



# CLAN DONALD MID-EAST



Winter 2010

## Annual Christmas Walk, Banquet & Auction



We are very pleased to announce that a Silent Auction will be held on December 4 in conjunction with the Clan Donald Annual Banquet at the Sheraton Suites in Old Town Alexandria, VA. As you will certainly recall from previous years, the Silent Auction is a thoroughly enjoyable event! A wide variety of vendors have contributed exciting and desirable Scottish-themed (and other) items for sale at the auction. You will certainly find something wonderful that you, or someone among your family and friends, just can't live without! Silent bidding will start prior to the banquet and will continue well into the evening. Be prepared to have a terrific time!

In addition to attending the auction and placing bids, you can also help out in another way. You might find that you have something that you would like to donate to the silent auction – preferably a new or gently-used item, large or small, that is sure to be of interest to your fellow Clan Donald banquet attendees and that will incite competitive bidding! We would be happy to take such donations! Last year almost half of the items donated were from individual Clan members. Please contact Sue Makris, John Gillis, or David Rankin at your earliest convenience for more information about this great opportunity to help make this the best and most profitable Silent Auction ever! Please use the contact information below, thank you. ■

Sue Makris: 703-533-7521; [makris.susan@epa.gov](mailto:makris.susan@epa.gov)

John Gillis: 804-824-4664; [johngillis@attglobal.net](mailto:johngillis@attglobal.net)

David Rankin: 240-353-9148; [Davidmrankin6@cs.com](mailto:Davidmrankin6@cs.com)





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## **Regional Commissioner's Letter — Dear Kinsmen;**

The Holiday season is upon us, and that means the Alexander Scottish Christmas walk and dinner is right around the corner December 4, 2010. The dinner will be again at the Sheraton Old town in Alexandria, room rates are \$99 a night and the dinner is \$65 per person. You can register either online at our website or by the mailing the registration form found in this newsletter.

As honored guests we will have the new High Commissioner of Clan Donald USA, Merlin MacReynolds, and the new Deputy High Commissioner Clan Donald USA, Forrest Lee Piver.

This year's guest speaker is Chuck Coburn of the Tartan Museum who will talk about the history of the Tartan and how it relates today. Al Manning, former High Commissioner, will do the honors of "addressing the haggis". A live band will also perform.

Again this year we will be having a silent auction and door prizes. The silent auction has some very nice items so far. If you would like to donate something for the silent auction, please contact me. This is a great time to get some of your Christmas shopping done for your Scotsmen and women, and also help your clan. Featured items contributed so far include a hand-made sporran (from Al Manning) and a hand-crafted horn made out a Highland Cow horn (from Brian MacDonald State Commissioner NY State). All attendees will also receive a Mid-East Dinner gift bag.

So put on your tartan and show your pride in being a MacDonald, let show the world what it means to be a member of the Clan Donald family, the largest clan in the world. I hope to see you all at the Christmas walk and dinner.

The region needs volunteers the Following positions are open and need to be filled Maryland Commissioner, Deputy Maryland Commissioner, DC Commissioner, DC Deputy commissioner, Delaware Deputy Commissioner, Mid-East Treasurer, also each state needs convener and tent workers. The more you put into the clan the more you get out of it. If you can spare the time and want to help the clan let me know.

So mark your calendar for December 4, 2010 and let party like only Clan Donald can. Hope to see you then. Remember there is no joy without Clan Donald. ■

Yours in Service,

David MacDonald Rankin

## **Annual Glencoe Commemoration Open House**

The Annual Glencoe Commemoration Open House will be held February 13, 2011 (the 319th anniversary of the massacre) from 1-6 p.m. at the home of Rick Keller and Kate Donohue, 5950 Wilson Blvd. in Arlington, Virginia. Check the Mid-East website in January for more information or contact Rick at [rkeller49@verizon.net](mailto:rkeller49@verizon.net). ■



## The Red Hand of Ulster

Greetings from Maryland!

Unfortunately, many tend to forget the important role that Northern Ireland plays in the history of Clan Donald and the Lord of the Isles. All kidding aside, we Irish McDonalds remain extremely proud of our Ulster roots. Here's an interesting article about your Bonny Brethren across the Channel:

### THE RED HAND OF ULSTER



The Red Hand of Ulster is a symbol strongly rooted in Irish Gaelic culture. According to one popular myth, the kingdom of Ulster had at one time no rightful heir. Because of this, it was agreed that a boat race should take place and that "whosoever's hand is the first to touch the shore of Ulster, so shall he be made the king." One enthusiastic candidate so desired the kingship that, upon seeing he was losing the race, he cut off his hand and threw it to the shore — thus winning the kingship.

The Red Hand was used as the focal point in the creation of the Ulster Banner, also known as the Northern Ireland flag. The Ulster Banner was used as the flag of the Government of Northern Ireland between 1953 and 1972. It is still popular among the mainly Protestant Ulster loyalists and is frequently used to represent Northern Ireland at many sporting events.

The flag has a white background and the red cross of Saint George with the Red Hand of Ulster in the center of a six-pointed star (generally accepted to represent the six provinces, or counties, that constitute Northern Ireland). A crown symbolizing loyalty to the British Monarchy tops the Red Hand and star. You can also find the Red Hand featured on the shields of Northern Ireland counties **Cavan, Tyrone, Londonderry, Monaghan** and **Antrim** (my family's ancestral home).



Apparently, there is an "**ULSTER SCOTS**" flag that has been popping up among Americans of Scots-Irish descent. The flag is the Scottish Saltire with thistle leaves surrounding the Red Hand of Ulster, centered at the crossing of the Saltire.

This is a relatively recent flag, and seems to have been started here in the USA. Personally, I love this flag - it's number one on my Christmas wish list.

**Slainte!** ■

Fred Greenwood

Maryland State Commissioner

## Clan Donald Mid-East

3422 Memphis Lane  
Bowie, Maryland 20715

Tel: 240-353-9148

E-mail: [Davidmrankin6@cs.com](mailto:Davidmrankin6@cs.com)



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**Check out the Clan Donald Mid-East Website**

**<http://mid-east.clan-donald-usa.org/index.html>**

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