

Francesca McCrossan, President

April 2020

President's Message

Dear St. Andrew's Society,

I would like to start this message by saying that I hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and keeping in good spirits as the world changes around us every day. Our lives in the Bay Area have been up ended, sometimes with very serious results, and at the same time, our experts are now cautiously observing that the early rule to Shelter in Place may be lessening the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In January I began a new job on the campus of the VA Hospital in San Francisco and I have seen firsthand how quickly and professionally the medical community and those of us who support it, have made the necessary changes to keep our Veterans, the staff and themselves safe.

At the same time, we have all had to make major adjustments to our lives and tenaciously stick to them in order to keep

President's Message, continued on page 4



Greetings Members and friends!

By Irené Waldman Costello, 2nd VP

How is everyone doing? This has been a very challenging time for many people sheltering in place. There have been so many obstacles to overcome for us all, ranging from obtaining groceries on timely basis, accessing critical medications and also dealing with the loneliness and the feeling of being ostracized from loved families. And sadly more and more of us know people who have been personally affected, or have lost loved ones. Personally, my sister in law in Scotland has lost 5 people that she knew. And then we all know that both Prince Charles and Boris Johnson were taken sick with the virus, thankfully both on the mend now. Life is very unusual right now.

I am no expert in viruses, or the medical field but I can't help wonder what this means for our world moving forward. What does this mean for my two lovely children that are both so recent to this world? I also wonder when I will next see my elderly parents in Scotland. Brian and I try to tele-video them a few times a week. Not just to ensure that they are doing okay, but also it gives us some socialization and it's a nice comfort for the kids too. We are living more and more in a digital environment and trying to keep connected to as many of our loved ones as is possible. My younger brother and his wife just moved to Australia. Not long after they arrived, they were in lockdown. They are feeling isolated, and starting to wonder why they left bonnie Scotland. Currently unable to



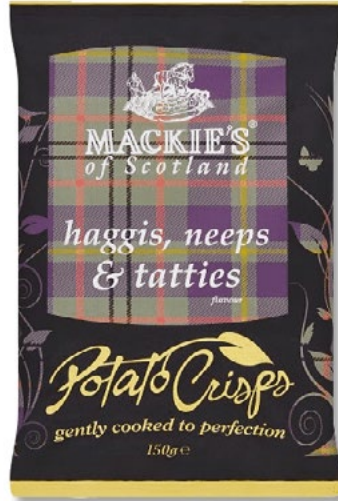
Irené and Iona

Greetings Members continued on page 5

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Haggis-Flavored Crisps Unveiled



A traditional Burns Night celebration wouldn't be complete without a meal of haggis, neeps and tatties, so to honor the country's annual celebration of its national bard, **Mackie's of Scotland** introduced the world's first Haggis, Neeps & Tatties Crisps. A limited run of 150,000 bags hit the shelves last January. "We're fiercely proud of our Scottish roots, and when it came to taste tests, haggis, neeps and tatties emerged as the runaway favorite," said James Taylor of the family firm. Mackie's is already known for its haggis and cracked black pepper crisps—delicious with a cold beer, according to its fans.

This article was first published in the Spring 2020 edition of Scottish Life Magazine.

From The Bard — Jek Cunningham

Scots to English Translation

As you can see, this Scots language is not the Highland Gaelic, spoken in the Scottish Highlands and islands. This is the language of Robert Burns, his time and locale.

- 1) **ahint** = behind
- 2) **airt** = point on a compass
- 3) **argie bargie** = argument
- 4) **ashet** = serving plate
- 5) **bap** = breakfast roll
- 6) **bauchle** = old slipper
- 7) **bealin** = suppurating
- 8) **besom** = heather broom, also a derogatory name for a girl
- 9) **bike** = wasps nest
- 10) **blate** = bashful
- 11) **bothy** = primitive cottage or hut
- 12) **bridie** = pasty
- 13) **bubbly jock** = turkey
- 14) **but and ben** = two room cottage
- 15) **byre** = cow shed (ie: The Mukin' a Geordie's Byre)
- 16) **caller** = fresh or cool
- 17) **canny** = prudent or cautious
- 18) **chap** = knock
- 19) **chiel** = man
- 20) **chuckle stane** = small pebble
- 21) **clarty** = mucky
- 22) **cleg** = horse fly
- 23) **corbie** = crow
- 24) **coup** = turn over a rubbish dump
- 25) **daur** = dare ("Flower of Scotland" - Wha daur meddle wi' me.)



Visions of Scotland!

A selection of **BBC.com** reader pictures of Scotland sent in between 27 March and 3 April.

April 2020



Dear St. Andrew's Society:

In this COVID moment—we want to take the opportunity to update you regarding our Board of Relief response and activity.

In addition to an email expressing our concern which was sent out to members on March 23rd, we also followed up by posting essentially the same [message on our website](#).

In parallel with this messaging—we've also continued to reach out to members about whom we might have concerns, and accordingly have been in touch with ~25 members in total. Fortunately, we can say that we are not aware of any reports of the Coronavirus affecting the health of any of our members or immediate family.

We've also reached out again to the British Benevolent Society (BBS) as well, to keep this important line of communication and ultimately critical link open:

British Benevolent Society of California

Website: www.bbsofca.org

Email: info@bbsofca.org

Phone: 415.421.7195

In collaboration with our core leadership team, we are also currently undertaking the following COVID-related financially supportive measures:

1) The processing of \$500 donations to each of our valued cultural partners, including:

- American Friends of Erskine
- John Muir Association
- Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers
- Robert Lewis Stevenson Museum

2) With respect and reach back to the Australian wildfires of late Fall 2019, we've processed a \$500 donation just this week to the Australian Red Cross;

3) Additionally, we're processing \$250 donations each to both the [San Francisco-Marin Food Bank](#) and the [Alameda County Food Bank](#).

In closing, our St Andrew's Society (SAS) and Board of Relief's concerns and response are in the best sense and spirit—ones of collaboration. If you know of any fellow SAS members or local Bay Area Scots who might have need(s) or might benefit from outreach—please do let us know. You may get in touch with us—the Board of Relief directly as indicated below:

Laurien Fiddes, Chair

E: laurienfiddes@gmail.com

Mobile: 510.219.3307

David Campbell, Trustee

E: daviddoncampbell@netscape.net

Mobile: 415.225.9307

Sincerely,

Your SAS Board of Relief - in service:

Jean Allen

David Campbell

Laurien Fiddes, Chair

President's Message

ourselves safe and well. Scots are particularly known for their tenacity in hard times, and this is still true in our local Scottish and wider British Communities. The **British Benevolent Society** has been keeping in touch with us so that together, we can support our community members as needed. The **British American Business Council** is hosting webinars to support the local business community.

Across the Pond, the Scottish Universities are contributing the science of understanding and treating the virus, just as our local universities such as UCSF and Stanford are. **Edinburgh University, St Andrew's University, University of Dundee** and the **University of Glasgow** are all major contributors to this effort. I was particularly struck by Sir Anton Muscatelli, the Principal of Glasgow University's message to Alumni that I share with you below. It speaks for itself:



Sir Anton Muscatelli, Principal of Glasgow University

I am writing to you as a member of our alumni community, in a week that has seen us have to contemplate and act upon unprecedented levels of disruption and change to the way that we live our lives.

As you will imagine, the health and wellbeing of our students and staff has been my utmost priority over the last few weeks, but I wanted to take a moment to send my thoughts and best wishes to our extended family of alumni and friends worldwide. I hope that you and your families stay safe and well over the coming weeks.

Now more than ever we must act together for the common good and show care and kindness to one and all at this challenging time.

In my time leading this institution, I have been constantly inspired by the way that the University of Glasgow community comes together and responds to the most complex and enduring challenges. In the difficult weeks ahead, I know that your actions as individuals and as a community will be no different.

In times of global uncertainty, universities have a key role to play. I assure you that we are committed to using the wealth of knowledge and talent we have as an Institution to aid the global fight against COVID-19.

The MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research, based in our Garscube Campus, has the largest group of virologists in the UK. Our teams are working with partners across the UK and globally on the sequencing of the virus, and their

research will be pivotal in directly responding to the disease. In addition, I offer my thanks and full support to my colleagues and our PhD students who are temporarily leaving their research and work in the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences to help the NHS.

I also take real pride in seeing a number of members of our alumni community playing key roles in directing the global response to COVID-19: from Dr Kate Broderick (BSc Genetics 1999, PhD Molecular Genetics 2003) in San Diego leading the global race to develop a vaccine, to Professor Jason Leitch CBE (BDS 1991) who is Scotland's National Clinical Director giving crucial advice and information to the Scottish population on how they can save the lives of others through their own actions.

We are thankful to each and every one of you for the efforts you are making in your own professional fields to come together in response to the threat of the virus.

In particular, I wanted to express my admiration and gratitude to all of the members of our alumni community working in front line healthcare and other essential services at this extraordinary time. I know that many of you will be facing the greatest challenges of your career and making significant sacrifices to ensure we can weather these times.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that although many normal University activities will be affected in various ways, our Development and Alumni team will be working off-campus throughout this period.

They hope to reach out to many of you at a time when we will all have much less social contact than usual. As ever, you can contact them at alumni@glasgow.ac.uk if you have any questions about your connection to the University or your very generous support of our work.

The weeks ahead will no doubt be testing. Wherever you may be in the world, all of us here at Glasgow wish you the very best.

Please do look after yourselves, your families and all around you.

*Best regards,
Anton
Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli
Principal and Vice-Chancellor*

Warmly,

Francesca M. McCrossan
President, St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco

Greetings Members

go surfing, brace the beach or barbecues... they are kind of stranded and no flights going anywhere. We will be lucky to visit Scotland again this year although I am hopeful that it will not be too long. As our magnificent Queen Elizabeth II stated in her recent speech "We WILL meet again."

And if we comply with the social distancing requirements, we should get there. I got a great chuckle out of the new Glasgow campaign, featuring the artist Vincent Van Gogh wearing an Adidas tracksuit and the caption "Jist Gogh Hame." The artist, Ross Muir, called them "a lighter approach" to getting an important message across to Glasgow. Ross said he was "honoured" to have his work showcased across the city. He commented that "it was just actually the two year mark since I painted it, so to see it back out there again, fresh in people's minds in all its glory, is pretty emotional at a time like this." The lockdown artwork is being featured now throughout Scotland.



It does seem that we turn more and more to the arts in times of need and emotional need. In good time and in bad times, crisis and disaster, people who love the arts and musicals never give up. The Scotsman is also running a great series for consumers to tap into bite sized previews of possible new musicals in development from all over the UK. Amongst those who have been robbed of their special moment is Renfrewshire-based playwright Oliver Emanuel and composer Gareth Williams, who were scheduled to present a fragment of their current work-in-progress, a musical romance called A History Of Paper.

Both Emanuel and Williams are known artists throughout the Scottish arts scene, and familiar figures at the Edinburgh International Festival. [Here is an excerpt of their latest musical romance.](#)

I love how humor comes through in times of distress in Scotland. If you have a chance, [YouTube the message from Gary: TANK COMMANDER](#) for the latest coronavirus rules. This is the Scottish government's new campaign to get people to "Stay in the Hoose" ... it is going to be hard for people in the UK, as the government talks about extending the stay at home policy until September of 2021. They have less cases per capita than the United States ... so why are we not having to do that too?

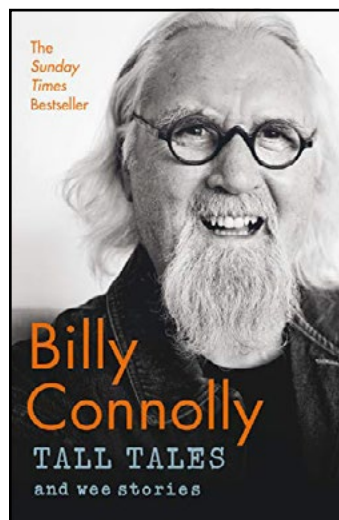
Wishing everyone well. Please remember that we are working with the BBS (British Benevolent Society) should you need, or know of anyone in need. Feel free to even call or text me directly at 650 438 0370.

Best wishes,

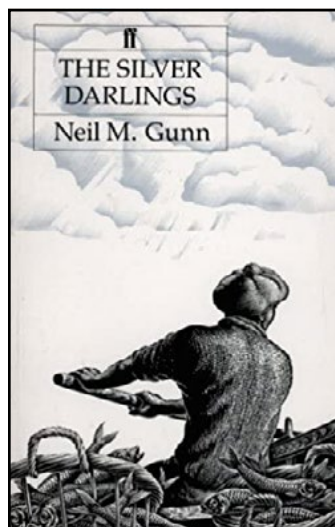
Irené Waldman, 2nd VP

Scotland in Books

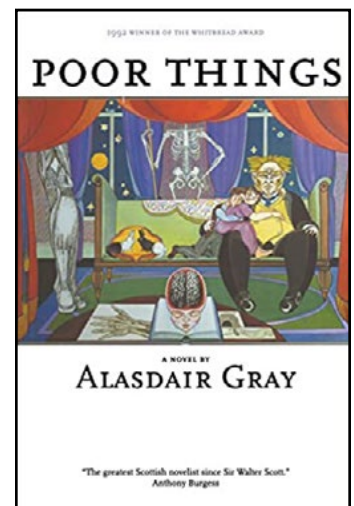
A selection of books compiled by **Paul Gallagher**. He is a book and film reviewer for **The List** magazine and appears regularly as a critic on **BBC Radio Scotland's** Culture Studio. He lives in Glasgow with his wife and two children. This list was first published in the Spring 2020 edition of *Scottish Life* magazine.



Tall Tales and Wee Stories



The Silver Darlings



Poor Things

150th Anniversary of Golden Gate Park

By David Campbell, Trustee

As many of our readers will know—this year marks the 150th anniversary of Golden Gate Park and April 4th had been set aside as special day of celebration, in commemoration of its founding. Unfortunately this event had to be postponed due to COVID-19, but there are plans to reschedule for a later date (www.goldengatepark150.com/celebration).

Also in honor of the park's 150th anniversary, a large 150 foot tall SkyStar observation wheel has been installed in the Music Concourse section of the park—at the outdoor plaza, adjacent to the de Young Museum. This too remains closed at the moment, but should be worth the ride once it opens...something to look forward to anyhow.

During his tenure as Society President, trustee Fred Rutledge wrote in the [March 2010 newsletter \(Vol 147, No 7\)](#) a very nice tribute to fellow St Andrew's Society member—famed horticulturist, park designer and Superintendent of Golden Gate Park: John McLaren.



Lawn Bowling at Golden Gate Park

[See the following link](#) for a good description: America's Oldest Lawn Bowling Club Keeps Game Alive in Golden Gate Park.

[Here's another link](#) regarding our St Andrew's Society's role and early history in the SF Lawn Bowling Club.

Lastly, you may recall Jack Ryder's tribute to John McLaren and the SF Lawn Bowling Club in the [August 2018 newsletter \(Vol 155, No 7\)](#). Thanks to Jack for his contribution which you'll find on page five.



St. Andrew's Society's 2020

✧ Burns Supper ✧

Marines Memorial Club San Francisco

February 1, 2020

Additional photos of the event can be found on the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco's website.



This poem is an excerpt from the [April 2020 London Scottish Newsletter](#) and is brought to you by Fred Rutledge, former President of the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco.

Tae a Virus

Author currently unknown.

*Twa months ago, we didna ken,
yer name or ocht about ye;
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye.*

*Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
Yer feeding like a gannet;
Disruption caused, is so immense,
Ye've shaken oor wee planet.*

*Corona used tae be a beer,
They garnished it wae limes;
But noo it's filled us a' wae fear,
These days are scary times.*

*Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
It's whit they a' advise;
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
That's how we'll a' survive.*

*Just stay inside, the hoose, ye bide,
Nae sneakin' oot for strolls;
Just check the lavvy every hoor,
And stock-take your loo rolls.*

*Our holidays have been pit aff,
Noo that's the Jet2 patter;
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh,
And paddle 'doon the waater.'*

*Canary isles, no for a while,
Nae need for suntan cream;
And a 'because o' this wee bug,
We ken tae be..19.*

*The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle;
Or plan yer menu for the month,
Wi' 95 pot noodles.*

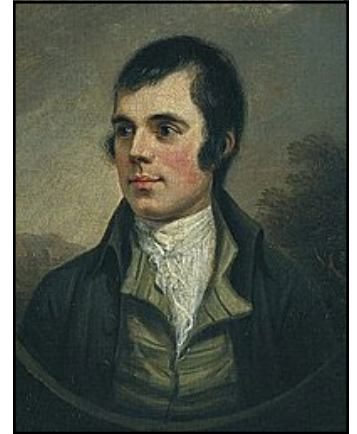
*When these run oot, just look about,
A change, it would be nice;
We've beans and pasta by the ton,
And twenty stane o rice.*

*So dinny think yell wipe us oot,
Aye true, a few have died;
Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb
They came, they left, they tried.*

*Ye might be gallus noo ma freen,
As ye jump fae cup tae cup;
But when we get oor vaccine made,
Yer number will be up*

BURNS and HAGGIS: A few items of interest.

January is the month we celebrate Robert Burns' birth and partake in a wee bit of Haggis. The Scottish Homecoming folks noted that there were some 1,255 registered Burns' Suppers last year worldwide (many more not "registered" I am sure). They were held from Ben Nevis to Vietnam. The breakdown was 569 suppers in England, 364 in Scotland, 118 in the USA, 54 in Canada and 41 in Australia. The Morrison Supermarket chain in Britain reported that they sold more Haggis in their English stores than in Scotland! For those so inclined, below is a wee challenge of your Burns knowledge from the Scottish Tourist board.



DO YOU KNOW?

1. From first to last, how many days did Burns spend in Edinburgh?
2. Which of Burns' characters was a crooner?
3. Of whom did the poet write this (part of) epitaph:
"If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this"?
4. Who was Burns' schoolmaster?
5. What have the following songs in common:
"Of a' the Airts."
"Last May a Braw Wooer."
"Ye Banks and Braes."
"Mary Morrison."?
6. Where was it that "Willie Brew'd a Peck o' Maut, and Rob and Allan cam' to see"?
7. Who were a) The Fair Burnet, b) the Lovely Davies, and c) the Fairest Maid on Devon Banks?
8. What was the "Big Ha-Bible"?
9. Who was the noble lady who admitted that Burns was the only man whose conversation ever fairly carried her off her feet?
10. In which poem do the following lines occur? "Ah, gentle dames! It gars me greet to think how many counsels sweet, How many lengthened safe advices. The husband frae the wife despises!"?

Quiz answers are on page 7.



St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco
May 2020 Member Meeting

(via Zoom)

Guest Speaker and Performer

Sara LeMesh

Soprano



Soprano Sara LeMesh, hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for her “powerhouse performance of vocal majesty and expressive translucency,” is a dramatic presence on the opera stage, an avid chamber musician, and an advocate of contemporary music. She recently starred as Bess McNeill in the West Coast premiere of Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek’s award-winning opera, *Breaking The Waves*, with West Edge Opera. *Opera News* called her performance “mesmerizing” with “urgent, tonally secure and affectingly plangent” singing. During the 2020 season, Ms. LeMesh will make several company debuts, including Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* with Pocket Opera and Lucy Brown in *The Threepenny Opera* with City Lyric Opera. Additional upcoming appearances include the Joyce DiDonato Master Classes at Carnegie Hall and a recital in Milan, Italy with Ricasoli Recitals. With pianist Allegra Chapman, LeMesh performs in the duo Chordless, creating welcoming spaces to explore and appreciate music that has historically been ignored or is brand new. Ms. LeMesh resides in New York City.

Additional information can be found at www.saralemesh.com.

Quiz answers from questions on page 6.

SURELY YOU KNEW!

- 352 days (almost a year) spread over seven separate occasions between 1786 and 1791.
- Tam o' Shanter. "Tam skelpit on through dub and mire
Despising wind and rain and fire; Whiles holding fast his guid
blue bonnet; Whiles crooning o'er some auld Scots sonnet."
- William Muir of Tarbolton Mill (Willie's Mill in Death and Dr.
Hornbook).
- John Murdoch (1747-1824).
- All were his very own. As Henley put it, "as far as we know,
in them he expressed himself and none besides."
- Moffat, Dumfriesshire.
- Answer: **a)** Elizabeth Burnett, daughter of Lord Monboddo,
"a young lady of exquisite beauty and grace," who died at
age 25. Burns had first met her on his first visit to Edinburgh;
b) Deborah Davies, daughter of Dr. Davies of Tenby, Pem-
broke-shire. She inspired the song "Bonnie Wee Thing"; **c)**
Miss Margaret Chalmers, the supposed heroine of one of the
poet's last songs.
- So called from its original use in the noble's hall, wherein
the whole household assembled for religious services.
- The Duchess of Gordon.
- Tam o' Shanter.

Trusted Partners

A list of St. Andrew's Society's partner organizations, businesses and retailers.



The Caledonian Club of San Francisco

312 Maple Avenue
S. San Francisco, CA 94080
P: 415-885-6644

info@caledonian.org
caledonian.org



John Muir Association

P.O. Box 2433
Martinez, CA 94553
P: 925-229-3857

johnmuirassociation.org



British-American Business Council of Northern California

369 Pine Street, Suite 103
San Francisco, CA 94104

info@babcsf.org
babcsf.org



Robert Louis Stevenson Museum

1490 Library Lane
P.O. Box 23
St. Helena, CA 94574
P: 707-963-3757

info@stevensonmuseum.org
stevensonmuseum.org



AmeriCeltic

americeltic@gmail.com
americeltic.net



The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers

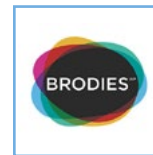
shauna0829@hotmail.com
thefiddlers.com



The University of Edinburgh

Old College
South Bridge
Edinburgh
EH8 9YL
Scotland
P: +44 (0)131 650 1000

www.ed.ac.uk



Brodies LLP Solicitors

Susanne Batchelor, Partner
P: +44 (0) 131 6560218

susanne.batchelor@brodies.com
brodies.com



The Erskine Home

Bishopton
Renfrewshire
PA7 5PU
Scotland
P: +44 (0)141 814 4569

www.erskine.org.uk



Grace Cathedral

1100 California St.
San Francisco, CA 94108
P: 415-749-6300

gracecathedral.org



University of Glasgow

Glasgow
G12 8QQ
Scotland
P: +44 (0)141 330 2000

www.gla.ac.uk

Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
2020		
Mon. April 20	Member Meeting (canceled).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. May 18	Member Meeting (Sara LeMesh, Soprano)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. June 15	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. July 20	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
Sat. July 18	Summer Ceilidh at Encinal Yacht Club	Alameda, CA
Mon. Aug. 17	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
Sept. 5-6	Caledonian Club's 155th Highland Games & Gathering.....	Pleasanton, CA
Mon. Sept. 19	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Oct. 19	Member Meeting (Candlelight Dinner).....	1088 Green St., SF
Sun. Nov. 8	Remembrance Day Service.....	Grace Cathedral, SF
Mon. Nov. 16	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. Dec. 5	157th Annual St. Andrew's Banquet & Ball	Marines Memorial Club, SF
Mon. Dec. 21	No Meeting due to December 31st. Hogmanay Celebration	
Thur. Dec. 31	Hogmanay Celebration.....	1088 Green St., SF
2021		
Mon. Jan. 18	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	1088 Green St., SF
TBD	Annual Robert Burns Supper.....	TBD, SF
Mon. Feb. 15	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Mar. 15	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 3	Tartan Day Scottish Faire at Ardenwood	Fremont, CA
Sat. April 17	John Muir Day / Earth Day celebration.....	NPS - Martinez, CA

About Us

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

1088 Green Street
San Francisco, CA
94133-3604
415-885-6644

www.saintandrewsocietyofsanfrancisco.org

Gary Ketchen,
Newsletter Editor

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

Francesca McCrossan,
President
Irené Waldman Costello,
Second VP
Jek Cunningham, Bard
Susan Goodier, Secretary
(*acting*)
Susan Goodier,
Executive Administrator
Roger Weed, Librarian
Laurien Fiddes, Chaplain
Brian Cooper, Piper
Bill Jagers, Herald
Fred Rutledge,
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Roger Weed, John Muir Association
David Walker, University of Edinburgh



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

Recipient
