

**Jaeame I. Koyil, President**

September 2016

## President's Letter

OK now you've had your summer break. Time to get back to get back to work.

First on the agenda—do you have your official St. Andrews name tag? Susan Goodier can provide complimentary name tags but there's a catch—requests will only be entertained in person at a monthly meeting!

In other news we now have a new British Consul General and he has actually been spotted in PERSON!!!!

We may even have a chance of seeing him at the upcoming Ball.

Be sure to get your tickets soon!!

Yours aye,

**Jaeame I. Koyil**

President



## 1st Veep's Corner

By David Campbell

Hard to believe that another Summer has come and gone. Yes, well the Autumnal Equinox is actually today (Thursday, Sept. 22); and despite the recent lovely late Summer warmth—Fall is unmistakably “in the air”. Pleasant weather aside—it was a busy season for British and Scottish cultural activities and goings-on. Priya Guha having completed her



**Tent displays at the 151st. Highland Games in Pleasanton, California.**

consular mission, San Francisco has a new Consul General in Andrew Whittaker. All the best to C.G. Whittaker as he assumes his post. What was even more unusual this year was the occasion (June 11) to celebrate HRM Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday—for which a lavish banquet & ball were held in her honor at the Fairmont Hotel in the City (see earlier article—June newsletter).

*1st VP's Message, continued on page 3*

### SEPTEMBER 2016 ~ Vol. 153, NO. 5

<b>President's Letter</b> .....	1	<b>Scottish Heritage Blog</b> .....	3
<b>Message from 1st Vice President</b> .....	1	<b>Upcoming Events</b> .....	5
<b>The Adventure of a Lifetime</b> .....	3		

# 1st VP's Message

Moving on—in July the St. Andrew's Society hosted a small reception at the firehouse on behalf of the University of Glasgow. August followed with another hosted reception on behalf of the University of Edinburgh—this one very large, in fact—likely one of the larger crowds which our firehouse has seen in quite some time. Notably, both receptions were aligned with our Capitol Cities scholarship campaign!

On a low note—our Summer Ceilidh scheduled for July 9th, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to low registration. We're



thinking that perhaps poor timing—following too close to the Fourth of July—might be partially at issue. So, there's consideration for the joint-societies Ceilidh to land possibly later in the year, say October; after the Games, but before the annual Banquet & Ball. Anyhow, something to consider...please keep this in mind, and let us know what you think!

Our St. Andrew's Society finished the Summer on a high note: we were well-represented for the duration of the Caledonian Club's 151st annual Highland Games at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Pub Night kicked-off the long weekend—Thursday evening at the Main Street Brewery in Pleasanton. Friday was band night at the San Ramon Marriott—Fred Macondray was there, and enjoyed the evening very much. Saturday evening was held a cocktail party—hosted by Caledonian Chief Charles (& Wendy) McKinven. Finally, Sunday evening—we were all back at the Marriott Hotel for a post-Games informal musical send-off. St. Andrew's member & piper Bill McKown was also there, enjoying the evening's performance along with wife Brenda and a few MacIntosh Pipe Band colleagues.

Otherwise, the better part of a Games review I'll leave to 2nd VP and event organizer Francesca McCrossan...but in pass-



ing I'll mention just a few items. Our St. Andrew's Society tent set-up opposite the Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers was both well-conceived and staffed this year. Tent staffing and Society visitors combined—the following turn out was impressive: President Jaeame & Tsering Koyil; David, Francesca, & Maria McCrossan; Past-Presidents Bill Blair, Fred Rutledge & Ian Macdonald; Jean Allen & Jek Cunningham; Bill Cummings; Ruth McCracken; Kitty & Denny Lenhart; Allen & Jean Cary; Laurien Fiddes; Gary Bohannon; Susan Goodier & friend; and David Campbell. Special mention and kudos to Bill Blair who on behalf of Clan Blair received the "Clan of the Year" award from the Caledonians. Congratulations Bill and Clan Blair!

At the Games again this year—all the way from Glasgow was a small contingent from the Erskine Trust (doing great work on behalf of Scottish veterans): Sara Bannerman, Mick Morrison, and a new lad Michael. Working closely with the Caledonian Club, Erskine recently took delivery of an ~\$70,000 (16 seater) mini bus. This impressive fund raising effort was spearheaded by Davie Scott, President and Director of the American Friends of Erskine Hospital, Inc. Good job—Erskine, Davie and Caledonians!

In closing, I'll mention two poignant moments and memories for me personally at the Games this year. First, Sunday afternoon at Clan Campbell—our annual memorial service—with a piped lament and passing of the Quaich. Finally, later Sunday afternoon—enjoying from the grandstand together with Society friend Gary Bohannon—the Massed Bands as they piped the weekend to a close, playing crowd favorites (The Green Hills of Tyrol, Highland Laddie, Amazing Grace, and Scotland the Brave). I'm already looking forward to next year!

Next event—the 153rd annual St. Andrew's Day Banquet & Ball. See flyer below regarding additional details...and we'll see you at the Ball!!

Dixon Scottish Cultural Association's 16th annual  
**Dixon Scottish Highland Games**  
 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24  
 Dixon Fairgrounds, 655 South First Street  
 (Dixon is 19 miles southwest of Sacramento, off Interstate 80)

**Music:** Region's finest bagpipe bands; and Celtic, Scottish and Irish rock and folk music of *Tempest, Avalon Rising* and *Flask*.

**Lots of Scottish fun:** Scottish athletic competitions, Highland dancing and Irish step-dancing, Scotch whisky tasting program, Scottish animals, children's activities, sheepdog trials, clan tents, Ceilidh barbecue party and a *wee bit more!*

**Food and treasures:** Taste a wide variety of Scottish foods, beers and whiskies. Shop for unique gifts, handmade crafts, jewelry and clothing items from Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England.

**\$10** general admission; **\$8** for youths and seniors; and **FREE** for children, under age 9, and active-duty military. Fairgrounds parking is **\$5**.

Dogs on leashes are permitted.  
 RV and tent camping available on the fairgrounds.

**www.scotsindixon.org**



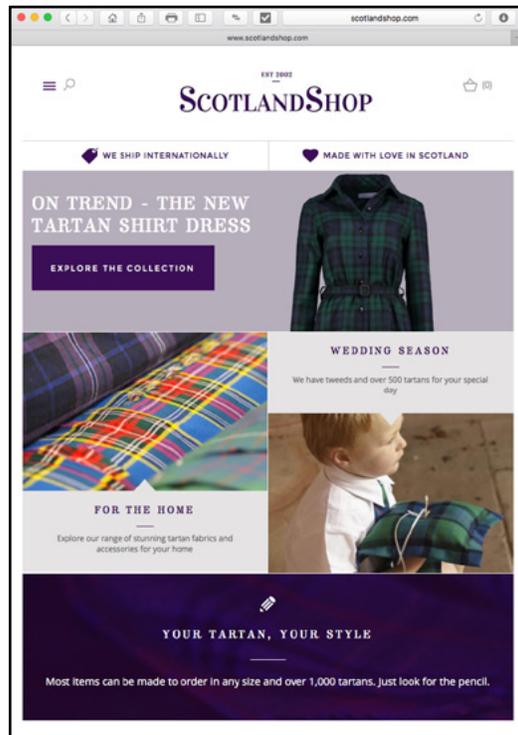
## Scottish Heritage Blog

Dear St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco,

I am writing to you from ScotlandShop.com, an online retailer of high quality tailored tartan products based in the Scottish Borders. We are planning to write a series of blogs about St. Andrew's and Burns societies around the world, exploring the experiences and histories of these societies, what Scottish heritage means to your members and how Scottish tradition is kept alive outside the country. I am getting in touch with you to see if this is something that you and your society's members would be interested in taking part in, if you are, I will send you out some initial questions in the following days.

I look forward to learning more about your society and its members,

Jack Booker  
(ScotlandShop.com Customer Service)



Tartan gifts & accessories inspired from the heart of Scotland at [www.ScotlandShop.com](http://www.ScotlandShop.com)

Contact Information  
UK Tel: 01890 860770  
Outwith UK Tel: +44-1890 860770  
[info@scotlandshop.com](mailto:info@scotlandshop.com)

## The Adventure of a Lifetime



**"Moby," which sits on the banks of Loch Nevis near Fort William, has a bridge, lounge and bunks for a crew of ten.**

Tom McClean is not one to ignore an adventure. The 72-year-old, who runs Ardintigh Highland Outdoor Centre, holds several records for solo rowing and yachting voyages across the Atlantic and became the first man to survive for 40 days alone on Rockall, a storm-beaten outcrop 300 miles from mainland Scotland. His latest goal is to travel 3,000 miles across the Atlantic in a 65-foot homemade "whale" named *Moby*. "It's unlike anything I've ever done before and it has been a long time coming," said McClean, who has spent 20 years and an estimated £100,000 (\$150,000) building the 62-ton vessel. "I've learned to stick at things when other people might give up. It makes you feel alive to have a challenge," he explained.

*Note: This article was first published in the Summer 2016 edition of Scottish Life magazine.*

*The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco  
cordially invites you to join in celebrating it's*

*153rd Annual*

# *Banquet & Ball*

**November 26th, 2016**

Marines' Memorial Club

Reception: 6:00 PM

Dinner, Evening Program  
and Dancing: 7:30 PM



**Patron: His Grace  
the Duke of Hamilton**

Pipe Band  
Peninsula Fiddlers (Peninsula  
Scottish Fiddlers)

Formal or Highland Dress  
Recommended

[www.saintandrewssocietysf.org](http://www.saintandrewssocietysf.org)



*The St. Andrew's Society  
of San Francisco*

# *Burns Supper*

**Saturday, January 21st, 2017**

Save the date for the annual commemoration of the  
anniversary of the birth of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns  
with a traditional Burns Night Supper.

at

**The Family**

545 Powell St., San Francisco

6:00 PM: No Host Cocktails

7:00 PM: Dinner & Entertainment

*Formal Attire Encouraged*

For enquiries contact Francesca McCrossan (2nd VP) at:  
[2ndVP@saintandrewssocietysf.org](mailto:2ndVP@saintandrewssocietysf.org)

Tickets will be available through the Society's website,  
[saintandrewssociety.org](http://saintandrewssociety.org), beginning in December.



**Robert Burns**  
(1759–1796)



# RSCDS San Francisco Branch ASILOMAR WEEKEND Friday 28th ~ Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016



Merrill Hall Dancers. Photo by Dianne Wilson © 2014

The Asilomar Weekend and workshops is a fantastic San Francisco Branch tradition going back more than 50 years. Held on the spectacular Monterey Peninsula, in the historic oceanside setting of California's Asilomar State Park, the weekend promises to be packed full with fun, friends, learning, formal glamour and Scottish Country Dancing.

## You are cordially invited to join us

for a wonderful Weekend with stellar teachers, outstanding musicians, great workshops, welcome dance, formal Ball and more, at the Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA, USA.

**Teachers** ~ Graham Donald, Leeds, England ~ Pat Coyle, Uxbridge, Ontario, Canada ~ Sara Gratiot, Marina, CA ~ Robert McOwen, Arlington, Massachusetts ~ Linda Pettengill, Half Moon Bay, CA ~ Andrew Smith, Emporia, Kansas.

**Music by** ~ Tullochgorum, StringFire! and more

Consider **extending your weekend** into a longer stay on the Monterey Peninsula, or use the Weekend as a jumping-off point for a longer vacation in the San Francisco Bay area, California or further afield.

Applications available online from April 1st, 2016. Full weekend details & downloadable applications online at [asilomar.rscds-sf.org](http://asilomar.rscds-sf.org)

Questions? Please contact:

Asilomar Weekend Chair: Patti Cobb [pkcobb23@gmail.com](mailto:pkcobb23@gmail.com)

Asilomar Weekend Registrar: Julee Montes [julm-hcs@pacbell.net](mailto:julm-hcs@pacbell.net)

## Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
<b>2016</b>		
Mon. Sept. 19	Member's Dinner .....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Oct. 17	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Sun. Nov. 13	Remembrance Day Service.....	Grace Cathedral, SF
Mon. Nov. 21	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
<b>Sat. Nov. 26</b>	<b>153rd Annual Banquet &amp; Ball .....</b>	<b>Marine's Hotel, SF</b>
Mon. Dec. 19	No Meeting due to Hogmanay Potluck on 12/31	
<b>Sat. Dec. 31</b>	<b>Hogmanay Celebration.....</b>	<b>1088 Green St., SF</b>
<b>2017</b>		
Mon. Jan. 16	Member Meeting .....	1088 Green St., SF
	<i>Inauguration of 2017 Office Bearers</i>	
<b>Sat. Jan. 21</b>	<b>Annual Burns Supper (The Family) .....</b>	<b>545 Powell St., SF</b>
Mon. Feb. 20	Member Meeting .....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Mar. 19	Member Meeting .....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 1	Tartan Day Scottish Faire .....	Ardenwood, Fremont
Mon. April 17	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 22	John Muir Day / Earth Day celebration.....	Martinez, CA
Mon. May 15	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. June 19	Member Meeting.....	1088 Green St., SF
<b>Sat. July 8</b>	<b>Summer Ceilidh .....</b>	<b>Encinal Yacht Club</b>
Mon. July 17	Summer Break – no meeting	
Mon. Aug. 21	Summer Break – no meeting	
<b>Sept. 2–3</b>	<b>Caledonian Club's 151st Highland Games &amp; Gathering .....</b>	<b>Pleasanton, CA</b>

## About Us

### The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

1088 Green Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94133-3604

415-885-6644

[www.saintandrewsocietyofsf.org](http://www.saintandrewsocietyofsf.org)

Editor: Gary Ketchen  
E-mail: [ketchen.gary@gmail.com](mailto:ketchen.gary@gmail.com)

### Membership Meetings

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 P.M. Light supper served before the meeting. (Free valet parking is provided for members' meetings. MUNI: one block east of Hyde St. cable car).

### Officers of the Society

Jaeame I. Koyil,  
President  
David Campbell, First VP  
Francesca McCrossan,  
Second VP  
Ian Baird, Treasurer  
Jean Allen, Secretary  
Roger Weed, Librarian  
Marilyn Van Story,  
Chaplain  
Marjory Matic, Bard  
Jack Cunningham, Piper  
Thomas E. Kasinger,  
Historian  
Kent Walker,  
Membership Secretary  
Dr. Bill Blair, Physician

### Trustees

David McCrossan,  
Chairman  
Norman McLeod, OBE  
David McCrossan  
Stewart Hume  
James Robertson, AIA  
Sandy Corbett

### Board of Relief

Marilyn Van Story  
Biz Obley  
Robert Blair, Jr.

### Board of Student Assistance

J. Robert Logan,  
Chairman  
William Cummings, Sr.  
William Cummings, Jr.  
Jean Allen  
Kitty Lenhart





**The Saint Andrew's Society  
of San Francisco**  
1088 Green Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133-3604

Recipient

---

---

---