



THE BLETTHERS



Ree Grisham, Chair

Laurie Walter, Editor

3 URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!!

#1-No Loch Mich January 31: St. Josaphat has need of their parish hall on January 31, 1999, so there will be no regularly-scheduled Sunday night dancing that week. We hope to see everyone on February 7.

#2-No June, 1999, Workshop: Due to a lack of facilities to hold the June, 1999, RSCDS-Chicago Weekend Workshop, it has been cancelled by the Committee of Management. If you are *very organized* and would like to help put together and run a one-day, "Workshop Lite," please call Ree at (773) 528-7824. Keep watching this space and I promise updates, when available.

#3-Twentieth Anniversary New Year's Ball, January 2000: Save the date!! It's not too early to start planning for an extra-special, 20th anniversary, RSCDS-Chicago New Year's Ball on January 8, 2000. All dancers from the last 20 years are invited to attend. Please call Ken Schoon at (219) 836-8593 for information, to volunteer to help, or if you have contacts with old friends.

Thanks for a great New Year's Ball, 1999! January, 1999's New Year's Ball was superb, despite lingering weather-related problems that unfortunately kept some of our out-of-town friends from attending. The musicians played beautifully, moving some listeners to tears, and giving no hint of the struggles they had to arrive at all (weather again). The M.C. and briefers had the right combination of brevity, sentiment, wit, and expertise to keep us all dancing. And a special thanks to all who attended: it was great to see you!

Thanks for goodies: Thanks to everyone who brought goodies for the New Year's Ball sweets table. It was a delicious and bountiful array, with plenty to satisfy our 116+ attendees. Every year it's better than ever. [Robin Gaston] And of course, thanks to Robin for setting up all the toothsome morsels.

ScotReel resumes: ScotReel, the South Suburban SCD group, will resume classes on February 25 (till April 29; end-of-year dance on May 6) at the Marie Irwin Center, corner of Highland Ave. and Ridge Rd., in Homewood. Call Ingrid Kendall at (708) 957-4494 or the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District at (708) 957-PARK for information.

Spring Dance: Save the date, again: March 20, 1998, for the Spring dance. More later.

Congratulations: To Ingrid Kendall and Jeanette Parrott, for being named honorary members. Three cheers, ladies!!!

Bagpiping jokes: Q: Why do bagpipers walk when they play? A: They're trying to get away from the noise.
Q: How do bagpipers tell when they're out of tune???

News item: (as reported by Dave Barry, *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, November 15, 1998) Renee Harber sent in a police log from the July 24, 1997, Corvallis (Ore.) Gazette Times containing this entry: "12:38 p.m. July 20--report that a man near the Crystal Lake boat ramp was threatening to kill the next person he saw wearing a kilt." [Some people just don't appreciate knobbly knees!]

Next issue: A Web site to keep up with the travels of Kate Walker, peripatetic ecologist and dancer!