

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
*Carolinas Branch News*

Fall 2019 Vol. 9 No. 3



An Interview with  
*Elizabeth Lee Barnes*  
Founder of Thistle School

written by Sheila South  
with information collected by  
Sam Moffitt

In many ways, Elizabeth Lee Barnes, or Betty-Lee as she is known, is like any other Scottish Country Dancer, and in many ways she is far extraordinary. Born 1925 in Tokyo, Japan, Betty-Lee was raised in Peoria, Illinois by father of Norwegian descent and mother descendant of the Scottish Dunbars. Similar to many of us dancers, Betty-Lee came to try SCD as an adult – she of age 38. Her first experience was at a beginner's class in Washington, DC where she and her husband Duard have resided since 1946. At the conclusion of that class, the new dancers were invited to watch the advanced group. And so it began...the whole new world of Scottish Country Dance opened to Betty-Lee. Betty-Lee and Duard joined with the group there in Washington, DC and were active members and leaders in the RSCDS Washington group for many years. And as the tale familiar to many dancers goes, she has met hundreds of people from all over the globe many of whom have become life-long friends as a result of the opportunities that SCD affords.

Now let us delve into this story and see how Betty-Lee's experience has transcended... Later as an SCD demonstrator at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games near Linville

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### *Officer Contacts*

#### **Chair**

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#### **Treasurer**

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**Please send submissions and advertisements for events by December 1, 2019 to the Editor: Sheila South**  
[south\\_house@yahoo.com](mailto:south_house@yahoo.com)



## Chairman's Message

from  
Brian Carr

Thistle has been a wonderful gathering of dancers from around the area throughout these last 39 years. It was a place to visit with old friends, make new friends, have a lot of fun, and escape from the workaday world for a little while. What Betty-Lee, Duard, and Marylin started almost four decades ago, has enhanced dancing in the southeast and beyond. We will miss walking among those old beautiful stone buildings and marching in the parades. I want to thank all those who made Thistle possible throughout the years, the teachers, workers, musicians. We look back with fond memories and a grateful heart.

We have some great opportunities for dancing in the Carolinas. The Charlotte weekend is from October 25-26. The Charleston dance is November 2 in a charming and magnificent city to tour before and after the dance. The St. Andrews Dance will follow on Nov 23. It has been a while since Mara Shae has enlivened us with her playing. Come hear her and Pete and dance the night away!

Connie and I had a nice encounter with, of all people, a banker! We were at Wells Fargo to straighten some things out with the Branch account. We had to wait for the banker, Tina, to come back from lunch but it was worth the wait. From the first mention of Scotland and Scottish Country Dancing, she was all ears! She loves anything Scottish and is planning a trip there in a couple of years. Connie was a wealth of information having lived in England for several years. (Connie dissuaded Tina from going in winter!) But we were also able to offer her the chance to dance which she was excited about. We concluded our business and when I left, Connie was still providing her with advice and encouragement. You just never know where you will have an opportunity to gain another dancer!

### A Note for the RSCDS Carolinas Branch from the newly formed Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School:

Dear Brian and the Carolinas Branch,

I just wanted to pass along our very sincere appreciation for the donation to the Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School. Your donation showed leadership and a willingness to support Scottish Country Dancing in a way that we hope will have lasting positive impact. Thanks so much!

Sarah Craighead

### **Thistle 39, Auld Lang Syne.**

by Tom Dillon

Those were the words on the souvenir ballpoint pens passed out at the last Thistle School of Scottish Country Dance, the 39th, held at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, N.C., the week of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

And those words were very appropriate for all of us.

We're all excited about the new Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School to take place next summer at Appalachian State University. It should be a way to continue the traditions and attract new dancers and spread the gospel of folk dance a few leagues farther.

And it was clear that the time had come for the torch to be passed with Thistle's original organizers in their 90s. Betty-Lee Barnes, our leader for these many decades, made that clear in her valedictory last fall saying Thistle's time was over.

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# All for One & One for All!



The success of any Scottish Country Dance group contributes to the success of and life of SCD as a whole. Which RSCDS branch will you visit on your next vacation? Visit some links here! All logos used with permission and rights are retained by each respective group.



## Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School

debuts **JULY 5-11, 2020**

Appalachian State University  
Boone, NC, USA

featuring RSCDS certified instructors  
Linda Henderson & William Williamson  
with Mo Rutherford (piano),  
Neil Copland (accordion), &  
Mara Shea (fiddle)

[blueridgesds.org](http://blueridgesds.org)



## Charlotte Scottish Country Dance Society

### Reel Scottish Weekend

October 25-26, 2019

Featuring:  
RSCDS Teacher Atsuko Clement  
and  
Musicians Wayne Robertson &  
Craig Paton

Contact: Jack Pressley [jpres79334@aol.com](mailto:jpres79334@aol.com)

Flier and cribs are posted here:  
<https://charlottescottishdance.wordpress.com/local-scd-opportunities/>

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“An Interview with Elizabeth Lee Barnes”

North Carolina, Betty-Lee was frequently approached and asked the whereabouts for SCD instruction. Seeing the interest, she and fellow dancers started Saturday night classes. Nestor McDonald, the first chairman of the GMHG, decided to make lessons part of the games. Betty-Lee organized a dance with instruction provided for the Friday night the week of the games. Word got around that Stan Hamilton's Scottish Country Dance Band would be playing. Folks flocked to the dance and a tradition was born: Thistle School.

The first full week of Thistle School with day classes and night dances was an act of complete faith in the draw and sway of Scottish Country Dance. Betty-Lee saw the interest in learning SCD was strong, but finding a suitable time to host classes was difficult. Saturday was not a good option as that timing conflicted with the games. Additionally, beginning dancers often had no class to which to return at home. A more lengthy and substantial instructional time seemed in order. Not knowing how many might respond, Betty-Lee organized with Lees-McRae College to host Thistle School: classes every day for the week and a Gala at the week's end.

Thistle School was officially held for 39 years. [There was that one year though, the “Shadow Year”, in which Lees-McRae was renovating and Thistle School was not officially offered. However, some attendees were so faithful that a remnant showed up anyway. They made a banner and proclaimed to Betty-Lee and Duard, “We will not stop Thistle School!” Including that year would make Thistle School an even 40 years.] From the initial year with 29 participants to the blossoming year of 90 participants, Thistle School served 853 different dancers. That is 853 dancers who improved their art, built friendships, and celebrated Scottish heritage and tradition. That is the extraordinary personal contribution Betty-Lee has made to Scottish Country Dance.

## *Charleston Scottish Country Dancers*

### **Post Games Dance**

November 2, 2019

at 7:30 pm

Felix Davis Community Center

Park Circle,

North Charleston

Cost \$5.00

Contact: Irene Stancik (843)810-7797

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

Flier and cribs are posted here:

<https://charlottescottishdance.wordpress.com/local-scd-opportunities/>



## *Scottish Country Dancing at Stone Mountain 2019*

### **The Fall Gala**

Friday, October 18 @ 8pm  
presented by RSCDS Atlanta

&

### **The Tartan Ball**

Saturday, October 19 @ 8pm  
presented by Friends of SMHG

Music by Copious Notes:

Mara Shea and Julie Gorka

Flier and cribs are posted here:

<http://www.rscds-atlanta.org/events.php>



The Carolinas Branch has funds to support member group events (e.g. hall rental or music for dances or workshops). Requests must be approved by the Committee of Management prior to disbursement. To make a request, send the following information to the Chairperson:

- 1) Name of the group (check payable to)
- 2) Name and mailing address of organizer of event
- 3) Name of the event
- 4) Date of the event
- 5) Date of Application
- 6) Purpose of the event
- 7) Use of these funds for the event
- 8) Amount requested
- 9) Contact telephone number
- 10) Contact email



## RSCDS Carolinas Branch Membership

Form can be found at the branch website under "Membership Application"  
<http://www.rscdscarolinasbranch.org/>

- Dues: \$40 for single memberships  
\$66 for two adults at the same address  
\$33 for young adults age 18 to 24  
\$5 for associate members from another branch

Completed form and dues to be mailed to:

The Carolinas Branch  
c/o Connie Hamilton-Juskow  
14 Brennan Place  
Greenville SC 29609

## The Dust in the Bottom of My Ghillie Bag by Tom Dillon

(A takeoff on "The First Lord's Song," also known as "When I Was a Lad," from Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore."  
Words in italics are sung by the chorus.)

When I was young my shoes were new,  
They smelled like leather that was tanned and true.  
Now I am old, my shoes are rags,  
They're dust in the bottom of my ghillie bag.  
*They're dust in the bottom of his ghillie bag.*  
My ghillie bag, my ghillie bag,  
They're dust in the bottom of my ghillie bag,  
*Now he is old, his shoes are rags,*  
*They're dust in the bottom of his ghillie bag.*

James Senior said your feet will fly,  
You're jump so high that you can touch the sky.  
But that was many years ago,  
These mornings when I move my feet say "No."  
*These mornings when he moves his feet say "No."*  
My feet say "No," my feet say "No,"  
These mornings when I move my feet say "No."  
*Yes that was many years ago,*  
*These mornings when he moves his feet say "No."*

My ankles hurt, my knees are blue,  
I don't know just what I am coming to.  
I've danced so many years away,  
I never thought that I would rue the day.  
*He never thought that he would rue the day.*  
Would rue the day, would rue the day,  
I never thought that I would rue the day.  
*He's danced so many years away,*  
*He never thought that he would rue the day.*

I know I need refurbishing,  
But I still want to think my feet can sing.  
I still believe my feet can speak,  
So I'll come back to the mountains for a Scottish week.  
*So he'll come back to the mountains for a Scottish week.*  
A Scottish week, a Scottish week,  
I'll come back to the mountains for a Scottish week,  
*He still believes his feet can speak,*  
*So he'll come back to the mountains for a Scottish week.*

Spring Fling 2020

TORONTO



The Scottish Country Dance Festival for  
12 - 35 year olds

15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>  
May 2020



Spring Fling Toronto, Canada

15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the first  
Spring Fling outside of Europe!  
[springfling2020.com](http://springfling2020.com)

SPRING  
FRINGE  
2020

SPRING FRINGE (for over 35s) will run parallel to the FLING, with teachers and musicians alternating between Saturday and Sunday classes



TEACHERS:

Gary Coull, *Scotland*  
Linda Henderson, *California*  
Fiona Philip, *Toronto*

MUSICIANS:

Mara Shea, *North Carolina*  
Laura Risk and Nicholas  
Williams, *Montreal*  
Laird Brown and Scotch  
Mist, *Toronto*

DANCE VENUES AND  
ACCOMMODATION:  
University of Toronto  
downtown campus

TORONTO 2020



THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF | +44 (0)131 225 3854  
[www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org) | [info@rscds.org](mailto:info@rscds.org) | Charity No. SC016085, Company No. SC480530

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"Thistle 39, *Auld Lang Syne*."

But at the same time, we were saying good-bye this summer to a number of traditions associated with Thistle School that we may not see again.

For me, was this the last time I'd reside in the old rock building that is Tennessee Hall? The last sojourn by the campus waterfall? The last performance by the Metropolitan Opera juggler? The last ceilidh? Was it the last time to dance to the calling of J'ina, or Jeff, or Janet, or David, or Bob, or any of the others?

I know we need change, but I hope the answer to that last question is "no." I love them all, and I have too many fond memories of their teaching through the years. It's a bit of a surprise to me that I didn't shed that many tears over the last Thistle. Maybe it's because I know a school will go on in some form next year and thereafter. Maybe it's because I have so many Thistle souvenirs – song sheets, kilt pins, medals, music, blueberry hooch (yes, it's true) – that it all lives on.

Maybe it's because I anticipate some reunions in the years to come, not only at BRSDS but at other places and other times. You're all a part of my family, and I don't want to lose touch with you.

Maybe it's because I know that you feel as I do – that we've all been part of something very special all these years, something that will live on in our hearts and minds, even when our knees can't keep up. The only way to end this is with something Scottish, of course, and of course we can't do better than Robert Burns. So here's to him, and to all of you Thistlers through the years: "For auld lang syne, my dear,

For auld lang syne.

We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet  
For auld lang syne."

Thanks for the many cups of kindness you've given me.

# 2019 Scottish Country Dance at-a-Glance

~PLEASE VERIFY ALL DATES AND EVENTS BEFORE TRAVEL~

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sept 13-15 2019	36th Space Coast Scottish Fling	Cocoa Beach, FL	Susan Olivia (954) 684-5355 or jkutzner@earthlink.net <a href="http://www.gulfweb.net/rlwalker/SCDEvents/CocoaBeachSpaceCoast/2019/SpaceCoastScottishFling_2019_Flyer.pdf">http://www.gulfweb.net/rlwalker/SCDEvents/CocoaBeachSpaceCoast/2019/SpaceCoastScottishFling_2019_Flyer.pdf</a>
Sept 27 2019	Season Start	<b>Asheville NC</b>	Blue Ridge SCD of Asheville, Kate Mathewes <a href="mailto:dancer16mathk@att.net">dancer16mathk@att.net</a> (828) 215-8624
Sept 27-29 2019	Scottish Weekend	Cascade MD	Fred Eustis (410) 922-6369 or <a href="http://www.scottishweekend.org">www.scottishweekend.org</a>
Oct18-20 2019	Stone Mountain Games/ Dances	Atlanta GA	<a href="http://www.rscds-atlanta.org">www.rscds-atlanta.org</a> or <a href="http://www.smhg.org">www.smhg.org</a>
October 25 & 26, 2019	Reel Scottish Weekend	<b>Charlotte NC</b>	<a href="mailto:jpres79334@aol.com">jpres79334@aol.com</a>
Nov 1-3 2019	Asilomar Weekend	San Francisco CA	<a href="https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend">https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend</a>
Nov 2 2019	Post Highland Games Dance	<b>Charleston SC</b>	Irene Stancik <a href="mailto:charlestonrscds@gmail.com">charlestonrscds@gmail.com</a>
Nov 23 2019	36th Annual St. Andrews Ball	<b>Greensboro NC</b>	(336) 282-6507 or <a href="http://www.gsoscids.org">www.gsoscids.org</a>
December 31 2019 & Jan 1, 2020	Delaware Valley Hogmanay	Philadelphia PA	<a href="http://www.delvalscottishdance.org/balls-dances">http://www.delvalscottishdance.org/balls-dances</a>