



THE SALTIRE

January/February 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, the local Sarasota "season" is in full swing! The Christmas Luncheon & Burns Supper were HUGE successes enjoyed by our Scottish brethren and NEXT WEEKEND IS THE SARASOTA HIGHLAND

GAMES!! St Andrew Society has moved into our important "Scholarship Season," as both applications and donations flow in. This period will culminate on 17 March, when we award scholarships to a number (yet to be determined) of deserving college-bound students from local high schools. These awards will be made at Mattison's Forty-one again on 17 March. This year your board of directors has also decided to recognize an individual with a "Great Scot" award, which will also be presented at the 17 March Scholarship Luncheon (notice how I've strategically mentioned the date of the luncheon (17 March) three (3) times (oops now four (4) times) in my opening paragraph).

Dr. Rev Bruce Porter is the recipient of St. Andrew Society of Sarasota first ever Great Scot award. You will be hearing more about him as the 17 March Scholarship Luncheon approaches. You will need to get your reservations for the luncheon in to Linda and Bert **EARLY** as seating is limited and we anticipate a larger than usual crowd not only to honor our scholars but also Dr. Porter. Contact Linda Prowten or Bert Mitchell for info and reservations at 941-921-6426 or 5186 Cote Du Rhone Way, Sarasota, FL 34238-4470. There will be an email to members very soon!

CELTIC CHRISTMAS

It was an OUTSTANDING evening at "A Celtic Christmas" 3 Dec, at the Sarasota Opera House, presented by The City of Dunedin Pipe Band! Dunedin is our sister city.

The evening started well before the 7 PM showtime with over 30 members of The Caledonian Club of SW Florida and The St. Andrew Society of Sarasota joining together at Classica (on Main St & Palm) for "adult beverages," food, camaraderie, and a bag pipe serenade. You should have seen the cell phone cameras come out from the restaurant clientele when the kilt-clad Scots arrived during the 1st quarter of the afternoon NFL game. When the piper arrived to play inside and lead the "assembled Scots" down the block and around the corner to the opera house dozens of cameras of downtown residents popped out!

The two- hour show featured;

Singer, Sarah Combs, her 12 year-old daughter Alayna, and 16 year-old Faith Mosher performing several

Scottish songs to include Wexford Carol, Caledonia and of course Auld Lang Syne. Cellist, Tom

Kersey, performing Fairy Tale of New York and a Bach arrangement for the cello. Dancers, The Isle of Skye Dancers, beautifully gracing the stage in several Scottish dances to include Chasing Shadows, and the Sword Dance. The internationally awarded City of Dunedin Pipe Band massed and individuals rendering of numerous traditional Christmas songs and competition pieces. Sarasota was founded by Scots and is still a community that prides itself on this heritage!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The next weekend found me donning my kilt and heading to the Meadows Country Club for our annual combined Caledonian/SASS Christmas luncheon. I'm sure Liz will provide a great description of the the event committee's work to bring this great afternoon to fruition.

BURNS SUPPER

20 Jan 2018 was a first for the Burns Supper. We had the presidents of the three largest and oldest Scottish organizations in Sarasota: Bonnie Perkins and her husband Jon of the Scottish Heritage Society of Sarasota (the organizer & host for next weekend's Sarasota Highland Games & Celtic Festival), Frank MacIntire, the President of The Caledonian Club Florida West & Mary Ellen MacMahon; and me, Carl Morris, President of St Andrew Society of Sarasota and my wife Mary Lou.



This special evening featured J.J. Smith entertaining us throughout the evening, Alex Crawley

“addressing the haggis.” Gary Reinstrom piping to include “Flowers of the Forest” as a memorial for Scots lost since the last Burns Supper (Jack McCall, Aeden Bartz, Jean Pelham, & Ted Dodds). Other

highlights were May Crawley's welcome from the Robert Burns World Federation (she's an Honorary President), and a wonderful "Immortal Memory" delivered by Evelyn Sklair.



To burn off the incredible meal (which featured Scotch Eggs, Cock-a-Leekie Soup, Haggis/Neeps/Oat Cakes, entrees of Beef or Salmon or homemade Veggie Ravioli, and trifle for desert, the Sarasota Scottish Country Dancers, again danced a couple demonstrations before getting the crowd up for a group "exercise period." There were five items in the Silent Auction to benefit the Scholarship Fund including; four Sunday brunches at Palm Aire C.C., four rounds of golf /w carts at Palm Aire C.C., a basket of Palm Aire C.C. Pro Shop items, a basket with 250th Anniversary Burns Whisky, and a \$50 gift certificate to Mattison's Forty One. The evening was peppered with ABSOLUTELY HILARIOUS humor by the Master of Ceremonies (that would be ME!) and ended with J.J. Smith leading everyone in "Auld Lang Syne." We raised over \$900 for the St. Andrew Scottish Scholarship Fund during the event.

SARASOTA HIGHLAND GAMES

27 January will again find St. Andrew Society of Sarasota participating in the Highland Games at Robart's Arena and Fair Grounds. Stop by the SASS tent and enjoy the many events & music of this GREAT event!

In closing, I encourage EVERYONE to make a 2018 donation to the "St. Andrew Scottish Scholarship Fund" by sending your checks either in care of me (Carl Morris, 5828 Lakeside Woods Cir, Sarasota, FL 34243) or to the St Andrew Society of Sarasota P.O. Box 2592, Sarasota, FL 34230 (it's easier if you send correspondence to my home as I only check the P.O. Box once a week).



SANTA STOPPED BY THE CHRISTMAS PARTY CO-SPONSORED WITH THE CALEDONIANS. His helpers were Liz Thompson and Sue Eltonhead.

2018 Scottish Events

Event	Date	Lead Organization
Burn's Club (Monthly in Season)	19 Feb MacAllister's	SASS
Frugal Night	22 Feb	Caledonians
Scholarship Luncheon	17 March Mattison's Forty One	SASS
Thistle Ball	24 Mar – Palm Aire CC	Caledonians
Kirkin o the Tartan	8 Apr 11:00 AM – Church of the Redeemer	SASS

MUSING WITH THE CHAPLAIN

If you have been to Scotland and to Edinburgh, in particular, you may have been surprised to find a cathedral on the Royal Mile. That's right: a cathedral, seat of a bishop, in the heart of the Church of Scotland! Well, we Presbyterians do not have bishops, so how can this be?

It is a long story but here is the condensed version along with a couple of humorous tales. Turns out it was Roman Catholic when built in pre-Reformation days, but it wasn't then a cathedral. It became one when the Anglicans, with the help of the Crown, took over in the 17th Century. Prior to this time the firebrand preacher John Knox was named minister by the Edinburgh Town Council. With his powerful pulpit he was the voice of Reformation in Scotland and is considered the father of Presbyterianism. Surprise! He was a Catholic priest early in his career and later served as an Anglican priest. He was in constant hot water with Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots. He is buried in the church yard.

The Reformation church was hotly divided over several issues, one of which was the style of worship. So bad was it that a partition was built through the length of the main aisle to divide the two warring factions. Charles I had it removed in 1633 as he began his efforts to impose Anglican services on the Scots. It all came to a head in 1637 when the Book of Common Prayer, revised for the Scots, was first read by the Dean. It was evident that the congregation thought they were being led down the return path to Catholicism. A street merchant, named Jenny Geddes, threw her stool at the Bishop who had stepped in to calm the congregation but a full-scale riot commenced. It soon became civil war and did not end until Charles I was executed and Cromwell became "Lord Protector."

So, we really don't have a cathedral. It is officially the High Kirk, the title it actually had before it briefly was a cathedral. It is named for Giles the Hermit who founded an abbey at St-Gilles-du-Gard in the 7th century. He was credited with numerous miracles. He was a very humble man who lived many years in solitude in the forest where he allegedly had a pet deer. He is patron of disabled persons, those with breast cancer and many others. During the Reformation he would surely have been a calming influence had he served the church that bears his name.
Regards, Dick

EXPANDING YOUR SCOTTISH VOCABULARY

We are deeply indebted to our Scottish ancestors for many words and phrases we use regularly. Here are a few examples:

Himsel(f) – The principal person or a term of mock respect,

Red-handed – Attributed to Sir Walter Scott, meaning literally there was blood on the suspect's hands.

Uptake – intelligence, as in "He was quick in the uptake."

Cutty Sark – a short chemise, as that worn by the well-endowed lady figurehead on the famous clipper ship of the same name.

Black mail – meaning “evil rent” or protection money.

Slogan – a war cry, first used in 1513.

Hard stuff – Scotch whiskey originally, now all booze!

MEGAN JOHNSTON: 2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Megan is attending Emory University in Atlanta. She is interested in environmental studies, working with children and developing leadership skills. She demonstrated leadership skill at Manatee High School and wrote for us the following essay that evokes piercing mental images.

“Megan, I need to tell you something kind-of personal.”



“Okay, what’s up?” I asked, thinking the little ten-year old in front of me was about to tell me she had wet the bed. “When I was in kindergarten, I had a stepfather, and he kind-of used and sexually abused me.” Disbelief ran through my veins as Sara continued to tell me that she sometimes had flashbacks, and she had just had one. I didn’t know what to say or how to respond. I was in a state of disbelief. Sara had arrived to Camp Wekiva two days before. She joined seven other girls, my co-counselor and me in the cabin Timucua, and we were having a week of fun, silliness, and of course, nature! However, in the midst of the fun and excitement of camp, I was hit with this cold blast of reality. It is amazing how one little thing can change an entire perspective. Throughout the rest of the week I was still upbeat and happy, but I made sure to always give the girls compliments on what they accomplished, whether big or small. I was more patient with the slower girls than ever before. I stayed positive

through thick and thin. Though I had already been doing these things, I suddenly had a new understanding of why these little actions were so very important. And, they all paid off. At the end of the week, we won dog tags. On the last night of camp, it was simply amazing to walk up to the stage and receive this small, shining prize. But what made that night was not the trophy hanging around my neck. It was not the pride I felt for myself and my girls. It was not even the satisfying moment of success after working hard all week. In fact, the best part of the night came before we even won. On the last night, the counselors recognize their campers by calling them up to the stage, one by one. The most memorable and powerful moment was when my little Sara came up on stage, covered in tears, and gave me a hug. In that moment, I realized what that child has overcome, and how I contributed. It is heartbreaking to know that there are children who are sexually abused. It is painful to know that they live with that pain. And yet, when we build an environment based on fun and positivity, we can help them shine light into the darkness they carry around. I was not the first person to help Sara become the bright, observant, funny girl she is today, and I will not be the last. But I have been changed by the fact that I was a part of helping her, and creating a home she never wanted to leave.”

SCOTTISH GOLFER MACTAVISH PASSES AWAY

Famous golfer Ian MacTavish passed away last week. He was 86 and played three days a week with his long-time friend Ron McDonald. Both were members of St. Andrews. McDonald said they played just two days ago and had made a pact to contact the survivor when the first passed away to let him know if there was golf in heaven. McDonald said he got a phone call

just a few hours after MacTavish passed. He was clearly distressed as MacTavish informed him that yes, there was golf in heaven, but that McDonald had a tee time on Thursday. McDonald, who was also 86 years old, said he didn't feel so good. *Editor's Note: President Trump would call this" fake news."*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Sara and Henry Rhodes; David R. Shaddock – his great-great-great-great grandfather was Gilbert Burns, brother of our Rabbie!