

44 kilted celebrators attended the annual Robert Burns Club of Milwaukee Traditional Burns Supper held at Klemmers Williamsburg Inn in West Allis, Wisconsin on February 10, 2019. Milwaukee has had 2+ weeks of "polar vortex" weather, with many days of universities, schools, etc. closing. However, a "blast o' Januar' wind" would not discourage our hardy Burnsians.

The menu was a choice between sirloin steak, cod almondine, or a vegetarian meal, with haggis (of course), tatties and neeps (of course), and dessert. This year's haggis, from Macski's, was superb and enjoyed, with much comment and lip smacking.

President Priscilla Kucik gave the Welcome and President's Address and spoke of Robert Burns' charisma which has people loving him even 200+ years after his death.

The Selkirk Grace, popularized by Robert Burns and led by Phil Diderrich, began the traditional 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]

He also gave the Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns in prose and song.

Since all of Robert Burns' poetry could be summarized in the sentence "All you need is love", newlyweds Ron Sinclair and Judith Read presented the "Toast to the Lassies" and the "Lassies' Reply" to the tune of "Loch Lomond", gently chiding the other gender but still making beautiful music together.

The beautiful program, designed by Janet Kerr, daughter of club founder Bill Kerr, had one of the rare pictures of Robert Burns wearing the plaid.

A popular raffle and silent auction highlighted the Milwaukee Burns Suppers and has made it possible to hold down the ticket price for the last 10+ years.

The Caledonian Dancers explained and performed a variety of dances. Four of the dancers were "wee folk", under seven years of age and boding well for the future of Scottish culture. In addition, members and guests are encouraged to participate in the "sangs and clatter" during the meal.

Piper Tony Palese continues to be a crowd pleaser, and the evening always ends with the circular singing "Auld Lang Syne".

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