

# GRACE NOTES

Vol. 23, No. 1

Jan. 2007

## Burns Nicht Draws Nigh!

In only a matter of weeks, the high point of the MSSSI social calendar will be upon us. Burns Nicht, a night of Scottish elegance, will be held on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Woodland Hills Ballroom.

Featured will be all the elements we anticipate each year: bagpipes, country dancing, toasts, the Immortal Memory, and Burns poem recitations and songs. A silent auction will offer Scottish goods or items of interest to Scottish folks. Raffle items will be awarded, and we will recognize individuals for their service to the Society

by induction into the Orders of Thistle and Heather.

The very popular Smithfield Fair, a Scottish-American group of national renown, will provide the entertainment for the night. They are eminently qualified as Burns Nicht performers – they are so “into” Burns, they put out an entire recording of just Burns’ works! (It’s called Burns Night Out! and will be available, along with their other recordings, that night.)

Tickets are \$50 for Members (that is, 2007 dues paid), \$60 for Non-Members, \$70 for Patrons, and \$100 for Benefactors. Patrons and Benefactors are entitled to a posh reception and whiskey tasting at 4:30 pm and preferential seating and parking. Additionally, Benefactors receive a certificate of appreciation from MSSSI and acknowledgement in the program. All tables seat ten diners.

But time’s awastin’: ticket orders



and payments must be received by Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Seating is assigned in the order payments are received. So, sit down now and write that check: send it in to Burns Nicht; c/o Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.; P. O. Box 241934; Memphis, TN 38124. Or save the stamp & bring your payment with you to the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. For more info, call 725-1879.

P. S. If you have any friends or acquaintances who have an interest in things Scottish, pass along the information about Burns Nicht and encourage them to come!



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## Some Fed Ex employees observed



## A Cup of Wisdom

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups – porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite – telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said, “If you noticed, all the nice-looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other’s cups.

“Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define nor change the quality of Life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee.

“Enjoy your coffee...and remember the happiest people don’t have the best of everything - they just make the best of everything.”

Good thought, isn’t it??  
Thank Dan Irvin for this reminder.

## Mailing List Policy

After much discussion, the Board have adopted the following policy regarding requests for information pursuant to contacting the MSSSI membership:

Mailing labels shall only be provided to an organization to help publicize an event that is consistent with the aims and purpose of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. There should be a reasonable expectation that the event would be of interest to a significant portion of the MSSSI membership, though not necessarily a majority. In considering the request, the Board may also consider whether the event would be better publicized through an announcement or article in the newsletter.

If approved, the mailing list shall only be provided on printed sheets of labels. The board may charge for the labels in order to defray the costs. In order to cover incidental costs, the Board may charge up to twice the cost of the mailing label sheets used.

Any request that the mailing list be provided as a computer file or other electronic form is to be rejected.



## GRACE NOTES

*Grace Notes* is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of *Grace Notes* is “to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish.”

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs (preferably black and white; no Polaroids, please).

The deadline for all submissions is the second week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

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*to foster education  
and promote  
understanding of  
things Scottish*





## Scottish Connection

Did you miss something special during this holiday season? Specifically, all the up-scale regional department stores, now known uniformly throughout the land as Macy's, were all gone: Famous-Barr, Filene's, Foley's, Hecht's, The Jones Store, Kaufmann's, L.S. Ayres, Marshall Field's, Meier & Frank, Robinsons-May, Strawbridge's. Did you know one of these stores, Marshall Field's, had a **Scottish Connection**?

The store was started by and eventually named for Marshall Field, born in Massachusetts of Scottish extraction. He pioneered innovations in merchandizing now so ubiquitous that it's hard to imagine retail trade without them.

Among the "firsts" by Marshall Field's was the concept of the department store tea room. (Having lunch at a downtown restaurant unescorted by a gentleman was considered un-lady-like). That is just one among many innovations by

Marshall Field's: bridal registry, revolving credit, escalators, book signings, and animated Christmas displays. But his most impressive innovation was in the way he ran his stores.

Marshall Field was famous for his slogan "Give the lady what she wants." He also said, "Right or wrong, the customer is always right," and, "Goodwill is the one and only asset that competition cannot undersell or destroy." That competition was utterly amazed at such a radical attitude toward the customer but, observing its overwhelming success, quickly adopted it themselves.

Field's natural thriftiness showed itself in his personal habits. "Every morning at a regular hour Marshall Field left his home in his carriage for his store. But on arriving at State Street, he would get out of the carriage a short distance from the store and walk the rest of the way. He thought it both bad taste and bad

business to arrive at work in a fancy carriage with a coachman on the box."

The outside of the Chicago mansion Field built in 1875 "was somewhat plain in keeping with his desire not to appear ostentatious." His thrift, however, held no sway over Mrs. Field: "the interior [of the house] controlled by Mrs. Field was sumptuous." A single party she gave for her two children at Christmas of 1886 cost \$74,000. Bet that drove her Scottish husband batty.

So next time you're missing one of those regional stores (like Goldsmith's), now long gone, remember Marshall Field's and its **Scottish Connection**.

-from Wikipedia, Quotes.com. and the Scottish-American History Club Newsletter (Illinois Saint Andrew Society) website, including quotes from *Fabulous Chicago* by Emmitt Dedmon.

*Dick and Ethel White were all the rage at the tea commemorating St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland held at Crumpet's Tea Room on November 30th. The opposite page depicts some of our other bonnie lasses at the same affair.*





*The picture above shows our Caledonian Chorale entertaining the society with a few songs at the Christmas Party.*



*Two really good pictures of Ken Noe and Ben Kemker, could not resist putting them in!*





*Kathy Scales, was the food good enough to go for another plate?*



*The marines have landed in all new gear! This Sunty picked up the toys contributed by MSSJ members for needy children.*



*SuntY maun be magic tae win doon a lum! Translation: Santa must be magic to manage down a chimmeY!*

*We shan't ask if Sammy Rich can!*

*It would be appropriate to thank Kent McAden for all these fine photos you have seen on these two pages!*



## Obituary of Common Sense

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; life isn't always fair; and maybe it *was* my fault.

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for

kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or a band-aid to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault. Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by his 3 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else Is To Blame, and I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. *Thanks to Murray Shoolbraid for submitting this article.*

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## More Trips to Scotland

If this is the year you visit Scotland, you have a plethora of guided trips to choose from. We announced one with our own Debra Parmley and one with Ed Miller in November. Here are 3 more that have been sent to *Grace Notes* to share with you:

7/2/07 Arkansas Northeastern College Presents "Discover Scotland". 10 days (several different tour dates). Includes Edinburgh Castle, St. Andrews, Dunrobin or Blair Castle, Orkney Islands, Loch Ness, Isle of Skye, Stirling Castle, Falkirk, Holyrood Palace (unless the Queen is in residence) and Tattoo (during August only). Contact Sharyn Steveson; Arkansas Northeastern College; 2501 S. Division; Blytheville, AR 72316-1109; 870-762-3168; sstevenson@anc.edu. But hurry: 1<sup>st</sup> deposit is due 1/3/7. Thanks to Bill Crump for sharing this.



Seldon Murray extends this invitation:

Come join us for a special Celtic Christian trip to Iona! This is a special "superior first class" program for 15 days in Scotland, July 20<sup>th</sup> - August 4<sup>th</sup> 2007. Here are just some of the highlights we will visit: Iona, Lindesfarne, Loch Ness, Culloden, Melrose and Dryburgh Abbeys, Rosslyn Chapel (of DaVinci Code fame), Blair, Sterling, Inveraray, Edinburgh, Urquhart, and Scone Castles, The Tattoo, Abbotsford,

Burns Cottage in Alloway, The Kelvingrove, and Glasgow Cathedral. We will stay in a real Scottish castle and also search for Robert the Bruce's heart's resting place, and a life-size pig and an angel, both playing the bagpipes. We will learn about the Scottish influences on the American Revolution! Learn of some of the Celtic saint's miracles. Plus many other historic, religious and spectacular delights! It is limited to 16 people; roughly half of the space is spoken for. Call Seldon Murray, FSA Scot, at 753-6565

And this one from Gary Wood: WBBJ-TV's Chief Meteorologist Gary Pickens and his wife Paula are hosting a tour of Edinburgh and the Scottish Highlands. Contact Mr. Pickens through the station or at wxpick@yahoo.com for more information.



# Calendar of Events

## Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7:00 p.m.:  
Church of the Holy Communion,  
Walnut Grove at Perkins, 272-7159  
for info.

## Thursdays

Wolf River Pipes & Drums, 6:30-  
9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran; G'town  
Pkwy. 753-9494 for more info.

## Fridays

Dancing: 7:30 til 10:00 p.m. -  
Idlewild Pres.; 1750 Union Ave,  
West entrance.

**1st, 3rd & 5th Friday**  
Contra Dancing. 278-1216.

## 2nd & 4th Friday

Scottish Country Dancing. 274-1889

## January 4

Board Meeting at Shoneys Syc-  
amore View at Summer.- 5:30 pm.

## January 8

Regular monthly meeting .  
Holiday Inn , Poplar and 1-240.  
Reservations required by Thursday,  
Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, call 725-1879 or online at  
Memphisscots.com. 6:00 pm dinner &  
7:00 pm Program: Louis Garner - on  
"When Last I Was in Scotland"

## January 27

"Burns Nicht"  
Woodland Hills Ballroom.  
Ticket orders must be received  
by January 20<sup>th</sup>. See page 1 for  
further information.

## February 10

Dougie Maclean  
Bartlett Performing Arts Center

## February 11

Kirkin'o' the Tartans  
St. John's Episcopal  
Central at Greer



## January 5 | Winter Heat

You'll be mopping your brow  
after dancing to these hot  
instrumentals this week and basking  
in the warmth of all the passionate  
singing. Kirsty MacColl, Salsa  
Celtica, Kila, and Natalie MacMaster  
offer perfect insulation against the  
winter chill.

## Scottish/ Celtic RadioMusic

### Sundays, 12 noon

"Delta Celtica"  
Cassie Tobin, host  
WEVL-FM 89.9

### Sundays, 5:00 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"  
WKNO-FM 91.1

### Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.

"Strands of the Celtic Knot"  
Robert Campbell, host  
WEVL-FM 89.9

### Sundays, 6:00 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"  
WMAV-FM 90.3

## January 12 | Spirit of Youth

Glimpse the future of Celtic music  
in recordings from some fine rising  
artists paired with a few of the mas-  
ters who have inspired them, such as  
North Carolina native Andrew Magill  
and Chicago great Liz Carroll. She  
described Andrew's first album as  
"an awesome debut."

## January 22 | Mairi MacInnes

Meet an award-winning Gaelic  
singer from the Outer Hebrides  
who has travelled throughout North  
America and Europe with her  
blend of traditional and contempo-  
rary Gaelic song. Sample from her  
albums *This Feeling Inside*,  
*Orosay* and *Tickettyboo* Gaelic  
songs for children.

## January 29 | And the WinnerIs...

Learn the 2005 results of the an-  
nual Scots Traditional Music Awards,  
featuring music from last year's best  
album, songwriter, instrumentalist, live  
act, and more. Fiona attended the  
great envelope-opening fest and  
shares her impressions of this high  
profile Edinburgh gala.

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## Order of the Thistle - Order of the Heather

Affectionately called OOT n OOH(for practical reasons). It is time to submit nominations for the fourth annual “OOT n OOH” awards to your Grace Notes Staff or President Ben Kemker for consideration. The guidelines below outline criteria for selection. Please turn in submissions by Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Order of the Thistle** – This award recognizes a relatively new member of the Society who has embraced and related our Society’s goals, both within the organization and outside to the community as well. An award of the same name is the highest in all of Scotland and is named after the national plant of Scotland.

**Order of the Heather** – This award recognizes a long-time member who has displayed a willingness to share knowledge and information and helped to further the goals of our Society with the same versatility that heather has been to the society and culture of Scotland’s landscape. Simply put, heather is probably the single most useful plant in all of Scotland. Likewise, these members have made themselves available to our society.

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting -Jan. 8th -  
Holiday Inn , Poplar and I-240; Dinner at 6:00  
Board Meeting, Thursday, January 4th at 6:30 Shoneys at Summer and Sycamore View**

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