

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

CONNECTING DANCERS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

NEWS & FEATURES

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Read more about Harry Farrar in our Beyond the Ghillies section on page 3

Alumni Updates



We are very excited to host our first ever **Alumni Happy Hour** on August 28th at 7:00pm Eastern Time. Please click [here](#) to register for this event, and get ready for cocktails, trivia and lots of laughs.

Alumni Pins- We are proud to announce we have pins for our alumni. Look for alumni reps at your local competitions in the upcoming months to receive your free pin, featuring our Alumni logo.

WHAT WAS THE FIRST TARTAN YOU WORE? WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT TARTAN?
CLICK [HERE](#) TO SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER!

SCOTDANCE USA UPDATES

REPORTED BY KATHY EISEL

The 2021 ScotDance USA Annual General Meeting was held in July at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort in Ponte Verda Beach, Florida. The AGM was well attended both in person and via Zoom.

The hotel was scheduled to host the 2021 USIR National Championships. Since all championships for 2021 had been cancelled due to Covid-19, the USIR 2021 committee from the Southeast Region created a wonderful dance event called the Citrus Classic Competition Series (CCCS). The weekend included competitions for all dance levels, including individual choreographies and special dance events like the Pat Johnston Memorial Hornpipe and Jig Challenge.

The AGM meeting was chaired by SDUSA President, Fred DeMarse. He shared the news that the Board of Directors had been meeting via Zoom almost weekly since the pandemic started. The BOD and the Professional Development Committee have been working to find ways to keep SDUSA professionals and dancers engaged via virtual events over the past year. The virtual events included choreography classes and routines, parent lectures and training, dance technique and strength training classes and more. The BOD was pleased that SDUSA had received approval from the Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing to “reopen” dance competitions in the US. It was reported that the US has had several competitions since the June 1, 2021 “reopen” date. The competition organizers and their volunteers were recognized for doing a great job in following the Covid-19 protocols as set forth by ScotDance USA. Although competitions have restarted, it was reported that the overall dancer registration numbers are down compared to last year. It was mentioned that more dancers may register later this year when a competition close to them is scheduled. All SDUSA members are challenged to keep our dancers involved and to attract new dancers.

Other ongoing BOD projects included a revision of the Policies and Procedures and the Risk Management Policies. A comment was made that the BOD had made a 10-year plan several years ago and that we had met or exceeded many of the goals that had been listed.

The Alumni Connections Committee made a short presentation reviewing what we had achieved since we “regrouped” in August 2020. It was announced that Alumni pins were available at the CCCS main desk and all were invited to the August 28, 2021 Zoom Happy Hour.

Future USIR committees shared the following information for their upcoming events:

USIR 2022: Madison, WI – Madison Marriott West
Dates: July 13-17, 2022 Room rate: \$139 per night

USIR 2023: Portland, OR – Red Lion Hotel on the River
Dates: July 19-23, 2023 Room Rate: \$159.00

USIR 2024: Boston, MA

BEYOND THE GHILLIES

Our aim is to feature dancers who also participate in other Scottish Arts. This issue we chose bagpipers, and realized there are so many people we could feature! So please enjoy a special, extended version of this section, and look for our "Fling to the Past" interview in the next issue.

Harry Farrar is a three-time USIR Adult Champion.



Scottish Pipes and Drums marching in the Westlake Village 4th of July Parade. Harry Farrar is on the far right, and his son is to his left. Amanda Miller Farrar is the Bass Drummer.



1984 USIR in San Diego, California.

Beyond the Ghillies: Harry Farrar

Harry Farrar of Woodland Hills, CA, began Highland Dance at a very young age. His mother Sharon Farrar was his teacher.

Harry had a very successful dancing career and was the Adult USIR Champion three times.

Harry took up the bagpipes along the way and continues to play today. He was a founding member of the performance band, Scottish Pipes and Drums. His wife Amanda and his son Harry VI also play in Scottish Pipes and Drums. Harry and Amanda's daughter Mary Cassidy is a dancer, and she has competed in the USIR as well.



Tina piping for dancers at USIR 1987

Beyond the Ghillies: Tina Gilbertson Readshaw

Tina comes from a family of dancers on her mother's side, who then went on to play bagpipes or drums. So of course, she wanted to follow in their footsteps! Tina grew up in Northern California and Norine Harmon was her Highland Dancing teacher. She started dancing at a very early age. Competing in the 12 and Under class, she was the 2nd Runner Up in the 1983 USIR, and 1st Runner Up in 1984 and 1985. She later became a Highland teacher.

At age 12 Tina started playing the bagpipes. She started out with the Prince Charles Junior Pipe Band of San Francisco. Tina then played with the Vancouver Ladies and Triumph Street for a couple of years each. After that she played with the Los Angeles Scots Pipe Band and then again with the Prince Charles Pipe Band of San Francisco. Tina also competed in solos, and reached the level of Grade I.

In addition, Tina was also a highly sought-after dancing piper because she had been a dancer herself! Tina was one of a select few who competed in the USIR and then later piped for the dancers at a USIR.

Tina really enjoyed the Highland Games on the West Coast, was very happy dancing and piping, and loved the entire Scottish Community.

Tina now lives in Australia with her husband and children.

By dancing,
piping in solos
and bands, and
piping for
dancers, she was
able to stay
involved and
contribute for
many years!



Tina (no. 404), 2nd Runner Up at USIR 1983

Ian Stuart
Kelly, from
San Diego, CA
could be
considered a
poster boy for
the Scottish
arts and
activities!



Ian with Bydand Forever, The Gordon Highlanders of 1882. His son Andrew, also a member, is at far left in the back row.

Beyond the Ghillies: Ian Kelly

Ian started out in Scottish Country Dancing as a teen/young adult and stayed with that for many years. He took up Highland Dancing soon after starting Country Dance and trained under Chrissy Ambler and then Kay Shofner Hamilton. He loved Highland and competing.

A knee injury ended Ian's Highland career much sooner than he would have liked. Since he enjoyed competing so much, and he wanted to stay involved in the Scottish Community, Ian decided to take up the bagpipes. He became a solo competitor and a piper with the Cameron Highlanders Pipe Band in San Diego, of which he is Pipe Major of their Grade 5 band.

But Ian's participation in Scottish arts and activities doesn't end there! He also served as Chieftain of the San Diego Scottish Highland Games from 1986 To 1993. And he was also very involved in Bydand Forever, The Gordon Highlanders of 1882. This is a military regiment reenactment group that is based in Southern California.

Ian is also very involved with Triathlon now.



Ian as a competitive Highland Dancer



The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, est. 1849

Association Feature

Founded in the year 1849, St. Andrew's Society of Detroit is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is the oldest benevolent organization in the State of Michigan.

Their mission is to provide assistance to fellow Scots and to encourage the love of Scotland through its history, customs, music, literature and national games.

Their purpose is to be a benevolent society; all events' proceeds go towards their many benevolences both locally and internationally.

If you would like to volunteer or join the membership, click [here](#).

ANNUAL EVENTS

January
Annual Robert Burns Night

April
Annual Tartan Day Ceilidh

August
St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Highland Games are the longest continuous Games in North America since 1849

November
Annual St. Andrew's Night

Helpful Links:

[Mission Statement](#)

[Benevolence](#)

[Highland Games- Dancing](#)

[Highland Games- General](#)

Featured Events

We are so lucky here in the U.S. to get to participate in a variety of holidays and celebrations- Tartan Day, Robert Burns' Nights, and St. Patrick's Day to name a few. When we asked ourselves what holidays we participate in during the summer, we agreed the Highland Games season is a holiday season all of its own!

While most Highland Games were canceled this summer, we want to give a special shout out to all of the groups who were able to organize competitions this summer. We also want to give a special shout out to the Citrus Classic Competition Series, who not only pulled off a successful, 5-day event in July, but were also able to offer a robust 27 and over age category! For any alumni missing the competition stage, we encourage you to dust off those ghillies and help keep this momentum going.

UPCOMING EVENTS

in addition to our own Alumni events, we present to you competitions happening around the United States. If you are interested in attending or volunteering, please click the name of the competition for more information. We hope to see you there!

September Events

Sept 4

[Wisconsin Scottish Highland Games & Dance Competition](#)

[Virginia Scottish Games](#)

Sept 11

[Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Festival Estes Park Competition](#)

[Kelso Highlander Festival](#)

Sept 18

[Quad Cities Dance Competition](#)

[New Hampshire Highland Games](#)

[Ligonier Highland Games](#)

Sept 25

[Prescott Highland Games and Celtic Faire](#)

October Events

Oct 2

[Aztec Highland Games](#)

[Scotland County Highland Games](#)

[Mountain State Forest Festival and Highland Dance Competition](#)

Oct 9-10

[McMinnville Scottish Festival Highland Dance Competition](#)

[Scotland Highland Festival](#)

Oct 16

[Stone Mountain Highland Games](#)

[Edgewood Highland Games](#)

Oct 30

[Richmond Highland Games and Highland Dance Competition](#)

November/December Events

Nov 20

[Michigan Celtic Classic Fall Competition](#)

Dec 4

[Phoenix Indoor \(Outdoor\)](#)

CONTACT US

Email us at alumni@scotdance.usa

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