

RSCDS, Chicago Branch



The Blethers

Ree Grisham, Chair

September 1999

Sue McKinnell, Editor

Congratulations are in order: Congratulations to both Melissa Whitson and Noel Chavez. Two weeks of hard work and intense study at St. Andrews this summer paid off handsomely as Melissa is now a fully certificated RSCDS teacher and Noel has her preliminary pass. The branch thanks them for all their hard work and dedication.

More St. Andrews: There was quite a Chicago contingent at St. Andrews. Ken Heinemann, Jeanne and Mike Millen, and Ree Grisham joined Melissa and Noel for the second week of the first fortnight. Holly Fuchs from Ames, IA was there with words of encouragement and Bill Moorhead popped in for an evening. Noel and Mel would like to thank all who cheered them on and believe they were the only candidates whose Branch chair came specifically to watch over 'her' teachers.

Congratulations and farewells: Congratulations and farewell to Paul King. Paul has taken a job teaching mathematics in downstate Sheldon, Illinois. He promises to return to Chicago for special events. Congratulations and farewell also to Dale Trela. Dale has accepted a new position with the University of Michigan, Flint. We shall miss him. Perhaps those who attend the Ann Arbor Ball (usually around Ground Hog Day) will run into him.

Open House at St. Josaphat's: The Fall Open House will take place October 3rd at St. Josaphat's. We are hoping for a wonderful turnout – please invite your friends, your neighbors, strangers off the street. We also look forward to seeing all our regular dancers. Mary Lou Woods is coordinating tea; please call her with contributions for the evening.

Tea Chair assistant needed: Mary Lou Woods has graciously agreed to handle tea duties again this year, but she would like an assistant tea chair. If you can help her out, please contact Mary Lou.

Fall Dance at St. Josaphat's: The fall dance, which had been scheduled for October 3rd, is being shifted to December. More details to follow.

December dance venue needed: We are looking for a place to hold the December holiday party and dance. Suggestions so far include the Katherine Legge Lodge in Hinsdale and the Arts Center in Oak Park. If you know of a nice place with a good floor and ambience, let a Committee of Management member know.

Fall classes: The Loch Mich class runs Sundays 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at St. Josaphat in Chicago. Silk and Thistle meets in the barn at Fermilab Tuesdays 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. ScotReel meets at the Irwin Center in Homewood Thursdays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Demos: The demonstration team just completed two successful and fun demos at the Fox Valley Folk Festival September 5th and Chicago's Celtic Fest September 18th. Upcoming demos are at the Morton Arboretum on October 16th, where there will be a performance followed by participatory dancing, and the annual Museum of Science and Industry Christmas Around the World performance on November 20th. The demo team loves to see familiar faces in the audience and is very pleased to have The Grace Notes (Dawn Arnold and Ree Grisham) providing their wonderful music.

Frolic on the Fox 4: Fermilab's Silk and Thistle RSCDS class will present the fourth annual Frolic on the Fox informal Scottish Ball Saturday, November 6th, 1999. Dancing begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Baker Center in St. Charles, IL ("a lovely hall") one block south of Route 64 on the corner of Walnut and Route 31. Only \$8 at the door. Non-dancers welcome to observe and listen for \$2. Once again, music will be provided by Mike Briggs, Susan Conant, and Dave Mullen. For more information, contact Doug or Susan Jensen at (630) 232-9089, Doug at work at (630)840-8194, Mady Newfield at (630)584-0825, or Mary Helen Polensky at (815)756-7182, or email folkdance@fnal.gov.

Milwaukee Halloween Dance: This year's Milwaukee Halloween Dance will be held Saturday, October 30th at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's church. For more information, contact Sonya Fitak at (414)964-8253 or johnya@execpc.com.

20th Anniversary New Year's Ball: Just a reminder that this year's New Year's Ball is very special as it is the branch's Twentieth Anniversary. Keep January 8, 2000 on your calendar and make plans to join us there. More details to follow.



English Country Dancing: You can find English Country Dancing Wednesdays at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, 1509 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL. Upcoming dates are October 13th and 27th, November 10th and 24th, and December 8th. Times are 8:00 – 10:00 p.m. and admission is \$4. Contact Tom Senior at (847) 433-8704 or seniort@nttc.org for more information.

Shoes needing a good home: Noel Chavez has two pairs of barely worn James Senior Princess Pumps in black and navy that are looking for new feet (like kittens free to a good home). They are UK size 7 1/2.

Canadian dancing: The Kingston RSCDS 33rd Annual Weekend Workshop and Ball is November 5-7th. Contact Len Walker (613)548-3157 or walker@kos.net. The 1999 St. Andrews Ball is November 27th in Toronto. Call (416)449-8072.

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.