

David Campbell, President

September 2017

President's Report

Dear St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco,

I'll start off the September newsletter and dive right into my report of the weekend to which we look forward each year with anticipation—The Pleasanton Highland Games...the event's 152nd annual this year. The Caledonian club reminds us that the Games have always gone on—despite World Wars, the Great Depression, even the 1906 San Francisco earth-

President's Report, continued on page 2



152nd Highland Games and Gathering

By Allen Cary

According to the Caledonian club, the Highland Games and Gathering has been going on uninterrupted for 150 years. It has never been canceled; not for wars or in the great depression. A little matter of its being 112° was not about to stop its perfect run. Needless to say the overall attendance was down.



Laurien Fiddes, David Campbell, and Susan Goodier at the St. Andrew's Society tent.

As they say only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the mid-day sun. To that one may add Scots, including stalwart members of the Saint Andrews society of San Francisco. Despite the oppressive heat, Laurien Fiddes, Susan Goodier, Francesca McCrossan, David Campbell and Allen Cary showed up Friday afternoon to set up our Saint Andrews Society tent in the clan tent area of the Pleasanton Fairgrounds.

Highland Games, continued on page 3



110 degree temperature in Pleasanton on Friday afternoon Sept. 1st during set-up for the Games!

SEPTEMBER 2017 ~ Vol. 154, NO. 8

President's Report	1	Three Bridges	5
152nd Highland Games Summary	1	Calendar of Events	10

President's Report

quake...and this year was no different. Dear readers, as you well know—the very weekend of this year's Games (September 2nd & 3rd) was forecast to be a record breaking heat wave, and it did not disappoint! In fact Saturday's temperature soared to at least 112 degrees. It was all we could do to stay hydrated and try to conserve our energy in the shade. The huge crowds evidenced in years past stayed away this year, but the stalwart Highlanders turned up, including many from our St. Andrew's Society. Sincere thanks to the following for your attendance and participation: Jean & Jek; Susan and Laurien, Tony & Cecilia, and Roger. Past-President's Ian Macdonald, John Allison, and Fred Rutledge (current Foundation Chair) also stopped by for extended visits. Special thanks go to 2nd VP Allen Cary, and the McCrossans (Board of Trustees Chair David, 1st VP Francesca, and daughter Maria) for their steady presence and for assisting with set-up and take-down. The American Friends of Erskine were well-represented again this year by Caledonian Davie Scott; and by the strong support over for the Games from Scotland—Head of External Relations Sara Bannerman, and RAF Flight Sergeant Mick Morrison. The written program for the Games displayed nice full page ads both for Erskine and our St.



Tony Becker, Jean Allen, Allen Cary, Jek Cunningham, and Cecelia Fabos-Becker working the booth.

Andrew's Society, the latter noting our annual Banquet & Ball coming up later this Fall in November. Our friends from the Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers (PSF) had to bow out this year on account of the extreme heat, understandably. Joining us again this year after a couple year break—at an adjacent booth was the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum in St. Helena. Executive Director Barrett Dahl represents Stevenson's life and work ably and well...her passion, energy and knowledge of all things Stevenson—apparent. That day spent together also proved to be beneficial, as it provided a good opportunity for Foundation Chair Fred Rutledge and myself to present Barrett with a \$500 check—a donation to the museum on behalf of the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco. Kudos to Barrett and the Stevenson Museum for your good and tireless work! Lastly, pertaining



Foundation Chair Fred Rutledge and President David Campbell present \$500 donation check to Barrett Dahl of the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum.

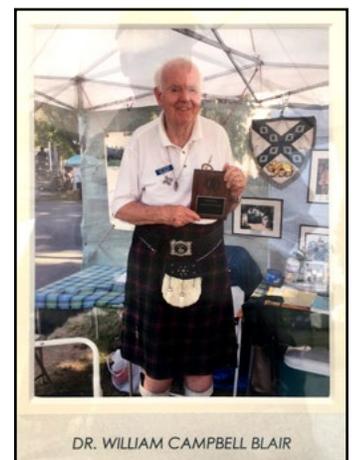
to the Games—congratulations to Past President and Society Physician Bill Blair whose Clan Blair was awarded the “Best Clan” this year! For additional commentary on the Games, please see Allen Cary's accompanying article.

Returning to my mention of Bill Blair for a moment—Bill has been in recent months not well, and so was not able to attend the Games this year. With his health in mind—I wanted to reach out to Bill to find out how he was doing. At 93 years young—Bill shared with me that he is currently undergoing some health challenges which, with his blessing, I will also want to share with our membership at the September meeting. Just after the Games I spoke with Bill and family, and took them up on an offer to stop by for a visit at home in Menlo Park. It was great to see Bill again and son Bob (who is also a St. Andrew's Society member), and to meet other family as well. Bill seemed to be in good spirits and is doing his best to stay positive. Bill, please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers!

On Saturday, August 19th in association with the University of Edinburgh—we hosted an afternoon reception for alumni and new students about to head off to Edinburgh. The event was well-attended and quite successful. Thanks to our leadership



Largely as tribute to Society Physician Bill Blair's great work over decades—Clan Blair was awarded “Most Honorable Clan” status at Tartan Day 2017 back in April.



Dr. Bill Blair receiving award at the 2016 Games.

President's Report, continued on page 4

Continued from page 1

Highland Games

Saturday morning we were joined by Tony and Celia Becker at the tent. Susan, Laurien and Francesca split their duties with the English Tea Room and the tent, the Tea Room being much preferred duty since it was located in an air-conditioned building. Nonetheless we soldiered on at the tent, helping people find their Scottish heritage, other clan tents and hopefully interest in the Society.



Highland dancing accompanied by massed bands...always impressive!

members of the Society. Sunday was somewhat less hot than Saturday had been, but definitely not Scottish weather.

Next year there is to be a major reorganization of the clan tent area, causing some consternation amongst the members of the clans. We will have to see how it works out with a new location. Until then, we just need to pray for cooler weather!



Guest of Honor—actor Graham McTavish of TV show Outlander fame was out and about...to the delight of fans.

During the event, we were visited by Jek and Jean, Irene and Brian and Irene's father visiting from Scotland and a number of other friends and

Dear Friends,

To honor Colin Brown for enriching our lives and to say our goodbyes a celebration of his life was held on Thursday, September 14th at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

If you would like to write and share your reflections and experiences of Colin, please do so at the following email address.

inmemoryofcolinbrown@babcsf.org

If you would like to make a donation in Colin's name, the family requests that you consider the following:

THE BABC COLIN BROWN INTERN SUPPORT FUND*

To donate, please mail a check payable as follows:

The BABC Colin Brown Intern Support Fund
c/o FNB Northern California
130 Battery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

Attn: Stuart Keirle

*Colin was a strong supporter and champion of the BABC's Intern Program. Funds donated will be solely used to support our interns and the continuance of the Program

MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

To donate online, please follow the link below.

<http://site.wish.org/goto/colinbrown>



Celebration of Colin's Life



In Memory of Colin Brown, Chairman and Past President of the BABC Northern California. CEO and Founder, Venturexcel but most importantly, Loving Husband and Father to Malini, Callum and Euan.

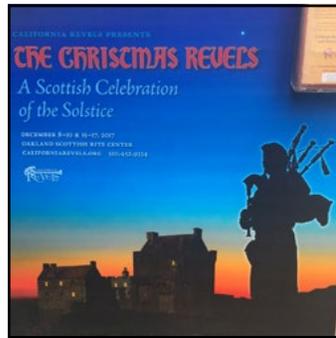
President's Report

and support teams for helping to make it so. We were honored to meet Edinburgh alumni, and to help send off this year's class with our blessing!



Saint Andrew's Society President David Campbell handing over a \$500 donation check to The American Friends of Erskine—Davie Scott.

While on the topic of University—you may recall having seen messaging regarding an event scheduled for September 14th at which Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak from the University of Glasgow was slated to speak on the topic: "Glasgow's Promise in Precision Medicine." Unfortunately, this event has had to be cancelled, so you can strike it from your calendar. Glasgow VP of International Development Frances Shepherd is still scheduled for a visit later this month, however. We look forward to welcoming Fran back to the Bay Area and sitting down with her to discuss our mutual interest in supporting university academics and scholarship at Glasgow.



California Revels scheduled to perform its annual Oakland event on a Scottish theme this December!

You may also recall mention of work that we're doing with the Saltire Foundation, a subsidiary of Entrepreneurial Scotland (ES). Plans are now in the works to meet soon with ES Chief Executive Sandy Kennedy—to review our relationship, and continue moving forward in collaboration.

Kristian Mullins reminded me of the Dixon Scottish Highland Games coming up at the end of the month—September 30th at the Dixon Fairgrounds. If you're "up" for one more Games this season...this might be one to consider! (www.scotsindixon.org)

In other Games news...in mid-October I will be traveling to Southern California for the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura over the weekend of October 14 & 15—to attend the Clan Campbell Society AGM. I'm looking forward to seeing my

Campbell "cousins" again, and also seeing our PSF friends who I understand will be there as well (www.seaside-games.com).

I'll mention briefly our schedule of programs for early Fall. On September 18th we will be hosting a film night—showing The Stone of Destiny. It should be a fun evening: Scotch and Popcorn: Scotland at the Movies. Then on October 16th we'll look forward to having the San Francisco British Consul General Andrew Whittaker join us as our Honored Guest and featured speaker.

Sadly, you may recall hearing of Colin Brown's recent passing



Keeping good company with Team Erskine: RAF Flight Sergeant Mick Morrison, American Friends Davie Scott, External Relations Sara Bannerman, President David Campbell



WM Glen & Sons Whisky tasting event (Sept. 12th) in SF—Laphroaig Master Distiller John Campbell (to the R of table).

while away on vacation with family. The memorial service in his honor held just this past Thursday at Grace Cathedral—was quite a lovely remembrance, a moving tribute. Colin, you may know was a Past-President of the British American Business Council (BABC). Both David McCrossan and Ian Baird in addition to myself were present at the service. The Society has reached out in support of the BABC and also to Colin's family with an orchid floral display and notes of condolence.

President's Report, continued on page 6

Three Bridges, Three Centuries and a Lifetime of Journeys.

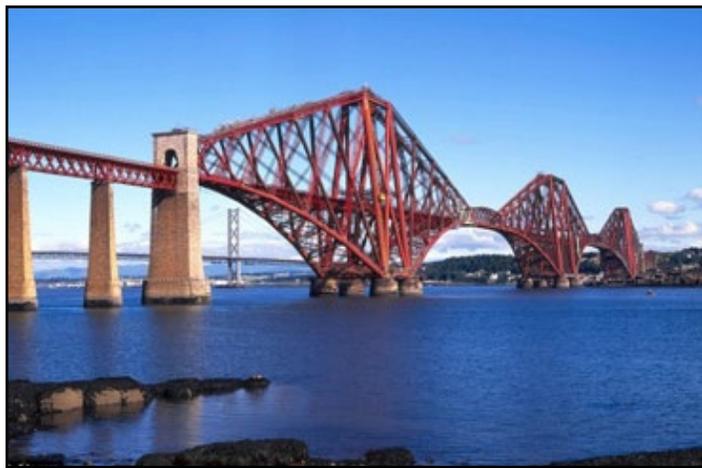
By **Irené Waldman Costello, Bard**

September 4th 2017 marked the official ceremony of the opening of the new Queensferry Crossing across the majestic Firth of Forth by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The opening was 53 years to the day from her opening of the Forth Road Bridge in 1964.

The firth (estuary) is made up of several Scottish rivers, including the River Forth, from where it gets its name. It meets the North Sea with Fife on the north coast, and Lothian on the south side. In the last glacial period, the Firth of Forth was a glacier (the Forth Glacier), but now it is (geologically speaking) a fjord!

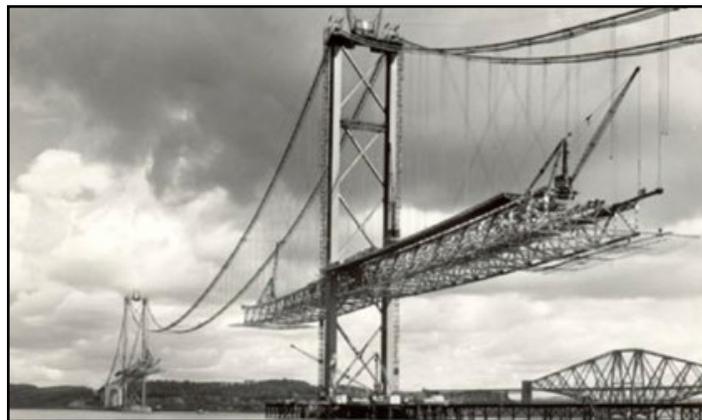
The beautiful Scottish landscape has witnessed many technological changes, and if an estuary could speak, I am sure she would have a lot to say, as she has been around for centuries and has witnessed the amazing architectural feat of having not just one, or two, but **THREE** unique and distinguished bridges built over **THREE** different centuries!

The Forth Rail Bridge:



The first bridge built is a truly magnificent railway bridge—the Forth Rail Bridge, and is now one of Scotland's greatest landmarks. It was built between 1883 and 1890 by Sir John Fowler and Sir Benjamin Baker with over 4,500 men. The bridge is an impressive architectural feat with a total length of 8,094 feet. The rail bridge was opened on the 4th March in 1890 by the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII, and spans between the villages of South Queensferry and North Queensferry. At the time, it had the longest single cantilever bridge span in the world, until 1919 when the Quebec Bridge in Canada was completed. It continues to be the world's second-longest single cantilever span at 1709 feet.

The Forth Road Bridge:



A century later the Forth Road Bridge was opened in 1964 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, after six years of construction. This long-span suspension bridge is 8241 feet in length. Its towers are over 150 meters high and hold 49,280 km of wire in the two cables which take the weight of the suspended deck. This bridge (now with the new Crossing) will be fully dedicated to public transport, cyclists and walkers, which will make for very breath-taking Sunday afternoon walks or bike rides!

Three Brides, continued on page 6

President's Report

Lastly, it was just recently brought to my attention by Bruce McMillan that one of our own—Rear Adm. Gerald W MacKay, USN Ret has passed away (on August 10th). I've spoken with Mrs. MacKay (Linda)—to convey our sympathies and to offer support. Linda wanted us to know how much the St. Andrew's Society meant to Gerald, and that she too has been touched by our gestures of concern and outreach. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Charles Church in San Carlos on Thursday, September 21st at 4:00 P.M. Planned to follow afterwards then is a Celebration of Life—6:00 P.M. at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. To read more about Gerald's life—please refer to his obituary on file with the San Jose Mercury News. For additional details regarding above—please refer to: www.crippenandflynchapel.com (Belmont).

So, we go out this month on a mournful, reflective note—that life is short...to seize the moment is right.

Yours in service,

David Campbell, President

Three Bridges

The Queensferry Crossing:



The Queensferry Crossing is the longest three-tower cantilever in the world at 8858 feet in length, the biggest infrastructure project in Scotland for a generation and is the highest bridge in the UK! While initially Scottish Futures Trust (an alternative to public-private partnership funding for major public sectors) was going to fund it, in December 2008, the Scottish Government announced that public funding would pay for the bridge—at a cost of 1.35 Billion GBP, shared between 5.29 Million residents!

Incredibly impressive...and makes you really proud to be Scottish!

Sources: www.BBC.com ; www.BBC.CO.UK; www.wingsover-scotland.com; www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk; www.itv.com/news; www.dailymail.co.uk

Scotch and Popcorn...

Scotland @ the Movies!

Stone of Destiny (2008 / 1h 36min)

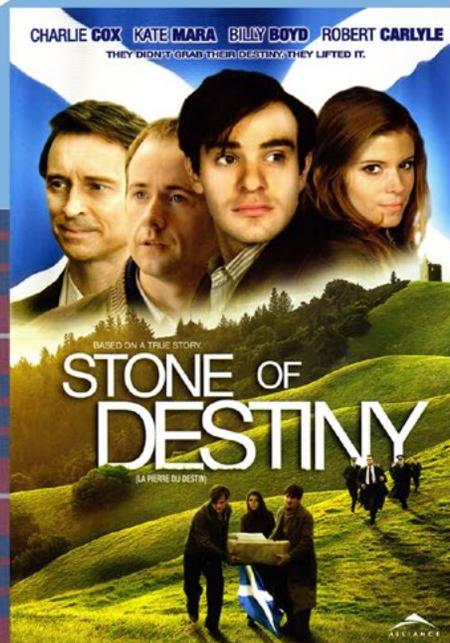
Save the Date: Monday, September 18th

Time: Normal monthly meeting times

Location: St Andrew's Society of San Francisco

Address: 1088 Green St, SF, CA 94133 (cross street: Leavenworth)

Valet Parking & Light Supper Provided



As Scotland fails to establish its own parliament, young patriot Ian Hamilton vows to salvage national pride by returning the Stone of Destiny, a symbol of Scottish sovereignty - to its rightful place. Trouble is, the talismanic stone has been housed in Westminster Abbey under watchful English eyes since 1296.

Trailer

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6d6hO9MosGA>



Calling all Clans and Celtic Societies!!

2017 Reno Celtic Celebration

October 7 & 8, 2017

Clans are gathering in Reno, Nevada on October 7th and 8th during one of the prettiest times of year in Northern Nevada. The event will be held at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, located about two miles south of downtown Reno. The park is a beautiful, historic ranch with an amphitheater, modern facilities, and picnic areas. Clans will be located again up at the patio area behind the Wick House.

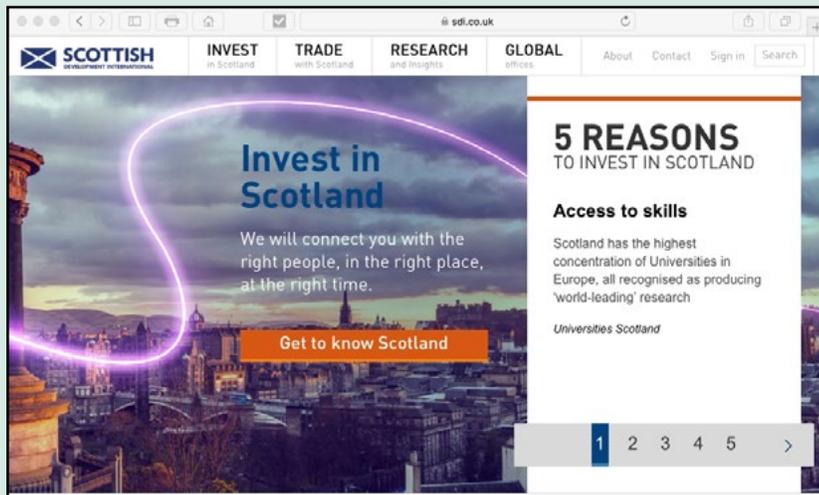
There will be Celtic Merchandise Vendors, Highland Dancers, Bagpipers (individual and bands), Children's Activities, Celtic Livestock and Dogs, Medieval Reenactment, Pirates, and Entertainment as well as a Sunday morning Kirkin.

Contact Lowell Patton, Clan Coordinator, at 775-686-0521; send an email to lowell.patton@yahoo.com; or just use the tent application on the back of this announcement.

For more information visit www.renoceltic.org

Scottish Development International (SDI)

helps companies succeed in business in Scotland. SDI is the international arm of Scotland's enterprise agencies. Offering financial incentives and other assistance to help establish and grow businesses in Scotland and worldwide.



For information on the latest news on foreign direct investment to Scotland, Scottish company news, events, and general good news stories visit <https://www.sdi.co.uk>.

Additional inquires can be made by emailing:

Justine Kelly

VP, Technology & Advanced Engineering - Americas SDI

Justine.Kelly@scotent.co.uk

Gaelic USA



Scottish Gaelic Foundation of the USA / Ur-ras Gàidhlig nan Stàitean Aonaichte is a 501c3 tax exempt public charity

working to reclaim and revitalize the language and heritage of the Scottish Highlands in America, and to build bridges between communities of all sorts, including academia.

Mission: GaelicUSA fosters greater appreciation of the diversity in American culture by recovering and celebrating Scottish Gaelic language and history, and coordinating with and strengthening today's Gaelic community in the United States. We welcome anyone with an interest in participating in Scottish Gaelic culture and heritage.

For more information please visit the website at gaelicusa.org and read our **latest newsletter**.



Happy Summer and Hi Everyone!

Summer is in full swing and we are about to head out on the road to see you! Between the three of us, we've already taught at two different music camps this past month, with more planned in addition to all of our concerts.

We're looking forward to headlining at several highland games this season including the Skagit Valley Highland Games, Portland Highland Games, and the Scottish Highland Games and Gathering in Pleasanton!

For more information about these concerts please check out the dates below, and visit our website. We also recently joined Instagram so now in addition to keeping up with us on Facebook, you can follow our adventures live @firescottishband.

Looking forward to seeing you this summer!

Cheers, Rebecca, David, and Adam

Upcoming Tour Dates

San Francisco, CA - August 19 - Festival of the Sea

Pleasanton, CA - September 1-3 - Scottish Highland Gathering & Games

Pacifica, CA - September 9 - Pacifica Performances

Fresno, CA - September 16 - Fresno Scottish Highland Games

Vista, CA - September 23-24 - Vista Viking Festival

Grass Valley, CA - September 29 to Oct. 1 - KVMR Celtic Festival

Felton, CA - October 7 - Big Trees Scottish Festival

Full details at www.firescottishband.com

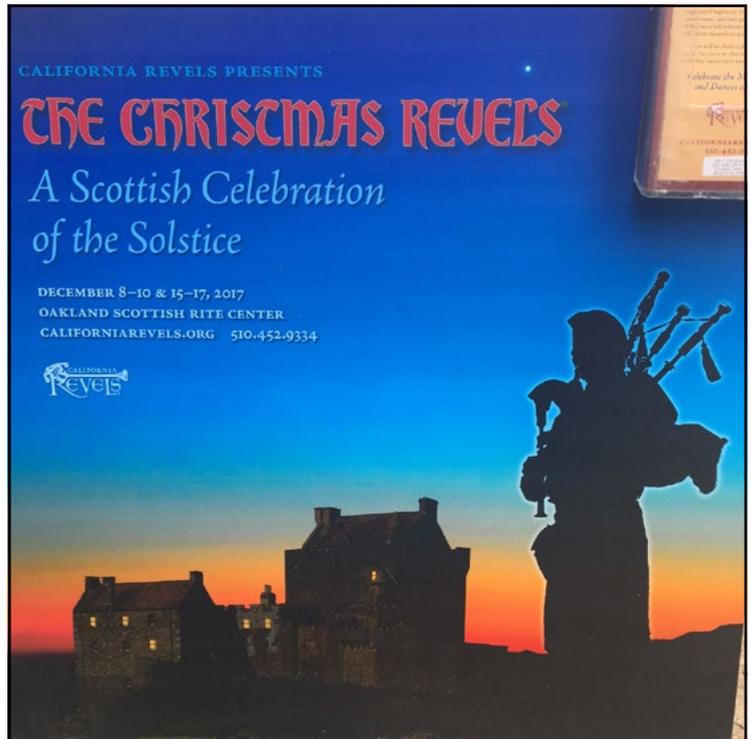


With the skirling of pipes and the swirling of kilts, the 2017 Christmas Revels celebrates the turning of the year in Scottish style.

Join us this December in the land of Robbie Burns as we pass the shortest day in song, dance, and spirited folk tales. Be there for haggis and Hogmanay, first-footing, wool-waulking, mouth music, and even guising! Of course the Lord of the Dance will welcome you, and Abbots Bromley will cast its mysterious spell.

There will be plaids a-plenty, as Scots of all ages gather the clans to observe the return of the sun in the Bay Area's most treasured holiday tradition. You'll find us in the Oakland Scottish Rite Theatre from December 8th through 17th.

For more information: Go to our **website** or visit us on **Facebook**.



WIN A 7-DAY CHICAGO ADVENTURE! ENTER ONLINE AT RLS BIRTHDAY RAFFLE! CLICK TO HERE ENTER ONLINE!

ENTER TODAY!

RLS BIRTHDAY RAFFLE

Benefiting the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum

GRAND PRIZE Chicago Adventure

Prize Includes:

- 7 day stay in private, 2 bedroom apartment overlooking Lake Shore East Park &
- 2 VIP Chicago City passes with access to
 - The Field Museum
 - 360 Chicago
 - Art Institute of Chicago
 - and much, much more...

Winner drawn November 13th!

Enter online or at the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum



Ticket Prices
 1 for \$100
 or
 3 for \$250
 or
 5 for \$400



Winner will be drawn on November 13th and announced on Social Media!

For more information visit: stevensonmuseum.org

RLSM

Creative Writing Class at the RLS Museum!

THURSDAYS, 10 AM TO 12PM

September 21st - November 9th

Instructor: Ana Baker



This non-credit / no fee course is a unique opportunity to take classes in the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum with access to the collection as a source material for your creative writing projects.

A donation to the RLS Museum is appreciated!



Robert Louis Stevenson Museum
1490 Library Lane
St. Helena, CA 94574

Hours of Operation:
Tuesday - Saturday, 12pm -4pm
or by appointment



707-963-3757

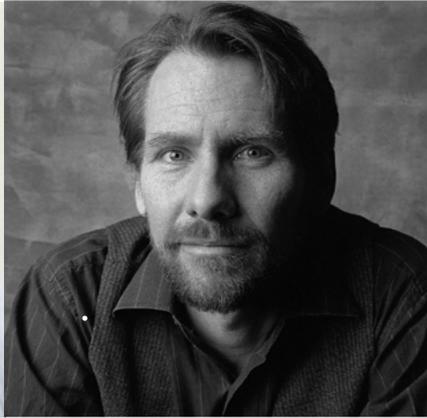
To register visit: napavalley.edu



To whom it may concern,

We are running an archaeological field school in the Scottish Highlands in June next year. Participants will be involved in researching, surveying and recording a series of historical and archaeological sites associated with the Jacobite rebellions and Highland Clearances of 18th Century Scotland. Training will be provided in archaeological recording practices including historical analyses, map regression, archaeological field survey, technical drawing, photography, building recording and GIS. I have attached [full details of the field school](#) and an [application form](#) and would appreciate if you could forward this to your archaeology department mailing list or anyone you think may find it useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me, you can find more information on our organisation at www.harparchaology.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes – Ian Hill





ARE YOU READY FOR A MAGICAL WEEKEND?

**RSCDS San Francisco
Asilomar Weekend 2017
Pacific Grove, CA, USA**

November 17-19, 2017



“Magnificent!”

**“Absolutely fantastic & the best dancing weekend
I have ever encountered.”**



Join dancers from near & far for an unforgettable weekend of Scottish country dancing at Asilomar. Featuring teachers ~ Fred DeMarse, Chandi McCracken, Mary Murray, Sue Porter & Gary Thomas, with music by Hood, Wink & Swagger, Laura Risk & Nicholas Williams.

Accepting applications from April 1, 2017

**Questions? Contact Asilomar Weekend Chair, Patti Cobb at pkcobb23@gmail.com
More details & to apply, visit us at:**

asilomar.rscds-sf.org

Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
2017		
Mon. Sept. 18	Member Meeting (Movie Night – <i>Stone of Destiny</i>).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Oct. 16	Member Meeting (British CG Andrew Whittaker).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Nov. 20	Member Meeting (Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers—TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Nov. 25	155th Annual St. Andrew's Banquet & Ball	Marines' Club, SF
Mon. Dec. 18	No Meeting due to December 31st. Hogmanay Celebration	
Sun. Dec. 31	Hogmanay Celebration	1088 Green St., SF
2018		
Mon. Jan. 15	Member Meeting	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. Jan. 20	Annual Burns Supper	The Family, SF
Mon. Feb. 19	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Mar. 18	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 7	Tartan Day Scottish Faire at Ardenwood	Fremont, CA
Mon. April 16	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Sun. April 22	John Muir Day / Earth Day celebration.....	NPS – Martinez, CA
Mon. May 21	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. June 18	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. July 14	Summer Ceilidh at Encinal Yacht Club	Alameda, CA
Mon. July 16	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
Mon. Aug. 20	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
Sept. 1–2	Caledonian Club's 153rd Highland Games & Gathering	Pleasanton, CA

About Us

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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www.saintandrewsociety.org

Editor: Gary Ketchen
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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

David Campbell,
President

Francesca McCrossan,
First VP

Allen Cary, Second VP

Ian Baird, Treasurer

Jean Allen, Secretary

Susan Goodier,
Executive Administrator

Roger Weed, Librarian

Laurien Fiddes, Chaplain

Irené Waldman, Bard

Jek Cunningham, Piper

Thomas E. Kasinger,
Historian

Dr. Bill Blair, Physician

Bill Jagers, Herald

Fred Rutledge,
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William Cummings, Jr.

Jean Allen





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

Recipient
