



ESTABLISHED IN 1863

The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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Deadline for newsletter contributions: Articles, pictures, & notices is the 1st Monday of each month of the year (except for July and August).

THE SCOTTISH DEBATE HEATS UP WITH JUST SEVEN MONTHS REMAINING.

In September of this year, orders across Scotland will make the single most historic decision the country has seen in the 300 years since the Treaty of Union was signed.

For those of you who haven't been following events closely, here's a sampler of some of the discussion points with bar and against the simple question –: "do you believe Scotland should become an independent country"

Some quotes from supporters of retaining the existing union

"My surname goes back to the West Highlands and by the way, I am as proud of my Scottish heritage as I am of my English heritage. The name Cameron might mean 'crooked nose' but the clan motto is 'Let us unite', and that is exactly what we in these islands have done." Prime Minister David Cameron

"The UK is growing faster than any other advanced economy in Europe, and within the Union, Scotland is growing faster than the rest. The (British) pound isn't an asset to be divided up between two countries after a break-up like a CD collection" George Osborne, British Chancellor of the Exchequer

Some quotes from those supporting independence:

"This is a concerted bid by a Tory-led Westminster establishment to bully and intimidate - but their efforts to claim ownership of sterling will backfire spectacularly in terms of reaction from the people of Scotland, who know that the pound is as much theirs as it is George Osborne's."

Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland

"Scotland wants to be a good neighbor to England, not a surly tenant"

Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland.

A Message from Our President

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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San Francisco, CA
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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. (Free valet parking is provided for members' meetings. MUNI: one block east of Hyde St. cable car).

Officers of the Society

David McCrossan, President
Jaeame I Koyil, First VP
David Campbell, Second VP
Ian Baird, Treasurer
Francesca Mc Crossan, Secretary
Roger Weed, Librarian
Charles Syers DDS, Physician
Marilyn Van Story, Chaplain
Margory Matec, Bard
Jack Cunningham, Piper
Thomas E. Kasinger, Historian

Trustees—

Gene McCracken - Chairman
Norman McLeod
Bill Blair
Stewart Hume
James Robertson, AIA-E
Sandy Corbett

Board of Relief—

Biz Obley
Robert Blair, Jr.

Trustees Emeritus—

John B. Ritchie,

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.
Fiona Allan



St. Andrew's Society
of San Francisco

Dear members and friends:

As I write, the airwaves are still full of concern about California's worst drought in 200 years, while over in Scotland it's the wettest winter in 200 years. Does that mean if we add them both together that they cancel out somewhere around Newfoundland?

Another other big issue that I have been sharing with you these past months is the historic decision on Scottish Independence just seven short months from now.

This is truly a momentous event – if we were making the same decision here, many would find incredulous the idea that California would vote to leave the United States, without the other states having an opinion on the matter.

We've included some samples of the debate that continues back-and-forth across the Atlantic. If you've followed this series of events, one of the striking things to our ears is the good-natured and civilized way that people express differences of opinion in Scotland.

Overall the tone may seem pretty robust from an American point of view, but as the Scottish First Minister said in his historic speech in San Francisco last year, decades of campaigning for and against Scottish self-rule have been conducted "without not so much as a nosebleed".

We hope to sponsor a local debate before the Scottish vote in September so that the important points of view are aired on both sides. We are not in any way political but this historic decision is one that begs to be better explained to an American audience.

Last month saw another Society annual Burns dinner, and enjoyable event that is growing in popularity with every year across the world. At one time, there were only two guaranteed Burns event in Northern California, now there are half a dozen within 20 minutes of Union Square. Surely this must be a sign of the enduring value of the Scottish poet's thoughts and his eloquence.

We are now well into our new program entertainment on members nights, alternating with speakers, so please come down to the Firehouse and find out what you been missing, third Monday of every month, except July and August.

Yours for Scotland,

David McCrossan
President



Upcoming Membership Program Speakers:

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
Mon. Feb. 17	Scottish Olympians	1088 Green St, SF
Mon. Mar.17	Scottish Music & Culture	1088 Green St, SF
Sat. April 5	17 th Annual Tartan Day Faire	Ardenwood, Fremont
Sat. April 26	John Muir Assn./ Earth Day	Martinez
Mon. April 21	Erskine Trust: Serving Scotland's Brave	1088 Green St, SF
Mon. May 19	Scottish Music & Culture	1088 Green St, SF
Mon. June 16	Scottish Referendum 2014: Independence?	1088 Green St, SF
Mon. July 21	Summer break – no meeting	
Mon. Aug. 18	Summer break – no meeting	
Sat. Aug. 30	149 th Highland Games & Gathering	Pleasanton
Sun. Aug. 31	149 th Highland Games & Gathering	Pleasanton
Mon. Sept. 15	How the Scots Invented the Modern World	1088 Green St, SF
Mon. Oct. 20	Samhain: Traditional Celtic Festivals	1088 Green St, SF
Mon. Nov. 17	Scottish Music & Culture	1088 Green St, SF
Sat. Nov. 28	151 st Annual Banquet & Ball	Marine's Memorial
Mon. Dec. 15	No meeting due to Hogmanay potluck	(see 12/31)
Wed. Dec. 31	Hogmanay potluck	1088 Green St, SF

Topic: Spirit of an Olympian (with Scottish overview)

Speaker: Brenda Villa

The most decorated female water polo player ever, a four-time Olympic medalist (Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, and London 2012) and World Champion (2003, 2007, 2009), started swimming at age 6 with Commerce Aquatics in Commerce, California, and began playing water polo at age 8. Named the "FINA Female Water Polo Player of the Decade" for the 2000s, Brenda is an accomplished scorer and passer, and has competed with the USA Women's national team for the last 16 years. As an undergraduate at Stanford University, she won the 2002 Peter J. Cutino Award as the top female college water polo player. Brenda also co-founded a non-profit, Project 2020, which strives to give access to aquatic sports to youth that would otherwise not have access to aquatic sports.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

As most of our members know our Society has a Student Assistance Program. Over the last 20 years we have given assistance to 100 students for a total amount of \$201,000. This is a most commendable program of which we are most proud.

We are now accepting applications for the 2013-2014 academic year (available at our web site)

The deadline to apply will be May 10, so they can be reviewed by the Committee and then presented to the membership at our May 20 meeting.

The basic criteria for an applicant is:

- Resident of Northern California
- Scottish birth or ancestry.
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance
- Attending a Northern California University (accredited by the Western Assoc. of Schools and Colleges), or one located in Scotland.
- Entering their Junior/ Senior or Graduate year
- Demonstrate a grade point average of 3.0

We are bringing this to the attention of our membership so if they know of any potential students, they can advise them and get their application submitted.

J. Robert Logan
Chairman
Board of Student Assistance.

Weavers in Town:

The famed Scottish folk foursome The Tannahill Weavers are coming to Freight and Salvage in Berkeley this coming Tuesday Feb 18th, the day after our members meeting. They are named for Scottish poet Robert Tannahill, known as the 'Weaver Poet,' and have recorded several of his songs since their first album in the mid-1970s2

BURNS NIGHT 2014

(Review by David Campbell)

Robert Burns – 255th Anniversary (1759 – 1796)

For those in attendance – you will recall a lovely, if not a little long, St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco annual Burns Night celebration Saturday, January 25th at our usual equally lovely venue: the Family.

For those unable to attend - here is how the evening came off – and also perhaps as early reminder to save the date for 2015 (to be confirmed in March). First of all, a big thanks to **Past President Norman MacLeod** who graciously made The Family a possible venue for us. Thank you Norman – and to his lovely wife **Dianne**, as well – who as a couple treated the audience to a lively Toast to the Lassies, and Reply from the Lassies, respectively. The evening began in typical fashion with a warm Welcome from **President David McCrossan**, followed by *Selkirk Grace*, offered thoughtfully by **Marilyn Van Story**. No Burns Supper is complete without the *Address To A Haggis* – it was a felt rendering by **Past President Fred Macondray**. In addition to the Lassies toast - the typical round of toasts were offered throughout the evening by several Past Presidents, including: Her Majesty the Queen by **John Allison**; Kindred Societies by **Bruce McMillan**; an inspired toast featuring the poem *Tam O' Shanter* by **Gene McCracken**, and finally the Toast to Past Presidents by **Gerry Sample** himself. Gerry put together a wonderful and fitting tribute to our Society's Past Presidents - a total of seven in the audience, including **Dr. William (Bill) Blair** who was also honored by President McCrossan for his many years of ongoing service to our St. Andrews Society. Well done, Bill! A stirring tribute to The Bard in the form of Immortal Memory was provided by **Selby Hausserman** whose recitation of *Clarinda (Mistress of My Soul)* and rousing finale of Burns as patriot in *Scots Wha Hae...* with his impassioned plea for freedom as political independence - will not be forgotten. His dirk marked the spot: *Let us do or die!*

As in years past, we were privileged to hear the musical talents of the **Peninsula Fiddlers Society** during our cocktail hour, then as background music to dinner, and finally featured as **Shauna Pickett-Gordon** and **Colyn Fischer** who led off the After Dinner Program with a set of Burns Tunes and Traditional Scottish Songs. Also musically, we were so pleased to hear the gift and training of a performer new to us: **Shannon Miller** A capella (*Loch Lomond* and *Feara Bhata*), and expertly accompanied by **Dick Clark** (*Ye Banks and Braes O' Bonnie Doon* and *My Love is Like a Red Red Rose*). Gratitude as always to Society Piper **Jek Cunningham** who piped in the dinner procession, also the Haggis, and fittingly piped us out. Our musical performers led All Guests in closing with Auld Lang Syne. Until next year, indeed!

Thanks again to all for a wonderful Burns Night!!

*See Burns Night photos at www.drewaltizer.com

St Andrew's Society of Oakland

are

Celebrating the 255th Anniversary of the birth of

Robert Burns

1759-1796

on – 21st February 2014

at – Encinal Yacht Club

*1251 Pacific Marina,
Alameda, California 94501*

Meal Choices - Haggis, Chicken, or Vegetarian dish

(Please order food when making reservations)

Toasts, Ceilidh

Traditional Songs and Open Mike.

Cost - \$50 per person

No Host Cocktails @ 7:30 p.m. / Dinner @ 8:00p.m.

For more information and to make your reservations please contact:

Nancy Wigley (925) 426-8969 or by email: ns_wigley@yahoo.com

Ian Myles by email: ianmyles@att.net or

Colin Ritchie by email: colingritchie@gmail.com

*And send your payments (payable to St. Andrews Society of Oakland)
to*

Martin Deehan 4173 Crisfield Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94566

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