



# Scottish Country Dancer NY

From our President, Tom Marshall

## *Dancing...the common denominator...*

As a teenager growing up, I was often encouraged to take up golf. "You'll be able to socialize in any circles, you can do it anywhere in the world and you'll make valuable business contacts...it's a common denominator..." an uncle once said to me. But I don't like golf. In fact, having traveled to St. Andrews a few years ago, standing on one of the links, gazing out at the ocean on a cold, rainy March day, I'm amazed anyone even came up with the sport. Seems to me, its only purpose is as a prelude to a warm fire and a wee dram of scotch afterwards. I did try it...once. It was at a somewhat posh course in Rye, NY, at which I had no business being (one of those business contacts). Needless to say, the business deal went south, and I was asked, politely, to not come back until I had honed my skills. Seems golf requires practice, patience and diligence; the same skills required of Scottish country dancing.....my common denominator.

It never ceases to amaze me how many different kinds of folks I meet dancing. And I've learned that dancers are dancers, that share a common bond, no matter what specific kind of dancing we do.....Scottish Country, English, Ballroom, Square, Swing,

Folk.....we simply have to dance. And, like golf, you can do it all over the world. And yes, I've even made a few business contacts, dancing over the years, though the special friendships I've forged have much more meaning to me.

*"In May of 1959, New York became the second U.S. branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society"*

As we begin a new year, I encourage everyone to dance more; any kind; anywhere. And as we dance, reflect on the significance of 2009... ..the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the New York Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. In May of 1959, New York became the second U.S. branch of the RSCDS, after Boston. Spearheaded by a group of local Scottish dance enthusiasts, the group was encouraged by Jeannie Carmichael, who was traveling from Boston to teach the group. It is fitting that this year's Jeannie Carmichael Ball this Fall will be the culmination of months of Anniversary celebrations. Check your local listings and our website for on-going events to

mark this very special occasion. We've come such a long way since that core group began, 50 years ago, so please promote this significant milestone at all upcoming events, and encourage everyone to join in the celebration of this, our Golden Anniversary.....

***Take partners.....***



Dinna play golf in your kilt



**Don't miss the NY Branch's BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION**

**on**

**Thursday, January 22nd.**

**Entertainment  
Ceilidh dancing**

**Scottish Country Dancing**

**Haggis, neeps and tatties**

**and GREAT FUN!**

## Upcoming events

**1950's Dinner Dance**  
 March 28th, 2009  
 6pm  
 Dinner, Drinks and Dancing  
 \$45  
**Costume Party**  
 Ukrainian East Village  
 Restaurant  
 140 2nd Ave  
 Contact Kachins 917 779 8579  
 or look for flyers for more details

*Don your  
 50's attire  
 and  
 dance the night away  
 in Manhattan!*

**Sunday, April 5, 2009**

**Irish American Hall in Mineola**

Formal Scottish attire is recommended and encouraged

Entertainment:

Scottish country dance demonstration

Scottish dancing for all

Address to the Haggis

Burns poems and songs

Tam O'Shanter slide show

Dinner Buffet:

Haggis Scottish meat pies and sausage rolls

Mashed tatties (potatoes)

Mashed neeps (turnips)

Miscellaneous salads

Dessert

Tea, coffee, soda (bring your own bottle)

Cost: \$25 per person

Reservations with prepaid ticket only.

Tickets will not be available at the door

Please note this is not a dinner dance --

It is a traditional celebration of Robert Burns life.

Call Peter Burnside at 516-385-4107 for tickets or send

check to

Peter Burnside at 303 Wellington Road, Mineola, NY

11501,

or e-mail [pburnsidesr@hotmail.com](mailto:pburnsidesr@hotmail.com)

Watch the Mac Duff website at [www.liscots.org](http://www.liscots.org) for date

*Sponsored  
 by  
 The Long Island  
 Scottish  
 Country Dancers  
 and  
 Clan MacDuff  
 Foresters*



RSCDS  
50  
New York Branch

RSCDS  
50  
New York Branch

## R.S.C.D.S. New York Branch Pawling Weekend

Circle Lodge, Sylvan Lake  
May 15—17, 2009

**The New York Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
invites you to our  
46th Annual Spring Weekend  
at Circle Lodge, Hopewell Junction, NY.**

It will begin with a buffet supper at 6:00 PM on Friday, May 15th,  
and end at 3:15 PM on Sunday, May 17th.

We are delighted to have Pat Coyle of Niagara Falls, ON  
Eric Finley of Ayr, Scotland  
and Terry Harvey of Newtown Square, PA as our teachers.

We will have the exciting music of Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent  
at our

Saturday night Highland Ball, our Friday night Welcome Dance,  
and our classes!

Jim Stevenson-Mathews of The New York Branch will play for classes as well.

Saturday and Sunday classes will be at the

Experienced beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced levels.

Makeup of the classes will be subject to the discretion of the teachers.

Please be modest in estimating your dancing ability.

All of our teachers are excellent,

and each class will be a marvelous learning experience.

Make checks payable to **RSCDS NY Branch** and mail form and check to:  
Sheila Wilson, 901 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10065  
Telephone: 212-744-1470

Please consider an additional contribution to support the weekend

**See over for further details and application form.....**

**The charge for the weekend is US\$325.00 for superior rooms, \$250.00 for shared facility rooms.**

These prices include tuition, room, board, and gratuities.

**Scholarships are available. Check box in application for information.**

Please make full payment with your application.

Please use the form on below, and mail early.

Full refunds will be made for cancellations received before April 15, 2009.

After April 15<sup>th</sup>, \$80 will be deducted from your refund if we are unable to fill your position.

No refunds for cancellations after May 10<sup>th</sup>; thank you for your contribution.

**Individual charges for persons not attending the full weekend:**

Welcome Dance and Dinner \$70.00

Saturday Classes, Meals and Highland Ball \$110.00

Highland Ball and Dinner \$80.00 ; Highland Ball only (no meals) \$60.00

Saturday or Sunday Classes and Meals \$50.00

**\*\*\*DANCE CLOTHING BAZAAR AT LOUNGE/LIBRARY\*\*\***

**Please bring dance-related attire that is clean and in good condition to be sold at the Pawling Bazaar.**

Gowns, skirts, vests, shirts, blouses, cummerbunds, jabots, ties, jackets, kilts, gloves, sashes, tiaras, etc.

The Lounge/Library will be open from 3:00 to 6:00pm Friday to accept articles for sale; no browsing allowed until the Bazaar opens at 8:30am on Saturday. All unsold articles must be retrieved by 2:00pm Sunday when the Bazaar closes. A minimum of 50% of proceeds must be donated to The Joan Treble Scholarship Fund. The Fund aims to promote Scottish Country Dancing in the New York area by encouraging dancers to improve their skills through participation in workshops and training courses.

**SPONSORSHIP OF WEEKEND EVENTS**

Sherry party \$\_\_\_\_\_

Champagne party \$\_\_\_\_\_

Welcome kits \$\_\_\_\_\_

Printing \$\_\_\_\_\_

Dance Booklets \$\_\_\_\_\_

**FULL PAYMENT REQUIRED WITH 2009 APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you do not want the above information included on our guest list

Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ US \$325.00 Superior Room with private bath  
 \_\_\_\_\_ US \$250.00 Economy Room with shared bath  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution \$10 \$20 \$50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like as my roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Branch and have been Scottish Country Dancing for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

I would rate myself:  
 Experienced Beginner (at least one year Scottish Dancing) \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarships available: Check here \_\_\_\_\_ for information.**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kilts and Ghillies Ball

**SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**25 APRIL 2009**

|                             |               |                                   |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Blue Bonnets                | 32 J 2        | Book 3/5                          |
| The Shores of Solway        | 32 S 3 R      | Goldring - 10 Social              |
| The CDonkey CDixer          | 32 R 3v3 RTR  | San Francisco 2 (E. Vandegrift)   |
| Pelorus Jack                | 32 J 3        | Book 41/1 (Skelton)               |
| The Haggis Tree *           | 32 S 2        | J. Dneung - leaflet 1983          |
| Sgurr Alasdair              | 32 R 5        | R. Goldring - Social Dances 2002  |
| Roaring Jelly               | 32 J 3        | H. Foss - Glendaroch 76           |
| The Singing Sands           | 32 S 3 sec    | B. Peidrey - The Silver Rose Book |
| Dumbarcon Drums             | 32 R 3        | Book 5/2                          |
| Intermission                |               |                                   |
| A Jig for Sally Peavine     | 32 J 3        | T. Glasspool - An Inch to Dance   |
| Gang the Same Gate          | 32 S 3        | Book 36/4                         |
| The Royal Uacht Britanna    | 32 H 3        | Book 43/3                         |
| Rockside                    | 96 J 4 square | R. Goldring - Social Dances 2002  |
| Richard the Third *         | 32 S 3        | T. Glasspool - The 7 Year Inch    |
| Lasse Uí the Uellow Coate   | 32 slow R 3   | Book 8/10                         |
| Duke of Atholl's Reel       | 32 J 2        | Book 16/3                         |
| Jean CDartin of Aberdeen    | 32 S 3 sec    | 3 Dances 2006                     |
| Wind that Shakes the Barley | 32 R 3        | Duchie - 8 Dances                 |

\* Not recommended for beginners.

## MUSIC BY

### THE MARY MORRISON SCOTTISH TRIO

ALICE BACKER, MARY ABDIL & JENNY WINSHIP

Tickets: \$35 per person (\$40 after 4/10)

Contact: Mollie Keller  
1944 Huntington Turnpike  
Trumbull, CT 06611



Do you recognize this man?

His identity  
will be revealed  
in the next issue of  
Scottish Country Dancer NY  
to come out in  
April!



The Scottish Dancer Publishers

## Branch member Mary Zagami has a “one time fun experience”

*Mary recalls a recent adventure:-*

“My daughter-in-law works for an advertising company and one of their clients is Scottish Tourism. When my son picked me up at the airport after my vacation in Croatia he asked if I would like to make \$100 the next day by being in a Scottish advertisement. They wanted OLD Scottish faces.

Well I certainly had the qualifications so I thought what can I lose? So next day jet lagged, adding to the description, I made my way to a loft on Bleecker St. All these young energetic people were running around positioning cameras, lighting equipment etc and taking pictures of a male model. There was food available and some people sitting around none looking Scottish or particularly old to me. I found out later that none of them had even visited Scotland except one young lass.

Anyway I verified I was in the right place and sat on a couch and speaking to the others found most of them belonged to AFTRA and did bit parts in commercials and movies. It was all very interesting but I felt a little out of place. Anyway now it was our turn to be background for a picture. The director told us to pretend we were looking at fireworks with the appropriate oohing and aahing. I felt a little silly at first especially as they had me in front so I imagined Edinburgh Castle fireworks which are really amazing. Don't ask how many pictures were taken with

people being moved around.

Eventually he brought out an old picture to give us an idea and it

actually was the Edinburgh Castle fireworks so I was in the right frame of mind. When they were satisfied everyone was situated correctly - I was still up front - it was time to take the pictures they would choose for the Ad. Now the director said I'm going to play some music to get you in the mood. I thought great something like BOBBY BROWN will really get me motivated so what does he blare out JAMES BROWN singing Sex Machine but you know I had to laugh so I guess it had the right effect for me. Good thing it wasn't a commercial with background music.

After they were satisfied I was given \$100 and to tell the truth I would have done it for nothing as it was a one time fun experience.”



Mary's 6 week old great grandson  
Jonathan

## Dora the Explorer?



Mike doing his usual  
stint at the bar,  
Pawling 2008

For several years now  
Mike Dora  
has been part of the crew in the annual  
Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade  
in New York City.

This year he was assigned the character  
Dora the Explorer;  
no great surprise as his work with  
United Nations Peacekeeping operations  
takes him to all parts of the world!



## John Drewry Night in Brooklyn

The Brooklyn Class held its annual John Drewry night on the first Saturday in December, 2008. For the second time, we tried an “all familiar” program, with dances most experienced dancers have done at some time. Not to say that everyone knew all the dances cold, but at least the experienced dancers knew most of them well enough to help out some less experienced newcomers. We walked through a good number of the dances, as usual. The only new dance was *Roy Goldring*, originally called *Roy's Reel*, memorializing Roy, who passed away a short time ago. It is John's only new dance in a couple of years.

We managed to get through 18 of the 20 dances listed (including three extras) and at the end the heartiest of us started to do the 5-couple *Midnight Oil*. We were hampered mostly by the **midnight hour** at which we started. We'll try to do more intensive walk-throughs of *Midnight Oil*, *Dignity and Grace* and *The Earl of Mansfield* again next year, but much earlier in the evening.

This year's Drewry Night was pretty well attended. We even had dancers from central and western Connecticut and southern New Jersey. (We can't really claim a visitor from outer space just because Kachina came with her young son, Orion.)

Delicious refreshments were provided by the members of the Brooklyn class and even by some out-of-towners. In addition to the home-made dishes, our Josephine brought many delicious dishes from her Chinatown restaurant, Shanghai Cuisine.

*Let us know  
if you would like  
a particular dance or two  
included  
on our  
December 2009  
program!*

Our Brooklyn class, led by Nancy Pryce, may be small, but our quality is very high. We can tackle Drewry dances with aplomb, and thanks to Nancy's weekly attention to technique, with a modicum of style. A high percentage of us support the balls and parties of other groups. Even some of our newer dancers have attended the Pawling weekend, the Jeannie Carmichael Ball, the Island Fling, and the New Haven Ball, all with happy results! (Seventy percent of our group attended the JC Ball this year.)

We hope to see many more of you at Drewry

Night, 2009. We can open our adjoining room to accommodate everyone. Let us know if you would like a particular dance or two included on our December 2009 program!

Thanks to all who provided the refreshments, to those who provided hospitality, and to all those who came. Special thanks to Nancy Pryce for the wonderful selection of music for the dances and to Dave Goldberg who did a super job of talking through the dances.



**Nancy Pryce**

## Orion Rafalovitch celebrates his first birthday



At the New York Branch with Tom Marshall, Branch President (below) and on the following Monday at Scotia when Chris Ronald (right) gave him a dance he had written for the occasion—“Orion's Dance”.



## The Jeannie Carmichael Ball, November 2008



The Jeannie Carmichael Ball 2008 was a very enjoyable occasion. Seen here are piper Iain Burns leading the Grand March and, left, the Music Makars who provided wonderful music for both the Ball and the Sunday Brunch. Special thanks go to Teresa Perez, our tireless Ball chair, seen above with husband Louis and Co-Chair Brian Percival with his wife Marianne as they head the Grand March.

## Auld Lang Syne

As anyone who attended this year's Jeannie Carmichael Ball knows, this is perhaps the most dazzling event on the New York Branch's calendar, celebrating the pleasures of Scottish dancing and music and the spirit of reunion and friendship. It is difficult to imagine the Branch calendar without the J.C. Ball, but it took fifteen years after the Branch was founded in 1959 for dancers to take on the considerable challenge of organizing this event.

A banner headline in the *Scottish Country Dancer* for November 1974 conveys the excitement this new undertaking generated:

Carmichael Ball, Highlight of Year  
Stan Hamilton's Brilliant Return

"Amid the cheers and plaudits of 185 happy and enthusiastic dancers, Stan and his Flying Scotsmen staged a grandiloquent return to Scottish Dance Time in New York, after a seven-year absence, at the Armenian Cathedral in honor of Jeannie Carmichael, Nov. 16, sponsored by the N.Y. Branch RSCDS, the Brooklyn affiliate, Scotia Dancers and Westchester SCDS.

The perfect co-ordination of all working committees on logistics spelled out a delightful evening of sherry, dinner and dance time.... and all expressed a hope that this event should be repeated every year."

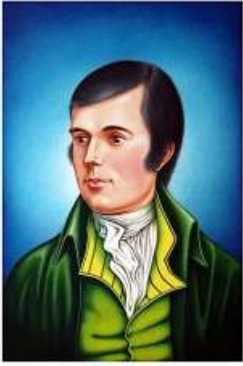
Hopes for a repetition were fulfilled the following November, when once again the Jeannie Carmichael Ball was held at the Armenian Cathedral, at 34<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Headlines reported "Carmichael Ball + Hamilton = Success." Already the event was attracting dancers from other centers, including Montreal, Massachusetts, Washington, and Virginia. By the third J. C. Ball in November 1976, the newsletter report, written by Catherine McLoughlin and Sheila Wilson, was of "ecstatic dancing," and Stan Hamilton and his Flying Scotsmen received such an ovation that Stan responded "perhaps he ought to pay the RSCDS for the privilege".

Early J. C. Balls were produced by committees studded with names of dancers still going strong: Sheila Wilson (registration, ticket distribution, decorations, hospitality), Katie Rule (prizes), Doris Weller (after parties, programs), Les and Emma Wiltshire (refreshments, sherry parties), and Freddy Sverdlove (weekend hospitality, programs). Katie, Freddy, Gordon and Naomi Lasher, and Ed Abdill were among those who did the talk-throughs.

And the price of all this gaiety? In 1978, the fee was \$16.50 per person!

*Anne Lowenthal, NY Branch archivist*

## Robert Burns 1759—1796



This year, 2009, is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Rabbie Burns. In each edition of the newsletter there will be a short article about him. This issue outlines his humble begin-

ning and rise to fame, the Spring issue will focus on his philosophy, and our Autumn issue will explore further his poetry and the dances it has inspired.

Robert Burns is one of the most famous characters in Scottish cultural history. His importance is immense, not only in terms of his fascinating story and his work.....but as a living tradition, carried from generation to generation throughout the world. Everyone, everywhere, who joins in the celebration of Scotland, Scottish Heritage or Scottish Culture, will witness references to Robert Burns.

Robert Burns was born on 25th January 1759, in the tiny village of Alloway, Ayrshire, near to the town of Ayr on the west coast of Scotland. His father, William, was an extremely poor man and in 1750 had moved to the area in search of work, which he found at Doonholm market garden. He met and married Agnes Broun, a local girl, and built a small cottage at the farm. (The cottage, now renamed "Burns Cottage", still stands to this day and is a key focal point for tourists & visitors from all over the world). Robert Burns (often now referred to as "Rabbie") was born in this sparse little

cottage. Life was extremely harsh and the farm was not succeeding. As a small child he was to work long hours with his father, and many evenings were spent huddled round the fire listening to his mother's stories and his father reading from the bible.

Burns died on 21st July, 1796 aged 37 at Dumfries in the south of Scotland. His rise to fame began in July 1786 when at the age of 27, his first work was published by John Wilson at Kilmarnock in Ayrshire, entitled "Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect". Whilst this book (now known famously as "The Kilmarnock Edition") was the catalyst for his celebrity status, it was far from being the sole

contributing factor. The simple unbound book (which was limited to only 612 copies), covered in unassuming "plain blue wrappers", was to reach the socialites of Edinburgh, where it was met with curious wonder. "Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect" was considered to be one of the greatest poetical collections ever written.

Its appeal was obvious not only to the educated, but importantly, to the common man just like Burns himself.

Burns' work is the continuing story of an ordinary Scotsman, his background, his encounters, his observations & thoughts. His poems & letters give a detailed account of the life & times, culture & politics of the day. His words still ring true today within the Scottish Nation and rouse the great passions for which Scots are famously known, at home and abroad.

At our Burns Night on January 22nd we will be treated to a recital of "Address to a Haggis" - one of the most regularly celebrated of Burns' poems.....

***There's threesome reels,  
there's foursome reels,  
There's hornpipes and  
strathspeys, man,  
But the ae best dance  
e'er cam to the land  
Was 'The Deil's awa'  
wi' th' Exciseman'***

***Robert Burns***

### **Address To A Haggis**

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,  
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!  
Aboon them a' yet tak your place,  
Painch, tripe, or thairm:  
Weel are ye wordy o'a grace  
As lang's my arm.*

*The groaning trencher there ye fill,  
Your hurdies like a distant hill,  
Your pin was help to mend a mill  
In time o' need,  
While thro' your pores the dew's distil  
Like amber bead.*

*His knife see rustic Labour dight,  
An' cut you up wi' ready sleight,  
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,  
Like ony ditch;  
And then, O what a glorious sight,  
Warm-reekin', rich!*

*Then, horn for horn, they stretch an'  
strive:  
Deil tak the hindmost! on they drive,  
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes belyve  
Are bent like drums;  
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,  
Bethankit! hums.*

*Is there that owre his French ragout  
Or olio that wad staw a sow,  
Or fricassee wad make her spew  
Wi' perfect sconner,  
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view  
On sic a dinner?*

*Poor devil! see him owre his trash,  
As feckles as wither'd rash,  
His spindle shank, a guid whip-lash;  
His nieve a nit;  
Thro' bloody flood or field to dash,  
O how unfit!*

*But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,  
The trembling earth resounds his tread.  
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,  
He'll mak it whissle;  
An' legs an' arms, an' hands will sned,  
Like taps o' trissle.*

*Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,  
And dish them out their bill o' fare,  
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware  
That jaups in luggies;  
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer  
Gie her a haggis!*



## “Gone but not forgotten”

### Walter Paton

April 14, 1911—October 28th, 2008



Walter was a member of the RSCDS New York Branch for many years and a well-known and loved dancer and teacher in the New York area. News of his recent death at his residence, Foxley Home in Scotland, saddened many who remember his warmth and enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing.

Ann Hankins echoes the thoughts of many as she writes.....

“The Scottish Dance world has lost a great friend and supporter in the death of Walter Payton, but Heaven is probably a lot more fun since his arrival there.

I met Walter the first night I came to the Branch in February of 1978, a total stranger, knowing no one, and nothing about Scottish Country dancing. He was so friendly, danced with me, and made me feel really welcome. I had such a good time that I came back the next week, and here I am, 30 years later, still dancing and loving it.

Walter’s enthusiasm and encouragement was felt by many, especially during that first “summer dancing” class we had at Donnie Simon’s church. At those classes, a bunch of us advanced beginners/beginning intermediate dancers mastered more difficult dances so that by the time the new season had started at the Branch, we had confidence in our dancing which

helped us learn more quickly and enjoy it even more. Walter loved Scottish dancing and nothing made him happier than sharing his enthusiasm with other dancers.

Walter was not only a friend in the dance community, but a very good friend outside the dance world. He shared his love of music with many, and I treasure the times we went to concerts together. He knew all sorts of wonderful opportunities to hear great music in NYC and was generous with his knowledge.

He was truly a magical man and one of the kindest persons I have ever known. I’m sure there are many dancers who could share countless stories of Walter’s influence in their lives. His energy and enthusiasm for life was contagious, and he was loved by many, many people, myself included.

Walter has been missed here for many years since his return to Glasgow, and will always be remembered lovingly in many hearts. It was my blessing to know him and be his friend.”

### Harry Matthews

July 3, 1926—November 24, 2008

Harry died suddenly on November 24th 2008 in New York. His obituary reads:-

“.....Harry was an avid researcher into all things Scottish both here and in Scotland. He could be found collecting books on all phases of Scottish culture or dancing at Scottish Country Dances almost anywhere in the United States, Canada and Scotland. Officer, trustee, director and life member of many Scottish and American-Scottish organisations, including the New York Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and Scotia Dancers; the American-Scottish Foundation, the St. Andrew’s Society of the State of New York and the New York Caledonian Club; the National Trust for Scotland, the Scottish Tartans Society, the Museum of Islay Life, the West Highland Museum in Fort William, and many others.....He believed you should participate in your heritage and share your culture actively.....”



Harry Mathews, Iain Burns, Walter Payton, March 1989

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**Roslyn Weisner  
Died October 23rd, 2008**

Roslyn Weisner, known to her friends and fellow dancers as Ros, died recently in Fayetteville, Georgia.

Ann Smith remembers her active participation in Scottish Country dancing in the New York area.....

“Ros started dancing on Long Island in the 70’s with Marge Colquhoun and Ann. She met Bernard Weisner and married in the 80’s. She danced mainly at Scotia and was President for several years.

Ros was very hospitable and hosted many teachers and stayed friends with many of them. She and Bernie spent many hours arranging the visas for Bobby Brown and his Band to come across the border for Pawling. She was also chair of the J.C. Ball when it was held at Abigail Adams House and at Governors Island.

After Bernie died she moved from Queens to near Atlanta to be near her daughter Elisa and grandson Ethan. Ros enjoyed travelling also she followed the tennis circuit and went to many of the matches.

She has two daughters, Elisa and Claire Marcus who lives in Pennsylvania.”

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**Danny Laitin**

Danny Laitin passed away in his sleep towards the end of December 2008. He was about 8 months shy of his 100th birthday. At a recent celebration of his life with friends and family at his home on E.19th Street it was obvious to all that he inspired a great amount of affection. Danny’s wife was President of the Branch at one time and they always danced in New York (the Brooklyn group didn’t get started until the 1970s). The Laitin’s were personal friends of Freddy Sverdlove who started the Brooklyn class, they came to Freddy’s and Ann Smith’s weekend in Saugerties. The Laitin’s, Sverdloves and Lapiners (Sadie) were all friends and stalwart Branch members.

*(Information provided by Sally Freedman)*



**Marianne Taylor  
1930-2008**



Marianne was a member of the Boston Branch of the RSCDS but known to many in the New York area as a Scottish Country dance teacher and a musician with the band Tullochgorum. Naomi Lasher remembers her fondly.....

“I met Marianne Taylor in 1966 at a Pawling weekend where she was the Highland Dance teacher (they had classes in Highland Dancing in Pawling in those days). Since then our paths have crossed in so many ways and in so many places.

I remember bemoaning the fact that there was no place where we could bring our young children to dance. It was Marianne who told us about the Nova Scotia Family Dance Camp where she and, her then husband, Conny were the International Folk Dance teachers. That summer the Taylors came to Nova Scotia with their children and the Lashers came with their brood.

One New Year’s Weekend we attended Ralph Page’s Dance Camp, There Marianne was a New England Contra Dancer. No recreational dance form existed that she could not master, perform and teach.

Marianne was also a great dance musician. She was a guest in our home when she played with the Carfuffle dance band and the band performed at one of our Westchester balls and she was the pianist with Tullochgorum which performed at a recent JC Ball.

In later years our meetings included our grandchildren. Marianne was the Folk Dance teacher in Maine Folk Dance Camp where we spent a week with our granddaughter. The last time I saw Marianne was in the summer of 2007 when we visited Barbara McOwen’s Fiddle School, where our young grandson was an enthusiastic fiddler.

Marianne was always full of life and joy. She is gone, but not forgotten. My life has been enriched by just knowing her. ”



Perthshire

### Classes of the RSCDS NEW YORK BRANCH

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

[www.rscdsnewyork.org](http://www.rscdsnewyork.org)

New York Branch Hot Line is: 212-849-8282 - SNOW COMING? Call for up-to-date info. about closings

### Upcoming Events

|        |                                    |           |                                |
|--------|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Jan 22 | <b>Robert Burns Night</b>          | Apr 30    | <b>End of 3rd Series Party</b> |
| Feb 19 | <b>End of 2nd Series Party</b>     | May 7     | <b>AGM</b>                     |
| Feb 28 | <b>Cranbury Workshop and Dance</b> | May 15—17 | <b>Pawling Weekend</b>         |
| Mar 7  | <b>New Haven Ball</b>              | June 6    | <b>Westchester Ball</b>        |
| Mar 28 | <b>1950s Dinner Dance</b>          | June 22   | <b>End of Season Party</b>     |
| Apr 4  | <b>Tartan Day</b>                  | TBA       | <b>SUMMERDANCE</b>             |
| Apr 18 | <b>Rerr Terr (NJ Branch Ball)</b>  |           |                                |

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If you would like a paper copy please contact Sue Ronald at the address below.

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.