



# THE SEANACHIE

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NOVEMBER 2016

## BUSY HOLIDAY SEASON FOR SBSS AND LOCAL SCOTS

### ST. ANDREW'S DAY IN NOVEMBER

Hosted by Evergreen Valley College. November 15<sup>th</sup>. Article pg 10

### "THE SCOTTISH EXTRAVAGANZA IN WONDERLAND" IN NOVEMBER

Performed by the San Jose School of Highland Dance. November 19<sup>th</sup>. Flyer pg 11

### TOYS FOR TOTS DINNER IN DECEMBER

Hosted by the SBSS. December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Article pg 6

### A SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN DECEMBER

Headline act Stewart Tartan Pipes and Drums. December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Flyer pg 11

### JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

SBSS Quarterly get together. January 6<sup>th</sup>. Article pg 5

### BURNS NIGHT IN JANUARY

Hosted by the SBSS. January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Article pg 5

## MATCH IT!

Today's puzzle is matching an image to a seasonal event. Can you get them all? Answers pg 2.

#### Event:

[St. Andrew's Day](#)

A Scottish Extravaganza in Wonderland

A Scottish Christmas Concert

#### Image:

Toys for Tots Dinner

Hogmanay

Burns Night



2016 SOUTH BAY  
SCOTTISH SOCIETY BOARD  
OF GOVERNORS

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# SBSS WELCOMES New MEMBERS



The SBSS welcomes our new members who joined at the Big Trees Scottish Highland Games in October. They come at a great time to enjoy our seasonal events. Please welcome:

Thomas & Judith Webster of Santa Cruz  
Joan McVay of Ben Lomond

## ANSWERS TO MATCH IT! ON PG 1.

UPPER LEFT THEN CLOCKWISE:

Toys for Tots Dinner  
St. Andrew's Day  
A Scottish Christmas Concert  
A Scottish Extravaganza in Wonderland  
Burns Night  
Hogmanay  
I just like the picture :)

When a Scotsman inquired as to the cheapest way to sail across the Atlantic, the travel agent decided to humor him. "You can go first class for \$200, second Class \$150, third class for \$75. Or you can swim alongside the ship for \$3.98 plus tax. Now which will it be?" "What kind of food do they throw overboard?" asked the Scot.

## SENNACHIE PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Submit all materials to:  
[newsletter@southbayscots.org](mailto:newsletter@southbayscots.org)

**Note:** All published material becomes the property of the South Bay Scottish Society. Newsletter content is decided upon by the Board of Governors, representing the membership of the South Bay Scottish Society.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## November

- 7 SBSS Board of Governors Meeting  
7:00pm  
Mountain Mike's Pizza Parlor  
301 E. Hamilton Ave.  
Campbell
- 15 St. Andrew's Day Celebration  
12:00pm – 1:30pm  
Evergreen Valley College
- 19 The Scottish Extravaganza -  
Wonderland  
SJ School of Highland Dance  
7:00pm  
Sacred Heart Gymnasium  
13716 Saratoga Ave.  
Saratoga, CA

## December

- 2 Toys For Tots Christmas  
4:30pm – 9:00pm  
Harry's Hofbrau  
390 Saratoga Ave.  
San Jose, CA
- 3 A Scottish Christmas Concert  
3:00 – 5:00pm  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
13601 Saratoga Ave.  
Saratoga, CA

- 5 SBSS Board of Governors Meeting  
7:00pm  
Mountain Mike's Pizza Parlor  
301 E. Hamilton Ave, Campbell

## January

- 1 Hogmanay – Happy New Year
- 2 SBSS Board of Governors Meeting  
7:00pm  
Mountain Mike's Pizza Parlor  
301 E. Hamilton Ave, Campbell, CA
- 6 SBSS General Meeting  
7:00pm  
Potluck Dinner, entertainment  
West Valley, San Jose Public Library  
1243 San Thomas Aquino Rd,  
San Jose, CA  
[map](#)
- 22 SBSS Annual Burns Night  
5:00pm – 9:00pm  
Dinner, Dance and Robert Burns  
Mtn. View Masonic Temple  
890 Church St., Mtn. View, CA  
[map](#)

## CHIEF'S PICNIC SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

Chief Bob Anderson



We gathered once again at [Wildwood Park](#) in Saratoga for our annual Chief's Picnic under beautiful blue skies and those towering oaks and sycamores. The weather could not have been better thanks in part to this year's earlier date. The pot-luck array of hors d'oeuvres and side dishes accompanied the perfectly grilled Ministry of Food bangers, thank you Bette Bedford and Don Village. Everyone competed for a table full of prizes in the Bingo Games and a few tried their hand at a game of [Petanque](#), displaying remarkable hand-eye coordination. The Chief's Cake was cut and served next capping a very fine day among kith and kin.



# PLEASANTON HIGHLAND GAMES, 2016

Nathan Irvine



Many of South Bay Scottish Society members attended the 151th Annual Caledonian Club Scottish Highland Gathering and Games, better known as the Pleasanton Games, on Saturday, September 3 and Sunday, September, 4th. As always, the SBSS had their booth there to dispense information on family tartan, location, genealogy, Scottish culture, and of course, to recruit new members. On that note: we were able to sign-up three new members! New this year was our location on the north side of the clan field. Although the view of the Scottish athletic field was diminished, our foot traffic and contact was not. On the convenient side, the restroom was just across the road. With unusually mild weather this year and many Scottish themed activities and spectacles such as Highland Cows to view, indulgence in good friends, food and drink and with abundant shopping choices. Two personal favorites are the Sheep dog trials and Celtic music. The melodic high energy performances range from troubadours of new and classic ballads, such as our good friend [Peter Daldry](#), to the authentic tribal pipes and drums of [Albannach](#).



Kudos goes out to the volunteers to help with set-up, tear-down and manning our tents. Some of the folks that stepped forward to help out included:

- John Dewing and Bob Anderson - delivery and initial Set-up Friday and tear-down/recovery on Sun.
  - John and Beth Dewing - Sat & Sun booth set-up
- Other members manning the booth included:
- Sylvia and Neal McGill
  - Melva and David Irvine
  - Andea Anderson, Lyn Irvine and Cheryl Comento
  - Maria Rhodes-Labrecque and her husband Aaron



Once again we had another [braw](#) weekend and enjoyable time was had by all.

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## THE TREES WERE BIG AND SO WAS THE GAMES

Dorrie Scherers

The Big Tree Scottish and Highland Games are a one day smaller games, only in size, held in the Santa Cruz Mountains at Roaring Camp in Felton. It was held on Oct. 1, 2016 with steam trains passing by 50 feet away all day. Our booth was right across from the Heavy Athletics (cabers, hammer throw and others) so we got to keep a eye on them. Lots of Pipers (which was louder, the pipes or steam trains? Not sure). Music played all day; Peter Daldry, Lief Sorbyes and Tempest. Like those Kilts and such a varied selection :). It was a perfect day. Thanks to John & Beth Dewing for setting up. Also thanks to Ed & Sheryl, John & Lana Ralston, Bob Anderson and Dorrie Scherer for manning the booth.



An added bonus was that the creator of the original SBSS logo, Richard D. Katz, stopped by. He was pleased that we were still using the logo. While he still is interested in graphic design, his main Scottish thing is playing bagpipes; Scottish Highland and Irish Uilleann. [www.katzwerk.com/piper.htm](http://www.katzwerk.com/piper.htm)

# JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Jan. 6th, 7:00 pm at the West Valley Branch San Jose Public Library, San Tomas Aquino Road. Pot Luck Dinner, Brief Business Meeting followed by guest speaker and author Anna Fiorina Hess. Her book '[Born in Internment](#)' an account of her birth during WW II in Scottish Internment also SBSS's John and Lana Ralston will share a visual and verbal presentation of their recent trip to Scotland.



## SOUTH BAY SCOTTISH SOCIETY JANUARY 2017 PROGRAM

John & Lana Ralston

In August, 2016, SBSS's John & Lana Ralston landed in Edinburgh and spent a wonderful week, connecting with John's cousins in Renfrewshire, going with them to the [Kelpies](#) and the [Falkirk Wheel](#), then driving to an ancestral castle in



Angus – really – and driving by Scotland's storied lochs, shooting pictures non-stop. We look forward to sharing our memories and pictures at a slide show with all of you at the January 2017 quarterly meeting.

## BURNS NIGHT ON THE HORIZON, JAN 22<sup>ND</sup>



Details are still being worked out but it will be on a Sunday 5 to 9 with a night of good company, good food, good poetry, good singing, good dancing, good music ... just a great night of Scottishness.

Burns Night 2016:





## ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS

WHEN: Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

WHERE: [Harry's Hofbrau](#) on Saratoga Ave.  
San Jose. In the "Big Room" in the back.

TIME: 4:30pm - 9:00pm

WHAT TO BRING: An unwrapped new toy  
COVER CHARGE?: No \$5.00 cover charge  
this year, Harry's has donated the use of the  
room (thank you thank you, thank you, Harry).  
ACTIVITIES: Eating, drinking, visiting, singing  
with games and prizes.



### How Toys for Tots Works

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

The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is directed by the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, with the assistance of his staff, from the Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Local campaigns are conducted annually in over 700 communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The Commander, Marine Forces Reserve has under his command 153 Reserve Units located in 47 states. To cover all 50 states and more communities in each state, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation selects Marine Corps League Detachments and Local Community Organizations (generally veteran Marines) located in communities without a Marine Reserve Center, to conduct Toys for Tots campaigns as part of the overall U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Local toy collection campaigns begin in October and last until mid to late December. Toy distribution also takes place mid to late December. Members of the community drop new, unwrapped toys in collection boxes positioned in local businesses. Coordinators pick up these toys and store them in central warehouses where the toys are sorted by age and gender. At Christmas, Coordinators, with the assistance of local social welfare agencies, church groups, and other local community agencies, distribute the toys to the less fortunate children of the community. Over the years, Marines have established close working relationships with social welfare agencies, churches and other local community agencies which are well qualified to identify the needy children in the community and play important roles in the distribution of the toys.

While Toys for Tots Coordinators organize, coordinate and manage the campaign, the ultimate success depends on the support of the local community and the generosity of the people who donate toys.



# SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES.....

## SBSS's Annual Halloween Party 2016

Marjorie Coakley

This year we invited all Witches, Wizards and Mischief-Makers to join us at the Leaky Cauldron Inn for our Harry Potter themed Halloween party this year. We were morally obliged to warn them of the dangers they might incur by attempting to reach our meeting point - as there were dark powers at work! However, after successfully navigating safe routes past all Death-eaters and Dementors present in the area - our cohorts in mischief arrived unscathed! Once everyone was safely inside we were all able to relax, mingle, laugh and enjoy the delicious food and beverages which were in abundance! It was fantastic to see all our special friends (some from East Bay) and some of our new members come along and make this a fun party!!!

Our guests immediately chose their table according to their Hogwarts House Crests (thank you Nathan for those - won't say which were the most or least popular) and decorations were all geared to Harry Potter. We had lighted candles, owls, Dementors, books filled with candies, - the food and drinks were so varied and delicious!!! We had an amazing variety of mouth-watering foods from around the world and also various flavoured Chocolate frogs, Butterbeer (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and Zombie Punch! We even catered to any Muggles who had managed to slip in past the Dementors.



Our first contest of the evening was for Best Costume which was exceptionally difficult to decide on a winner for both male and female categories as the costumes were so diverse and creative! When the votes were counted Elly won in the female category as Harley Quinn and Matthew won in the male category as a Hogwarts Professor! Both contestants had each just chosen a prize basket when we witnessed something eerily materializing through the fog.....

A sigh of awe and relief echoed through the Inn as the forms began to take shape and we recognized the majestic [Merloch the Magician](#) (cousin of Albus Dumbledore) and the lovely Lady Julianna. Merloch quickly took control and proceeded to delight us with a fantastically amazing magical presentation of his Spells and Divination Class! Merloch, whose reputation precedes him, is obviously one of the most powerful Wizards of our time. He performed feats which defied the rules of nature and had all of us flabbergasted as objects transformed themselves across the room and materialized inside other objects. Needless to say many of us signed up for classes as it is blatantly obvious we will have to hone our wizarding skills.



Unfortunately, time always manages to fly in when you are having fun and we became aware of the dark forces which were rapidly gathering in the vicinity of the Leaky Cauldron. If we were going to safely avoid disaster we must call an end to our gathering..... but not before one last game of balloon stomp! Competition was running rampant with three of the participants clearly going to fight to the very end. It was touch and go but Jesse won 1<sup>st</sup> place, Lorenzo 2<sup>nd</sup> and Matthew 3<sup>rd</sup>.

\*A huge thank you to everyone who came early to decorate and to all of you who stayed very late to help with the clean up - it was greatly appreciated and you all made the party so much fun!!! Thank you so much to Lyn our DJ for the awesome music and an enormous thank you to Kim and Julianna Silverman!!!

More pictures next page



## SOUTH BAY SCOTTISH SOCIETY General Meeting Minutes

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 7 pm  
Library, West Valley Branch  
1243 San Tomas Aquino Road, San Jose, CA



7:00 pm Members and friends arrived, socialized and enjoyed a pot-luck dinner.

7:59 pm QUORUM VERIFIED – Seannachie – Dorrie Scherer

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Chief – Robert Anderson

ROLL CALL – Scribe – Graeme Coakley

Board Members Present: Robert Anderson, Dorrie Scherer, Graeme Coakley, Maria Rhodes-Labrecque, and Lyn Irvine (standing in for Nathan Irvine).

Board Members Absent: Father Basil Rhodes, Frank Cameron, and Lori Daly.

STEWARDS REPORT – Dorrie Scherer reported on the current accounts in Lori's absence.

Income (from Movie Nights): \$110.00

Expenses (booth space, GoDaddy, etc): \$490.00

Checking and Savings: \$7,872.50

APPROVAL OF GENERAL MINUTES FROM JULY 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Since there was no quorum at the July 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, no minutes were taken.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – Andy requested the addition of the Proposed Board of Governors 2017 under New Business.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Graeme moved to approve the agenda, Dorrie seconded, all in favor.

### **New Business**

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Burns Night – is scheduled for Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Mountain View Masonic Hall.

Proposed Board of Governors 2017 – Chief Robert Anderson, Dept. Chief Father Basil Rhodes, Steward Lori Daly, Sennachie Dorrie Scherer, Scribe Graeme Coakley, Governors at Large: Nathan Irvine, Maria Rhodes-Labrecque, and Elly Coakley.

### **Report & Announcements**

St. Andrews Day – scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 pm at Evergreen Valley College.

Toys for Tots – scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Harry's Hofbrau, San Jose.

### **Adjournment**

8:07 pm – Graeme moved to adjourn, Dorrie seconded, all in favor.

### **Entertainment**

Halloween Party – music, games, costume contest and prizes. Thanks to those who helped with the preparation, decoration and clean up.



# “OUTLANDER” TV SERIES INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

SBSS Member John Ralston



The disastrous attempt by Prince Charles Edward Stuart (“Bonnie Prince Charlie”), to restore the Stuart Monarchy to the throne of Great Britain in 1745 has, like the American Civil War, continually inspired fictional treatment. Starz TV series [Outlander](#), based on the books by American author Diana Gabaldon, is the most recent exploitation of the storied prince’s doomed rebellion. The books and series begin just after

World War II as English wartime nurse Claire Beauchamp Randall and her husband Frank Randall, a dedicated historian, journey to Inverness on holiday, both to rekindle their romance, which had suffered from their separation during the war, and to research Frank’s ancestry. In local church archives Frank learns of an ancestor, Captain Jonathan (“Black Jack”) Randall, who commanded British troops in the Highlands during the abortive rebellion. When Claire has tea at the local manse, we get a hint that something will happen when a clairvoyant reads her palm and tea leaves, and makes strange predictions. The mystery heightens in the book when Frank Randall sees a Scottish Highlander in full regalia outside their hotel in a rainstorm, apparently staring up at Claire. He speaks to the person, who simply walks past him and disappears.

Walking along a road outside Inverness, Claire spies a hilltop with an ancient circle of standing stones, like the Standing Stones of Stenness in Orkney. Going into the circle, she runs her hand up a stone, becomes dizzy, hears strange sounds, and falls faint. When she revives and goes out of the circle the road is gone, but she hears shooting and shouting, and sees what appear to be actors costumed as 18<sup>th</sup>-century British troops chasing Highlanders. Thinking she has somehow stumbled onto a movie set, she is shocked to encounter a British captain of Dragoons who is a dead ringer for her husband Frank; the very captain Black Jack Randall about whom Frank learned. Realizing that she has somehow been transported to mid-18<sup>th</sup>-century Scotland, Claire is rescued from her British captors by Scots and taken to the castle of Clan MacKenzie, where her 20<sup>th</sup>-century medical skills earn her status as “healer.” Inevitably, romance enters when Claire meets and treats young Jamie

Fraser, falls in love, has wild sex with him, and marries him, which in her own words stamps her “bigamist and adulteress.”

To the British, however, Jamie is an outlaw, and the first series ends with Jamie in prison where he is sodomized by Captain Randall, and then escapes with Claire’s help. Claire tells Jamie the truth about herself, and warns him that Charles’s rebellion is doomed and will cause extermination of the Highland way of life. In the second series they go to France, where Charles raises funds for his invasion, confident he will be welcomed by citizens. Failing to thwart his plans, Claire and Jamie return to Scotland and reluctantly join Charles.

*Outlander* requires considerable suspension of disbelief, and, it seems to me, it is achieved through production values and casting. Exteriors in Scotland are appropriately cloudy, with few breaks of sunshine. Interiors are dark, even gloomy. Exteriors in France by contrast are sunny, and interiors bright. Costuming is superb, with highland woolens (and weapons) contrasting with cont.



British bright red uniforms and glamorous French finery. Casting could hardly be bettered. As Claire, lanky Irish model-turned-actress Catriona Balfe is both strong-willed and romantic. Scottish actor Sam Heughan makes Jamie a stereotypical Highland warrior, muscular and determined – a great romantic lead. English actor Tobias Menzies deftly plays the challenging dual roles of Claire’s husband Frank, who is marginally sympathetic, and Frank’s sadistic ancestor Black Jack Randall. Other French, English, and Scottish cast are convincing. In all, a series well worth watching, even by Sassenachs.



## SBSS MOVIE NIGHT

### HAVING A HAPPY HIATUS TO HONOR HOLIDAYS

John Dewing

As usual there will be no Movie Nights November thru January.

I would like those who have been going to Movie Night, to drop me a line ([newsletter@southbayscots.org](mailto:newsletter@southbayscots.org)) as to how they liked the two Horatio Hornblower movies. Do you want to see the concluding episodes next season and if yes, all together or spread out?



**41<sup>ST</sup> ST. ANDREWS DAY**  
**AT**  
**EVERGREEN VALLEY**  
**COLLEGE**  
Andy McFarlin



It's Saint Andrew's Day out at [Evergreen Valley College](http://Evergreen Valley College)!

Come one, come all, for the 41<sup>st</sup> annual celebration,

It's free. It's fun. It's entertaining, and you can take a part in the Scottish country dancing led and instructed by Cathy Allen, beginners will have no problem. This event has become increasingly popular!

The Scottish American Military Society, led by Fran McVey, precedes the Stewart Tartan Pipes and Drums followed by assorted students and faculty of the college and past Supervisor Pete McHugh in his loud McCloud tartan.

Social Science professor Eric Narvesson will provide a brief history of the Celts and their relation to the clan system.

College students will present Scottish songs and verse. Our very own Father Basil Rhodes and his friend John Simmons will provide Scottish songs accompanied on the guitar.

The Ministry of Food will be on hand to provide mouth watering bangers and Celtic rolls to sate our appetites.


The Celtic Shoppe from Campbell will also have a selection of their enticing wares for your interest and perusal.

Come join in the fun and entertainment. 12 noon adjacent to the Gulo II Student Center. Free parking. Should the weather be inclement, the event will be held in the Gulo II Student Center

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Scotsman Vacation: A man who stays home and lets his mind wander

Presented by



**A Scottish Christmas Concert**

**Free**

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Saratoga**

**Saturday  
December 3, 2016  
3:00 PM**

[www.stewarttartan.com](http://www.stewarttartan.com)

Bagpipes & Drums  
Scottish Fiddlers  
Brass Ensemble  
Highland Dancing  
Carols

Guest appearance by:  
Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers  
Holy Cross Kings Brass  
San Jose School of  
Highland Dancing


St. Andrew's Episcopal  
Church  
13601 Saratoga Avenue  
Saratoga, California  
T: 408-867-3493  
(corner of Fruitvale Ave  
& Saratoga Ave)

This is a popular concert.  
We recommend carpooling  
and allowing enough  
time to park.

Free will donations  
gratefully accepted.

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit  
corporation, so donations may be  
tax deductible.

San Jose School of Highland Dancing Presents:  
**The Scottish Extravaganza**  
in



**Nov. 19, 2016  
7:00 pm**

**Featuring:**  
Scottish Highland & Country Dancers  
Solo Piper: Bruce Cotter & The Macintosh Pipe Band  
Scottish Tea Room, Homebaked Goodies, and Raffle

**Location:**  
Sacred Heart School Gymnasium  
13716 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga, CA

**Tickets and Information: [Sanjosehighlanddance.com](http://Sanjosehighlanddance.com)**

**SOUTH BAY SCOTTISH SOCIETY**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FORM**

Please complete this form and return it with your check, made out to: **SBSS**

**Mail to:** SBSS Membership, 1020 E. Empire St., San Jose, CA 95112

**Questions:** Lori Daly (408) 644-0649 or [steward@southbayscots.org](mailto:steward@southbayscots.org)

**Membership Dues:** Individual and Immediate Household - \$18 annually Jan-Dec

Save \$15 by prepaying membership dues for 5 years for \$75

New  Renewal

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday m/d: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to help?

Fund Raising  
 Publicity

Membership  
 Social Events

Website  
 Newsletter

Activities  
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 SBSS Booth

*The purpose of the South Bay Scottish Society is to stimulate and sustain an interest in Scotland; to provide education regarding its history, traditions and culture; to bring together people of Scottish heritage; to promote good will between its members and the general public; and to perform such charitable good works as may be reasonable and appropriate.*

South Bay Scottish Society  
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