

The Robert Burns Club of Milwaukee, founded in 1986, held its annual Burns Supper at the usual site, Klemmers Williamsburg Inn in West Allis, Wisconsin, on Sunday, February 9, 2020. This is the first year we had the Burns Supper during the day and it was popular with the 45 guests. In the past we held an evening supper, often plagued by snow storms, blizzards, etc. and, as we get older, when night driving navigating the Milwaukee minefield of iconic potholes and partying past 9 AM become more difficult. This worked well and future Burns Suppers will be a noon meal.

As the meal progressed, so did the snow storm/blizzard accumulating outside and we were reminded that on January 25, 1759, Robert Burns was greeted with "a blast o' Januar wind blew Hansel in on Robin".



President Priscilla Kucik used the President's Address to ponder the question of what would amaze Robert Burns the most of our society were he to be transported here and it would probably be--that we think meat is a bad thing! Not so in Burns' time, when his family saw meat once every six months. She noted that 90% of our immune system is protein and it is no wonder Burns died at the age of 37.

The Selkirk Grace, led by Jackie McLeod, started the Burns Supper.



Vice President Ian Day performed his signature dramatic rendition of Burns' "Address to a Haggis", with flying knife blades and a resounding "bethanket hums" belch.

The colorful, exceptionally beautiful program designed by Janet Kerr Carroll, daughter of the club's founder, William Kerr.

She is a published Burnsian and emergency medical technician (although she does not work in the Burns Unit).



The Toast to the Immortal Memory was given by Ian Day in song commemorating the many women in Burns' life.

Andrew Uhl performed the "Toast to the Lassies", and his guild-wife, Wendy Wilson Uhl, did "The Lassies' Reply", in a lively, funny "playing the palace" entertainment.

A popular raffle highlights the Milwaukee Burns Suppers and has made it possible to hold the ticket price steady for \$25 for almost 20 years. Like the thrifty (by necessity) Robert Burns, we, too, "suffer the supreme curse of making 3 guineas do the work of 5". Raffle items included books, bottles and many other delights. There were also silent auction items of 2 piper's coats and a framed picture of the Milwaukee Robert Burns

statue.

Cindy Fischer tailored and donated 2 piper's coats to the silent auction and her husband Piper Tony Palese gave some history, including that Sherlock Holmes originally wore the Ulster cape (shorter) but later was given the Inverness cape. Questions were answered and it was a lively education.

The Caledonian Scottish Dancers gave an educational introduction to each Scottish dance before performing it. The smallest dancers were 6 and 8 years old and were charming.

Tony Palese piped. Then, "the night drave on wi' sangs an clatter".

The evening reluctantly ended with a circular singing "Auld Lang Syne".

Guests, laden with fond memories, satisfied palates, and treasured raffle prizes, went out "roamin' in the gloamin' " until next year.

