



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).

Scotch Whisky: Sampling

Scotch Whisky: Sampling led by Roger Weed (synopsis by David Campbell)



On Monday evening November 18th the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco was delighted to here a presentation by member Roger Weed on the topic of Scotch Whisky: The Water of Life. We also enjoyed the good company of Roger's fellow Caledonian Club member & guest Ron Dunn...welcome anytime.

Biographical Sketch: To begin on an ancestral note – Roger's grandmother had the distinction of serving as Buckingham Palace cook for 12 years during the reign of King Edward VII. Roger grew up in Glasgow where he learned to play the bagpipes at the age of 19. Since coming to The States, as an adult – Roger has been a school teacher, was a Scotch Whisky specialist at Hector Russell's in San Francisco, and currently works as a specialist at BevMo in Walnut Creek (look for him Saturday's at the Oak Grove Street location).

A little background...Scotch often also called malt whisky or grain whisky - naturally is a product of Scotland, and must be made in a way specified by law. Originally all Scotch whisky was made from malt barley. In the late 18th century commercial distilleries began introducing whisky made from wheat and rye. Divided into five distinct categories, these varieties are known as: single malt, single grain, blended malt (formerly called "vatted malt" or "pure malt"), blended grain, and blended Scotch whisky. All Scotch whisky must be aged in oak barrels for at least three years. Any statement of age on the bottle or packaging is expressed in numerical form and must reflect the age of the youngest whisky used in its production. A whisky bearing such a statement of age is known as guaran-

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A Message from Our President

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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San Francisco, CA
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Editor: William Jagers
Email: wjagers@hotmail.com

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
Joshua G. Kyle, 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:

Happy New Year to you all !

2014 promises to be an interesting year locally and in the old country.

Here, we are just beginning the season of dinners and formal events to commemorate the life and work Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns.

This year our Burns event is scheduled on his actual birthday – January 25th. By the time you read this you'll still have a week or more to purchase tickets, so please if you have not already done so, go to the link on the website where tickets can be purchased online. We look forward to seeing you there at the Family in San Francisco that night.

Across the pond, 2014 promises to be one of the most significant years ever for Scotland. In September, voters there will decide in a national referendum whether Scotland should become an independent country. Although Scotland already enjoys fair degree of autonomy – its own legislative Parliament and distinct legal and educational systems, for example, It shares sovereignty within the structure of the United Kingdom and the European Union. The current system (let alone the proposed changes) is sometimes a challenge for North Americans to understand - it's really unlike the Federal-State arrangement we know - since there is no "federal" government there at all.

But make no mistake about it, this decision, no matter what the outcome, will affect not only Scots at home - the ripples may be felt even here. The union that Scotland is part of predates the United States by some 69 years.

We at the Society are of course not a political organization but we take a keen interest in events that are of interest to Scots and those who support Scotland. For that reason we'll keep members closely informed of these events as they unfold over the next nine months: we hope to line up some speakers to explain the relevance of both sides of the debate to us here in San Francisco.

Of course we're serious all the time, we're going to feature more entertainment in our monthly programs: there will be something for everyone here at the old Firehouse !

Yours for Scotland,

David McCrossan

President



Upcoming Membership Program Speakers:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event / Topic</u>	<u>Location / Notes</u>
Mon. Jan. 20	Inauguration of 2014 Office Bearers	1088 Green St, SF
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 19	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

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.

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teed-age whisky. Historically, the first written reference to Scotch whisky is in the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland 1495 and was associated with a friar by the name of John Cor – distiller at Lindores Abbey in the Kingdom of Fife.

As a basis of comparison in the direction of distillation & refinement, Roger began out Scotch tour with a blend: Famous Grouse (heralded as Scotland's "favorite" blended Scotch malt whisky) was first produced by Matthew Gloag & son in 1896, and contains whisky from Glenrothes, Macallan, and Highland.

Roger then proceeded to guide us on a virtual tasting tour of Scotland by region. We had the pleasure of sampling representative wee drams of the following regions (12 years aged each): Lowlands (Auchentoshan), Speyside (Glenlivet), Highlands (Macallan), Islay (Finlaggan and Talisker). Of historical note: after the 1823 Excise Act, **George Smith** became the first distiller in the Highlands to obtain a license for distillation, and in 1824 he established the Glenlivet distillery.

Thank you, Roger – for your knowledgeable presentation and for guiding us on a very enjoyable evening of a taste of Scotland! The Water of Life indeed!!



The St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco



Robert Burns
1759-1796

Cordially invites you to commemorate the Anniversary of the birth of Scotland's National Poet, **Robert Burns** with
A Traditional Burns Night Supper

Saturday, January 25th, 2014

at

The Family

545 Powell Street (at Bush)
Nearest Parking at Sutter/Stockton Garage

6:00 p.m. - No Host Cocktails

7:00 p.m. - Dinner & Entertainment

Black Tie or Highland Dress encouraged

Enquiries: David Campbell (415) 225-9307
email: daviddoncampbell@netscape.net



Burns Supper 2014

Tickets: \$95 members and their guests
\$125 non-members

AFFIX
STAMP
HERE

GUEST NAME:	ENTREE: Regular	ENTREE: Vegetarian
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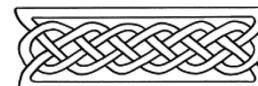
Mailing Label:

Name
Address
Zip

Please complete guest information and mail check made out to:
St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco

Send to:
David Campbell, 2nd VP
743 Oakland Ave. #6
Oakland, CA 94611

Reserved Seating at tables of ten can be accommodated if all checks are included in one mailing and received before the deadline.



*Reservations must be received by
January 20th, 2014*