

The St. Andrew's Society

Est. 1863



Happy Holidays

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

Here we are at the end of another difficult year for so many people around the world. I feel that we are very blessed living in the bay area with access to medical help and technology. Reflecting upon the year and the activities of the Society, we have been able to financially support many of the food banks around the bay area, in addition to maintain some of our University relationships. As your incoming President, I hope to reignite many of our cultural and educational relationships, so that we can provide assistance where needed on a broader scale. I'm also hoping that we will be able to gather in person (if safe) to celebrate at our upcoming Burns Supper, and many more events through the year.

The end of the year is always a time of reflection and also celebration. It is a time to give acknowledgment to the hardships and changes that people have experienced through the year, but it is also a time to say goodbye to the past and hello to the future. In Scotland, Hogmanay is celebrated throughout the land, usually with some first footing when a tall dark handsome stranger enters your home and brings a small gift with them, in addition to an abundance of good luck. I remember growing up in Edinburgh and the family would be delighted if someone came to the door that they did not know! As long as it wasn't the doctor or a minister (as they were associated with bad luck and a connection to death or ill health!). The Hogmanay parties would normally begin around 9pm at night and by the strike of

1st VP Message, continued on page 3



Francesca McCrossan, President

Winter 2021

President's Message

Dear St. Andrew's Society,

Reflections

My third and final year as President is coming to an end. Rather than look back, I want to look forward. However, I must say that Covid has warped my concept of linear time.

If you're a fan of Dr Who, you'll understand when I say that the past two years feel like a big ball of timey-whimey stuff. Even if you're not a fan of Dr Who, one of the longest-running TV programs in Britain, I think you'll understand the meaning.

When I took office in January of 2019, we met monthly at the Firehouse as we always had. The cycle of meetings and celebrations, Hogmanay, Burns, the Summer Ceilidh, the Highland Gathering and Games, the St Andrew's Day Celebration, were all on the calendar, and we took it for granted that they would

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Irené Waldman, 1st Vice President



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President's Message

happen. We'd be there to enjoy them. As it turned out, the last meeting we had at the Firehouse was in February of 2020. The previous in-person event in the Society Calendar was also the Burns Supper in February 2020. That's now almost two full years ago.

Since then, we've moved online with most of our meetings and celebrations, only recently being able to enjoy a big event outdoors, the Highland Winter Festival. What seemed an impossible situation, not being able to meet in person, paved a road to adaptability, creativity, and an expansion of our membership. It's also allowed us to grow culturally by offering the learning and community experience of Whisky Wednesdays, the virtual Hogmanay celebration of 2020 and the business talks because we've included performers, business people and others from across the Pond and around the country. That's not something easily done if meeting in person is your only option.

The positive unintended consequences of the social restrictions of Covid are reflected in other ways as well. Membership has grown because new members can participate in meetings and events from a distance. We've made them feel welcome and included, and that's created vibrancy and vitality for the Society. And since we are talking about positive unintended consequences, here are some more.

When the Society decided to elect its first woman as a member, it could not know what other positive changes would follow. Admitting women all those years ago started a process that's still in motion. Not only have more women joined the Society, but new members have joined because the dynamic has changed. If you look at our incoming officers, they are all relatively new members, at least compared with the length of time one would have been a member in past years before they were asked to run for office.

And of the four incoming officers, three, Irene, Alex, and Kristy, are Scottish. The St Andrew's Society has moved from focusing on ancestry and

history to bringing modern Scotland into the room. Those three voices alone bring a modern Scottish presence and mindset front and centre in our charitable and cultural work.

As the first woman President and an American who lived, worked, and has family in Scotland, the Venn diagram of myself includes a lot of communities and cultural overlap. Those overlaps have helped me cultivate relationships with our members and the other local Societies that have flourished over the years. I am proud of this work, and I consider it a foundational piece for the Society in the years to come.

In closing, I want to thank you for your support, good humor, sound advice, and friendship over the years. Since I joined, the Society and the larger British and Scottish communities of the Bay Area have been the mainstay of my social and cultural life, and I am so grateful and blessed, as they say in the South, more than I can express with words.

I am writing this piece on the shortest day of the year, and the timing seems fitting. May the winter and spring come find you and your loved ones warm, happy and healthy.

All the best,

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

Photo of the Month



Happy Christmas from "The Office Managers" Mungo & Tilly—Caroline Trotter Photography



The Medical Corner

Jason D. Eiband, MD, *Society Physician*

Coronavirus Update

Winter is upon us and there is another new variant (omicron) that has begun to rapidly replace last summer's variant (delta). The spread of omicron has lead California to return to a indoor mask mandate for all in public venues. This will be in effect until January 15th, but I would not expect it to be repealed until there is a low level of infection and hospital utilization—summer 2022. There is still little data to predict what omicron will do, but the vaccines appear to work for preventing death and serious illness.



Photo: Pixabay, Ronstik

The CDC expanded their booster recommendations on November 29th. This effectively made all adults over 18 eligible for a booster as long as they had passed the 6 month window for Pfizer and Moderna, or 2 months for J&J. This change was in response to concerns of lessening immunity over time from small, clinical studies overseas. Prior to the arrival of omicron, there had been little interest in boosters nationally for those who were eligible. This has changed in the last two weeks as I have noted below.

Scotland remains ahead of the US for both primary vaccination and boosters. Full vaccination rates have plateaued in the US and Scotland. Full vaccination in the US is at about 60% and Scotland is at about 73%. Booster rates are at 39% in Scotland and about 16% in the US. Locally, SF has full vaccination rate at 79% and booster rates of 64% for the 65 plus group. Locally, even the less than 50 group have a booster rate of 31%! SF is pretty much an island of immunity in the US with high compliance and low infection rates.

In general, pandemics last between 2 and 3 years if we can trust in natural history. The virus typically is deadliest at outset and then mutates to a less deadly form. The virus spreads in waves as we are experiencing gaining both advantages and disadvantages to its survival. As it spreads, the virus changes to become more easily transmitted. This is the storyline of the 1918 flu pandemic where there were no vaccines or antiviral pills to take.

It seems that we are not done with the pandemic yet though SF is little affected. Best to get your flu shot, Covid booster shot, wash your hands, and wear your mask until the all clear is sounded.

Sources: CDC.gov, SF.gov, Worldometer.info, NHS.UK

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1st VP's Message

midnight, everyone would be in full glory, singing and dancing, with the distant sound of bagpipes. I doubt that there will be so much partying this year in Scotland, but wherever you are in the world, I wish you Happy Holidays and a very Happy Hogmanay.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank our hard-working Trustees and Officers for their service and energy to the Society, and the firehouse.

As always, please reach out at any time. We are here for you and look forward to reconnecting again next year.

With my best wishes,

Irené Waldman
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A Visit Down South

By Alex J Sinclair, 2nd VP

On December 5th, I was privileged to be invited by President Kimberlee Bradford to join the Saint Andrews Society of Los Angeles and represent our Society. It was a pleasure to meet so many wonderful Scottish people in the Los Angeles area and share our combined passion for Scottish traditions and mission to celebrate our cultural heritage and shared values. Highlights of the event were piper and the band leader of the City of Angels Pipe Band, Trevor Takahashi and the harpist playing traditional music, all during an intimate, elegant brunch hosted at the Altadena Country Club.



SAS LA President Kimberlee Bradford and SAS SF 2nd VP Alex Sinclair



Firehouse Recovery

After storm damage and repairs the firehouse is ready to host future Society meetings and gatherings.

BEFORE



Helping to re-place all of the Society's belongings and artifacts were David Campbell, Bruce McMillan, Alex Sinclair and Gary Ketchen (not shown).



Contractor Stephen Gold and David Campbell.

AFTER



Board of Trustees Report

By David Campbell, *Trustee Chairperson*

Dear St Andrew's Society,

I would like to acknowledge that this has been a hard year, mostly due to COVID still—that not being able to meet together to celebrate our beloved Scottish culture & traditions, and enjoy our fellowship with each other—has taken a toll. We, like any organization, have had to settle for virtual representations of ourselves and our activities & interests on a screen via Zoom...but, how fortunate we are that Zoom and its equivalent modalities even exist in the first place. That we've been able to go on and have kept meeting remotely without interruption is remarkable—in celebration of our Scottishness, welcoming new members to our tribe; handling Society affairs, transacting business, and just as importantly—keeping current with and refreshing our kinship and friendships. This all has been nothing short of amazing!

The other remarkable story for us this year though was the nearly historic rainstorm on October 24 which breached the upstairs unit and resulted in the flooding of our beloved near-museum quality firehouse meeting space. This was a hard blow, one which I think we all took very personally. In a similar spirit though of not letting it “get the better of us” and pulling together to “see it through,” we have done just that! In fact, our end of year timing couldn't be any better. Contractor Steve & his crew completed our flood recovery work project just last week on Wednesday 12/15, such that we were able to schedule a small work party for Friday 12/17—in order to pull everything out of storage and get the firehouse put back together again.

Being there in person to get the firehouse in shape was a nice reminder of how good it felt for even just a few of us to be back together again and experience a strong sense of SASSF fellowship and camaraderie. Speaking of being together again—this brings me to how much we are looking forward to being able to meet in person—as soon as better public health conditions prevail. As the adage goes: “This too shall pass”, but until it does—our SAS will keep on being who we are and doing what we do. We will remain hopeful—that once we can get the new COVID variant Omicron behind us, we will be able to return to meeting in person, albeit likely in hybrid format for at least a while in transition.

Zooming out a bit to reflect back over the course of this last year—I'd like to thank and congratulate my fellow Trustees for what we've been able to accomplish together on behalf of the Society. We've done our best to actively support officer leadership in their many endeavors—their projects & events—all for the good of the Society. Importantly, we've tried to keep our focus consistently on safeguarding and providing for the general welfare of the Society...and we strive to keep the best interests of the society first and foremost—at heart and in mind.

- 1)** We seated a new board in January, and then in time were able to get beyond a few challenging months in transition from last year.
- 2)** During December 2020 into early 2021—we oversaw the completion of and payment for our firehouse renovation carried over from last year.
- 3)** Also during those early challenging months of transition—we oversaw the search for and housing of new tenants Omar & Erika in January...not once, but twice—then again with Dustin & Quincy in July.
- 4)** In close collaboration with Treasurer Richard—we drafted, reviewed, and adopted in March our working budget for the year.
- 5)** In the first few months of the year, Richard & I became aware of some issues and challenges with our bookkeeping—which we've needed to monitor closely, and have continued to work together closely throughout the year in order to have our accounting needs consistently met.
- 6)** Also early in the year, we received the resignations of Trustees Brian Costello (February) and Jaeame Koyil (April). Thanks to Gary Ketchen and Bruce McMillan for being willing to step up to fill these two vacancies when asked, and for joining the Board—Gary in May-June and Bruce in October.
- 7)** In April we converted the By-Laws draft revision enacted on November 16 of last year, revised as submitted on April 15, and then presented as adopted to membership on April 18.
- 8)** After Summer recess—in September we returned to the Pleasanton Highland Games; we consulted with Francesca in her convening of the Nominating Committee; and then our firehouse also served as polling precinct #7312 for the Governor's recall election.
- 9)** Also in October, at Terry Allison's request—we pulled together a Color Guard in tribute to past-President John Allison at his memorial service in Napa.
- 10)** We will never forget the nearly historical rainstorm which occurred on October 24th, and the ensuing flooding—our immediate response, and our ongoing recovery efforts wrapping up now.
- 11)** In November, we renewed two lines of insurance with State Farm (Umbrella & Business Owners); and then renewed still a third policy (Officers & Directors) with Agency Service Bureau. Also in November, we filed successfully our 2020 taxes, which had been extended from earlier in the Spring.
- 12)** We extend our thanks largely to UBS Portfolio Manager Keith Seibert and Treasurer Richard for their excellent management and guidance, but we've all contributed to the process by which our total portfolio's annual return this year (12/31/20–12/13/21) has grown by 15.67% from \$1,320,231 to

Trustees Report, continued on page 6

Trustees Report

\$1,426,967...a net gain of almost \$107K (\$106,736). Regarding property management by Hill & Co—in addition to a pending Owner Disbursement of \$5,006, our Ending Cash Balance (November 30) = \$7,091; and our Wells Fargo checking account balance = \$11,604 (December 16). So, our approximate current net worth (not including the value of the firehouse—which we own outright) equals ~\$1,450,668.

13) As mentioned above—we've endeavored to support, counsel, and advise officers and our leadership team in their many good ideas, and much hard work and effort with respect to our virtual events (Irene's Hogmanay 2020 & Alex's Burns Supper 2021) and member meetings, website renovation, Speaker Series, Whisky Wednesdays, and the recent well-attended and popular Winter Highland Festival at Golden Gate Park.

14) In the end, perhaps most importantly, I hope that we've also been able to instill in our members—a sense of trust and confidence in the Board of Trustees and our handling of the Society's important business & affairs.

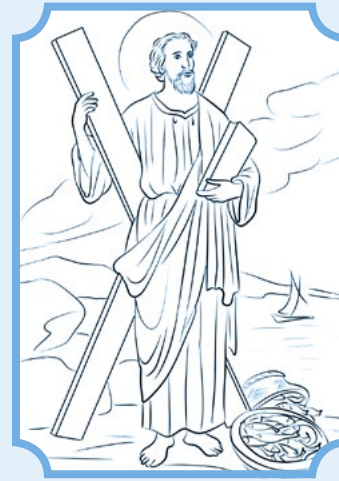
I'm very pleased that our St Andrew's Society is closing out the year on a positive note, and we look forward to picking up the work again in early January. In the absence of our usual Hogmanay celebration at the firehouse, I can think of no better finish for 2021 nor way to begin the New Year—than to wish our dear members, and also our new (and returning) leadership team—every success and all the very best in 2022.

Merry Christmas!

Aye—Yours in Service,

David Campbell,
Trustee Chairperson,
St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco
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From The Bard — Jek Cunningham



Saint Andrews

What is a Patron Saint? According to the Catholic church, they act as intermediaries between the worshiper and God.

Andrew and his younger brother, Simon Peter, were the first of Jesus's disciples. They were born in Bethsaida. After the crucifixion, Andrew traveled around preaching the gospel until he ran afoul of the authorities in Patras.

Condemned to be crucified, according to legend, he requested to be crucified on the crux decussate, or Saltire cross.

Some believe a monk named Regulus had a dream in which an angel commanded him to take the bones of Andrew to the ends of the earth and erect a shrine wherever he landed. He was wrecked on the coast of Fife, in Scotland. The Shrine became a source of pilgrimages from all over Europe. Saint Andrew was officially declared the Patron Saint of Scotland at the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320. Saint Andrew's Day is an American invention that was first celebrated in the eighteenth century by the Saint Andrew's Society of Charleston, South Carolina. It was not until 2006, that Scottish Parliament made November 30 an official Bank Holiday as the start of Winter Festivals.



Photo Credit: ZstudioZ Productions

By Alex J Sinclair, 2nd VP

On November 28th at the Golden Gate Park Bandshell, the Saint Andrews Society of San Francisco held the first-ever Highland Winter Festival to celebrate Saint Andrews Day and the 120th anniversary of our member John McLaren’s creation of the San Francisco Scottish Bowling Club, now called the San Francisco Lawn Bowling Club.



It was a great turnout with over 300 people gathering in the brisk open air to enjoy 2 hours of music from the Prince Charles Pipe Band, Silicon Valley Pipe Band, Fret & Fiddle, and singer Peter Daldry. We had a great response from the audience who donated \$400 to contribute to the concert and our benevolent works while expressing excitement from people who joined us. As Jean Lombard said, “Rare, live, memorable, meaningful efforts and deeply authentic—very glad to have experienced this wonderful afternoon presented by St. Andrew’s Society of San Francisco this past Sunday.”

Special thanks to members Iain Macdonald and family, Laurien Fiddes, Brian Cooper, and incoming 2nd Vice President-Elect Kristy McKeating, who flew in from Mexico that morning just in time to support the event. I would also like to acknowledge Susan Goodier, Amelia Hogan, Scott Rowe, Sabine Zimmerhansl, volunteers from the D.B.E., ZstudioZ Productions and Q2Q Productions, the real unsung heroes for the day. Without the support of this team, we would not have been able to undertake this monumental task and support such a successful

turnout. The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department was highly impressed with the Society and our guests commenting that “We had left the park better than we found it and made sure that the beautiful music welcomed every guest of the park.”

This Highland Winter Festival was created in partnership with the Saint Andrew’s Foundation, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, The Caledonian Club of San Francisco, The Saint Andrew’s Society of Oakland, The Daughters of the British Empire (D.B.E.), and the British Benevolent Society. In the future, with the help of the Society members and our community partners, I hope we can grow this festival to a grander scale. This will enable the Saint Andrew’s Society to give cultural outreach to San Francisco Bay Area. While, we, as members, have a chance to share what we love about Scotland’s traditions and values as ambassadors of our people to the Scottish Diaspora and the greater San Francisco community as a whole. On a personal note, I want to thank you, the members, trustees, officers, and guests who supported our first in-person event in over a year. May there be many more to come!

FEBRUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 17, 2022



MOSTLY BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL

VOGUE THEATER SAN FRANCISCO

OPENING NIGHT FEBRUARY 10

5:00pm Reception: Laureate Bar and Lounge 444 Presidio Ave

7:30pm: *The Duke*

Critics are comparing the whimsy displayed in *The Duke* to the spirit and buoyancy of Frank Capra comedies. This new British entry falls into the category of life as stranger than fiction. It recounts an incredible true event from 1964 when a taxi driver climbs through a bathroom window at London's National Gallery in the early hours and swipes Goya's prized portrait of the Duke of Wellington. A kind of Robin Hood, he promises to return the painting if the government invests more in caring for the elderly. The film boasts crisp performances by Academy Award winners Jim Broadbent as the thief with charitable intentions and Helen Mirren as his shrewish wife. Roger Michell directs with the panache he brought to *Notting Hill*. UK 2020 (96 minutes)

February 11



8pm Mothering Sunday

Adapted from Graham Swift's 2016 novel, the movie dramatizes the secret affair between a young housemaid Jane who knows her place and the well-heeled son of the family's neighbor, who doesn't. It is 1924, Berkshire and this is their final fling; he is to marry within his class, as is right and proper. Both families are grieving, having lost sons in the War, but gather on the British holiday Mothering Sunday to celebrate the engagement. Narrated by the elderly Jane (Glenda Jackson, no less!) replaying memories in hindsight, her powerful emotions suffuse the lavishly filmed period detail. Star studded with Josh O'Connor and Odessa Young as the lovers and Colin Firth and Olivia Colman as neighbors. UK 2021 (110 minutes)

February 12



5:30pm The Sister Boniface Mysteries

Fans of the popular *Father Brown* series will welcome this spinoff featuring the sleuth Sister Boniface, who is on the cutting edge in forensic science. With Jude Tindall creating both shows, expect light-hearted cozy mysteries with detours into whimsy. Set in 1960s England where DNA has yet to be discovered and blood testing takes days, this nun's access to a fully equipped crime lab transforms her into the go-to expert for police investigations. As a gumshoe in a habit, British comedian and actress Lorna Watson has enlightened numerous episodes of *Father Brown*. UK 2022 (90 minutes)

Thanks to BritBox, the Mostly British Festival's new partner, for providing the Vogue with the only big screen showing of the first two episodes of *The Sister Boniface Mysteries*. Tune in to BritBox on February 15 to watch the following episodes three and four.

February 12



8pm True Things

One of the hottest psycho-sexual thrillers you are likely to see, *True Things* succeeds in large part because of superlative casting. Ruth Wilson and Tom Burke make you believe that their characters fall under an instant erotic spell because the actors reenact familiar roles --Wilson in *The Affair* and Burke in the *The Souvenir*. In their latest outing here they meet across a government desk, where she doles out benefits to ex-cons like him. She risks her job and the life she's made to plunge headlong into a carnal relationship with an obviously inappropriate lover. The film explores whether sexual gratification is worth it. UK 2021 (102 minutes)

FILMS FROM THE UK, IRELAND, AUSTRALIA, AND INDIA
MOSTLYBRITISH.ORG




Join Us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube!

Ever want to know what is happening with the Society in the next month, or even year? Join us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube where you can connect with other Members, see what we are talking about through the month and connect with a wee piece of Scotland! Our social media pages holds lots of information about upcoming events, what people are saying and how you can get involved if you wish!

Click on the links below or type these addresses into your browser.

 <https://www.facebook.com/SaintAndrewsSocietyOfSanFrancisco>

 <https://www.instagram.com/standrewssocsf/>

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkjWxFGff1i8tDacyHZIcgA>

You can also search for the Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco on Facebook and select "FOLLOW." You will then receive our latest news in your Facebook feed!

It's easy and will help you stay connected with us during this challenging time. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

Best wishes, Irené (1st Vice President).



Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
2021		
Fri. Dec. 31	Hogmanay	
2022		
Wed. Jan. 12 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Jan. 17	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Feb. 16 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Sat. Feb. 19 (6:00 PM – 11:00 PM)	159th Annual Burns Supper	Kensington Park Hotel, Elks Lodge #3, SF
Mon. Feb. 21 (7:30 PM)	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Mar. 16 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Mar. 21 (7:30 PM)	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Apr. 13 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Apr. 18 (7:30 PM)	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. May 11 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. May 16	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Jun. 8 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Jun. 20	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Jul. 18	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
Mon. Aug. 15	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
Sept. 3–4	Caledonian Club's 156th Highland Games & Gathering	Pleasanton, CA
Wed. Sept. 7 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Sept. 19	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Oct. 12 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Oct. 17 (7:30 PM – 9:30 PM)	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Wed. Nov. 16 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM)	Whisky Wednesdays	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Nov. 21 (7:30 PM – 9:30 PM)	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	via ZOOM Video Conference
Mon. Dec. 19	No Meeting due to December 31st. Hogmanay Celebration	

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Trusted Partners

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



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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 Vice President
Alex Sinclair,
2nd Vice President
Jek Cunningham, *Bard*
Kristy McKeating,
Secretary
Richard Robertson,
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Envoys

Roger Weed, Caledonian Club of SF
Roger Weed, John Muir Association
David Walker, University of Edinburgh



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Recipient
