

# Reel Time

Newsletter of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New Haven Branch

Winter 2013

## Class Schedules

*Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class*  
Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, 311 Broad St.,  
Windsor CT. Tuesday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Contact Barbara  
Austen 203-630-9749 or Karen Pestana 860-298-8311.

*Middletown Scottish Country Dancers* First Church of  
Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown  
CT. Wednesday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Contact Joyce Chase  
203-238-0694 or Lucile Blanchard 860-347-0278.

*Wilton Country Dancers* Millennium School of Irish  
Dance, Top Floor, 9 Ethan Allen Highway [Route 7]  
Wilton, Connecticut. Between Keogh's Hardware and  
Dunkin' Donuts North of Routes 57 and 107, South of  
Route 1102. \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for dancers 21  
and under. Contact Sandra Bethray 203-322-8341 or  
Angela Montague 203-762-9892.

*Mystic Scottish Country Dancers* St. Andrew  
Presbyterian Church, 310 Fort Hill Road, Groton CT.  
Friday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Beginners, 7-8 pm;  
Intermediates, 8:15-9:30 pm. No charge for classes.  
Contact Ruth Walsh 860-536-6265 or Linda Scent 860-  
464-9081.

*New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class*  
Whitney Arts Center, 591 Whitney Ave., New Haven  
CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Contact Dick Platt 203-  
878-6094 or Leslie Kearney 203-281-6591.

*Waterbury Scottish Country Dancers* Bunker Hill  
Congregational Church, 274 Bunker Hill Ave,  
Waterbury CT. Friday 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Parking is on the  
street and the hall is on the lower level. Contact Kate  
Mahoney 203-879-6000.

*Peter Price's Class* Fourth Monday of the month class,  
New Haven Friends Meeting House, 225 East Grand  
Ave., New Haven. From 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Note: This  
class will only take place if there are 8 dancers who have  
confirmed with Peter that they are coming. Contact  
Peter Price 203-675-9587 or  
[Peter.price1672@gmail.com](mailto:Peter.price1672@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events

**New Haven Ball Workshos:**  
February 16, 2:00 – 5:00 PM,  
190 Court St, Middletown, CT 06457

**New Haven Branch Highland Ball:** Saturday, March 2,  
2013, 5:00 pm to midnight. West Hartford Town Hall  
Auditorium, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT  
06107. Music by *The Parcel of Rogues*. Visit the New  
Haven branch site at <http://rscdsnewhaven.org> or  
<http://mysticscottishdancers.com> for applications and  
details.

Please send in your reservations as soon as  
possible. The fee is \$65 for the ball and brunch if you  
register before February 19th.

**Sunday Ball Brunch:** Sunday, March 3, 11:00 AM at  
the High Lane Club, 40 High Lane, North Haven, CT for  
brunch and dancing. We will again be holding the  
"Dancing Duds" sale at the brunch, so please bring any  
gently used clothing to sell as this is a major fund raiser  
for the branch.

**Annual Tea Party:** Middletown Class Wednesday,  
March 27, 2013. First Church of Christ, 190 Court St.,  
Middletown. 7:00-9:30 pm, no fee. Norb Spencer and  
his buddies will be playing for the dance. This is a  
social dance night with Scottish tea. Call Lucile  
Blanchard, 860-347-0278, for more information.

**Rerr Terr** - Save the date. Tenafly, NJ Saturday, April  
6, 2013. For more information see [www.rscds-nj.org](http://www.rscds-nj.org).

**Tartan Day** - Save the date. April 6, 2013. Possibility  
of getting a bus to New York as we have done in the  
past.

**Kilts and Ghillies Tea Dance** – Saturday, April 27,  
2013 from 3:00-7:00 PM. Music by Terry Traub  
(piano) and Catherine Miller (fiddle). South Britain  
Congregational Church Parish House, Rte 172 and East  
Flat Hill Road, Southbury, CT 06488. The cost is \$20  
per person (advance registration) or \$25 at the door. For  
more information contact Nina Stein:  
[nstein01@gmail.com](mailto:nstein01@gmail.com).

You can find the flyer for the event as well as the briefs  
and description of all the dances at  
[www.mysticscottishdancers.com/Links.cgi](http://www.mysticscottishdancers.com/Links.cgi).

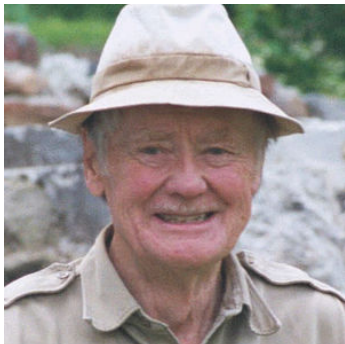
**Boston Highland Ball Weekend:** - May 10-12, 2013.  
RSCDS Boston Highland Ball Weekend, This is the 57<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the RSCDS Boston Branch Highland Ball.  
The band for the ball is Thistle House from the Delaware  
Valley. The ball will be held at Moseley's on the  
Charles in Dedham, MA. For more information see  
<http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-HighlandBall.html>

**Pawling Weekend (50<sup>th</sup>)** – Save the date. Hopewell Junction, NY. Friday, May 17 - May 19, 2013. For more information see [www.rscdsnewyork.org](http://www.rscdsnewyork.org).

**Scottish Pinewoods Sessions**, July 12 – 20, 2013. See [www.rscdsboston.org](http://www.rscdsboston.org) for more information.

Check <http://www.intercityscot.org> for similar events.

### Very Sad News:



Robert A. Gregg, a resident of Woodbridge, Connecticut since 1973 has died at the age of 94. Dr. Gregg was born in Dundee, Michigan on March 8, 1918. He received a BA from Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan, and a PhD in chemistry from the University of Michigan. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science. In 1942 he joined the research staff of the United States Rubber Co., later to become Uniroyal. Some of his early work on fundamental polymer chemistry has become standard textbook chemistry.

He is credited with inventing chemical processes which made steel-belted radial tires safe. Steel belted radial tires were invented by Firestone, but the claims and judgments against Firestone due to the failure of their tires, sometimes resulting in loss of life, so damaged the company that it was absorbed by a Japanese company in 1988. Uniroyal tires experienced no such difficulties. For this work he was awarded the Maurice Chamberland Award by the New Haven Section of the American Chemical Society, an award made "for work enhancing societal well being through the application of chemistry".



He invented spandex and also invented a chemical foaming agent now widely used in the making of shock-absorbing foam rubber in a wide variety of products, from running shoes to hammer handles. Since retiring in 1984, as President of the Woodbridge Land Trust he led the town's effort to purchase undeveloped tracts of land, thereby preserving them from development, providing outdoor recreation and preserving the character of the town.



And he was active with the American Chestnut Foundation in its effort to restore the chestnut tree to the landscape, through cross-breeding to produce a disease-resistant tree. He served as a Director of the Connecticut Chapter of the Foundation since 2004. One of the parcels preserved by the Land Trust is now the site of an experimental chestnut plantation. Finally, his will endows a Chair in the Chemistry Department at the University of Michigan. Dr. Gregg is survived by his wife Jean Westerman Gregg and their son Timothy of Carmel, NY.

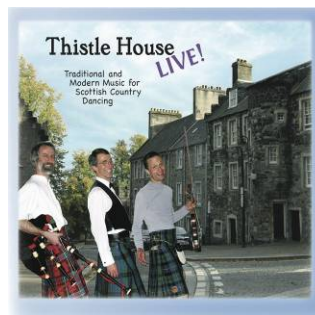


There WILL be a Bob Gregg Memorial Workshop..stay tuned for date.

## New Haven Ball CD

Did you go to the New Haven Ball weekend in 2007 and dance to the fabulous music of Thistle House and wish that the music would never end? Did you miss the ball that year, but wish that you could have gone?

Well, here's your chance! Thistle House recorded the music from the ball and brunch and has just come out with their new CD – Thistle House LIVE! The CD features 13 Scottish Dance tunes from the ball program devised by Kent Smith and the brunch program devised by Barbara Austen, and ends with a lovely waltz. Listen to Dave Wiesler on piano, David Knight on fiddle and Dan Emery on the pipes as they play tunes such as Flights of Fancy, Davy Nick Nack, The Black Leather Jig, The Sands of Morar, among others. The CD is great for teachers to use in class and also for the rest of us to



listen to as we go about our day. Listen to lively tunes both old and new as you clean the house, wash the dishes, rake the leaves... Nothing speeds up a job like doing it to the skirl of the bagpipes! How often do you get to own a CD of music that you listened to while it was

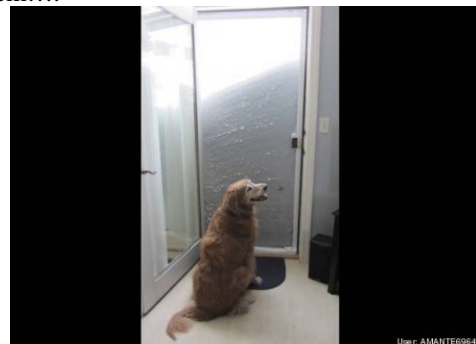
being recorded? I'm listening to the CD now as I'm writing this article and I cannot keep my feet from tapping! The music is out of this world. I can assure you that you will not be disappointed!

The CD can be ordered from Dave Wiesler at [www.davewiesler.com](http://www.davewiesler.com) for only \$15., plus \$3. shipping. Or, you can again hear Thistle House live at the Boston Ball on Saturday, May 11, 2013, and purchase the CD from them directly. Save money – no shipping charge!

*Barbara Link*

## Mystic Burns Supper Rescheduled

Everything was fine and dandy for the Mystic Burns Supper on February 9<sup>th</sup>. There was just one small problem....



Hey! What is this white stuff?

## Windsor Public Library Dancing

On Tuesday, December 11, 2012, the Greater Hartford Group that dances in Windsor coordinated with the Windsor Public Library to present a program of Scottish Country Dancing.



We were not sure if we would have 1 person or 100, nor did we know if people expected to dance or just to watch. As a result, we were ready for everything (we have three different programs prepared). It turned out 12 people had come to give SCD a try, and they kept dancing, smiling and laughing for one and a half hours. It was amazing! The participants were reminded repeatedly that our class met regularly on Tuesdays just across the parking lot at the church hall. We hoped to get some new dancers (some of them were VERY good), and we may still. Doing a program in December can be dicey. The library was very pleased with the turn out, so we hope we can do another program this spring and really recruit some new folks. The idea of a library program came from Judy Locker, one of our dancers and also a librarian. Thanks to Judy for making this all possible.

*Barbara Austen*

## New Haven Dance Party for Brian's 25 years of teaching (and holidays)



December 11<sup>th</sup> the New Haven Group hosted a party to celebrate the holiday of choice at the Whitney Arts Center in New Haven. The entire Branch was invited and the guest of honor was Brian Haeckler. The party (in addition to a holiday celebration) was an acknowledgement and gratitude for his 25 years of teaching.

*Leslie Kearney*

Who would have thought that there could be so much snow in one place and at just the wrong time. Ruth Walsh and Marge Wills are now working on organizing the details for the supper on March 9<sup>th</sup>. It is possible to get tickets to this event if you contact Marge Will at [dmwills1@juno.com](mailto:dmwills1@juno.com), Linda Scent at [Linda\\_Scent@guntherintl.com](mailto:Linda_Scent@guntherintl.com) or Ruth Walsh at [rhwdvb@aol.com](mailto:rhwdvb@aol.com). The deadline for ticket confirmation is February 23. Details can be found at <http://mysticscottishdancers.com/Burns.cgi>

*Dave Lees*

**Mystic Dancers End of Season Party**

On November the 21st the Mystic dancers celebrated a Christmas Pot-Luck, end of season dance session at the StoneRidge CCRC. It was an evening of dancing (Scottish as well as English) and eating. It was also a celebration of Joyce Chase's graduation. She will shortly be awarded her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. It has been a long haul for her - as she continues to hold down a full time job as well as working as the Mystic Scottish Country Dance\_instructor ..... AND burning the candle at both ends getting her course work tended to!!!



We honored Joyce....her dedication to us.....PLUS all of the patients and staff at "her" hospital ..... She is a wonder lady and it will be our pure pleasure to congratulate her on such a great accomplishment!!! We know she plans to go on for her Master;s Degree .....and we sure hope she will give herself a bit of vacation in between!!!

*Ruth Walsh*

**Rhode Island 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Robert Burns Supper**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Rhode Island Burns Supper and Dance was held on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston, Rhode Island. Several members of the Mystic Scottish Dancers attended this event.



Seen here are Ruth Walsh, Everett and Sara Munro. Also attending were Bob and Linda Scent and myself.

Music was provided by *The Irish Express* and after Cocktails and a fine dinner we danced the night away. The ballroom is vintage 1915 and has plenty of space for those who like to turn 'Strip The Willow' into an Olympic event.

The dinner and dancing were a big hit with attendees. There were people of all ages getting out on the dance floor. Following the *Address to the Haggas* and *The Immortal Memory*. The Rhode Island Highlanders Band performed with precision marching and an amazing drum salute. The best view of the band (and anyone on the dance floor) is from the balconies that surround the dance floor.



### **Reminders on Ball Etiquette**

New dancers may not be aware of a few points of ball etiquette and even longtime dancers might forget some of them.

1. Local dancers should think about asking out-of-town fold to dance to show that they are welcome and their support of the event is much appreciated
2. Experienced dancers should ask new dancers to dance, especially first timers who will have a heart on their name badge to indicate this.
3. When forming a set, do not cut in at the top or middle, but join at the bottom.
4. Remember to change your location in the ballroom rather than dance in the same set with the same people.
5. It's considered poor etiquette to "book ahead" except for the occasional favorite dance.
6. When a dance ends, thank your partner, thank your set and leave the floor.
7. Find a new partner as soon as the next dance is announced, and then join a set quickly so the dance can proceed.
8. The top couple should remember to count their set to let the briefer know if it is complete or not.
9. And please keep the lines straight.

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**Minutes of the New Haven Branch Board** meetings are available to all Branch members. If you want a copy, let Susan Leff know ([etdavis4@netzero.net](mailto:etdavis4@netzero.net)).

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The internet address for the New Haven Branch web site is: <http://www.rscdsnewhaven.org>

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Secretary-Corresponding	Cate Mahoney	203-879-6000
Treasurer	Stephen Rice	203-630-9749
Branch Class	Leslie Kearney	203-281-6591
Intergroup	Don Wills	960-536-1981
At Large	Joyce Chase	203-238-0694
	Angela Hill	860-921-5399
	Peter Leibert	860-887-9184
	Everett Munro	860-442-7283
	Nina Stein	203-757-2539
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### **Editor's Note**

Deadline for the next newsletter is **May15** for publication by the end of the month. The new editor will welcome all of your reports, and particularly all calendar listings. David Lees' email is [david.g.lees@pfizer.com](mailto:david.g.lees@pfizer.com) or [dglees@comcast.net](mailto:dglees@comcast.net)

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