



The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco



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Calendar

SUN, 8 NOV, *Remembrance Day Service at Grace Cathedral, SF*

MON. 16 NOV. *Society Monthly Meeting Program.*

SAT, 28 NOV *St. Andrew's Day, Banquet and Ball, Marine's Memorial, SF*

MON, 30 November, *St. Andrew's Day*

Mon. 14 DEC (note date change). *Society Monthly Meeting. Election of 2010 officers*

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RLS Middle School learns



By Jesse Duarte
STAFF WRITER for the
ST. HELENA STAR

Friday, November 27, 2009

If you hear any Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School students speaking with a slight brogue, don't worry. They've just been paying attention at school.

Last Thursday the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco presented RLS Principal Mary Allen with a photograph of the school's namesake, the Scottish author of "Treasure Island" and "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" who spent a few

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A Message from Our President

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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Membership Meetings:

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 PM. Light refreshments served after the meeting.

Officers of the Society

Fred Rutledge, President
Gene McCracken, First VP
John Allison, Second VP
Russ Wallace, Treasurer
Tom Kasinger, Secretary
Roger Weed, Librarian
Charles Syers DDS, Physician
James Beatty, Chaplain
Bruce McCubbrey, Bard
Ozzie Reid, Piper

Trustees—

Bruce McMillan, Chairman
Tom McLaughlin,
John McCorkindale
Bruce Reeves
James M. Robertson, AIA-E
John B. Ritchie, Trustee
Emeritus

Board of Relief,

James Beatty

Board of Student Assistance—

Robert Logan,
William Cummings, Sr.
William Cummings, Jr.
Loren Obley



St. Andrew's Society
of San Francisco

Members and Friends:

Happy Holidays! St. Andrew's Day is behind us. We look forward to Christmas, Hogmonay and the Burns Supper in January!

This month I shifted gears and published an article on Scottish-American painter William Keith. He was known for his wild hair, his friendship with John Muir and a love of Burns and whisky. He was a real character. I hope you will be inspired to visit the Hearst Gallery at St. Mary's College to see some of his paintings up close and personal.



This month's meeting is on Monday, 14 December. Our 2nd VP John Allison has invited retired US Navy Admiral Judd Scott to talk about John Paul Jones. It should be a super evening. The meeting is a week early so as to not conflict with Holiday travel plans and has been posted for the year. This is an important meeting as we will hold our 2010 officers' elections. Last month only one nomination was made from the floor. That was for chaplain and the candidate is Elli Sturm. We now have a full slate to vote upon. The installation of officers will be conducted as part of the January meeting.

John Allison organized a presentation of the Robert Louis Stevenson photo to the Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School in St. Helena last month. Dorothy MacKay-Collins, Jim Marsh, James Beatty, Elli Sturm, the Mayor of St Helena, British Consul-General Julian Evans, Deputy Consul Mary Gilbert, 2nd VP Allison and I were present that day. The local newspaper, the St Helena Star, took pictures and published an article on the event. Thanks to John for organizing this great day for the students and the society.

The St. Andrews Banquet and Ball was a great success. We had 138 in attendance. Greetings came in from the St. Andrews Societies of Valparaiso, Chile, Aberdeen, Scotland and Western Australia! The Caledonian Club of San Francisco was well represented by its officers and the presidents/chiefs of the St. Andrews Society of Oakland, the Caledonian Club of SF and the Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus Sister Cities Organization were our guests along with UK Consul-General Julian Evans and his wife Gayle.

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Robert Burns Supper,

Saturday, 23 January,

at

the Family,

San Francisco

Please get your reservations and cheques to John Allison, ASAP.

John is getting regular calls and email returns. He asks that you print your guests' names so they can be read by older gentlemen, aye.

Remember, ticket prices are \$80 for members and members' guest, \$85 for non members until Hogmanay, thereafter prices go up \$5.



St. Andrew's Society of SF & Related Calendar of Events for 2009

DECEMBER

Society Monthly Meeting
– 14 DEC (note date change).
Program: John Paul Jones,
presenter Admiral Judd Scott
USN (Retired).

Election of 2010 officers

THU, 31 DEC, Society's
Hogmonay Celebrations,
Firehouse

JANUARY 2010

MON, 18 JAN, Society
Monthly Meeting: Installa-
tion of Officers

SAT, 23 JAN, Robert
Burns Supper at The Family,
San Francisco

A Message from Our President continued:

(Continued from page 2)

The Macintosh Pipe Band did a fine job piping us to dinner and entertaining afterwards. Kudos to 1st VP Gene McCracken for producing the event and to 2nd VP John Allison for "showing the flag" with his color party and wearing of the tabard.

A final note from the Ball: A frosted plastic, expandable piece about 5 inches round possibly for use as a diffuser for a camera, was found in the area of tables 8 thru 16 after the Ball that evening. It is in the Lost and Found Department at the Marines' Memorial Club. Call 415-673-6672 if you know who it belongs to!

The Scottish Development International (SDI) held a celebration of St. Andrews's Day at the British Consul-General's residence on 30 November. A grand time was had by all fueled by Alex Henderson's Haggis and adult beverages from Steve Beal, Senior Master of Whisky for Dia-geo. This was an opportunity to hob-knob with all facets of Scottish community in Northern California. A pocket full of my SASSF business cards was exchanged. Larry Reynolds, SDI VP, is willing to be a guest speaker at one of our meetings in 2010. Details to follow.

See you on Monday,
14 December.

I would like to wish
you and your dear
families a very Merry
Christmas and a
Happy, Healthy and
Prosperous New Year!



Yours aye,

Fred Rutledge



Board of Trustees: Resolution Proposal

by Bruce McMillan

St. Andrew's Investment Policy Statement

Resolved by the Board of Trustees that the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco engage an outside investment specialist(s) to be given discretion to make or delegate detailed and day to day investment decisions for our financial assets. This will include investment selections, hiring and firing of investment managers, rebalancing, making ongoing due diligence, measuring, monitoring, evaluating, and reviewing the investment moneys of the "Doig, Fletcher, Reid Memorial Endowment". These activities shall be based on the general policies and guidelines that are stated here. This investment policy statement will be reviewed and revised periodically.

No member of the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco may receive compensation or remuneration of any kind from the management, administration, or handling of the Society's moneys or property. Our investment specialist(s) should be honest and experienced, having no less than 8 years in the investment management industry, provide us with a high level of service, specialize in investment selection, have significant experience with charitable institutions, and work at a fairly large well known institution.

Our investment specialist(s) should formally report to the St. Andrew's Society at least once a year about the risk and return of our moneys. This report should evaluate how much of the portfolio's investment results are due to the investment specialist(s) investment decisions as compared to the effects of the financial markets.

Our goals are to maintain the principal and grow the principal and its income at a rate above the rate of inflation over a very long period of time, certainly a time frame longer than any of our individual lives. For investment policy purposes the investment horizon for these funds is 100+ years.

We wish to be 100% invested in liquid, marketable securities, e.g., stocks, bonds, and cash; and although it is unlikely that we would approve the following investments, we may consider on a case by case basis investments such as limited partnerships, physical real estate, private equity, venture capital, private placements, derivative securities, commodities, options, futures, etc.. We wish to diversify our investment assets in order to reduce the risks of wide swings in market value from year-to-year or incur large losses. At no time should we own securities of any type of any one company in excess of 3% of the outstanding securities of any one company.

We do not wish to reallocate between stock, bonds, and cash. We wish

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Come Home for **HOGMANAY!**

Let all get together for Hogmanay this year. Thursday, 31 DEC at the Firehouse.

Aye, Mark your calendar, more details to follow, while we all keep watch for the fair haired stranger.

Robert Louis Stevenson by John Allison

Since joining the San Francisco St. Andrew's Society more than twenty-two years ago, I have maintained a casual affiliation with the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum in St. Helena, CA. Fifteen years ago, I ran the first RLS Marathon from the Silverado mine to the RLS School and on to the RLS Museum and to Tusalata, the former home of John and Sue Ritchie, in Rutherford. Tusalata was the name given Stevenson by the Samoans, it means "Teller of Tales."

Our past president and famous bard, Donald Sinclair, visited the RLS gravesite in Samoa. This past May, we enjoyed a wonderful presentation about Robert Louis Stevenson by Dorothy McKay Collins, curator of the RLS Museum, after which we decided to enhance the memory of RLS at the middle school named in his honor in St. Helena, CA.

In June, we met with the principal, Ms. Mary Allen, and learned that the school had no picture of its namesake. We obtained a portrait, had it matted and framed, with a mention of the St. Andrew's Society of San Fran-

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months in the Napa Valley in 1880.

The ceremony was performed by a kilt-clad contingent of members of the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco, all with deep brogues and an equally deep appreciation for one of their country's literary superstars.

Bagpipes wailed and flags waved as John Allison, vice-president of the society, handed over the photo, which shows a robust-looking Stevenson striking a rakish pose.



In keeping with the style of the era, Stevenson's sash is bright crimson, in stark contrast to the rest of the sepia-toned print.

Dorothy Mackay-Collins, director of the Robert Louis Stevenson Silverado Museum next to the St. Helena Library, Shannon Kuleto, an RLS parent and local history buff, and RLS Vice Principal Sherri Dappen were instrumental in bringing the ceremony about.

Kuleto said that when her son entered the middle school, she was "surprised that there didn't seem to be an emphasis on who Robert Louis Stevenson was and his connection to the valley."

She brought the issue up to the RLS Parent Teacher Group and eventually to Mackay-Collins, who alerted the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco, a Scottish benevolent society that she belongs to.

Members were happy to do what they could to enlighten the students about an author who, in contrast to most of his literary peers, proved that quality literature and fast-paced, swashbuckling storylines need not be mutually exclusive.



RLS Middle School learns about the real RLS: continued



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cisco. Many of our members autographed the back of the portrait.

The picture was presented at a school assembly Thursday, November 19, 2009.

Participants in the presentation included: British Counsel General Julian Evans, Deputy Counsel General Mary Gilbert, St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco President Fred Rutledge, Past President Gene McCracken, Chaplain James Beatty, Elisabeth Sturm, Mayor of St. Helena Del Britton, Director of the RLS Museum Dorothy McKay Collins, her assistant Dianne Fraser, and Museum Trustee Don Fraser. Piper James Marsh played as the party marched in, led by 2nd Vice President John Allison, wearing the Society's tabard. The students were enthralled with the presentation and paid very good attention. Afterwards, the participants adjourned to lunch in Napa, complete with an abundant supply of the local grape juice. It was an exceptional day. Check out the pictures.



Resolution Proposal continued:

Letter from Elly

Happy Holidays to All

I love this time of year, with its beautiful music, colorful decorations, aromatic culinary offerings and crisp cold weather. Often obscured by the cheery facade of the holidays, however, is the perpetual need for benevolence toward those less fortunate than we are. Indeed, the lack of warmth, shelter and food is usually more pronounced at Christmas time.



At last month's SASSF meeting, a number of you in attendance kindly shared of your own blessings by contributing to our Relief Fund to the tune of seventy-seven dollars. With no scarcity of needy human beings in our environs, this money represents a good start toward providing a healthy contribution to a Bay Area church--College Avenue Presbyterian--which prepares and serves dinner every Friday evening to a hall of homeless individuals; you may remember Chaplain James Beatty's appeal for assisting this benevolent effort. All

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to maintain only nominal amounts in cash and to maintain approximately \$300,000 face amount in bonds perpetually. We wish to maintain all of the remainder of the money allocated to a diversified portfolio of domestic and foreign equities which may include convertibles and open and closed end mutual funds. We believe that we can own a substantial amount in equities, spend and gift some of that money each year, and still leave a greatly enlarged endowment after we are all gone.

With respect to the bond portion of the portfolio, stability of principal and stability of income are of equal importance. We expect the return to be derived from the coupon interest and prefer that the bonds be bought at par, relatively close to par, or at a discount rather than at a significant premium. We prefer individual bonds or F.D.I.C. insured liquid bank CD's. All of the bonds are to be marketable, liquid, non-callable, and either F.D.I.C. insured or of very high investment grade quality, rated AA or better by at least one of the significant rating agencies. We prefer that the \$300,000 be split in three equal tranches of \$100,000 each with maturities that are staggered equally in time maturing, for example, in 3 years, 6 years, and 9 years, or, for example in 6 years, 12 years, and 18 years. In the aggregate, the average maturity of the bond portfolio should generally be in the intermediate range. Within these general guidelines the exact maturities of and the individual bonds will be at the discretion of the investment specialist(s) or the designees.

With respect to the equity portions of the portfolio, we want to own stocks in the safest and most conservative way possible. We prefer but do not require low turn-over. We generally prefer to own a combination of not less than three and not more than five distinctly different equity styles or philosophies, for example, a combination of domestic, international, growth, core, value, large, some medium size, and possibly a small amount of small companies. The stocks should generally be but need not be exclusively dividend payers. Within these general guidelines, the specific equities will be at the discretion of the investment specialist(s) or designees.

In the aggregate, we expect the net return of the equity portion of our investment moneys to equal or slightly exceed the return of the S & P but with less volatility.

Although we encourage donations, we do not count on nor do we expect any significant annual additions to the investment moneys. Each year we expect to withdraw from our investment accounts and add to our annual budget, moneys to spend for our charitable and cultural purposes in the following amounts.

First, sometime after the end of each previous year, we expect to withdraw once a year and apply to our current year purposes, all of the interest actually earned during the previous year from the bond portions of our investment portfolio.

Second, sometime after the end of each previous year, we expect to with-

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draw once a year and apply to our current year purposes, all of the dividends actually earned during the previous year from the equity portion of our investment portfolio.

Finally, sometime after the end of the previous year, we expect to withdraw once a year and apply to our current year purposes, 3% of the moving average of the past 3 or 5 year end fair market value of our aggregate equity portfolio, whichever is lower. This may and can involve selling equities if that is needed for the purpose of this withdrawal.

these generous organizations of community outreach have been affected by the shrinking economy, so our bit of help will be meaningful. Thank you!

One of the best events at year's end is our annual Fire House celebration of the Scottish New Year's Eve, Hogmanay. James and I are enthusiastically involved in organizing it, and, with games, songs, food and drink--yes, Haggis too!--we anticipate your participation in, and enjoyment of it. Save the date: Thursday, December 31, 1:30 at the Fire House, with 4:00 p.m. (our time) heralding the arrival of 2010 in Scotland (plenty of time still to go to other parties for the traditional New Year's observance, yes?). We invite you to bring your favorite dish to share and thank the following people for signing up graciously to bring their delights:

- Biz Obley (deviled eggs);
- Marilyn Van Story (cookies);
- Tom Kasinger (his famous cheesecake);
- James Robertson (scotch);
- Selby, Vivian and



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- Tarky Haussermann (avocado dip);
- Ruth and Gene McCracken (whatever Ruth makes is delicious!);
- Jack Cunningham (his famous short-bread).

Can't wait!!

To conclude my pot-pourri, I would just like to remind all of us that the beautiful St. Andrew's certificate document, designed by Gerry Sample, is available to all members not yet in possession of one, for \$25, with your name and date of entry into the Society inscribed in calligraphy. You may inform me or James of your request at the monthly meetings, at our special events, like Hogmanay, or by calling me at 707 534-0459.

Cheers and Merry Christmas!

—Elisabeth (Elly) Sturm

Painter : William Keith

By Fred Rutledge

William Keith was born in Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire [now Grampian], in Scotland on 21 November 1838. He arrived in New York as a boy in 1850 and was hired as a wood-engraver by the publishing firm of Harper & Brothers in 1857. In 1859 he established himself as a wood-engraver in San Francisco. Keith soon began to make watercolors of the state's spectacular mountain scenery, and in 1868 he turned to oil painting. After spending two years (1870–72) traveling first to Düsseldorf, where he admired the landscapes of Andreas Achenbach (1815–1910), then to Paris, where he saw the work of the Barbizon painters, and to New York and Boston, he returned to the American West.



By the time Keith returned to San Francisco in 1872 his painting style had changed considerably. The abundance of foreground detail typical of his early works like *San Anselmo Valley near San Rafael* (on left) had been replaced by looser brushstrokes as in *Mount Lyell, California Sierra* (below).

John Muir and Keith met in October 1872 in Yosemite Valley. Keith carried a letter of introduction from a mutual friend, Jeanne Carr. Floy Hutchings led Keith and two other painters to Muir who was at his cabin below the Royal Arches. Keith inquired whether Muir knew of any views that would make a picture. Muir replied that he did, and two days later led the a group of five (Muir, Keith, Irwin Benoni, Thomas Ross, and Merrill Moores) to the upper Tuolumne River area. As it turned out, Willie and Johnnie, as they soon called each other, were born in the same year in Scotland. They became close friends for the next forty years until Keith's death.

Muir and Keith enjoyed several other outings together, including the Tuolumne Canyon (with Mrs. Carr and Albert Kellogg, 1873); Yosemite Creek, Lake Tenaya, past Mt. Hoffman, Tuolumne Meadows, Soda Springs, Mts. Dana and Gibbs, and down Bloody Canyon to Mono Lake (with John Swett and J.B. McChesney, 1875), Mt. Shasta (1888), and Muir

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Woods (1908).

Keith wrote in his journal that "When we got to Mount Lyell, (painting above) it was the grandest thing I ever saw. It was late in October, and at an elevation of 10,000 feet. The frost had changed the grasses and a kind of willow to the most brilliant yellows and reds; these contrasting with the two-leafed pine and Williamson spruce, the cold gray rocks, the colder snow, made a glorious sight." Muir reported the outing rather differently, writing that when they rounded a corner and Mt. Lyell came into view, "Keith dashed forward, shouting and gesticulating and waving his arms like a madman." Keith, an epicure, also wrote that Muir was a poor provider on their outings, and that he tired of bread, dried meat, and sugarless coffee. The both did enjoy sharing Burns poetry!

Keith travelled widely during the next decade with the photographer Carleton E. Watkins as well as Muir. From 1883 to 1885 Keith studied informally in Munich; he returned to Europe in 1893 and 1899. In the mid-1880s he was influenced by the philosophical teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772); in response his art moved progressively from the light-filled panoramas of Californian mountains, as in *Headwaters of the San Joaquin* (1878; located at the Oakland Museum), to atmospheric renderings of haze-filled meadows and oak groves, as in *Glory of the Heavens* (1891; San Francisco Fine Art Museum).

Keith's later paintings, constructed with complicated scumbles and glazes, became more suggestive of a mood than descriptive of a particular place. A prolific artist until only months before his death, Keith (photo at left) lost over 2000 paintings when his studio in San Francisco burnt down following the earthquake of 1906.



Muir called Keith a "poet-painter," referring to the lyrical quality in Keith's art. Keith's love of nature was a common thread throughout his painting career and one of the several bonds between these two Scots. Late in life, Keith assisted Muir in his unsuccessful campaign to save Hetch-Hetchy Valley. Before their deaths, Keith had become California's premier late 19th century landscape painter; Muir the father of the Sierra Club and the first and most eloquent advocate for the preser-

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WILLIAM KEITH continued:

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vation of wilderness. William Keith, died in Berkeley on 13 April 1911. John Muir died three years later.

William Keith's artwork at St. Mary's College, Moraga.

For those interested in seeing more of Keith's work, may I suggest a trip to The Hearst Art Gallery at St. Mary's College. It has a collection of 150 Keiths, and a permanent exhibition of a small portion of these can be seen in the Keith room at the Gallery. Keith's Mt. Lyell, painted from sketches done on the 1872 trip to the upper Tuolumne area with John Muir, is in this collection.

The collection found its way there through Keith's first biographer, Brother Fidelis Cornelius Braeg, F.S.C. It was the spiritual qualities of Keith's works, an appreciation for his artistic and scholarly rigor, and a shared love of California's mountains, that led Brother Cornelius, of Saint Mary's College, to make Keith the subject of much of his life's work. The Christian Brother and art professor first encountered Keith's paintings during a 1908 visit with Muir in his Martinez home.

Several of Keith's paintings hung in the Muir ranch house, including Yosemite, Tuolumne Meadows, Mt. Shasta, Sierra Scene, Yosemite (on a cigar box lid!), Mt. Rainier, a sketch of Wanda (Muir's daughter), The Berkeley Oaks, and portraits of Dr. Strentzel and Mrs. Strentzel (Muir's in-laws). The Strentzel portraits hang in the County Museum in Martinez.

Brother Cornelius, who was also an artist and an avid mountaineer, interviewed many of Keith's friends, relatives, and fellow artists, read newspaper accounts, and traveled to Keith's favorite scenic spots throughout the West. He later wrote a 900-page biography of Keith, collected more than 100 of Keith's paintings and gave them to the College, and organized several Keith exhibitions. His legacy lives on in the Keith Room exhibitions, the ongoing research and publications, and continued care and conservation of Keith's art works.

Gallery Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 11 am to 4:30 pm
Admission is \$3 adults; youth 12 and under free; members free.
The exhibition space is ADA accessible.

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Free parking is available adjacent to and across the road from the building. For more information or to schedule a group tour, call 925-631-4379.

A final anecdote

In 1876 when Muir was highly nervous over his first public lecture in Sacramento, Keith knowing this loaned one of his paintings, *The Headwaters of the Merced*, telling Muir to take it to the Congregational Church and "Just look at the painting Johnny. You'll think you're back in the mountains. You'll relax and be fine." Muir did take the painting to Sacramento and placed it in the church before the guests arrived. The painting did rescue Muir from a dismal, apologetic, beginning, and during the lecture, Muir pronounced it "as topographically correct as it is beautiful and artistic."





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