Burns was given a commission as an excise officer.

At the same time, he was commissioned to write lyrics for *The Melodies of Scotland*, to which he contributed over 100 songs. Burns also began to collect folk songs for an anthology entitled *The Scots Musical Museum*, and he spent final twelve years of his life editing and imitating traditional folk songs for this volume and for *Select Collec-*

tion of Original Scottish Airs for the Voice. These volumes were essential in preserving parts of Scotland's cultural heritage.

Altogether, Burns composed lyrics for over three hundred songs, celebrating love, friendship, work, and drink with often hilarious and tender sympathy. They include such well-known songs as "My Luvie is Like a Red Red Rose" and "Auld Lang Syne".

Burns described how he had to master singing the tune before he composed the words:

"My way is: I consider the poetic sentiment, correspondent to my idea of the musical expression, then choose my theme, begin one stanza, when that is composed - which is generally the most difficult part of the business - I walk out, sit down now and then, look out for objects in nature around me that are in unison or harmony with the cogitations of my fancy and workings of my bosom, humming every now and then the air with the verses I have framed. when I feel my Muse beginning to jade, I retire to the solitary fireside of my study, and there commit my effusions to paper, swinging, at intervals, on the hind-legs of my elbow chair, by way of calling forth my own critical strictures, as my pen goes. - Robert Burns."

As Scottish Country Dancers, we dance to many of the tunes used by Burns, often without realizing it. Burns-related tunes are specially popular at annual Burns' suppers, of course. A Scottish dance musician, Elke Baker, has estimated that with some careful research and planning, she could use Burns-related tunes for 60 to 75 per cent of a dance programme without compromising the quality for dancing.

Beyond the obvious ones, where the dance name and the title of Burns poem is identical, such as The Lea Rigg, or The Merry Lads of Ayr, there are many dances and many more dance tunes associated with Burns. A familiar example is: Poem title "The Rigs o' Barley", tune is "Corn Rigs are bonie", and the RSCDS dance is Corn Rigs.

Some are less obvious. "On a Bank of Flowers" (to its own tune) you would not identify as a dance unless you knew that "On a Bank of Flowers" is the title tune for Kingussie Flower. Similarly, Duncan Grey is a Burns poem and a popular SCD tune, but did you know that the related RCDS dance is 'Ha! Ha! The Woonin' o' it'.

So, while there's not much evidence that Burns was interested in dancing, even as dancers we have plenty to thank him for!

Chris Ronald.

The Rigs O' Barley 1783

Song

Tune: Corn Rigs are bonie.

*It was upon a Lammas night,
When corn rigs are bonie,
Beneath the moon's unclouded light,
I held awa to Annie;
The time flew by, wi' tentless heed,
Till, 'tween the late and early,
Wi' sma' persuasion she agreed
To see me thro' the barley.*

*Corn rigs, an' barley rigs,
An' corn rigs are bonie:
I'll ne'er forget that happy night,
Amang the rigs wi' Annie.*

*The sky was blue, the wind was still,
The moon was shining clearly;
I set her down, wi' right good will,
Amang the rigs o' barley:
I ken't her heart was a' my ain;
I lov'd her most sincerely;*

*I kiss'd her owre and owre again,
Amang the rigs o' barley.
Corn rigs, an' barley rigs, &c.*

*I lock'd her in my fond embrace;
Her heart was beating rarely:
My blessings on that happy place,
Amang the rigs o' barley!
But by the moon and stars so bright,
That shone that hour so clearly!
She aye shall bless that happy night
Amang the rigs o' barley.
Corn rigs, an' barley rigs, &c.*

*I hae been blythe wi' comrades dear;
I hae been merry drinking;
I hae been joyfu' gath'rin gear;
I hae been happy thinking:
But a' the pleasures e'er I saw,
Tho' three times doubl'd fairly,
That happy night was worth them a',
Amang the rigs o' barley.
Corn rigs, an' barley rigs, &c.*

Classes of the RSCDS NEW YORK BRANCH

	<i>Location</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>email</i>
New York City	Holy Cross School 332 West 43rd Street (bet. 8th & 9th Aves.) NYC	Thursdays, 7:30 PM	Sheila Wilson 212-849-8282	info@rscdsnewyork.org
Brooklyn	Homecrest Presbyterian Church Avenue T & E. 15th Street Brooklyn NY	Tuesdays, 7:30 PM	Nancy Pryce 718-376-8303 Dave Goldberg 516-295-2327	Alectum@aol.com grebdlog64@yahoo.com
Nassau County	Temple Tikvah 3315 Hillside Avenue New Hyde Park NY (1/2 block west of Herricks Rd.)	Thursdays, 7:30 PM	Ann Smith 631-271-5740 Dave Goldberg 516-295-2327	hplever@nyc.rr.com grebdlog64@yahoo.com
Smithtown Long Island	Epenetus Smith Brush Barn Route 25 East of Route 111 Smithtown	Tuesdays, 7:30 PM	Ann Smith 631-271-5740	

www.rscdsnewyork.org

New York Branch Hot Line is: 212-849-8282 - Call for up-to-date info.

Sept 10	Pre-Season Party	Dec 5	Drewry Night, Brooklyn
Sept 13	Alpine Boat Basin, NJ	Dec 17	Holiday Party
Sept 17	1st series begins	Dec 31	Westchester Hogmanay
Nov 7/8	Jeannie Carmichael Ball	Jan 21, 2010	Burns Night
Nov 19	End of First Series Party		
Nov 26	NO CLASSES		
			<i>*Winter Newsletter will be published end December 2009*</i>

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In order to get the RSCDS magazine "SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCER" from the headquarters of the RSCDS in Edinburgh you must pay your RSCDS membership by the end of September. You will get two issues for the year, one of which will contain dances.

Individual subscription for this newsletter is \$7 per year.

Make check payable to RSCDS New York Branch. Send \$7:00 (newsletter only) to

Membership Secretary, Sheila Wilson, 901 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10065.

Correspondence, including announcements of dance events for your area, should be sent to the editor: Sue Ronald, 605 Chase Court, Edgewater, NJ 07020, tel 201 941 5821, email address: info@rscdsnewyork.org or sjr280@gmail.com.