



## Mount Dora Sister Cities Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1651, Mount Dora, FL 32756-1651

April 2010, Newsletter, Page 1



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barbara Wood

Please mark your calendar for the Mount Dora Sister Cities Association Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors. This very important meeting will be on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 6:30 PM in the clubhouse of Lake Dora Villas, 100 South Tremain Street in Mount Dora. This is a semi-pot luck event. Mount Dora Sister Cities will provide hot dogs and sauerkraut casseroles and beverages. Please bring either a salad, type of bread, or a dessert.....but most important – bring yourself and some friends!

The MDSCA has been busy these last three months with fund raisers and activities:

#### January: Robert Burns Dinner

An enjoyable time was had by all, maybe even “frolicsome” for a short time. Our thanks to Bill and Beth Forbes, Bill Gearing and Becky Marek. We had a sellout crowd to witness the address to the haggis by Bill Forbes, hear the bagpipes played by Howard Yates and John Girvan, toasts by Ellen Yates, Gregory and Barbara Phillips, fiddling by Jonathan Hodge, the immortal memory and readings by Warner Brown and the vocal music of Marilyn Valley, Trish Ignao and her son Jamie.

#### February: The Kirkin' of the Tartans

The Kirkin' of the Tartans was again held at St. Edward's Episcopal Church. We were privileged to hear the voices of Trish and Jamie Ignao along with the church choir. Howard Yates and John Girvan aided by piping in members Barbara and Barry Wood, Bill and Beth Forbes, Bob and Kit Olmstead, Scottie McCance and Helen Nichols, Bill and Brenda Gearing, and Joan Ringer who marched in and presented tartans for the blessing. Our selected exchange students, Sarah Carney and Rosney Mauger were also able to join the MDSCA members in carrying the tartans.

#### March: Hot Dog Fund Raiser

The Chamber of Commerce requested we sell hot dogs at the Mount Dora 2010 Centennial celebration on March 27. Our profits were not as expected, but we thank the Bill and Beth Forbes, Bill Gearing, Mary Pezzo, Joan Ringer and Barry and Barbara Wood for helping.

#### Belk Charity Fund Raiser

The Belk stores are holding their semi-annual charity sale to benefit local charities and non-profits on Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 6 to 10 am at Belk stores company wide. Mount Dora Sister Cities Association has a supply of the tickets that gets one anywhere from 20 to 70% off their Belk purchases storewide, including special savings on rarely discounted brands. The tickets sell for \$5.00 and the whole \$5.00 will go to MDSCA. Besides the discounts on your purchases, you will receive \$5.00 off your first purchase, so the ticket will pay for itself. AND, even better, you don't have to go to Belk between 6 and 10 am on May 1<sup>st</sup>. You can go to Belk the week before that day, choose your items and present your ticket and the sales associate will hold your purchases, as in a lay-away, and ring them up on May 1<sup>st</sup>. You then get the discounts and then go pick up your purchases later. Can't be any easier than that!! So, get some great discounts and help

## New Members

We have done very well in recruiting new members this year. A big thanks to the members who have worked hard at expanding our membership. Our new members so far this year are James S. Brewster, Douglas Elliott, Linda Hackett, Chris LaMonica, Sara Luther & John Neumaier, Lance & Rosalie Oliver, Brenda & Ernie Paget, Gregory & Barbara Phillips and Vicki Steuben. Welcome to all of you and look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

A special welcome to new member James S. Brewster. Maybe you saw his picture and short article about his visit to Mount Dora in February on the front page of the recent City of Mount Dora Newsletter. *City Connection*. James was born in Forres. When he discovered that Mount Dora and the Mount Dora Sister Cities Association had a strong link with his hometown, he could not resist joining our group even though he currently resides in Brunswick, Georgia. We heartily welcome him to our group and sure hope he can attend a meeting sometime in the future.

## My Trip to Scotland by Kelsea Mullane

Last summer was one of the best times of my life. It was an experience unlike any other that I had ever experienced. Thanks to the Sister Cities Association of Mount Dora I was able to travel to Scotland for a month as a foreign exchange student. I stayed with the Wright family and my host student was Chloe Wright. It has always been my dream to travel the world and see new places. During my time in Scotland I was able to fulfill part of that dream. I traveled to Loch Ness, just a short distance from where I stayed with my host family on Findhorn Bay. I was also lucky enough to travel to the capital of Scotland, Edinburgh. The cobblestone streets and castles made me feel like I was back in Old England. Then down the street in the same magnificent city I was able to shop at high class stores and boutiques.

Everything was so foreign yet I felt so comfortable there like I never wanted to leave. I tried hot English tea and had some of the best Indian food of my life. Mr. and Mrs. Wright took me out for High Tea and threw me the biggest barbeque for my birthday on the Fourth of July. They made me feel right at home and allowed me to become part of their family.

In addition to outings on the weekends to see much of northern Scotland and the trip to Edinburgh, I also participated in the classes at Forres Academy, the local school that Chloe and Laurence attended. Their school and its atmosphere were so different from Mount Dora High School. I took a baking class, a philosophy class, and a music class. In addition to all of these interesting classes there were also free periods, in which I was able to just hang out and get to know the people in Chloe and Laurence's class. I was also able to leave the campus and go to town for lunch. Freedom is something that is so rare for a teenager to experience, but I got a small taste of it by being at that school.

As much as I loved the traveling and learning aspect of my trip, the most rewarding part was the relationships that I was able to develop while in school. In addition to meeting Laurence and Chloe, the other exchange students, also I got to know their friends as well. I was lucky enough to become close friends with many of them and I am so grateful for that.

If I was giving advice to the next group of exchange students it would be to try everything you can. I would tell them to test out all food, go to all the classes you can, and go to every city possible. I did things that I never thought I would do like climbing a mountain or seeing a castle. I am so glad that I was given the opportunity to have the summer of a lifetime. I am counting down the days until I will be able to return to Forres. Last summer was a dream come true and I can't wait to do it again.



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April 2010, Newsletter, Page 3



## Slate of Officers and Directors

Below is the slate of officers and directors that will be presented for nomination and election at the annual meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the meeting.

President – Bill Gearing  
Vice President – Beth Forbes  
Treasurer – Mary Pezzo  
Secretary – Brenda Bullock-Paget

### Directors

Barbara Wood  
Marsha Blum  
Linda Hackett

## Paid Members

Members who have renewed their membership for this year include:

Joseph & Vera Arborio – honorary members  
Marsha Blum  
Warner & Lois Brown  
Glenna Burch  
Alice Campbell – honorary member  
Murray Cayley & Bonnie Rourke  
Scott & Robin Etter & family  
Bill & Beth Forbes  
Bill & Brenda Gearing  
Bill & Pat Gross & Family

Janice Gruber  
Samuel & Ivy Homich  
Nels & Polly Huber  
Al & Marlette Liveright  
Bob & Kit Olmstead  
Joan Ringer  
Barry & Barbara Wood  
Howard & Ellen Yates – honorary members

If your name isn't above, please send in your membership dues.

President – Barbara Wood, 383-7969, [babswood@comcast.com](mailto:babswood@comcast.com)  
Vice President – Bill Gearing, 343-5064, [waggoreds@aol.com](mailto:waggoreds@aol.com)  
Treasurer – Beth Forbes, 383-4198, [bethforbe@hotmail.com](mailto:bethforbe@hotmail.com)  
Secretary – James Vallyely, 729-2199, [levelpar@yahoo.com](mailto:levelpar@yahoo.com)

### Directors

Bill Forbes, 383-4198  
Barry Wood, 383-7969  
Mary Pezzo, 735-9629

Visit our website at: [www.mountdorasistercities.com](http://www.mountdorasistercities.com)