The Caledonian

Nov-Dec 2026

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Upcoming through January 2027

The first of our busy finish to 2026 is the popular **Scottish Hero series.** Each program has identified individuals known & unknown to the Scottish community. We have been amazed at the number of Scots all over the World who have made life easier for everyone, discovered new scientific theories, and became famous in theater, movies and politics. To name just a few, in 2025, Chieftain McEwan presented the "First Ministers of the Scottish Government." Josh Beem told us about Elizabeth McHutcheson Sinclair, who purchased the Hawaii island of Ni'ihau in 1864, and Kevin Bogan presented "Robert the Bruce, Outlaw & King of Scotland."

On Saturday, November 21st, the Scottish Heroes XVI will include 2-3 new heroes to learn about & to celebrate. This will be **via Zoom** to enable as many members and friends to join as possible. Kevin Bogan will be sending out the link for the Zoom before the event. Have you come across someone who you are interested in learning more about? Or do you want to research someone but don't have an idea who? Call Chieftain McEwan at 808-538-7707. He can help with the person and ideas to help your research go smoothly.

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Arlene Holmes-Henderson in Hawaii December 18



Arlene Holmes-Henderson (*left with Chieftain McEwan)* came to Hawaii in 2012 - 2013 to study the success of the Hawaiian language immersion program at the University of Hawaii Manoa and apply those lessons to her work supporting the Scottish government's efforts to revive the Gaelic. Many of you may remember a food contest we held that Arlene agreed to be a judge for along with member Jeremy McOuat. Members had to create a dish combining Hawaiian elements with Scottish shepherd's pie. **On Friday, December 18,** she will be speaking on how progress is going in Scotland because of her time at UH. We will meet at the Hokua condo (1288 Ala Moana Blvd.) in the Ocean Terrace at 6:00. Please bring a pupu or dish to share and we'll provide the drinks & all utensils.

Contact Susan at susanmack1@mac.com for reservations and any other needed information.

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Hogmanay January 2, 2027, Co-sponsored by The Caledonian Society and SASH

Save the date to join fellow Scots welcoming in 2027 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Capitol Place condominium party room 1200 Queen Emma St. More info will be forthcoming.

Robert Burns: *Burns Speaks* Sunday, January 24 Oahu Country Club

Reservations are now open for the Robert Burns Supper. See the reservation form and further information included in this newsletter. As we all know, prices go up every year. As always, we try to encourage donations to help keep the costs of this event to a minimum. If you'd like to add a donation to the Caledonian Society, please visit our website www.scotsinhawaii.org. The Caledonian Society is a U.S. nonprofit entity that is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and allows donors to claim tax-deductible contributions.

Chieftain's Column: *From the Craig*



As we wind down the calendar year, I am happy to say that the events we've had since September have been enjoyed by everyone who has attended. Our next Scottish Heroes presentations are on November 21st and I hope there will be more members who will show us their talents and honor their Scottish Hero.

I am also happy that The Caledonian Society and The Saint Andrew Society are partnering to hold a post-Hogmanay ceilidh on January 2, 2027. Members from both organizations can enjoy a fun time. Watch for more information to come soon.

Since we are at the end of the year, I am repeating what I said in my last communication. This is a time to be sure you renew your member status by paying the annual fee. For those with Life Member status, we encourage support not only with attendance, but also with tax-deductible donations. Slàinte, Bruce

Member News

November Birthdays Jill Ackerman, Holly Braffet, Linda Campbell, Elspeth Kerr, Jim Redmond, Karen Thompson, and Helen Wynn.

December Birthdays Reiko Harris, Aric Harris, Susan MacKinnon, Larry Phillips, Jane Redmond, and Mark Reed.

Note: If your birthday is in November or December, and you don't see your name listed here, we probably don't have it in our database. We want to celebrate your special month too, so please contact Kevin Campbell Bogan at 808-778-4697 or by email at kevin.bogan@gmail.com.



Flowers of the Forest

It is with utmost sadness that we report the passing of **Lillian Cunningham** on November 2nd, a long-time stalwart member of our Council and co-editor of *The Caledonian* newsletter. A member since 1971, Lillian was an active leader and Life Member of The Caledonian Society. Her commitment to our Society cannot be overstated and she will be sorely missed. Our condolences to her husband Chieftain McEwan, her Mainland family, and many friends in Hawaii.



Recap of Picnic on Sept. 27

A windy evening greeted members for the picnic at Hokua. With hair and napkins flying we enjoyed getting to know new and old members. An interesting moment was learning about Life Member **Dr. Kalani Brady**. The family arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1623, (four of whom helped found Harvard in 1636), they settled in Mystic, Connecticut four centuries ago and came to Hawai'i as missionaries and seamen starting in the 1830's (Dr. Brady was born in the family home in Mystic, CN). Dr. Brady's full name is Stephen Richard Pendleton Kalaniki'eki'eKeli'ikanaka'oleaipolani Brady. Three hundred fifty (350) family members have lived in West Kaua'i for about 800 years.



Dr. Brady shown in center between his wife Jun Look & Carol Anne Gordon.

Auld Handsel Monday: Scotland's Forgotten Day of Gifts

By Dr. Anton Anderssen

There was a time in Scotland when the anticipation of a gift belonged less to Christmas morning than to the first Monday of January, when children, servants, and working families might receive some modest token of goodwill. This was Handsel Monday, an observance whose disappearance reveals much about Scottish society, and about the enduring human desire to begin each year upon terms of kindness.

The word handsel, descended from Old English and Old Norse, signified a gift bestowed at the commencement of an undertaking, ordinarily with the hope of good fortune. A coin placed in a new purse, or the first money received by a tradesman, carried this agreeable expectation. Its significance lay less in its value than in the sentiment accompanying it.

On 2 January 1671, the Scottish lawyer John Lauder recorded giving his wife four silver dollars, coins then circulating in Scotland, to distribute among those expecting their customary handsels. His matter-of-fact entry reveals a society in which generosity formed part of the understood obligations between persons of differing circumstances.

Such gifts frequently passed from employer to servant, from elder to child, and from those possessing greater means to those whose labour sustained their comfort. They affirmed distinctions of rank while permitting expressions of genuine regard, for benevolence and social authority were not necessarily strangers to one another.

Handsel Monday acquired particular importance through Scotland's uneasy relationship with Christmas. In 1575, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland rejected the observance of traditional holy days, while Parliament abolished the courts' Yule vacation in 1640. Scottish festivity nevertheless endured through Hogmanay, the celebration of New Year's Eve, and the customary generosity of Handsel Monday.

When Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, eleven dates were omitted from September. Communities retaining the older Julian reckoning celebrated Auld Handsel Monday on the first Monday after 12 January.

In nineteenth-century Dunfermline, the holiday brought torchlight, sounding horns, market stalls, music, and abundant hospitality. Recalling these occasions in 1898, former magistrate William Inglis described how handloom weavers laboured with extraordinary diligence to afford a kebbock, or whole cheese, a black bun, and something special to drink. For these families, Handsel Monday had been the great festival of the year.

Yet changing times gradually diminished its importance. In 1863, a Dunfermline factory transferred its holiday to the beginning of January, reflecting the growing influence of industrial schedules and railway travel. Victorian Christmas customs likewise gained favour, although Christmas Day would not become a Scottish public holiday until 1958.

The passing of Handsel Monday invites no reproach against a changing world. Customs must accommodate the circumstances of successive generations. Yet the image of a modest coin placed in an expectant hand retains a quiet dignity, reminding us that the worth of a gift has never depended entirely upon its price, nor the warmth of human regard upon the abundance from which it springs.



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Consolidated Celtic Calendar

https://goo.gl/mCnvsU

Recap of ~~spooky stories~~ in pictures





Jill Ackerman enacting *Thomas the Rhyming Prophet (he could never lie)*

Jill changed costumes 3 times.

Claudia Parker *The Cremation of Sam McGee.*





Back: Bruce, Brian, Jill, Stan, Louann, Scott, Claudia, Mary, Susan M., Delia, & Janice. Front: Jackie, Larry, Susan A., Jamie, & Lisa.



Lisa Gomes
Tam O'Shanter



Mary Fraser
Haunted Houses



Susan Anderson
The Laird's Dog