

Robert Burns Night in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Les Strachan (RBWF) and Bill Fulton (RBANA) hosted a wee gathering in Southwestern Virginia on January 25, 2020. The intimate event was held in an 1800 mansion house in Lexington, Virginia. The guests were treated to an open bar, Hors d'oeuvres and other treats. The piper for the evening was a cadet from The Virginia Military Institute. Most of the traditional activities transpired. Les gave "The Address to A Haggis", Bill toasted the lassies followed by Les with "The Immortal Memory". Burns music was played by two talented local musicians. Bill provided a preamble to the Calvinist doctrines that Burns attacks and Les was marvelous in presenting "Holly Willie's Prayer". The evening concluded with a rousing Auld Lang Syne. A perfect inaugural event. Those who stayed had a "Wee Deoch an Doris". Most likely the start of something for Burnsians in this part of the USA. Trying to grow Robert Burns Association of North America.

Robert Burns Night at the Rosenbach Museum Philadelphia, Pennsylvania- January 25, 2020

Burns Night at The Rosenbach
Saturday, January 25 | 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Celebrate the Bard of Ayrshire, Robert Burns, with a lively evening of readings, music, and whiskey!

The Rosenbach Museum holds an extraordinary collection of original works of Robert Burns, including the copy of the Kilmarnock Edition, 1786, owned by Burns's friend, confidant and critic, Mrs. Francis Dunlop.

Bill, we had a grand time. Sorry you were occupied with another Burns event. Paul Kennedy (South Jersey Celtic Society) played guitar along with an accordion player and a lovely singer. We had a lovely Address To A Haggis from a local young man, who recited it from memory. I read "Ae Fond Kiss" and Elizabeth read "For a that". Our mini-exhibition focused on Burns and women's rights in the late 18th century, so we had first editions of Thomas Paine's "Rights of Man" and Wollstonecraft's "Vindication of the Rights of Woman" Other readers offered "A Winter's Night" and "Oh Whistle and I'll Come to You My Lad". As you read last year from the original manuscript, a fellow Scot read "Scots Wha Hae". We provided drams from each of Scotland's Scotch Distilling Regions: Campbelltown, Highlands, Islay, Lowlands and Speyside.

A great night! Over 60 people attended. Lots of Haggis eaten and the Scotch tasting was just outstanding. We're already planning next year's program to be bigger and better. I would love to have you attend and read again. Than you for getting us started on a wonderful celebration of The Bard.

Edward G. Pettit
Sunstein Manager of Public Programs
The Rosenbach
2008 Delancey Place
Philadelphia, PA 19103
epettit@rosenbach.org



Paul Kennedy, "Address To A Haggis"

The South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS) held their 15th Annual Robert Burns Dinner on January 18, 2020 at O'Connor's Bar and Grille in Easthampton, New Jersey. It was an incredible evening. Over 150 people attended this extremely well organized event. The Lia Fail Pipes and Drums had the honor of piping in the Honor Guard and guests. The pipe major, Doug Connors had the honor to debut SJCS's new Pennon. President John Adams presented the formal welcome. SJCS founder, Paul Kennedy, provided the "Address To A Haggis". After the Selkirk Grace, a full dinner was served. Members and guests read Burns poetry, the highlight being SJCS member Paul Kennedy, Jr. reciting "Tam O' Shanter". Burns songs and other celtic music was performed by The Kennedy's, accompanied this year with operatic talent. Their combined music included "Aye Walk-in O'", "Willie Stewart" and "The Winter It has Past". The comedy portion was presented by the ribald female trio Chaste Treasurer, singing some of Burn's "lesser bawdy songs". Toasts were given to both the Lassies and Laddies. Wonderful raffle prizes were presented to the lucky ticket holders. The evening concluded with a rousing rendition of "Auld Lang Syne".