

# Hello and Happy New Year!

# Board of Trustees Report

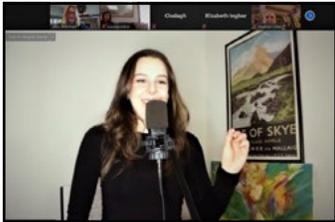
Dear St Andrew's Society:

By **Irené Waldman, 1st Vice President**

I hope that those of you who were able to participate in our online celebration of Hogmanay had fun and enjoyed the wonderful entertainment that we had. It was truly lovely to get so many of us together online for such a special celebration, albeit sad that we are still not able to convene in person. Our time will come! We had wonderful musicians, entertainers and behind the scenes support to make it all happen, and I sincerely thank Shauma Pickett-Gordon, Elizabeth Ingber, Sara LeMesh, Molly McLaughlin, Jek Cunningham, Karen, Amanda and Bill Muir, Hamish Napier, Su-a Lee, Brian Cooper, Laurien Fiddes, Alex Sinclair and Kristy McKeating for making it happen! It was a great time had by all... and now we are in 2021!



**Irené Waldman, 1st Vice President**



**Singer Sara LeMesh performing during the Hogmanay celebration.**

So much of our life has now become embedded in technology, I am sure that many of you are now deeply familiar with technologies such as Zoom, WhatsApp, Facebook, WebEx, Messenger and the like... the list is endless. I am thankful for the technology that is helping us stay connected. I know for me, having family in Scotland, technology has made it easy to press

*1st VP Message, continued on page 2*

I'm writing to you briefly on behalf of the Board of Trustees—to provide an update of our business affairs in transition from 2020 to 2021. Please join me in thanking outgoing Board Chair **David McCrossan** who is terming out as part of this cycle—for his decade-long membership and for his many years of devoted service to the Society. In David's place, we now have the opportunity of welcoming long time SASSF member **Iain Macdonald** to the Board of Trustees. Take a moment to thank David and greet Iain at our next Zoom meeting! We're looking forward to welcoming our new to-be-named **Treasurer**, and we also continue to work closely with Executive Administrator **Susan Goodier** and Bookkeeper **Jessica Whelan**—both devoted to the Society in their respective roles.

Perhaps most importantly otherwise—we are pleased to announce that Property Manager **Grace Monares** of Hill & Co (and her team) have successfully located new tenants for the firehouse apartment upstairs; their tenancy effective January 1st. We look forward to greeting new tenants **Omar & Erika** when we're back to meeting at the firehouse hopefully later this year in person.

Over the Holidays we've been in communication with UBS Portfolio Manager **Keith Seibert**—to make arrangements for adequate funding, ensuring our ability to cover our financial obligations, and also make good on outstanding pledges to UC Berkeley's Institute of European Studies and to three local county food banks, respectively.

In closing, as former Treasurer Ian Baird was fond of saying: "we are still solvent!"

**David Campbell,**  
Trustee Chairperson

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# 1st VP Message

a button and say hello, bringing comfort and happiness to both sides of the Atlantic.



**Su-a Lee performs with Hamish Napier at this year's Hogmanay.**

There were many incredible events I attended online during the past year, including a young musician competition (sponsored by a local symphony, of which Elizabeth Ingber is a member). I also attended some social meet ups, where I chatted with people in break out rooms, and pretended I was rubbing shoulders with them in a bar! I sipped tea with the ladies, tasted whisky with connoisseurs (and



**Participants from January's Whisky Wednesdays virtual whisky tasting.**

if you have not yet done this, please do sign up for our Whisky Wednesdays!), learned how to make festive wreaths and bows, and even engaged in some Scholastic book reading/story times with my kids on YouTube. The variety of online possibilities are endless and I could not be more thankful at these arduous times, for having so much information, education and entertainment at our finger tips!

Through having more people online, we have been able to reach a much broader audience, including the participants attending our events. We even had someone attend the Hogmanay celebration all the way from the Isle of Skye in Scotland! This new world in itself is shifting the paradigm for how we operate as a charity, and presents some great opportunities for us, both for membership and funding, in addition to having greater visibility on our grants

and educational awards. And this means that we are now able to effectively cast a wider net, connecting with more people to bring our Mission to Scots around the world, wherever they may be. As we all know, its not work from home anymore, its work from anywhere. People with Scottish roots are everywhere and we have the ability to connect with a broader audience.

To kick off our 2021 outreach and impact in the community, we are launching a lunchtime discussion from the Scottish Business Network. This falls on the coattails of our Burns Supper which will be very unique this year! Russell Dalgleish, their founder, will be joining us (all the way from Scotland) to discuss the global diaspora study that they launched in 2020, in addition to giving us an update on the current Scottish landscape. As many of you know, Scotland has been in total lockdown since before Christmas and the Scottish Minister is hoping to roll out the Covid-19 vaccines to everyone over the age of 80 by the end of January! Wouldn't that be nice in the USA too?! I hope that you will join us on February 17th.

We are all looking forward to a brighter summer, with more personal freedom. I look forward to meeting with you again in person as the year unfolds. As always, please do reach out to me personally with any comments or discussion. I welcome your ongoing conversation!

Best Wishes,

**Irené Waldman**

1st Vice President, St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco

[irenewaldman@gmail.com](mailto:irenewaldman@gmail.com)

650-438-0370

*Board of Relief continued on page 3*

# Celebrating Burns Supper in Scotland!

By Irené Waldman and Alyson Hughes

Meet Alyson Hughes, a resident of Newton Mearns on the Southside of Glasgow. In a regular year, her boys would be enjoying a yummy Burns Supper with their Scout Troup. But this year it is canceled because of Covid-19. So, Alyson is doing what she can to give her boys the traditional experience, in lockdown (which lasts until February 1 for them).

Normally in school, Ryley aged 9 and Callan aged 6 would learn a Robert Burns poem which they would recite at school assembly with parents present, but school is closed and Alyson is a key worker. Home schooling her boys has been incredibly difficult, as many families in Scotland (and all over the world) can relate to.

Alyson has been relentless to maintain as many of the family traditions that she can during the pandemic. It's important to try and keep life going and continue to enjoy as many of the regular customs and traditions that she can, for the sake of everyone! Sadly most of her traditions, especially the ones around seeing family, have been canceled. This year she is cooking a family Burns Supper. And her kids love haggis and mashed potatoes but they don't like the neeps! So she and her husband enjoy that with extra helpings of whisky cream sauce!

One tradition that they do enjoy is to venture to a local beach called Portencross in West Kilbride which is overlooked by the ancient **Portencross Castle** and welcome in the New Year with friends. They must see the sea and preferably (for good



Callan and Ryley



Nothing better than bringing in the New Year with a chilly Loony Dook.



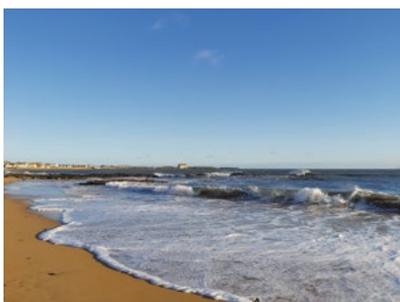
luck) bathe in it which Scots call a **Loony Dook**—particularly bracing as the sea is only roughly 7 degrees centigrade! These photos are from New Years Day 2019 and 2020, as even sea bathing was banned by the government this year unless you are lucky enough to live within 5 miles of the water, as Scots cannot travel more than 5 miles for leisure activity currently. Alyson and her children love nature and the beautiful forests and glens around their rural area of Glasgow they live in. They spend a lot of time in the

nearby incredible and ancient Greenbank Gardens which is run by the Scottish National Trust and is home to the most beautiful country manor which is almost 300 years old.

Please follow Alyson's Instagram [Theboysoftheforest\\_andme](#) for more adventures in the outdoors of Scotland.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Burns Supper! We shall endeavor to celebrate that with the hundreds and thousands of Scots all over the world!

*All photos courtesy of Alyson Hughes.*



## Photo of the Month

*Wintery Beach Walk at Elie* by Caroline Trotter

This photo was taken recently—I am SO lucky to live in a beautiful part of Scotland with plenty of places to walk and no crowds.

For additional information please visit: [carolinetrotter.co.uk](http://carolinetrotter.co.uk)

From The Bard – Jek Cunningham

## Highland Dancing



Although 95% of competitive Highland dancers today are female, the tradition lay with the warriors. The discipline required to perform these dances allowed the warriors to demonstrate to their chiefs their strength and agility. Although the origins of these dances were lost in the mists of time, the earliest documented evidence of them being danced to the sound of bagpipes was at the wedding of Alexander III to his French bride, Yoland de Areux in 1285.

After the '45 rebellion the government passed an Act of Proscription which made the wearing of the kilt and the carrying of weapons a penal offense. It wasn't until Queen Victoria developed a love for things Highland that there was a revival of the games and the dancing becoming an integral part. The Highland Fling is the oldest of the traditional dances. It is danced on the spot and is said to represent the antics of a stag, with the grouped fingers representing the antlers.

The Sword Dance, it is said, was a dance of victory. The King "Malcolm Canmore" danced over his bloody claymore crossed over the sword of his enemy. To kick the swords was a bad omen. If many soldiers kicked their swords, the chief would expect to lose the battle.

The Seann Truibhs (shawn trews) is said to be a dance of celebration. After the repeal of the of the Act of Proscription the dance represents the shedding of the hated trousers and returning to the freedom of the kilt.

Most of the male dancers today are in the Highland regiments. I remember my piping instructor, who was a Pipe Major in the Scots Guards, telling me the pipers were also the dancers and he would teach me. Unfortunately, Her Majesty called and I went to the Royal Airforce instead.

SAINT ANDREW'S SOCIETY  
OF SAN FRANCISCO  
PRESENTS:



Whisky  
Wednesdays  
Explore Scotland  
One Drop at a Time

The St. Andrew's Society Of San Francisco in collaboration with The Whisky Shop of San Francisco presents the February '21 edition of "Whisky Wednesdays."

### Whisky 101

February 10th, 2021

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

This month we will be highlighting the difference in whisky production as a basic introduction to the different styles of whisky. This event will be a great gift for people new to whisky and want to learn how Scotland approaches its production. Will and Brandon from The Whisky Shop of San Francisco will return to lead the session and share their passion for everything Scotch.

Whisky Wednesdays tickets are priced at

**\$50 for members and  
\$75 for non-members**

(limit one per household)

Deadline to purchase tickets is

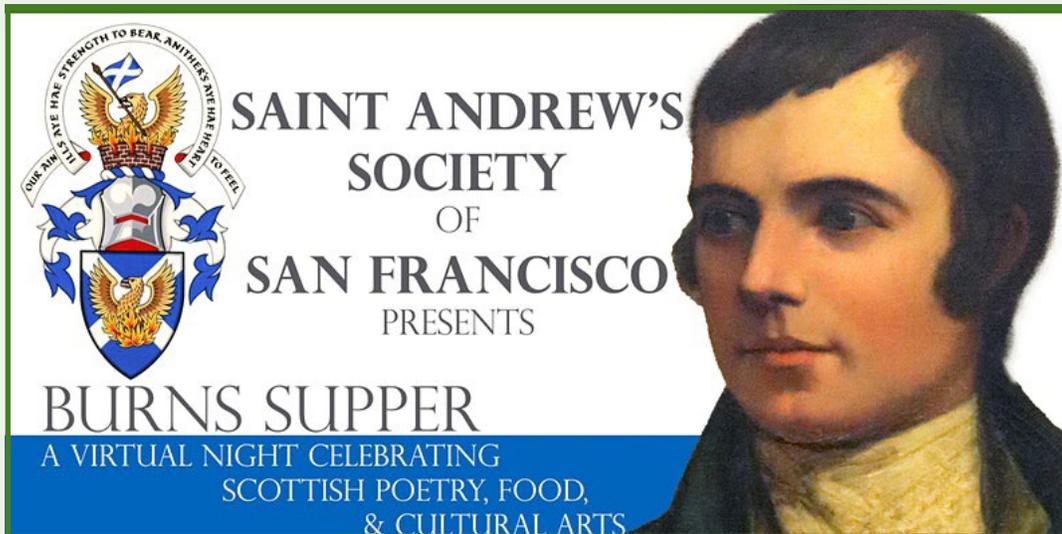
**February 4th, 2021**

Each ticket holder will receive five curated Scotch whiskies (50ml per tasting) highlighting the regions of Scotland, which will then be presented during our monthly tasting event from the comfort of your home.

For more information go to:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/saintandrewssocietyofsanfrancisco/450555>





**Join us to celebrate Scotland's National Bard, Robbie Burns and our 159th annual Burns Supper's Scottish heritage.**

**Saturday, January 30, 2021**

**5:00 – 8:00 PM**

This year we will be celebrating slightly differently in a virtual setting.

The evening will be filled with poetry, music, dance, and song to acknowledge the Robert Burns's impact on Scottish cultural arts while honouring contemporary literary arts and Scottish women's contributions in the modern era.

*Highland dress or formal attire encouraged but only if you want to show your colors during the after-party.*

**Ticket Prices:**

Virtual Only Ticket: \$50.00 (does not include a meal)

**Member Ticket Prices:**

Members Virtual Only Ticket: \$37.50 (does not include a meal)

**Link: [www.eventbrite.com/e/134915878023/?discount=20SASSF-BURNS21](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/134915878023/?discount=20SASSF-BURNS21)**

If you are thinking about joining us from Scotland or beyond let us know and we will create an event just for you.

Please keep an eye on the Saint Andrews Society of San Francisco members' newsletter or contact Alex J Sinclair (2nd Vice President) for details on accessing the members' pricing. Meal Tickets are Currently Sold Out. Only Virtual Tickets are Available.

**For more information contact:**

Alex J Sinclair: [2ndvp@aintandrewssocietysf.org](mailto:2ndvp@aintandrewssocietysf.org)  
2nd Vice President of the Saint Andrews Society of San Francisco  
<https://saintandrewssocietysf.org/>

# A Lunchtime Chat with Scottish Business Network's Chair, Russell Dalglish



A POST-COVID INNOVATIVE, ENTERPRENEURIAL OUTWARD LOOKING SCOTLAND

**A new world will evolve when we recover from Covid-19. This will have new implications on Scotland and Scotland's position in the world. Join us to learn about Scotland's growing commercial ecosystem and the interplay of innovation.**

**Wednesday, 17th February, 12:00PM (PST)**

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco is delighted to bring this in-depth and unique discussion to our Members, and friends of the Society, in conjunction with the Scottish Business Network, to learn about the diaspora survey (conducted in 2020), a research study that looked at the views of the Scottish community across the globe. More than 1,000 individuals from 76 countries contributed to the research, providing unique insights to Scotland.

The survey found that while Scotland's brand is seen as friendly and trustworthy, the nation needs to become less inward-looking, strengthen its global mindset and export more.

It showed 72% of respondents viewed Scotland as "friendly," 45% described it as "resilient," 44% classified Scotland as "entrepreneurial," 35% said it was "progressive" but only 29% of the sample described Scotland as "outward looking."

Our overview with the SBN will also provide insight into the composition of the Scottish diaspora today and how best individuals can connect back to Scotland.

**Russell Dalglish** is a founder of the Scottish Business Network ([www.sbn.scot](http://www.sbn.scot)), the non-profit organization established to connect those with affiliation to Scotland across the globe. SBN is enabled through technology, driven by members and supported through a global network of Ambassadors and Partners. SBN has plans to appoint representatives in every U.S. State by the end of 2021.

**Join the Guest List for this FREE event:** <https://app.tickettailor.com/events/saintandrewssocietyofsanfrancisco/473534>

*If you have any questions, please contact Irené Waldman, 1st Vice President at: [irenewaldman@yahoo.com](mailto:irenewaldman@yahoo.com).*



**Russell Dalglish,**  
founder of the  
non-profit Scottish  
Business Network



SAINT ANDREW'S  
SOCIETY  
OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

CONNECTING SCOTTISH ENTREPRENEURS &  
INTERNATIONAL SCOTTISH BUSINESS LEADERS

## Event detail

### **Covid-19, Brexit and the Debate on Scottish Independence**

**Panel Discussion | February 24 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. | Online**

Speakers/Performers: Allan Little, BBC Foreign Correspondent; Kirsteen Shields, Lecturer, Global Academy of Agriculture & Food Security, University of Edinburgh; Fergus Neville, Lecturer in Organisational Studies, School of Management, University of St Andrews

Sponsors: **Institute of European Studies**, University of St Andrews, St Andrews Society of San Francisco, **Center for British Studies, Anglo-American Law & Policy Program**

The health, social and economic impacts of Covid continue to be felt across the world. Scotland's death rates were in line with the rest of the UK, making it one of the most badly affected countries in Europe. What can we learn from the impacts of the Covid in Scotland? What public policy lessons can we draw? And what political issues are now raised as we approach May's Scottish Parliament elections? The management of Covid in Scotland has been a test of devolution within the UK. Advocates of the Union emphasize the resources which being part of the UK has given Scotland during the pandemic and its aftermath. Supporters of independence argue that more would be possible. Meantime the implications of Brexit are beginning to become clearer. Join us for a seminar in which a panel of commentators and public policy experts consider what next for Scotland.

Chaired by Professor Mark Bevir, Director, UC Berkeley Center for British Studies, and Professor Kevin Orr, University of St Andrews and Senior Fellow at IES.

Co-sponsored by the St. Andrews Society, San Francisco

**Panelists:** Allan Little joined the BBC in 1983 and has been an on-air correspondent since 1985, specialising in foreign affairs since 1989. Little has received many awards for his journalism, including Sony Radio Reporter of the Year, Amnesty International Reporter of the Year, Bayeux War Correspondent of the Year and the Charles Wheeler Award for Outstanding Contribution to Broadcast Journalism. He is an Honorary Fellow in History at the University of Edinburgh. He has been Chairman of the Edinburgh International Book Festival since 2015.

Dr Kirsteen Shields is a human rights law expert with a PhD in international law and governance. She is a lecturer in international law and food security at the University of Edinburgh, at the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security. She has led and authored research for the World Bank, the Scottish Land Commission, the Scottish Parliament, and others. Recent publications include; 'Land as Rights' in Peluso, Wolford, Goldman eds, *The Social Life of Land*, Cornell University Press 2021; and 'Free School Meals and Governmental Responsibility', *Edinburgh Law Review*, 2021.

Dr Fergus Neville is a Lecturer in Organisational Studies in the School of Management at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. His research examines the social psychological processes which underpin social influence and leadership, with a particular focus on social identity. Dr Neville is currently co-investigator on a research project titled "Facilitating the public response to COVID-19 by harnessing group processes".

#### **Registration required**

Registration info: [Register online](#)

Event Contact: [ies@berkeley.edu](mailto:ies@berkeley.edu)

Access Coordinator: Julia Nelsen, [ies@berkeley.edu](mailto:ies@berkeley.edu), 510-643-5799

## Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
<b>2021</b>		
<b>Sat. Jan. 30 (5:00 PM – 8:00 PM)</b>	<b>159th Annual Robert Burns Supper</b>	<b>via ZOOM Video Conference</b>
Wed. Feb. 10 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays (Whisky 101)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Feb. 15 (7:30 PM)	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Feb. 17 (12:00 PM)	A discussion with Scottish Business Network's Chair, Russell Dalgleish	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Feb. 24 (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM)	Panel Discussion: Covid-19, Brexit and the Debate on Scottish Independence	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Mar. 10 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Mar. 15 (7:30 PM)	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Sat. Apr. 3	Tartan Day Scottish Faire at Ardenwood	Fremont, CA
Wed. Apr. 14 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Sat. Apr. 17	John Muir Day / Earth Day celebration	NPS - Martinez, CA
Mon. Apr. 19	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. May 12 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. May 17	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Jun. 9 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Jun. 21	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Jul. 14 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Jul. 19	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
Wed. Aug. 11 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Aug. 16	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
<b>TBD</b>	<b>Caledonian Club's 156th Highland Games &amp; Gathering</b>	<b>Pleasanton, CA</b>
Wed. Sept. 8 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Sept. 20	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Oct. 13 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Oct. 18	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Nov. 10 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Nov. 15	Member Meeting	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Dec. 8 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Dec. 20	No Meeting due to December 31st. Hogmanay Celebration	
<b>Fri. Dec. 31</b>	<b>Hogmanay Celebration</b>	<b>via ZOOM Video Conference</b>
<b>2022</b>		
Mon. Jan. 17	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Jan. 12 (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference

## 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](mailto:info@caledonian.org)  
[caledonian.org](http://caledonian.org)



AmeriCeltic  
[americeltic@gmail.com](mailto:americeltic@gmail.com)  
[americeltic.net](http://americeltic.net)



### The Erskine Home

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

[www.erskine.org.uk](http://www.erskine.org.uk)



### John Muir Association

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

[johnmuirassociation.org](http://johnmuirassociation.org)



### The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers

[shauna0829@hotmail.com](mailto:shauna0829@hotmail.com)  
[thefiddlers.com](http://thefiddlers.com)



### Grace Cathedral

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

[gracecathedral.org](http://gracecathedral.org)



### British-American Business Council of Northern California

369 Pine Street, Suite 103  
San Francisco, CA 94104

[info@babcsf.org](mailto:info@babcsf.org)  
[babcsf.org](http://babcsf.org)



### The University of Edinburgh

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

[www.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ed.ac.uk)



### University of Glasgow

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

[www.gla.ac.uk](http://www.gla.ac.uk)



### Robert Louis Stevenson Museum

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

[info@stevensonmuseum.org](mailto:info@stevensonmuseum.org)  
[stevensonmuseum.org](http://stevensonmuseum.org)

## About Us

### The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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

[www.saintandrewsociety.org](http://www.saintandrewsociety.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,  
1st VP  
Alex Sinclair,  
2nd VP  
Jek Cunningham, Bard  
Kristy McKeating,  
Secretary  
Richard Robertson,  
Treasurer  
Susan Goodier,  
Executive Administrator  
Roger Weed, Librarian  
Laurien Fiddes, Chaplain  
Brian Cooper, Piper  
Bill Jagers, Herald  
Fred Rutledge,  
Foundation Chair

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Jean Allen  
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J. Robert Logan  
William Cummings, Sr.  
William Cummings, Jr.  
Jean Allen

### Envoys

Brian Costello, BABC  
Roger Weed, Caledonian Club of SF  
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

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