

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Chicago Branch

December 1987

B l e t h e r s

Ingrid Kendall, President

Kenneth Schoon, Editor

New Year Ball: This year's gala anniversary ball (we'll be 8 years old) will be held again at the Glendora Ballroom in Chicago Ridge. In years past we've had a great time while we consumed a wonderful dinner, admired the beautifully dressed lassies (and laddies), and enjoyed our favorite type of fun--Scottish Country Dancing. The date is January 2, 1988. Please make your reservation early.

A Christmas dinner will follow an abbreviated dance class on Sunday, December 20th. Join us as we kick up our heels (only figuratively, of course--but "point our toes" just doesn't sound as good) at 6:30 and then retire to the Pyramid Restaurant for dinner.

Auction January 31st: Ann Wood reminds us all to save all our white elephants, crafty items and Scottish goods for the auction benefitting our workshop at Lake Geneva next Spring. Please invite your friends (Scottish and non-Scottish). February 6th is the rain/snow/hail date. The more items we have to sell, and the more people in attendance, the less we need to charge for the workshop. Tea and refreshments will be served at 5:30; dancing begins at 6:00; the auction commences at 7:30.

Racine Christmas Dance: will be held Sunday, December 26th, 2:00 p.m. at the DeKoven Foundation in Racine, Wisconsin. A potluck supper will follow the dancing. Our members are asked to bring a salad or dessert. See Barbara Bowker for a copy of the program and other information.

A Nicht Wi' Burns will be Saturday, January 23, 1988. Come and enjoy the music, poetry, and dance for which Scotland is so well known. This 1988 tribute to Scotland's most quoted poet will feature Highland and Country dancing (by the Evanston group as well as our own demonstration team). The Chicago Stock Yards Kilty Band will perform in their colorful full dress uniforms.

Announcements will be in the mail in a few weeks. If you are not on the Burns Committee mailing list, you can get a reservation slip at class. If you write "RSCDS-Chicago" on the reservation, we will all be seated in the same area.

Lake Geneva Workshop plans are coming along nicely. It will be held from June 3 - 5, 1988, again at the beautiful George Williams College at Lake Geneva. Mel Briscoe from Boston, Elinore Vandegrift from Seattle, and Margaret Zadworny from Nova Scotia have accepted our invitations to teach. Tullochgorum will, for the third time, and by popular demand, come from Boston to provide our music.

Last year we filled up early and some folks were not able to come. Please avoid the rush and get your reservation in early. Announcements were sent out last week. If you didn't get one, contact Kent TeVault or Judith Pretty.

The Beginners' Workshop last September was a great success with 38 beginners attending. Lots of credit for the success must go to our teachers, Dave and Avril, and to Chari Wurtzel who chaired the event.

Winter weather cancellation policy: With winter approaching and the probability of severe weather conditions, the possibility always exists that we will have to cancel class. Bill Morehead has again agreed to provide his answering machine as a means of communication. To find out if class has been cancelled, please call (312) 848-2332. Bill's machine will give the official word. In an area as large as ours, it's possible that roads are bad throughout much of the region, but just fine in yours. So call to be sure. (If the roads are impassable in your area, I assume you wouldn't feel it necessary to call.)

The constitution committee, chaired by Kent TeVault, has been studying other groups' constitutions and is working on one for us. They plan to have one for us ready by our annual meeting next June.

Our dance classes are usually composed of both beginners and advanced dancers which has presented a problem since it is, of course, impossible to teach at both levels at once. The problem was discussed at the AGM in June and, as a result of a thoughtful letter from Ken Parrott, discussed at officers meetings this fall.

The officers have proposed that we continue to split the Sunday class for part of the evening whenever possible. However when that isn't feasible (e.g. when there are not enough beginners present) then beginners will be asked to sit out difficult dances. This may mean, on occasion, that experienced dancers may also have to sit out some dances, if not enough experienced dancers are available to form a complete set. Experienced dancers may also be asked once in a while to volunteer to help with the beginners downstairs.

RSCDS Chicago Branch flyers: Have you seen our new brochures? Martin Mulligan did a terrific job on them, explaining all about our group and SCD in general. They have been distributed at recent Chicagoland Scottish events.

RSCDS Dance booklets and other publications can be purchased through Lynette TeVault. See her for a list of available publications.

Evanston SCD: Congratulations to the Evanston Scottish Country Dancers who have been accepted by the RSCDS as an affiliate group.

The Madison Group is planning two dances early this next year:

A Valentine Dance Party is planned for Sunday, February 14th (of course), at the University of Wisconsin.

The Madison Annual Ball will be held in the beautiful Great Hall of the Memorial Union Building at the University on March 26th. We hope to have several cars going up for this event.

Russian Fling: Bob Blackie (our 1987 workshop instructor) will lead a SCD trip to Russia and Scandinavia from April 25 to May 16. We hear that there are only a few places left, so if interested contact Travel Corner, Oakville, Ontario, (416) 844-4324 ASAP.

Phone books, please: The Blethers editor, living in distant and exotic Indiana, does not regularly receive phone books with Illinois numbers in them. As this places a crimp in his editing deliberations, he would appreciate receiving old copies of anything "phoney" from Illinois. In return, he might even offer the rare Northwest Indiana book.

Wedding Bells will ring this next May when our very own John Ellis and branch secretary Barbara Bowker will tie the nuptial knot. Best wishes to you both.

Ellen Schroyer is recuperating at home following a recent stroke. We all hope she's up and around very soon.

Our deepest sympathy to Kevin Lesko and his mother on the death of Kevin's father last fall. Mr. and Mrs. Lesko were at our 1985 Lake Geneva workshop where they made many friends.

Sisters Dorcas and Leticia have moved to Rome where they plan to study for three years. Their address is:

Sisters Dorcas and Leticia
St. Paul's Within the Walls
Via Napoli, 58
00184 Rome, Italy

We were pleased that, with all the work entailed with their impending move, they found time to come to our dance last September. At the party we gave them both a little something to use to purchase something special overseas. The following is a letter we received from them shortly thereafter:

Tuesday, Sept 22, 1987

Dear David, Avril, and all the New Chicago Branch SCDers,

We were simply overwhelmed with your most generous and totally unexpected gift! You have so warmly befriended, helped and supported us and the DeKoven dancers over the five years of our infancy since first we ventured down to one of your parties in October 1983 (if my memory serves me rightly). There is no way we can adequately thank you for all you have been and done for us, but your love and friendship are a treasure we will carry with us for all eternity and share with everyone we can coax to dance along the way! St. Pauls Within the Walls Beware!

Thank you each and everyone of you. Every dance we have shared with you has been a joy. God bless and Keep you in His love - until we meet again.

Your dancing Sisters,

Dorcas and Leticia

P.S. God willing, the money you collected for us, along with some more our own group collected, will go toward tuition at St. Andrew's next summer. That's a dream we would neve have dared to dream even a year ago.

Greetings from Japan: Yoshi and Kathy Yukishige phoned from Osaka and wished all Chicago Branch members a happy holiday season. They are doing very well and are looking forward to a visit next summer by Ken, Peg and Jacob Schoon. Kathy will be home in Boston for a few weeks in July and August.

Loch Mich T shirts are still available. Get yours before they're all gone.

Calendar:

December 20	Class followed by dinner at the Pyramid	
December 26	Christmas Dance Party 2:00	DeKoven Foundation
January 2	New Year Ball	Glendora Ballroom
January 3	No class	
January 23	Nicht Wi' Burns	Oak Lawn Hilton
January 24	No class	
January 31	Auction 5:30 refreshments, 6:00 dancing, 7:30 auction	Palos Park Village Hall
February 14	Valentines Day Party	Madison, Wisconsin
March 26	Annual Ball	Madison, Wisconsin
June 3 - 5	Spring Workshop	George Williams College

Winter Weather Cancellation Phone Number: (312) 848-2332

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Address Correction Requested