

# Scottish Country Dancer



# NY

RSCDS New York Branch Autumn 2013

## A Word from our President, Tom Marshall...

**Community...** a quick Wikipedia search defines community as a usually small, social unit of any size that shares common values. The word "community" is derived from the Latin *communitas* (*com*, meaning with/together and *munus*, which means gift), a broad term for fellowship or organized society. I think that describes the New York Branch of the R.S.C.D.S. quite nicely.



And it's this sense of community that came to mind this past spring, when it was apparent that Holy Cross School, our venue for dancing each Thursday night, was being shut down for good. Members of the Branch were quick to formulate a Search Committee, to research possible, alternative locations to dance. Although we have been graced with a temporary reprieve and our search continues, I was moved by just how passionately our community rallied.

As my last term as President of the Branch fades to twilight, it's a nice time to reflect on our community. I am very grateful to all of the past and present members of the Executive Committee, all of whom have worked so hard over the past years to ensure that the Branch continues to thrive. I am grateful to our teachers, whose patient guidance has helped us hone our dancing skills. I am grateful to the committee chairs and musicians, who make our marquee events like the *JC Ball* and *Pawling* so memorable. And, I am grateful to our webmaster and our newsletter editor. The website and newsletter are valuable sources of information about the Branch. But mostly, I am grateful for our **Scottish Country Dance community**.

.....**Take Partners!**

This issue heralds the dawn of a new era. Sue Ronald kindly showed me the Ways of the **Hyperlink!**

Look out for them... Thank you to all the contributors—especially Ruby Chen, whose enthusiasm was over the top! Happy dancing!



Sue Trapp

## Look for us on

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

[www.facebook.com/RSCDSNYC](http://www.facebook.com/RSCDSNYC)

and

The Meetup logo, featuring the word "meetup" in a stylized, lowercase font inside a red-bordered square.

<http://www.meetup.com/The-New-York-Scottish-Country-Dancing-Meetup-Group>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Jeannie Carmichael Ball	Sat, Nov 2, 2013
End of 1st Series Party	Thu, Nov 14, 2013
John Drewry Night—Brooklyn	Sat, Dec 7, 2013
Holiday Party	Thu, Dec 19, 2013
Westchester Hogmanay	Tues, Dec 31, 2013
Robert Burns Night	Thu, Jan 23, 2014
End of 2nd Series Party	Thu, Feb 13, 2014
Central Jersey Workshop—NJ	Sat, Feb 22, 2014
Rerr Terr—NJ Branch	Sat, Apr 5, 2014
Tartan Day Parade—NYC	Sat, Apr 5, 2014
End of 3rd Series Party	Thu, Apr 24, 2014
Annual General Meeting	Thu, May 8, 2014
Pawling Weekend	Fri-Sun, May 16-18
Westchester Ball	Sat, Jun 7, 2014
Joint End of Season Party	Mon, Jun 23, 2014



The  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
presents the

**41st**  
**Jeannie Carmichael Ball**  
**Saturday, November 2, 2013**

Music by  
**Parcel of Rogues**

**The MacArthur Ballroom at The Thayer Hotel**  
**US Military Academy at West Point, New York**

Sherry 6:00pm \* Dinner 6:30pm \* Grand March 7:45pm  
\*\*\*\* Kilt or Black Tie \*\*\*\*

**Ball Tickets \$75.00 Per Person**  
**Contact Mary Zagami: mzagami@aol.com**  
**Need transport help? Contact maureen.ocasio@yahoo.com**

**For hotel reservations contact**  
**The Thayer Hotel at 845-446-4731 or 800-247-5047**  
**or the Holiday Inn Express at 845-446-4277 Group Code JCD**  
**For both locations mention the "RSCDS Scottish Dance Group"**  
**\*Please book early, rooms are limited\***

**Sunday Brunch/Dance**  
**with Parcel of Rogues**

**at The MacArthur Ballroom**  
**(Sunday Brunch/Dance alone \$50.00)**  
**Brunch 9:00am to 12pm    Dancing 11am to 2pm**

**Jeannie Carmichael Ball**

**2013 Application**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 14TH, 2013**

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Ball Tickets at \$75.00 per person  
I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Ball and Brunch/Dance Tickets at \$95.00 per person  
I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Brunch/Dance only Tickets at \$50.00 per person  
Additional contribution to support the Jeannie Carmichael Ball \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to RSCDS NY Branch Ball**  
Send with this form to: **Mary Zagami, 1636 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10461**

Ball Programme	
Good Hearted Glasgow	32 J 3
Maxwell's Rant	32 R 3
Argyll Strathspey	32 S 3
Crazy Aunt Wendy	32 J 4
Falls of Rogie	32 R 3
Border Weavers	32 S 3 set
Ladies' Fancy	32 J 2
Sugar Candie	32 S 3
General Stuart's Reel	32 R 3
Interval	
Jubilee Jig	32 J 3
Shiftin' Bobbins	32 R 3
The Gentleman	32 S 3
Best Set in the Hall	32 J 3
Mrs MacLeod	32 R 3
Broadway	32 S 3 set
Ann Arbor	32 J 3
Blue Mess Jacket	32 S 4
Montgomeryes' Rant	32 R 3

Brunch Programme	
Findlays' Jig	32 J 3
Starlight	32 R 3
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	32 S 3
Duke of Atholl's Reel	32 J 2
1314	128 M 4 square
Mairi's Wedding	40 R 3
Interval	
Hooper's Jig	32 J 3
Maurice	32 S 2
The Sailor	32 R 3
Let's Have a Ceilidh	32 R 4
MacDonald of the Isles	32 S 3 set
Reel of the Royal Scots	32 R 3



To see diagrams and videos of the dances check out  
<http://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/1316/>

# the Dance List

Were you at the New Jersey Branch's *Alpine Boat Basin* event this year? It was a real success – a wonderful social occasion with perfect weather and dances enjoyed by all. Did you realise that all the dances except two are on our 2013-14 Dance List? The New York Branch is now into the third year of the Dance List 'experiment'.

The aim of the List is to familiarize dancers with 60 dances and for these dances to be the main items in party and Ball programmes throughout the year. Through repetition dancers will become familiar with the individual dances and in turn more able to focus on dancing well and listening to the music. It is hoped that the overall enjoyment of events will increase. It will also allow teachers to introduce new dances and ideas without the need to constantly prepare classes for individual upcoming events. Scotia Dancers has joined the New York Branch in this endeavour.

The format being used is very similar to that used with great success for over thirty years by the San Gabriel Valley Branch and other branches in California. One third of the dances on the list are replaced annually, so if you have a favourite dance be sure to mention it to a teacher for consideration in next year's selection. Every attempt is made to vary the difficulty of dances, providing something for everyone, and to include a good balance of dance formations.

The cribs for our 2013-14 Dance List are readily available on the Branch website. This year we have also added a link to see more details about the individual dances, including videos of most dances, on the *Strathspey Server*. So, take a look, study the dances and come along to the Branch on Thursdays and request one of your favourite dances from our 2013-14 Dance List!

**NY Branch Website:** <http://www.rscdsnewyork.org/dancelist201314.html>  
**Strathspey Server:** <http://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/1188/>

Sue Ronald

**RSCDS New York Branch**  
Promoting Scottish Country Dancing in and around New York City

Home Classes Dance List 2013-14 Dance calendar J. C. Ball Pawling Our History Join us Newsletters FAQ Links

**Come dance with us!**

**RSCDS New York Branch Annual Dance List 2013-2014**

We are continuing to experiment with a prescribed list of dances for Branch events and classes. Dancers are encouraged to study and become familiar with these dances. For a fuller explanation see the [guidelines](#) (in the process of being updated).

To see the Minicribs (including levels of difficulty of dances for the current dance list 2013-2014) [click here](#)

Programs and videos of dances (excluding Ann Arbour) can be seen [here](#)

**SCD Database**

**Dance List 2013-14 New York Branch Dance List 1188**

Overview Cribs Plain Text HTML (with links) ACE Text Diagrams Videos

**Owner:** Sue Ronald  
**Last modified:** 19 June 2013, 17:40  
**Visibility:** Public

Show 25 entries Search:

#	Name	Type	Source	Comment
1	The Bees of Maggie Knockater	J32	Dreery: Canadian	
2	Best Set in the Hall	J32	Greenwood: RSCDS XLVI	
3	A Capital Jig	J32	MacKay: Magazine	
4	The Chequered Court	J32	Brown: RSCDS XLII	
5	Christine M. Phillips	J32	Brenchley: RSCDS XLVI	
6	The Duke of Atholl's Reel	J32	Skillem: RSCDS XVI	



# Brooklyn Class RSCDS

Proudly Presents the 2013 Edition of our Annual

## John Drewry Night

***Familiar dances on our great wooden floor!***

December 7, 2013 7:30 pm \$10  
Intermediate and Advanced Dancers Only

Homecrest Presbyterian Church  
Avenue T and East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY

### Refreshments

Take the Q train to Avenue U and E 15<sup>th</sup>  
and walk one block north to the church.

Send reservation (by Nov 15 to receive briefs by mail) to  
David E. Goldberg, 64 Centre Street, Woodmere, NY 11598

For information: David Goldberg 516-295-2327 GREBDLOG64@YAHOO.COM  
Website

Please reserve my (our) places:

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

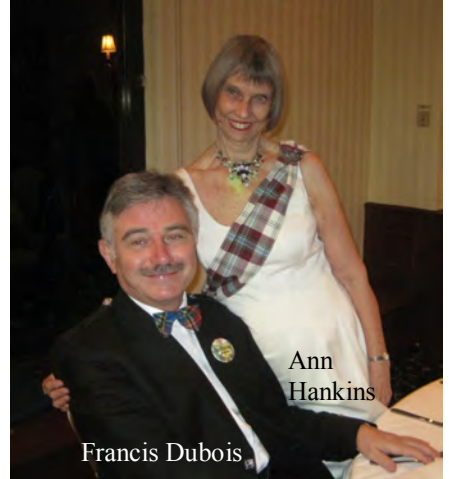
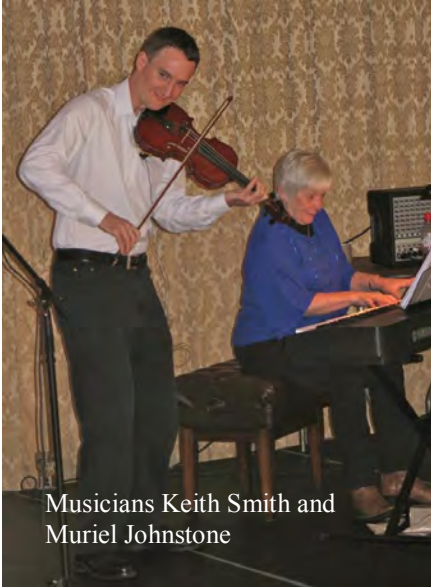
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality Needed \_\_\_ Available \_\_\_

### DREWRY NIGHT PROGRAMME 2013

1-Silver Tassie	S	3C	32	Bon Accord	10-MacLeod's Fancy	J	4C	32	RSCDS 33-3	
2-Bees of MaggieKnockater	J	4C	32	Canadian	11-Peat Fire Flame	R	3C	40	Bon Accord	
3-Duke of Wellington	R	3C	32	Bankhead 1	12-Belle of Bon Accord	S	4C	32	Deeside 2	
4-Cherrybank Gardens	S	3C	SET	32	Bankhead 1	R	3C	32	Bon Accord	
5-John of Bon Accord	R	3C	32	RSCDS 33-5	13-Bratach Bana	J	3C	32	Brodie	
6-Thirteen Fourteen	M	square	128	Rondel	14-The Hazel Tree	J	3C	32	Brodie	
7-Glenalmond Gamekeeper	R	3C	40	Bankhead 6	15-Byron Strathspey	3C	SET	32	Deeside 2	
8-Margaret Parker Strathspey	3C	32	RSCDS 31-3		16-Crossing the Line	R	3C	SET	32	Bankhead 6
9-Major Ian Stewart	J	3C	32	RSCDS 35-4	17-New Opera	J	3C	32	Australian	
					18-Duchess Tree	S	3C	32	Brodie	
					19-Blooms of Bon Accord	R	4C	32	Deeside 2	
					Ex- Mary Hamilton	S	4C	32	Canadian	
					Ex- Autumn in Appin	S	4C	32	RSCDS 31-5	

*Intermission*

# Scenes from the 2012 Jeannie Carmichael Ball



Musicians Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone

Teresa & Louis Perez

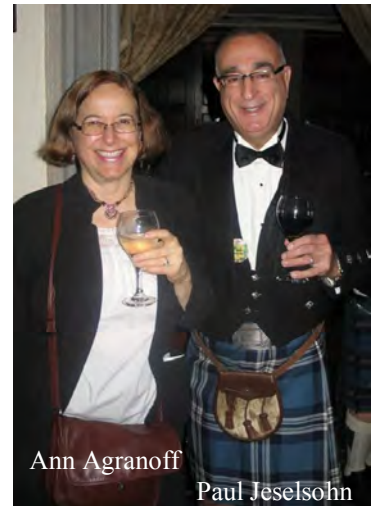
Ann Hankins  
Francis Dubois



Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

Muriel Johnstone

Jim Stevenson-Mathews



Ann Agranoff

Paul Jeselsohn



Tom Marshall presented Jim "Fergie" Ferguson with a "Master of the Grand March" honor. Norman Auslander had one, and when Fergie took over the grand march duties, it was deemed he have one too. Cast and engraved especially for Fergie, it's one of a kind!



L to R: Alex Rafalovitch, Sara Dickey, Kachina Allen, Paul, Lorrie, Sue

Orion and Sara

# Brooklyn is the “New” Manhattan!

*Come dance with us!*

**THE BROOKLYN CLASS** is a small but very active group of mostly advanced dancers. We have a lovely venue, with two rooms and space for five or six sets, and we **welcome** visitors! We meet Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm. Please phone or email Dave if you wish to come, to ensure that we are meeting.

We are interested in the technique of the dancing as well as the fun of doing the many patterns of modern Scottish Country Dancing. The technique was instilled in us by Nancy Pryce, our former teacher who is now incapacitated by illness. She not only danced beautifully, but she had a sharp eye for identifying students' errors, and was particularly good at giving tips and tricks to help them improve. Get better Nancy!

We would like to start a beginners class; all we need is a half-dozen or more beginning dancers and another willing teacher—so spread the word!

The class sponsors **John Drewry Night** the first Saturday in December each year for intermediate and advanced dancers, where we enjoy the marvelous dances of this masterful devisor. Lately, we have been dancing our favorites rather than intro-

ducing his newest dances, which we formerly did. (John has stopped devising dances; in his words, “I think 800 dances are enough.”) In this way, we are able to dance many more dances than are usually done at balls. All this makes the evening even more enjoyable. This year we will include “1314”, which will be done at the Jeannie Carmichael Brunch, and thus will be a dance with which everyone will be familiar. We walk through every dance at least once (except the most familiar ones). The bountiful refreshments at the tea break are themselves worth the modest price of admission. Each year Drewry Night draws attendees from Connecticut and Massachusetts as well as New York and New Jersey.



The Brooklyn Class enjoys dancing with, learning from and sharing with dancers from all around the area. Brooklyn dancers regularly attend classes and events in and out of New York, most notably with the New Haven Branch. Come to Brooklyn, try us out and discover what you're missing!

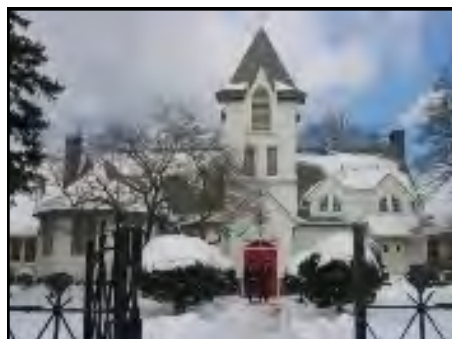
*Dave Goldberg*

Dave's contact info:

Cell: 516-526-6528 or 516-295-2327

Email: grebdlog64 @verizon.com

<http://www.rscdsnewyork.org/brooklyn.html>



*This is what Brooklyn looks like!!!  
We dance all seasons at our lovely venue, the Homecrest Presbyterian Church.*







L to R: Ian Young, Selma Tarantola, Ruby Chen, Sylvia Plever, Dave Goldberg, Lois Goldberg, Marie Blake, Cynthia Arenson, James Betts, Helen Chzhou, Suzette Young

Have a fling with us on Drewry Night!



# The Brooklyn Class



# The Magic of Mary & Wild Thistle



*Wild Thistle is our "home" band. We are most fortunate to have hosted special guest artists Anne-Marie Forsyth from Auckland, New Zealand; Sharlene Penman from New Zealand, and Gregor Borland, a native Scotsman currently living in Spain.*

*Thank you for the many delightful hours of music keeping our feet moving, our hearts warm and our smiles beaming!*



*From left: Anne-Marie Forsyth (fiddle), Mary Abdill (piano), Jenny Evans (fiddle), Gregor Borland (fiddle)*



*Doug Safronek in front (small pipes), From left: Mary Abdill (English concertina), Sharlene Penman (piano), Jenny Evans (fiddle), Hannah Marcus (fiddle)*

# Ghillies

The energy surges through me as if the music was electric. I glance around the dark room at the bodies letting loose, feeling the beat. As I watch myself travel across the dance floor I think back to the first time I got lost in the music.

I look down at splintered wood panels rushing beneath my feet. Hop, skip, switch. Hop, skip, switch. My little feet follow the patter of the bigger ones just inches away. As the rest of the floor is filled with complex dances and social routines, our corner is home to the figure eight. We skip through it close to a million times and will skip through it a million more because that's the only figure I know.

When the bagpipes stop and the mingling begins, I hide in the shelter of your kilt. The glint of red nail polish on your ghillies catches seemingly everyone's eye. You can't help but boast about your personal designer who decorated them just for you. Despite my best efforts there aren't enough folds in your kilt to cover my smile.

When the music strikes again and the bagpipes fill the old church I am reluctant to go. Who could bear to leave such excitement behind? I yawn into your shoulder and my earlier tantrum is completely forgotten as we toddle home from my very first dance party.

By Mackenzie Charter





A great time was had by all at the **50th Annual "Pawling" Weekend** held May 17-19, 2013. Our three outstanding teachers were: **John Wilkinson**, Chairman of the RSCDS, of Duns, Scotland, **Ruth Jappy** of Delta, British Columbia, Canada and **Ron Wallace** of Santa Rosa, California. Music was provided by **The Scottish Accent Band** and **Jim Stevenson-Mathews**.



Ruth Jappy Sally Clayton



Ron Wallace



John Wilkinson



Rosalind Ilett Laird Brown Ellen Sears



The Scottish Accent Band





50th Anniversary Pauline

Canadians!

Connecticut Folk!

The Rafalovitch family

Angus Grandfield Tom Marshall

Rodrigo Quiroz

Christopher Willock

Frank Stern

Brian Percival

## Keeping up with... Lois and Dave—in Spain!

Lois and Dave Goldberg visited **Barcelona, Spain**, the first two weeks of July, 2013. Naturally, before they went, Lois checked out Scottish Country Dancing there. The internet gave the teacher's name and address, and the information that the class danced on Monday nights until the middle of July. Great! Lois contacted Gloria, the teacher, to inform her that we are experienced dancers (and Drewry dance enthusiasts) and ask if we might join them. Alas, Gloria informed us that the internet information was outdated; that they danced on Tuesdays nights now, but ended their spring session at the end of June. Lois replied with sadness that perhaps on our next visit we could meet. A few days later, Gloria emailed to tell us they were so sorry to disappoint us that the class agreed to meet one extra time, and that their school room was available. They met just for us!

When we arrived (20 minutes late because of Barcelona traffic and the inability to find a nearby parking place), Gloria asked Dave to teach *Macleod's Fancy*, which he was glad to do. The rest of the class went by very rapidly and enjoyably, and at the end, Gloria invited us to go for a drink with about half the class. Then Gloria helped us find the parking garage where we had parked the car so hurriedly, and she invited us to lunch on the following Saturday! Two others of the class were there at lunch, and when Lois expressed an interest in doing the *Sardana*, the "national" dance of Catalonia, she got instructions from one of the dancers. Afterwards, Gloria took us on a driving tour of Barcelona.

The following day, our three new friends joined us to do the *Sardana* in the square adjacent to the Cathedral. It was brutally hot, so Dave fumbled with the dance for a couple of minutes and then sought what little shade there was, but Lois kept in there and got up to speed. After lunch at a sidewalk table at a nearby café, we parted.

Gloria invited us back next March for their "Iberian Ball" weekend of teaching and dancing, much like our Pawling weekend, to be held in Barcelona. We felt that we had friends in Barcelona whom we had not even met before we arrived in Spain!

*Dave*



*With Conxita at the Monastery Montbenet*



*Dave and Los Gigantes de Vic*



*Lois dancing the Sardana*



*Resting in Manresa*

## Keeping up with... William—in England!

For three months this summer, I lived in **England**, working as a provisional curate (clergy) in the Church of England. To maintain sanity and health of course, I researched dancing possibilities nearby.

As I was living in Leicestershire, I mainly danced this summer in the City of Leicester. The group was extremely warm and welcoming (and thrilled that I was 30 and they didn't have to do too much teaching for me specifically). Like every group I have been a part of, the Leicester Branch has its repertoire of dances they know well. I was familiar with many dances and learned some great new ones as well. I went to a ball in Chesterfield with another member of the Leicester Branch. I studied the cribs and felt fairly confident about my ability to dance at this programme. What I was not told is that typically speaking in the UK, there is NO BRIEF (talk-through) at a ball. *EEK!!!!!!* My anxiety level shot through the ceiling. Fortunately, I pulled myself together and got through them, perhaps with less grace than I'd have liked, but I survived all the same. I went to a few other balls during my stay with a whole new anticipation of what to expect.

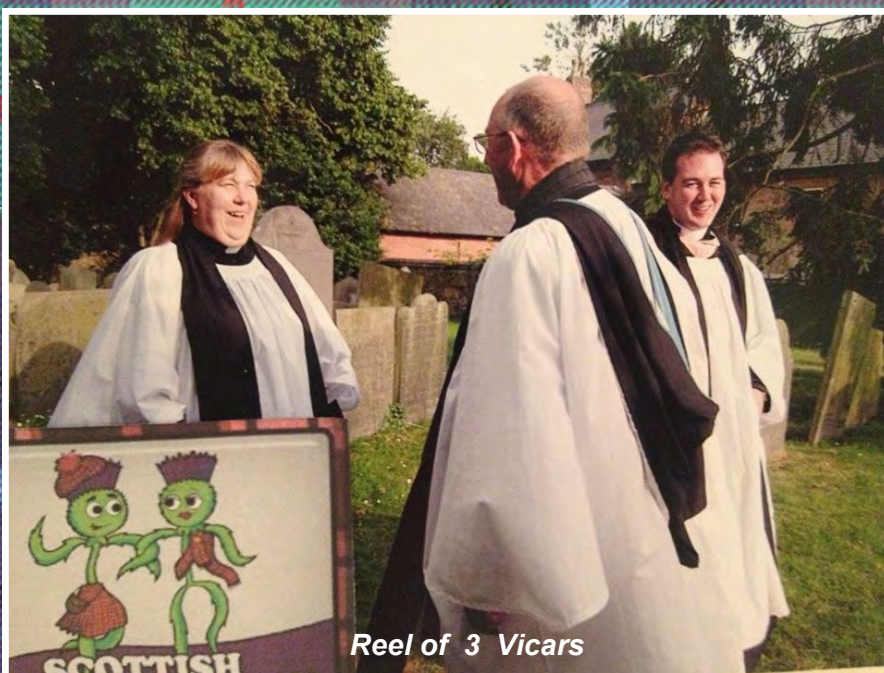
The village where I was living hosts English Country Dance every fortnight. Having never

really done any English Country Dancing, I was nervous attending. I walked in and after about 10 minutes went back home. It didn't seem like the right fit for me. A few weeks later, a good friend and fellow Scottish Country Dancer convinced me to go with her. She eased my anxiety and I actually had a nice time...although I still prefer SCD.

Another interesting dance opportunity I had was with the 'Sunday Class', which meets fortnightly - <http://www.thesundayclass.org.uk/> - and dedicates itself to trying more complicated and intricate dances. This was great fun -- and a good challenge.

Finally, the Churches where I worked gave me a fantastic farewell party in mid August. The main entertainment was....Scottish Country Dance! A group of about 10-12 people from the Leicester Branch came and we did several demonstration dances. This was a wonderful outreach opportunity for **RSCDS** and everyone who attended the party enjoyed the demo dances and the céilidh dances as well. It was a really remarkable experience.

*William*



*Reel of 3 Vicars*

*The Rev'd Jackie Bullen, The Rev'd Canon David White, The Rev'd William Ogburn*

# The Bees of Brooklyn

BY RUBY CHEN

**I** stumbled on beekeeping by accident (just as I did Scottish Country Dancing): a Brooklyn beekeeper was holding a workshop on making candles, soap and salves from honey and beeswax. I had wanted to try my hand at soap for the longest time, so I went. There I found that the beekeeping community is full of curious, adventurous, independently-minded (damned stubborn) folks, generous with their knowledge, and I loved hanging out with them. I had no interest in spending time with boxes of 40,000 or so stinging bugs, or so I thought. Come spring, they were setting up new hives in a community garden and I went along just to see. The world of bees as shown to me was fascinating and I kept going back. Over six years later, I've got my own hive, and help a few beekeepers at another.

**Back in the day** beekeeping wasn't allowed according to the NYC health code, but a few people were doing it. It was treated the way jaywalking is: a violation, deserving of a reprimand, with a possible fine, rarely enforced. After all, people began domesticating honey bees thousands of years ago, and the more common races have been bred for their gentle nature. Sure beekeepers get stung, but that's because we're tearing off the roofs of homes, spilling out the contents of many lifetimes of work with each visit and accidentally smashing someone here or there. Smashing releases alarm pheromone, which smells like artificial banana, and gets everyone mad.

Anyway, I was invited to help out with a few hives on a roof in Fort Greene, and a couple others in a community garden in the East Village. As innocuous as it was, we would whisper -- psst, the bees! Or, to

show off -- psst, *Apis mellifera ligustica*! Two years later, in 2009, the health code changed, allowing hives through a registration process, and beekeeping became a lot more popular. There may be as many as several hundred beekeepers in town now.

Most of the hives are on rooftops or in gardens; there are also a lucky few who have backyards where they do their 'keeping. St. John the Divine has hives in their churchyard; a street-side park in



Battery Park City also has several, decorated as beautiful little houses, in plain view.

Except in the larger parks, we don't have meadows for foraging here in the city. However, the bees are pretty good at finding what they need. There are plenty of flowering street trees, and bees love to forage off these, with blossoms bunched close. The linden trees that are so common in NYC are a favorite with the bees, and they make a light, minty, green-tinted honey with it. Typically, they'll go one or two miles for food, and can roam up to seven, instinctively scouting around in different directions.



The older worker bees do the foraging. They are all girls and have tools built into their bodies for their work-- staticky hairs which pollen will cling to, combs on their front legs for brushing it off, presses on their middle legs to pack it, and baskets on their hind legs to store it; also a special stomach for carrying nectar and honey.

(The boys have no tools, aside from huge eyes and strong flight muscles to help them with their main job of **Sleeping With The Queen**. Upon doing so they die what must be a painful death, leaving their member behind as a plug in the queen and falling off Her Majesty's back. Non-mating males get forcibly ejected from the hive in the fall, when food stores become more precious, to starve or freeze alone outside.)

The semi-domesticated bees we get here are raised in apiaries in the southern states. Each spring, some of us drive out to NJ to meet the bee delivery truck at a truck stop; load many screened boxes, each with three pounds of Italian honey bees and a Queen, into station wagons and SUVs; apologize to goggling passersby, "Oh, we're going to move as soon as we get this, ummm, **stuff** loaded"; and then distribute the packages to beekeepers around the five boroughs. As for other bees in the city -- they did a count a few years ago and it turns out there are 200 - some native species living in NYC. Who would have guessed?

Once home, the bees need to be shaken (yes, shaken; kind of as you might cereal from a cereal box) from their screened transport box into their hives. We take care of them, feeding sugar water to get them started and checking in every two or three weeks throughout the warm months, to make sure they are disease free and growing healthily. Every year there are new challenges. My first year keeping bees without a mentor, on a couple of hives shared with four other novices, we got so enthusias-

tic with our hive inspections, spending hours each week so dutifully visiting with and photographing our bees, that we entirely prevented them from getting any work done and pooped them out. The workers usurped the Queen's royal prerogative and started laying eggs themselves, two or three eggs in a space meant for one, creating mayhem in the hive.

In seasons when all goes well, in mid-summer or early fall, we steal their honey. The usual way is to pull out the honeycomb that the honey is sealed in, cut off the tops of this comb, spin out the honey with a centrifugal device, and then strain out dead bee parts, cocoons and other debris. New York apartments don't have much room for giant extractors, so I use a small wooden pastry roller to squeeze out the honey instead. Some wax comes with the honey as a bonus harvest. The weather can make or break the size of the prize. Sometimes there is too much honey to give away, and then you end up selling it; sometimes there is only enough to hoard to see you and a few close friends through the winter. Throughout the season, there's propolis, with its reputed magical healing properties, that can be scraped off the hive parts. After harvest, we spend the next several months discovering sticky patches on backs of chairs, light switches, floors and cabinet handles.



*The Bees of MaggieKnockater*  
Is one of my favorite dances. I think of my bees doing waggle dances as I'm reeling around ... and around ... and around. One of these days I'm going to throw in a waggle or two!

As we say in the honey world:  
Yours in sweetness,

Ruby

## MaggiKnockater

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**MaggiKnockater** (*Magh an Fhucadair* in Scottish Gaelic) is a hamlet on the A95 road between Craiggellachie and Mulben in Scotland in the Moray council area, in the former county of Banffshire.

Until the early 1970s there was large **Apiary** which was well known in the region and has lived on in the Scottish Country Dance "The Bees of MaggiKnockater" by John Drewry.



## RSCDS Summer School Report by JAIME DRITT

When I started doing Scottish Country Dancing in the States about 12 years ago, I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to travel to Scotland to dance. Though going to RSCDS summer school had been a dream of mine for a while, the opportunity did not present itself until this summer. Due to a scholarship, I was able to attend the third week of summer school—just in time for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RSCDS!

My primary goal in attending summer school was to focus on and improve my technique, particularly with my steps. I was not disappointed. I was concerned that I would not be able to keep up with the schedule of a three-hour class each day, plus optional classes in the afternoon and social dancing in the evening. However, because of the excellent and inspiring teaching, my mind was continually engaged and my feet danced on. I attended the advanced-level class. Despite a class size of almost 30 dancers, I was impressed at how the teachers were alert and able to give individual critiques and instructions. As a result, I'm paying much better attention to how I place my feet for pas de basque and strathspey steps. The energy that I felt from the teachers and from the other dancers helped motivate me throughout the entire week, and the time passed by very fast. I have more awareness of what I need to do to improve my dancing. I plan to retain the knowledge and experience that I gained at St. Andrews now that I'm back in the States, and I look forward to when my local branch in New Jersey starts up again in September. Hopefully, I can help other dancers in my local community by sharing my enthusiasm and what I learned.

My secondary goal was to explore the town and community of St. Andrews. I love history, and it was amazing for me to stay and study at Scotland's oldest university and the third oldest university in the English-speaking world. I enjoyed the ambiance, which made the week even more gratifying for me. When I had free time in the afternoon, I explored the

sites such as St. Andrews cathedral and castle. I was really impressed at how visitors were able to explore an escape tunnel underneath the castle; in the States, most tourist sites are "look but don't touch." I learned a valuable life lesson—do not wear a backpack when you crawl through a low-ceilinged tunnel; you might get momentarily stuck and fall when you unstick yourself. Besides taking a walking tour of history, I also wandered part of the Fife Coastal Path and struck up random conversations with strangers about our mutual love of dogs. As part of the RSCDS, I also got out into the community for several events, such as dancing in Market Square and a social-dance evening that was open to the public.

My adventure in Scotland went beyond the personal goals that I had set for myself. I did not expect to be so impacted by the relationships that I formed during my short week at St. Andrews. I danced with and enjoyed the company of people from all over the world: the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Russia, France, Portugal, Australia, and I'm sure other places that I've failed to mention. I'm amazed at how something as eclectic as Scottish Country Dancing has unified and connected people on an international scale. No matter the national origin, Scottish dancers display warmth towards each other and an enthusiasm that is infectious. It's the people that continue to draw me, encourage me, and nourish my love for Scottish Country Dancing.

All good things must come to an end, and so did my week at RSCDS summer school. My life as a full-time student of Scottish dance went by very quickly, and I'm now home again, back to my regular, daily routine. Though my adventure has ended, the lessons I learned and the friendships I made have not. Hopefully, this won't be my last summer at St. Andrews!

*Jaime - NJ Branch*

TO LEARN MORE about **RSCDS Summer Scholarships**, go to:

<http://www.rscds.org/learn/scholarships.html>

The Summer 2014 APPLICATION DEADLINE is November 22.



*Jaime on top of St. Rule's tower at St. Andrews Cathedral*



*St. Andrews Social Dance*



*St. Andrews Castle*



*Fife Coastal Walk*



# Here Comes the Bride and Groom!

*Stephen Andrus & Girlie Flores Labastida*

*Were married on March 22, 2013. The service was at City Hall, in downtown Manhattan. Ann Hankins was the "Mother of the Bride" and Jack Cole was the Best Man. Girlie travelled halfway around the world from her home in the province of Mindanao Philippines to be united with her beloved.*



PRESENTING  
MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN  
ANDRUS

# Cooking Corner

## Almond Tarts

1 large orange  
2/3 cup caster (superfine) sugar, plus 1 extra table-  
spoon for sprinkling  
1/2 tsp orange blossom water  
1 cup ground almonds—I used almond meal from  
*Trader Joe's*  
2 whole eggs, plus 2 egg whites  
4 tablespoons butter, melted and cooled  
1 lb shortcrust pastry

Pare the orange rind thinly, taking off the top colored layer only. Boil the parings in a small pan of water until soft; drain. Pulverize them with some of the sugar in an electric blender or grinder. Put them in a bowl, add the rest of the sugar and the orange blossom water, then mix in the ground almonds.

Beat the whole eggs until liquid and combine them with the almond mixture and the cooled, melted butter. Whisk the 2 egg whites until semi-stiff and fold them into the mixture; the texture should be that of a coating custard. Chill the mixture if you have not

“Substantial but fluffy”  
- Jan Harayda

“They’re really good; I  
kinda want all of them”  
- Ross Parker



yet made the pastry cases.

Heat the oven to 375 F. Roll out the pastry to 1/8 inch thickness, 'rest' it, and cut it into rounds to fit tartlet tins about 2.5" across and 3/4" deep. (I use a muffin tin, cutting the pastry rounds with a 3" mug) Line the tins with pastry, pricking the bottom of each and sprinkling it with a little sugar. Fill 3/4 full with the almond mixture, then bake for 20 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. *Makes approx 18-20.*

Link to a *Shortcrust Pastry* recipe:

<http://www.nytimes.com/recipes/12884/basic-short-crust-pastry.html>

**Pawling 2014**  
**Save the Date!**

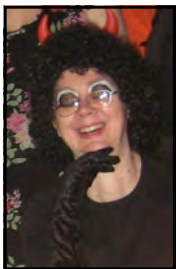
*May 16 - 18*

# Farewell Margaret from your New York family!

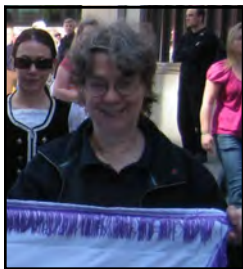


L to R: Sue Ronald, Francis Dubois, Maureen Ocasio, Yonina Gordon, Chris Ronald, Lorrie Rosario, Margaret Mackenzie, Ross Parker, Ann Hankins, Margaret Leversha, Jack Cole, Vivian Anapol, Ellen Sears, Ruby Chen, Paul Jeselsohn, Joanna D'Angelo, Agatha Guzman, Fred Cotton, Orly Krasner

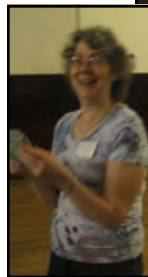
Margaret Leversha has moved back to her home in Melbourne, Australia after living in New York for 12 years. Margaret was a huge part of the vitality of our dance community and will be dearly missed. She went to great pains to ship her couch home, and I heard her say she welcomes visitors! We wish Margaret all the best in this new phase of her life.



Halloween '07



Tartan Day Parade '10



Paul presenting Margaret with her favorite dances, including "Australian Ladies" and "Bees of..."



The Luncheon Club

## Auld Lang Syne (From Wikipedia and Chris Ronald)

"*Auld Lang Syne*" is a Scots poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of a traditional folk song. Its traditional use is to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight. By extension, it is also sung at funerals, graduations and as a farewell or ending to other occasions.

The song's Scots title may be translated into English literally as "old long since", or more idiomatically, "long long ago", "days gone by" or "old times". Consequently "*For auld lang syne*", as it appears in the first line of the chorus, might be loosely translated as "for (the sake of) old times".

**As we sing it:**

*[Beginning with hands held loosely with neighbour]*

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
and never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
and auld lang syne.

CHORUS:

For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne,  
we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.

*[Crossing hands and joining hands with neighbour]*

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!  
and gie's a hand o' thine!  
And we'll tak a right gude-willy waught,  
for auld lang syne.

CHORUS

*[All advance towards centre and retire, and repeat, during the last chorus]*  
Hip, hip, hooray!

A link to Auld Lang Syne as sung by Dougie MacLean on the album "Tribute" (it's awesome!) →

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acxnmaVTIZ>

# Hogmanay 2019

Days of Auld Lang Syne in Westchester



Fergie Wendy Pally



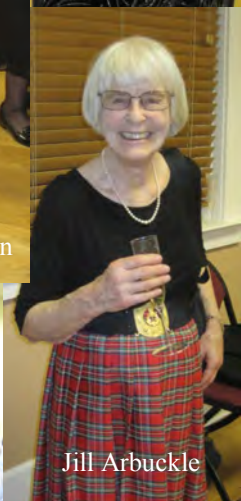
John Horrell & Fen-Lan Bohan



Agatha Guzman



Peter Price & Deborah Leary



Jill Arbuckle



## NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA DANCE GROUPS

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

	<i>Location</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>email</i>
<b>New York City</b>  <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> <b>Notice!</b>                      Branch location may change. If uncertain about the location, call the  <b>NY HOTLINE</b>  <b>212-849-8282</b> </div>	<b>RSCDS New York Branch</b> Holy Cross School 332 West 43rd Street (bet. 8th & 9th Aves.) Manhattan	Thursdays, 7:20 - 10:00 PM	Sheila Wilson 212-744-1470	info@rscdsnewyork.org
	<b>Scotia Dancers</b> Madison Avenue Baptist Church 30 East 31st St. (bet. Park & Madison) Manhattan	Mondays, 6:45 - 10:00PM	Ann Hankins 212-354-8500	ahnyc2@aol.com
<b>Brooklyn</b>	<b>Brooklyn Scottish Country Dancers</b> 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 grebdlog@verizon.net
<b>Nassau County</b>	<b>Nassau County Scottish Country Dancers</b> Temple Tikvah 3315 Hillside Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 1/2 block west of Herricks Rd.	Thursdays, 7:30 PM	Dave Goldberg 516-295-2327 Ann Smith 631-271-5740 Herb Plever	grebdlog@verizon.net hplever@nyc.rr.com
<b>Smithtown Long Island</b>	Epenetus Smith Brush Barn Route 25 East of Route 111 Smithtown, Long Island	Tuesdays, 7:30 PM	Ann Smith 631-271-5740	
<b>New Jersey</b>  <a href="http://www.rscds-nj.org/">http://www.rscds-nj.org/</a>	<b>Hightstown</b> Meadow Lakes Retirement Community, 300 Meadow Lakes East Windsor, NJ 08520 <b>Tenaflly</b> Church of the Atonement 97 Highwood Ave. Tenaflly, NJ 07670 <b>Fanwood</b> Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 S. Martine Ave. (at LaGrande Ave) Fanwood, NJ 07023	Mondays, 7:30 - 9:30PM  Tuesdays 8:00 - 10:00PM  Tuesdays 7:30 -10:00PM	Bart Jackson 609-936-0891  Elaine Enger 201-567-8727  Loretta Holz 732-356-3923	bjackson2@comcast.net
<b>Westchester</b>	<b>The Westchester Scottish Country Dance Society</b> Elmsford Community Center 10 North Stone Ave. Elmsford, NY 10523	Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:30PM	Jane Bridges 914-271-3502 Lynn Hanover 914-762-1173 Karen McCabe 914-699-6150	jbridges1@sprintmail.com lynnabby@hotmail.com nyhoo@aol.com

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If you would like a paper copy please contact Sue Trapp 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.

Contact Wendy Pally, the Membership Secretary at: [membership@rscdsnewyork.org](mailto:membership@rscdsnewyork.org)

Correspondence, including announcements of dance events for your area, should be sent to the editor:

