

SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello SSAS Members and Friends,

This time of year has always been special to me. It is the time of year I reflect on the things that are most important - family and friends and the journey we have made during the past year. It warms my heart to include all of you in my recollection of the journey. You are friends and you are family. I trust all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward the rest of the holiday. I know I am. On behalf of the Board, please let me extend to all of you and your families the very best for this Holiday Season.

Since we last spoke, your SSAS hosted Sheila Fraser, a historian from Scotland who presented her perspective comparing the reigns of Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I. More than 65 guests enjoyed light appetizers and beverages at the Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood. What a terrific turnout. Aprille Winston, your Program Chairperson, did an amazing job arranging the event. Special thanks To Iona and Dick Baldwin for hosting Ms. Fraser at their home during her stay with us.

We also hosted our annual St. Andrew Day Dinner Dance on the 17th of November. Our 55 guests enjoyed wonderful pre-dinner entertainment from Dance Caledonia and the Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education Students. Ken Law played the Pipes for us. What a special treat. The sit down dinner was wonderful and as always the Racquet Club on Kingshighway was a spectacular venue for this party. When Dinner was finished Peat Fire Flame kept our toes tapping. Thanks to all who made this event a success as we honored the Patron Saint of Scotland - St. Andrew. We'll have photos next issue.

Our upcoming events include the Christmas Party and the Burns Dinner, see inside this issue for more details.

As always, if there are any suggestions for events you would like to see your SSAS provide, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Board Members. We are here for you.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

Chris Fulton
President



November 2007

SSAS News and Notes



December 10- Society Christmas Party (more information below!)
February 2- St. Andrew Society Burns Supper (flyer attached to back)
(Hilton Frontenac, St. Louis)

Membership Renewal Time: Last Reminder!

If your envelope says 2006-2007 then you will want to renew now, or the December Thistle Times will be your last one. So please get your renewal in as soon as possible. All members (new and renewing) will receive this year's gift along with a current roster in early January. Any questions, call Carrie Sutherland, Membership Chair on 314-771-0119, or send an email to ssasmal@sbcglobal.net.

Welcome, New Members!!

Michael Herron, Chesterfield, MO
Kendra McCormick, St. Charles, MO
James Williams, St. Peters, MO

SSAS CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

POTLUCK

Mon December 10, 5:45 pm

(Dinner 6pm prompt)

Crestwood Euclid Masonic Temple
9078 Sappington (NE corner of Old Sappington and Eddie & Park). Park in front. Dinner downstairs in cafeteria.

Please bring a casserole, salad or dessert to share - ham, tea/coffee, soft drinks provided.

Important! Santa needs to know the names and ages of members children or grandchildren attending! (10 years old and under). Please give Carrie Sutherland a call at 314-771-0119 **before** December 7th.



Th' man wi' a' th' toys



Stocking Stuffers!

We have some surplus Society keyrings which would make great stocking stuffers or extra wee gifts. They are \$3 each, which includes postage. We have a limited amount so get your order in quickly. Checks should be made payable to the Scottish St Andrew Society of Greater St Louis and sent to Carrie Sutherland, 2418 S. 10th, St. Louis, MO 63104. You can also phone 314-771-0119 or email ssasmal@sbcglobal.net to let us know you are putting in an order.

Och!

Correction: the Scottish Games Tug-o-War photos in last month's Thistle Times were provided by Games photographer Janie Brewen. Thanks, Janie!

MORE SSAS NEWS >>>

Society Event in Review: Sheila Fraser Lecture

Article kindly provided by Anja Lodge; Photos kindly provided by Chris Fulton

On November 5th, 67 people gathered at the Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood for an evening of enlightenment, good food and drinks, and, in a small way, to celebrate Guy Fawkes Day. The enlightenment came in the form of a lecture by Sheila Fraser, visiting from Scotland, on Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I.

Sheila, who is a historian and playwright in her native Scotland, gave us the premise that Mary Queen of Scots ruled with her heart, and Elizabeth I ruled with her head. Her illustrations of that premise were plentiful, from the way both Queens grew up and the decisions they made in their adult lives that brought them to their ultimate fate.

Through Mary's sheltered time at the court in France, her years at Holyrood Palace, and her marriages, we could clearly see that, indeed, Mary was mostly ruled by her heart, whereas Elizabeth, growing up in fear, knew exactly what she wanted and made her decisions in a coldly calculating way – she was ruled by her head.



Sheila Fraser



Sheila Fraser and Mary Queen of Scots

It was unfortunate that the Schlafly Bottleworks at the last minute decided to close the restaurant, throwing us for a loop as far as the food was concerned. We had thought that people could come early and have dinner, but that turned out not to be possible. However, our Program Chair, Aprille Winston, arranged for a wonderful spread of cheeses, crackers, veggies and dip and some wonderful concoction with artichokes and pita chips to make up for it.

I had the pleasure of taking Sheila Fraser to St. Genevieve on the Wednesday following

the lecture. She is a very interesting woman, who decided that she would like to visit the United States and found a wonderful way to combine that with meeting people in a more homey setting. She spent a couple of days in New York and Washington D.C. as a tourist, and then came on to St. Louis for our lecture and one the next evening for the English Speaking Union. After her stay in St. Louis, she went on to Seattle, to meet with the members of the local St. Andrew Society there. I hope everyone had a good time. I certainly did. It was wonderful to see and visit with so many people.



A Great Crowd at Schlafly Bottleworks

St. Andrews Day- November 30.

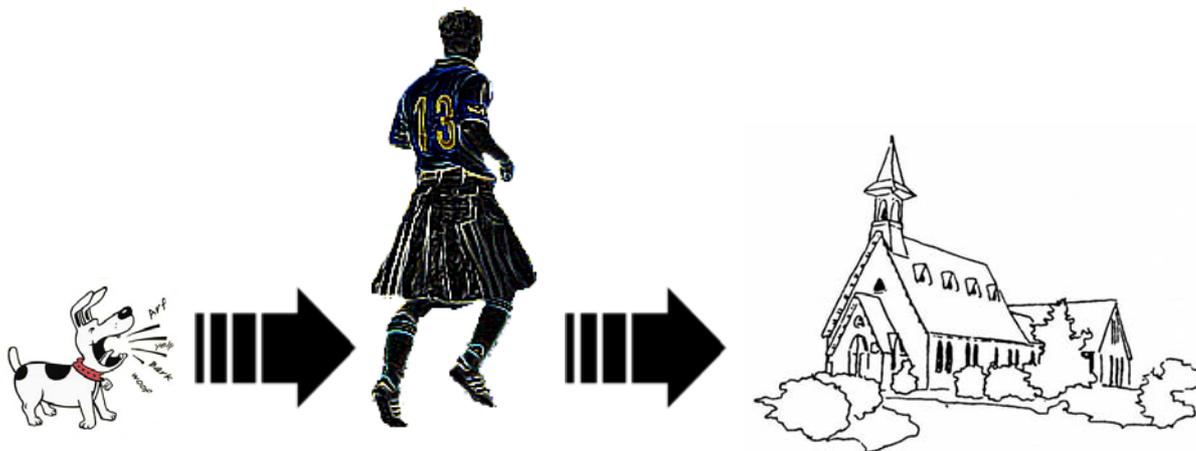


Some Quick Facts about St Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, and the day in his honor:

- St Andrew was credited with spreading the gospel to Romania, Greece and Russia, and is also the patron saint of those countries.
- Scotland (along with the aforementioned above) is one of the few countries to have one of Christ's disciples as its patron saint.
- St Andrew, one of the Twelve Apostles, was brother of St Peter.
- St Andrew is believed to have died on a diagonally transversed cross which the Romans sometimes used for executions and which, therefore, came to be called St Andrew's cross.
- St Andrew's Day is connected with Advent, which begins on the first Sunday after November 26.
- St Andrew's Day marks the opening of the Christmas Markets in the UK.

St. Andrew's Day, more than any other day apart from Halloween, is surrounded by superstition and folklore:

- Minutes before midnight on November 29, it was traditional for girls to pray to St Andrew for a husband. But how to know if the prayer had been answered, or even heard for that matter? Why not throw a shoe at a door at the stroke of 12? (If the toe of the shoe landed in the direction of the door, she would marry and leave her parents' house within the year.)
- Or why not peel a whole apple (without breaking the peel!) and throw the peel over her shoulder? If the peel formed a letter of the alphabet (upon landing, of course- not in mid-flight) then this suggested the name of her future groom.
- In the late 1800s, young women were encouraged to sleep naked on the 29th on the promise that they would see their future husband in their dreams. (On a separate but related note, the number of marriages between young women and their nosy, Peeping Tom neighbors increased 400% during the same time period...)
- Young women were also instructed to note the location of barking dogs on St Andrew's Eve, as their future husbands would come from that direction (probably at a good pace, too, depending on how many dogs were chasing the prospective groom!)



I'm No' Awa' To Stay Awa'...

I can't express how much I enjoy creating the Thistle Times each month- it's truly a pleasure to share the happenings of both our Society and the Scottish world at large with the SSAS membership.

Sadly, some good things have to come to an end (or at least an indefinite pause).

For most of my life I've had an underlying urge to travel- not doubt spurred by my father's emigration from Scotland to the US in the '50s (call it Brennan wanderlust, I guess). I've enjoyed several wonderful trips to Scotland, visited a bit of western Europe and hit a few of the hotspots in the Caribbean, only to return home anxious to research my next destination and literally working towards the next plane/train/automobile trip.

The culmination of years of yearning and a ridiculously short amount of planning has led to an impetus of action- I've decided to travel the world for a wee while and truly experience living in some of the places I've visited or researched.

The first week of January I head off to Singapore and continue traveling south, hitting Padang, Jakarta and Bali in Indonesia before arriving on the shores of Australia in early February. From there- who knows? I know that I'll have to find employment of the temporary nature fairly soon (or it might very well be 'Around the World in 31 Days'), would like to volunteer a fair bit, and have family I haven't met in New Zealand- apart from that and a wedding I'm to attend in St. Andrews in June, my plans are as wide open as the African skies...or so I've heard.

My promises to the Society: I will keep in touch by providing travel updates as often as feasibly possible, and more importantly, the Society will stay close to my heart as I travel and miss all the SSAS events I've so thoroughly enjoyed over the years (the Burns Supper this year would have been my 22nd attended, something I find hard to fathom). To all who continue to make our 300-plus-member Society of strangers (with one common link-- a love of Scotland) into a close-knit family of friends, my sincerest gratitude and best wishes in the future.

Aw ra best,

Chris Brennan

You know what this means...

...the Society is in desperate need of a new TT editor- pronto! You don't need to have any fancy layout program, nor a top-of-the-line Mac, nor a whole lot of experience- just a love of Scotland and desire to share the news of the Society with the Society. If interested, please contact SSAS President Chris Fulton at christopher.fulton@boeing.com.

Guid
ane!

and a
compressor
to see this picture.

For the first time in his life, 75-year-old Angus McPhee is taking a flight in an airplane. The British Airways stewardess notices that he's a wee bit nervous and asks him, "Are you feelin' alright, sir?". Angus replies "naw, hen- s'jist Ah never hae flown afore- 'sma furst time. Ah'm fae Govan, in Glesga, an' Ah'm gaun tae see ma wee sister in Ossie." The stewardess does her best to comfort him and returns to her cabin duty. Upon landing in Sydney, the stewardess goes back to Angus and asks him, "Well, noo, sir, were ye comfy?", and Angus replies, "Ah telt ye afore, Govan, in Glesga!"

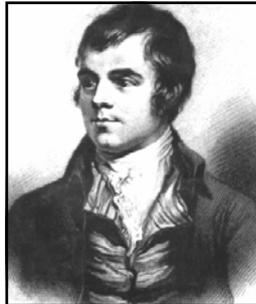
SCOTTISH ST ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST LOUIS

ROBERT BURNS DINNER

Frontenac Hilton
at Lindbergh and Clayton
Saturday, February 2nd, 2008



Cocktails @ 5:30pm
DINNER @ 6:25pm
(plus haggis)



A Grand Evening
of poems, songs,
Scottish highland and
country dancing,
piping, and Scottish
culture.

TRADITIONAL TOASTS AND TRIBUTES TO THE GREAT BARD

Featuring, and back by popular demand:
Ed Miller, Scottish singer & folklorist

Special room rates at the Frontenac Hilton: price being determined.
Call to make room reservations at 314 993 1100



RESERVATIONS: DETACH & SEND WITH CHECK

Society Members:

_____ Regular Members @ \$65.00 ea = \$ _____

_____ Senior Members (62+) @ \$60.00 ea. = \$ _____

Non-Members

_____ Non-members @ \$70.00 ea. = \$ _____

CHECK FOR TOTAL = \$ _____

RESERVATIONS IN THE NAME OF _____

I/we wish to be seated with: _____

**RESERVATIONS & CHECKS MUST BE IN BEFORE JAN 23rd
INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:**

Anja Lodge, 562 N. Woodlawn, St Louis, MO 63122
Need more information then call Anja at 314-965-6077