



July-Aug 2021

# The Caledonian

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## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING



Our Annual Meeting was held via Zoom on June 19<sup>th</sup> with about 25 members joining. There was a brief business meeting where Chieftain McEwan went over the finances, membership, and the year in review. The slate for the Caledonian Council was presented and unanimous consent was given for the following three-year terms: Bruce McEwan (Chieftain), Susan MacKinnon (Vice Chieftain), Kevin Campbell Bogan (Membership Secretary), Susan Anderson (Recording Secretary), Larry Phillips (Director). Karen Thompson (Director) has agreed to finish the term of Brian Bellah who had other obligations to attend to. Annual reports of the Council are available on the website [www.scotsinhawaii.org](http://www.scotsinhawaii.org).



Following the business meeting, we were excited to again welcome singer and entertainer, Bill Mullen, zooming in from Florida to tell us about how whisky came to be in the different regions of Scotland. Interspersed with songs of the areas, Bill told how the Dalriadic Scots came to Scotland from Ireland in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries, bringing with them the secrets of distilling whisky. Then he led us on a visual tour of various distilleries around Scotland. At the end of the meeting the Chieftain announced that the Caledonian Council had decided to award Bill an honorary membership in the Society. Bill seemed pleased and grateful.

The Caledonian Society of Hawaii \* PO Box 4164 \* Honolulu, HI 96812-4164 \* [www.scotsinhawaii.org](http://www.scotsinhawaii.org)

## Chieftain's Column: From the Craig



Our new Society year for 2021-2022 has begun and the Council will be meeting in early August to plan events for the year. If you have ideas of what programs you would like to see please let me know. Until we believe it is COVID-safe to have in-person meetings, we will stay virtual via Zoom. However, at the first opportunity we will be back to an in-person program with a potluck event, maybe even a classic soup supper. We will see what happens in the next few months. Planning for a live Burns Night 2022 has started with looking at potential venues. By January 2022, we should all be ready to break out our tartan finery and socialize like a true Burns Night should be celebrated. My invitation to expand member participation in our events is open again. Present an educational idea that you would like to share with members or research a Scot who you want to add to our

Scottish Heroes gallery. There are choices that support our Society's mission on our website [www.scotsinhawaii.org](http://www.scotsinhawaii.org). Either via Zoom or in-person, I look forward to seeing many of our members at our upcoming events. As soon as the schedule comes out, please put the dates on your calendar. Slàinte, Bruce [bemacewan@gmail.com](mailto:bemacewan@gmail.com)

### Member News

**July Birthdays.** Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Bruce Bonbright, Shannon Brady, KC Collins, Sheryl Delsol, Chuck Jamison, Donald MacKintosh, Susan Melow, Michael McIntosh, Jeremy McOuat, Brenda Reichel, Kent Reinker, Kit Smith and Rev. Dr. Frances Wiebenga.

**August Birthdays** Kevin Campbell Bogan, Lois Anne Gordon, Christopher Haig, Jean Jaycox, Nancy Smiley, Rita Thompson and Rose Mary Thompson.

**Note:** If your birthday is in July or August 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 778-4697 or by email at [kevin.bogan@email.com](mailto:kevin.bogan@email.com)

**Membership Renewal Fee** In 2020 the Society Council voted to forgive dues for the 2020-2021 fiscal year (from July 1 to June 30 each year). It is now time to renew the membership fee for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This fee allows the Society to underwrite events (especially for guest performers like Bill Mullen) and provide monies for the storage of our many books, event supplies, and archives of the history of the Society. Please see our website [www.scotsinhawaii.org](http://www.scotsinhawaii.org) to use a credit card or mail your \$30 check to: The Caledonian Society, P.O. Box 4164, Honolulu, HI 96812-4164.

**Tory Laitila** (2021 Scot of the Year) is Honolulu Museum of Art's (HoMA) new curator of the Historic Arts of Hawaii collection, an expansion of his current role in textiles and costumes. Laitila joined HoMA in 2019 after a 17-year career with the Honolulu Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts. Prior to that, he served as the assistant curator at the Hawaiian Mission Houses. Congratulations Tory!



### Flowers of the Forest



We are saddened to learn of the passing of two members, Randy Jaycox and Kathy Titchen.

**Randal (Randy) E. Jaycox, Jr.** passed away on June 28, 2021, at the age of 91. He was a retired Naval aviator Captain who flew the Douglas A3D "Skywarrior." He and his wife Jean, enjoyed a passion for travel, and when home in Hawaii, were active in many community organizations. Thank you for your service, Randy, and our condolences to the Jaycox family.

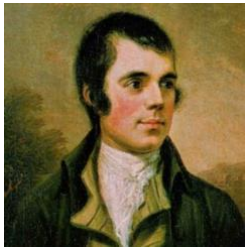
**Katharine MG Titchen** passed away in October 2020 at the age of 79. She was a well-known local journalist who graduated with honors from Brown University with a B.A. in English in 1963. Over her career she worked for the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, *Money Magazine*, and *PBS Hawaii*. She was selected for an East-West Center Gannett Fellowship, and earned an M.A. in History with a concentration in Southeast Asian Studies at UH. Kathy could be counted on to help with all of the activities of the Caledonian Society. We extend our sincere condolences to her family.

## *A Proud & Rich History*

*For the benefit of new members, the following Society history is reproduced (with minor editing) from the program of the Golden Gala, held on August 22, 2015.*

**The Caledonian Society of Hawaii** was founded in 1965 by a group of friends of Scottish birth or descent led by Alex MacGregor, who became the Society's first chieftain. The charter of the Society was registered on August 25, 1965.

The Society's purpose was to celebrate and preserve Scottish culture. For the past 56 years, the Society, under a dozen Chieftains and with the help of dedicated council members and a supportive membership has carried out this mission successfully and proudly, even in the pandemic shutdown.



One original objective was to celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns (*shown left*), Scotland's National Bard. This has been done unfailingly every year in January with formal toasts at a grand Burns Night. A highlight of the Jan. 2021 Burns celebration was the home delivery service of red haggis bags for the virtual celebration, and the traditional program led by guest musician, Bill Mullen. Other Scottish traditional days have also been celebrated, such as St. Andrew's Day and Hogmanay (Scottish New Year's Eve). Especially memorable was the Hogmanay of 1987, when a storm made the roads impassable and kilted celebrants spent the night in a Red Cross shelter at Kaiser High School.

Another original objective was to welcome Scottish visitors to the Islands. Caledonians have greeted members of the royal family, including Queen Elizabeth in 1970, and Charles and Diana, the Prince and Princess of Wales, in 1985. More recently the Society has helped to welcome talented Scottish musicians and other performers such as championship fiddler Elke Baker in 1996 and '97, world famous fiddler Alasdair Fraser in 2000, and singer Isla St. Clair, whose 2011 concert is still talked about. Piper Jim Motherwell entertained at Burns Night in 2010 and at the Society Gala in 2015, and actor John Cairney interpreted Burns in 2011. In 2011, Lord Ailsa, Hereditary Chief of Clan

Kennedy, was the featured guest at the Highland Festival.

The Society has also supported Scottish culture by encouraging sister groups. Scottish Country Dancing was done informally by members of the Society in the early years, but the arrival of David and Mary Brandon in Hawaii in 1972 led to the founding of the local branch of Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, which continues to thrive.

Bagpipers were eagerly encouraged by the Society, and a series of bagpipe bands received Society support in the early years. In 2015 The Celtic Pipes and Drums celebrated thirty years of pipe band music in the islands at the same Golden Gala which also celebrated fifty years for The Caledonian Society. Particularly memorable in the history of piping in Hawaii was teacher and Pipe Major Agnes (Aggie) Wallace, who was celebrated at the 2015 Society Annual Meeting.

The Society joined with other Scottish groups to found and support The Hawaiian-Scottish Association to put on the Hawaiian Scottish Festival and Highland Games every year since 1981 except for 2020, when the pandemic shut down all such activities. Visitors for the Festival have included world-class athletes, pipe bands from several countries, and Highland dancers from Scotland.

Increasingly, as the Society has matured, its mission has focused on educating Society members and the larger community about Scotland, Scottish traditions and culture, and the contributions of Scots to the Islands. One major effort was *The Story of Scots in Hawaii* project, begun in 1979, including interviews with Scottish-born residents of Hawaii and their descendants to record family life stories as oral histories. Thanks to the talented leadership of Helen Wynn and Rhoda Hackler, these stories were edited and published, along with other chapters, as *The Story of Scots in Hawaii*, which has become the standard reference work on this subject. This book, published in 2000, is a major accomplishment of the Caledonian Society. If you haven't gotten your copy of *The Scots in Hawaii*, please contact Bruce McEwan at [bemacewan@gmail.com](mailto:bemacewan@gmail.com).

*History continued on page 4*

### ***History continued***

The Scottish-Hawaiian Princess Ka'iulani, daughter of Princess Miriam Likelike and Scottish-born Archibald Cleghorn, is remembered annually with a sunset tribute. Her friend, Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson, and Scottish botanist David Douglas, who died here mysteriously, are also remembered with occasional events. Since 1988 we annually recognize a contemporary "Scot of the Year," someone who has embraced Scottish culture in Hawaii and contributed to the wider Hawaii community.

For many years, the Society has offered a grant, now called the Scottish Education Research Grant (SERG) to support a young person in a major project on Scotland or Scottish culture. Grantees have participated in archeological digs, studied glass blowing in Scotland, participated in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and worked on organic farms. One recent grantee was a student linguist studying the Gaelic language.

In 2008 after lobbying help from Society members, the Hawaii State Legislature established April 16 each year as Tartan Day and recognized the locally designed Hawaii Tartan, which has been registered in Scotland.

Individually and as a group, Caledonians continue to support the *Falls of Clyde*, the historic ship built in Glasgow in 1878, now berthed in Honolulu, and formerly the site of Caledonian Chieftain's Nights.

During the past 50 years, the folks in Hawaii have seen public evidence of Scots in many ways including parades such as the Kamehameha Day Parade in 1965, the U.S. Bicentennial parade in 1976, a pre-games parade of our own in 1990 as part of Scottish Heritage Week and a Heritage Festival at the Mission Houses. Demonstrations and exhibits have been arranged at the Honolulu Academy of Arts (now HoMA), at the Chinese Cultural Plaza and at various libraries and schools. The Society also helped to refurbish and rededicate the bust of Andrew Carnegie in the Hawaii State Library.

We often cooperate in parades, picnics, and activities with other local Celtic organizations, the St. Andrews Society and the Friends of St. Patrick,

including arranging for proclamations by government leaders of Celtic Days in Hawaii.

Our events, programs and ceilidhs have Scottish themes including the Scottish Heroes virtual events throughout 2021. This newsletter, *The Caledonian*, communicates with the members. We continue to learn, to teach, and to have good times with our friends, the other members, as we celebrate and preserve Scottish culture in this community.

### ***In June of 2012, The Caledonian***

reported on Scotland's Cats: *Last of the Scottish Wildcats*. It was a 60-minute DVD from Coffee



Photographer, Laurie Campbell

Films that introduced a unique animal, rarely seen and fiercely independent, the Scottish wildcat (*felix silvestris grampia*). We learned that they were endangered, with only around 400 pure wildcats left in Scotland. The July 2021 issue of *Scotland* magazine updated us on the wildcats. The organization, Saving Wildcats, has introduced its first cat for release. A young female cat named Nell is hoped to have kittens that will be released into the Scottish Highlands soon. Fifteen more cats are expected to arrive at the Saving Wildcats project next year. *To support the project, visit [savingwildcats.org.uk](http://savingwildcats.org.uk).*

***A Scottish pilot*** was at the center of Sir Richard Branson's historic trip to the edge of space. David Mackay, who grew up in Helmsdale, Sutherland, was chief pilot for Virgin Galactic's Unity test mission. The vehicle has landed safely back on earth, following the flight above New Mexico on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup> afternoon. Speaking before the trip, Mr. Mackay said he wanted to make commercial space flights accessible to as many people as possible.

*BBC.com, July 11, 2021*