

RSCDS, Chicago Branch



The Blethers

Ree Grisham, Chair

February 2000

Sue McKinnell, Editor

Branch Open House: The Branch Open House to attract new dancers is Sunday, February 20 at St. Josaphat's. The teachers have a terrific evening planned to introduce SCD to people. Please let your friends, neighbors, and co-workers know. We have flyers to post at park districts, grocery stores, health clubs – anywhere you can push a pin in a board.

New Year's Ball 2000: Our New Year Ball, "Celebration 20 / 2000," commemorated our 20th Anniversary and really got this new year off to a great start. Many thanks to all those whose help made the event a success. Kudos to:

Melissa Whitson who designed and arranged for the beautiful commemorative pin.

Ree Grisham who made all the arrangements with the band,

Laurie Walter who handled hospitality for all our out-of-town guests,

Jeanne and Mike Millin who hosted the brunch Sunday morning,

Lisa Kowynia and Kari Nebes for the table decorations,

Mary Ellen and Tomy Endo for working the registration table,

Ken Heinemann who keeps our mailing list up-to-date and made it possible to mail out dance announcements,

all those who brought goodies for the dessert table, and

Ingrid Kendall, cochair, who made the dance programs as well as making all arrangements with the hall.

--- Ken Schoon, New Year Ball chair

Tartan Day: By proclamation of the government, Tartan Day is April 6. In celebration of that event, the Branch will hold a Tartan Day Dance on Saturday, April 1, at St. Josaphat's. This is an afternoon event, starting at 3:00 p.m. with a light tea afterwards. You should have received your flyer and cheat sheets by the time you receive this newsletter. If you have not, or if you wish to bring goodies for the tea, please contact Jackie Leeper at (773) 338-4756 or Gary Hay at (773) 292-1473. Last year's party given by the Branch's Silk & Thistle class at Fermilab was a great success. The Fermi group plans a repeat this year and welcomes all to join them Tuesday, April 4 at the Fermilab barn.

Class Shift April 16: Due to the Palm Sunday bake sale, the class normally held at St. Josaphat's will shift to Western Springs on April 16. People are encouraged to come and try this facility to see if it is an acceptable dance space for more frequent use. For more information contact Melissa Whitson.

Easter Sunday Dancing?: If at least eight people are interested in dancing, Melissa will hold class on Easter Sunday, April 23. Please let Melissa or a Committee of Management member know if you want to dance that evening.

Annual General Meeting: The Annual General Meeting for the RSCDS-Chicago Branch, which is normally held on the first Sunday in May, is shifting to the second Sunday, May 14, 2000. Please plan to attend. The Election Committee is looking for people interested in holding an office or serving as a member at large on the Committee of Management. If you have ideas, interest, or even some spare time, talk to a current Committee of Management member or one of the Election Committee members: Bryan Luce, Gary Hay, and Noel Chavez.

Membership and Spring Class Subscription: There is still time to become a member of the Chicago Branch (and the larger RSCDS community). Fill out the membership form (enclosed) and mail your dues to Greg Canfield. Our next mailing to Scotland will be March 1. You must be a member of the Branch to hold office, vote at the AGM, and receive Book 40 (see below). In addition, your dues help run the Chicago Branch and its activities, such as the Ball and Workshop. Also, on the membership form is a place to pay for the Loch Michigan spring class subscription.

Book 40: Good news! Book 40 finally has arrived. After several calls to Scotland, headquarters found our paperwork and shipped the books pronto. Dorothy Pesch will be distributing the books in the immediate future.

Weekend Workshop 2000: The Weekend Workshop has been scheduled for the weekend of May 19-21 at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. Plans are still in the works, but we have confirmed Robert McOwen as one of the teachers. Watch your mailboxes for more information.

Burns Night: January 25, 2000 was the anniversary of Robert Burns' birth and it fell on a Tuesday. The Silk & Thistle class of the Chicago Branch celebrated the occasion with a special program of dances related to Burns and his poetry, music, and life. A special treat was the chance to dance to live bagpipe music, masterfully played by Dave Greiwe, member of the University of Chicago pipe band and pipe major of the Tunes of Glory pipe band.

Other Events of Interest: The RSCDS Cincinnati Branch biennial workshop and ball is March 10-12, 2000. Go to <http://www.infinet.com/~plindsay/rscds> for information. RSCDS – Central Iowa is hosting a Scottish Country Dance Workshop March 10-13, 2000. Go to <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~fychs/scd.html> for more information. The Highland Mist Scottish Country Dancers website has been improved and enlarged: <http://members.aol.com/ParadiseMO/highland.html>.

Blatant Self Promotion: As some of you know, I write Scottish Country Dances. I have created a website for these dances and invite you to drop by and check them out. The site is <http://home.att.net/~suem18>.

1999-2000 Committee of Management: Ree Grisham, Honorary Chair; Dorothy Pesch, Honorary Secretary; Greg Canfield, Honorary Treasurer; Jeanne and Mike Millen and Mike Fitak, Members at Large.