



## The Event of the Season

SAS-W Celebrates the Life and Legacy of Robert Burns

By Tami Schumann

Besides April 6, is there a more sacred date on the Scots calendar than January 25? Our Burns Night celebration of the great Bard's 266th birthday was held in grand style on January 25th and the Colonial Heritage Club where we observed all the time-honored traditions and festivities that go into a proper Burns birthday party.

Our blood was warmed and hearts stirred by the sounds of the Williamsburg Pipes and drums which processed in with Scotland, the Brave and presented a brief entr'acte of Scottish and American tunes to begin the night. This was followed by the invocation by the Reverend Michael Thompson, and Pledge of Allegiance, before turning our attention to club business.

John Scott, Master of Ceremonies, did a tremendous job of keeping the proceedings timebound and on task (always appreciated) as he introduced the presenters at each step of the way. First was Jerry Lelansky, our outgoing President, who welcomed new members David and Laura Hay of Buckingham, VA and Dan and Susan Gardner of Gladstone, VA. Then we all saluted our 2024 Scot of the Year Mary Murphy, who was rewarded for her longtime



Burns' Night Planning Committee (L to R) Doug Boller, Lianne Boller, Mary Murphy, John Scott, Vicki Scott, Cindy Matheson, Ed Matheson, Irene Lelansky, Jerry Lelansky (Missing: Russ Madigan, and Johanna and Michael Thompson)

service and committee work. Jerry then transferred the Crook and Medal of leadership to 2025 President Sherri Cornoni, who had the solemn honor of presenting the "Flowers of the Forest" in remembrance of the members we lost in 2024, which included a recitation of Burns' Epitaph on a Friend and a solo playing of the tune Flowers of the Forest by Lynn Newcomer.

And then the party started ...

Jim Murphy offered up the Selkirk Grace and the first course of cock-a-leekie soup was served. After a brief interlude, the doors swung open, the pipes began, and the solemn procession of the Guest of Honor commenced. Around the room they marched, giving all a chance to bask in the Presence: Piper, Sword Bearer, Haggis, Toast Maker, and Whisky Bearer. (Lynn Newcomer, Ross Madigan, Chef Syndia Richardson, Douglas Boller and Doug Burns, respectively.) And unlike



Dancing the Gay Gordons.



other Burns Suppers, ours gets a dramatic Address to the Haggis by Doug Boller in the Mother Tongue, as though handed down from Rabbe Burns himself! We enthusiastically toasted the Honored Guest and payment of the Piper before our own haggis (with neeps and tatties) and the rest of our meal was put before us.

When our appetites were sated with enough substance to buffer our whisky consumption, the next round of toasts began.

Ed Matheson had the honor of presenting The Immortal Memory this year before the traditional toasting began, first to the President (Ron Carnegie), the King (Roger Gosden), and the Troops (Russ Madigan), followed by a reading of the Burns poem Corn Rigs, by Richard Schumann. Tami Schumann toasted The Land We Live In and Johanna Thompson saluted The Land of Cakes and Ale. And the highlight of them all was the Toast to the Lassies with its response, most charmingly presented by Ed and Cindy Matheson.

The final business was the drawing for winners of the whisky raffle and Doug Boller leading us in Auld Lang Syne.

It seems likely that the young waitstaff shared private laughter at the sight of children of the 60s and 70s (or is that children in their 60s and 70s?) getting down and funky to the tunes of KC and the Sunshine Band, ABBA, Three Dog Night and Chicago, but we had plenty of fun capping the night off with some dancing. The Burns Night Committee thanks all who worked on Burns night planning, all those who conducted and contributed to the Whisky Raffle and Silent Auction, and Russ Madigan, for providing AV support and acting as DJ. Without you, it never would have come together so beautifully.



**Top:** A performance by the Williamsburg Pipes & Drums sets a lively tone for the night's festivities.

**Middle:** Doug Boller addresses the haggis.

**Bottom:** Tami and Richard Schumann chat with Ron Carnegie.

**Left:** Jim Murphy with Wayne & Guri Glass in their clan finery.

**THANK YOU TERRI CORDLE FOR THE GIFT OF PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY!**

## 2025 SAS-W BOARD & OFFICERS

The following members were voted in to fill 5 open seats on the Board of Directors at the November 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM):

**Bruce Buchanan**   **Anna-Marie Cox**   **Wayne Glass**  
**Sherri Cornoni**   **Bob Davis**

The total Board of Directors for 2025 is comprised of twelve members, and includes the above newly elected members as well as:

**Jan Hruz**   **Tami Schumann**   **Vicki Scott**  
**Jerry Lelansky**   **John Scott**   **Susan White**  
**Jimmy McCarter**

All board members serve a 3-year term, unless an unexpected vacancy occurs.

During the December BOD meeting, the following board members were elected as officers for a one-year term, ending on December 31, 2025:

**President:**   **Sherri Cornoni** (replacing Jerry Lelansky)  
**Vice President:**   **Wayne Glass** (replacing Tim Cordle)  
**Treasurer:**   **John Scott** (re-elected)  
**Secretary:**   **Jimmy McCarter** (re-elected)

# Welcome New MEMBERS

October - December 2024

As of December 31, 2024,  
our membership total  
climbed to **150!**

**Ann Campbell**  
(Associate)

**Dan Gardner**  
(Active)

**Susan Gardner**  
(Active)

**David Hay**  
(Active)

**Laura Hay**  
(Active)

## 2025 EVENT CALENDAR

Unless otherwise indicated, email info request to:  
[secretary.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com)

### JANUARY

**25 Burns' Night  
Celebration**  
Colonial Heritage Club

### FEBRUARY

**27 Pub Night**  
Anna's Brick Oven

### MARCH

**27 Pub Night**  
Anna's Brick Oven

### APRIL

**6 Tartan Day Food Drive**  
**6 Spring Kirkin' of the Tartans**  
Christ Church, Weems VA

**24 Pub Night**  
Anna's Brick Oven

### MAY

**22 Pub Night**  
Anna's Brick Oven

### JUNE

**22 Pub Night**  
Anna's Brick Oven

### JULY

**26 Pub Night**  
Anna's Brick Oven

### AUGUST

**28 Pub Night**  
Anna's Brick Oven

### SEPTEMBER

**25 Pub Night**  
Anna's Brick Oven

### OCTOBER

**23 Pub Night**  
Anna's Brick Oven  
(Halloween Theme!)

### NOVEMBER

**TBD Annual General  
Meeting (AGM)**

**TBD Autumn Kirkin' of  
the Tartans**

**30 St. Andrews Day  
Food Drive**

### DECEMBER

**TBD CW Christmas  
Parade**

**TBD Christmas Luncheon &  
Ceilidh**



If you haven't joined us for our monthly pub night, what are you waiting for?





# President's Message

*Lads and Lassies,*

*Please join me in congratulating Jerry Lelansky on concluding two years as President of the Society. His service is greatly appreciated. Bravo!*

*It is an honor to reprise the role of President of the Society for 2025. The first time around (2016) seems like an age ago! While many things have changed, some remain the same and chief among them is the desire to explore and celebrate our shared heritage. In pursuit of that, the Board of Directors has several events planned for the members during the ensuing months.*

*Burns Night was celebrated on the birthday of Robert Burns, January 25, 2025. To the committee, led by Vicki and John Scott, and all members that assisted in making this a grand success, tapadh leibh (thank you)! It was truly an evening to be remembered. I'd like to extend my particular thanks to Russ Madigan, Quartermaster, who keeps the Society accoutrements organized, transports them to and fro and then stows them safely away again after many of our events. Also, to Liane Boller who prepared the lovely Flowers of the Forest slide presentation.*

*Most of our events are open to family, friends and potential members so share the love of our heritage and invite those who may be interested. The full list is on the previous page. I hope to see you all at as many of the upcoming events as you can attend. The more the merrier!*

*Yours Aye,  
Sherri Cornoni  
Clans Campbell, Bruce, Murray, Rose*



SAS-W Presidents (left to right) Howard Topp, Ed Matheson, Jack Rouzie, Sherri Cornoni, Douglas Boller, Jerry Lelansky, Marshall Thomas

**T**he Society is looking for a member to become an Archivist. We have decades of material that needs to be sorted and digitalized when appropriate. If you are interested, please contact Sherri directly by email: [cornonir@gmail.com](mailto:cornonir@gmail.com).

## The Saint Andrews Society of Williamsburg Awards \$2000 Scholarship

The Society recently awarded a Ken Graham Educational Scholarship to Adele Stolovitz of New York City, and a student at the University of Cambridge. Adele completed her undergraduate thesis in 2020 at Barnard College, Columbia University, entitled "For the Cause: English and Scottish Jacobitism, 1719 to 1745," an exploration into Jacobite political and social culture.

Adele has come to appreciate how Scottish culture so strongly affects modern Western and American cultures. In her graduate dissertation, she will focus on Jacobite women; thousands of letters survive from those who endured the culture, politics, loyalties, and religions of the 18th century and risked death for the treason of communicating with exiled Stewarts.

*SAS-W's Ken Graham scholarships ([www.scotsofwmbg.org/grants](http://www.scotsofwmbg.org/grants)) are awarded annually to individuals studying Scottish culture, history, and traditions from institutions of higher learning.*

*Educational Grants are awarded to individuals seeking advanced instruction at schools or training courses in piping, drumming, Clarsach (harp) Highland Dance, Gaelic language instruction or other Scottish related courses of study taught by a qualified teacher.*

## HONORING FALLEN SCOTTISH TROOPS AT YORKTOWN

Members from the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg (SAS-W), along with the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums (WPAD), participated in the Oct 18 Scottish remembrance ceremony at Yorktown, Virginia. We were invited to participate as a local Scottish organization.

Several NATO representatives, including the Commodore of the Royal Navy, Canadian National Liaison Representative to NATO and his Deputy, were in attendance. Jerri Marr, the superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park, and other National Park representatives were also present.

Ms. Marr hopes that next year's event will be larger and hopes to combine the Scottish Remembrance ceremony with the 250th Anniversary of America's Independence celebration in 2026. Our participation gives our society and WPAD a chance to participate in the 250th anniversary celebrations.

Jerry Lelansky

# Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg Annual General Meeting

The Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg held its 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 2, 2024 in Bruton Parish's Lewis Hall.

The Williamsburg Pipes and Drums welcomed attendees at 1:00PM with a 15-minute concert before the meeting. President Jerry Lelansky opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and introducing 10 new SAS-W members for 2024. WPAD and SASW member Robert Montgomery piped in new members Ron Carnegie, Mark and Ann Campbell, Demetrius Hollis, Linda

Eckard, Don Morris, Donna Peak and Jerry White. New members Marjann Caldwell and Pamela Leigh were unable to attend.

Following lunch, Jerry called the meeting to order at 2:15PM. He noted that our membership numbers are strong, with 147 members; however, we need to keep in mind that the Society needs to attract younger members (45-60 years of age), to keep the Society growing and vigorous. He thanked the five outgoing members of the Board of Directors: Vice President Tim Cordle, Bruce Schoch, Clay McEldowney, Irene Lelansky, and Dan Cloutier.

The Minutes of the November 2023 AGM were approved, as well as the Treasurer's Report.

Jimmy McCarter, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reviewed six nominees for five open seats on the Board of Directors for 2025-2028. The five voted in for the Board

(by active SAS-W members) were: Sherri Cornoni, Bob Davis, Bruce Buchanan, Wayne Glass, Anna-Marie Cox, and Wayne Craigmeyer.

A proposal to increase dues for 2025 by \$5.00 across the board was passed, after John Scott explained that the Society's web site was outdated, and a committee to review



New members are piped in at the AGM held on November 2, 2024.

update options had determined that it needs a complete rebuild, due to aging code/architecture. A dues increase would help cover the expense of engaging a professional to design and create a new site for the Society.

Jerry announced that the 2024 Scot of the Year (SOTY) will be awarded to Mary Murphy at the January 2025 Burns Night event. Before adjourning, Jerry presented a letter to Assistant Secretary for Membership Vicki Scott and Treasurer John Scott, in recognition of their unwavering support for the Society during two years on the Board.

Following adjournment at 2:30 p.m., Bruce Buchanan, assisted by Irene Lelansky and John Scott, closed the afternoon with a Scotch whisky tasting.

## COMING SOON: A Modernized Website!

We are pleased to announce that the SAS-W will soon have a new and improved website! In the last year, it became clear that the old website, which was built upon an obsolete hosting platform, was very difficult to manage, did not provide functionalities that group members have requested, and was at increasing risk for a catastrophic failure.

The Board has voted to contract with a local web developer to create a new, more functional website. This website will have the ability to do things like utilize online fillable forms for membership applications and renewals and for members to use various online payment methods. In addition, the new website will be optimized so that it renders properly on desktop computers, tablet devices, and smart phones.

The new website will become active in the coming month.



# Christmas Ceilidh

By Tami Schumann



We were blessed with a chilly, sunny day on December 6 to celebrate the SAS-W Christmas Ceilidh. The event, held at Ford's Colony, was sold out despite being held on a weekday due to venue scheduling difficulties during the holiday season, indicating that we Scots will make room for a good party wherever it falls on the calendar!

The definition of ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee) is “a social gathering with traditional Irish or Scottish music, dancing, and storytelling.” American Heritage Dictionary doesn't mention food and drink, but we had those in abundance as well.



Piper Lynn Newcomer

Members were invited to submit pictures of their family Christmases through the years which were threaded together into a slideshow by Russ Madigan to be displayed during the socializing, providing a chance to see how much our Christmas traditions have changed over the course of 50 or 60 years, and how much more they are the same. The first taste of the entertainment to come was a selection of traditional carols on the small pipes by Lynn Newcomer as we prepared for the meal to be served, which perfectly set the holiday mood.

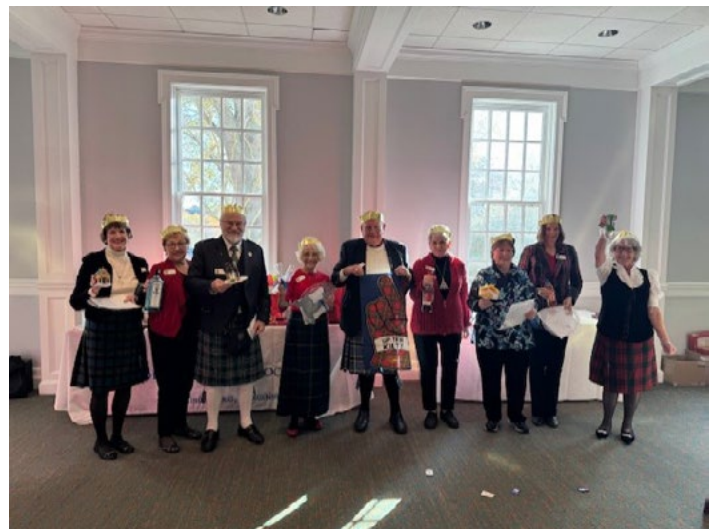
We feasted on salmon, pork loin, rigatoni and good conversation for an hour before the remaining entertainment kicked off,



Russ Madigan recites *T was the Night Before Christmas* at the podium.

starting with a recitation of *T was the Night Before Christmas* by Russ Madigan. Next came musical selections from three guys who really need to get a band name and booking agent: Clay McEldowney (banjo), Joe Dinuzzo (guitar) and Jim Noran (vocals) performing *Loch Lomond* and *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.

Martin Cox embodied the ceilidh storytelling tradition with a Viking tale from the Orkney Islands, and we wrapped up with a customized version of *The Twelve Days of Yuletide*, complete with props, by members of the Events Committee: Mary and Jim Murphy, Vicki and John Scott, Susan White. Iona Bradley, and Johanna and Michael Thompson, and Marjann Caldwell. To put a bow on the festivities, we ended with a riotous gift exchange conducted by Douglas Boller. It's safe to say that a good time was had by all.



The Twelve Days of Yuletide - 2024



**GLAMIS CASTLE**, former family home of the late Queen Mother, is said to be one of Scotland's most haunted. The alleged sightings include child ghosts, a Lady in White and an old woman wandering the grounds at night.



# The Origins of CLAN GREGOR

**T**hey were descended from the ancient Celtic royal family through the hereditary Abbots of Glendochart, a descent which is proclaimed in the motto, 'S Rioghal Mo Dhream translated as Royal is my Race.

Tradition holds that Gregor was the son of Kenneth MacAlpin. However he may have been Griogair, son of Dungal, who is said to have been a co-ruler of Alba, the kingdom north of Central Scotland between AD 879 and 889. Most modern historians agree that the first certain Chief was Gregor of the Golden Bridles. Gregor's son, Iain Camm (Ian of the One-Eye) succeeded as the second Chief sometime prior to 1390.

Robert the Bruce granted the barony of Loch Awe - which included much of the MacGregor lands - to the Chief of the Campbells. In common with many royal gifts of the time, it was left to the recipient to work out how he would take possession of it. The Campbells harried the MacGregors who were forced to retire deeper into their lands until they were largely restricted to Glenstrae.

## Proscription: Our Darkest Years

In 1589 John Drummond, the Kings forester, was murdered after hanging some MacGregors for poaching. The Chief, Alasdair MacGregor of Glenstrae, took responsibility for the act and was condemned by the Privy Council. King James VI issued an edict enacted through his Privy Council proclaiming the name MacGregor 'altogidder abolished' meaning that those who bore the name must renounce it or suffer death. Specifically:

"... unhappie and detestable race be extirpat and ruttit out, and nevir sufferit to have rest or remaning within this cuntrey heirefter; .... they salbe prosequite, huntit, followit, and persewit with fyre and sword, ay and they be exterminat and ruttit out."

The Proscriptive Acts of Clan Gregor were enacted on the 3rd of April 1603 following the battle of Glen Fruin where in the MacGregors routed the Clan Colquhoun, killing hundreds in the process. This draconian ruling autho-

rized the capture of Alasdair MacGregor of Glenstrae and his leading kinsmen. In the spring of 1604 Alasdair MacGregor of Glenstrae, Chief and Laird of MacGregor was hung with thirty of his warriors against the West End of Saint Giles Kirk (Church) where the Tollbooth stood. Today, the 'Heart of Midlothian' in Edinburgh marks the spot where the MacGregor Chief was executed.

The names of Clan Gregor were erased from existence. To even claim one of these names openly was to invite an immediate execution. The clanfolk of the 'Gregorach' were ordered to take different names, usually assigned. They were to obey implicitly the new Chief placed over them.

Many of the MacGregor's refused. Of those who refused (and were caught); the men were executed, the women were stripped bare, branded, and whipped



The Clan Gregor held lands in the highlands of Scotland, namely Glenstrae, Glenloch, Glenlyon, Glengyle, and Glenorchy.



Gregor, con't

through the streets. The women and children were sold into slavery for Britain's new colonies in North America.

Further additions to the proscriptive acts denied the MacGregors basic necessities of food, water, shelter and care for infants and the elderly. The MacGregors were denied the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, marriage, and last rites. The gentry of Scotland were encouraged to hunt the MacGregors with dogs as if they were common game stock. But without a doubt, the most horrifying act was the commission of selling MacGregor heads to the government to attain pardon for thievery and murder.

The persecution of Clan Gregor finally ended in 1774 when the proscription was repealed 171 years later.

Today, Clan Gregor (MacGregor) is a large and proud clan with clan societies around the world. The leader of the clan is Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, the 24th chief and chieftain of Clan Gregor.

For more information about Clan Gregor USA:  
<https://acgsus.org>



~passages~

**Diane Louise (Scottie) Phillips**

(pictured, passed 10/29/24)  
Wife of member Wil Phillips, who survives her



**Jack K Robinson**

(passed 11/10/24)  
Past President, 1997

## Saint Andrew's Day Food Drive

The Society gathered at FISH on November 30, 2024, to drop off bags of food and cash donations. We do this each year on two significant Society calendar dates — on St Andrew's Day, November 30th and on Tartan Day, April 6th.



An **Arbroath "Smokie"** is a haddock smoked over a beech wood fire and is unique to Arbroath in Angus.





# AUTUMN KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS

Society members gathered at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church to observe the Kirkin' of the Tartan on Sunday, November 10th. The weather was a perfectly crisp and bright autumn day. The event was well attended, with 30 members and guests.

Reverend John Morgan presented a memorable sermon, and he was garbed in traditional Scottish Highland attire. Obviously proud of his Scottish roots!

The Williamsburg Pipes and Drums played a short concert in front of the church before the Society members dispersed. A big thank you to Susan White for coordinating! The society fully enjoyed being hosted by the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, once again.



Michael & Johanna Thompson



Carolyn & Howard Topp, Sherri Cornoni, and Jeff Sterrett



L to R: Charlotte McCarter, Jimmy McCarter, Vicki Scott, John Scott, Mary & Darrell

## A SPIRITED PUB NIGHT

We ended the **2024 Pub Night season** on a high note! Well done! On Thursday, October 24, we celebrated Halloween with our annual costume party held at Anna's Brick Oven. Fifty-two members (which is a record) attended and nearly all were in costume!

Thank you to everyone who attended Pub Night throughout the season. It was my pleasure to organize these gatherings and I hope you enjoyed them. We will kick off the 2025 season on February 27th at Anna's Brick Oven, so please mark your calendars. Hope to see you there!

Yours aye, Jan Hruz







The new Facebook page has been up and running since August 2024! Currently we have 45 members. If you haven't requested to join, please do so at the following link: [www.facebook.com/groups/1410543212957245](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1410543212957245)

Since introducing the new Facebook page there have been a few questions that I will answer here:

### 1 Do I need a Facebook account to join the group?

Yes, you need an active Facebook account to join the group.

### 2 Who can see this page and what I post?

The page is set up so that only members of the page can see each other's post. However, the public can search for the group, but to see posts they will need to request to join and be approved by the administrators. We are doing our best to keep out those who would spam the group with ads and irrelevant information.

### 3 Do I need to answer the questions and accept the rules before joining?

Yes please! These questions help to make sure we are getting real people and not spammers or automated bots in the group. The questions are simple: "What is your connection with Scotland and why do you want to join the group?" and "Do you agree to abide by the page's rules?" If you forget to answer the questions, the administrators will send a request for you to do so before accepting your membership request. The rules are to make sure the group remains uplifting and positive for all of our members.

## 2024 SCOT OF THE YEAR

The 2024 Scot of the Year (SOTY) was awarded to **Mary Murphy** during the Society's Burns Night celebration, in recognition of her tireless efforts to support the Society, recruit new members, and pitch in to support the full range of Society functions. Mary has been a society member since 2018, and served as a Board member from 2019 through 2022.



**Congratulations Mary!**

Remember this is our society's Facebook page so the more we post and interact with each other the better the community we will build. As always, I am here to answer any questions. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Anna-Marie Cox  
[kamajors6366@gmail.com](mailto:kamajors6366@gmail.com)

*Thanks to the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums and all who represented the SAS-W at the Annual Williamsburg Christmas Parade!*

