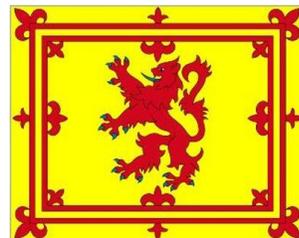




# The Caledonian

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MARCH 2015



THE SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, INC.



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**Look for us on FaceBook!**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Well, Shin augita matha, (shin aug it ta maha) Scots Gaelic for, "There you have it then...." I think we are beginning to see the end of winter. So I say "There you have it then." Spring is an important season to Scotland. In the Royal city of Edinburgh it is a time of increased trade due to the folk from the outer regions coming in to town to restock supplies after a long winter. It is also a time when tourism begins as well. To the folk in the country and the highlanders it is birthing season for the livestock. and it is a busy time for the church as well, as everyone gets ready for Easter.

Easter is in April this year. April is an important month to anyone of Scottish heritage because April 6th is National Tartan Day. This is a day when Scots celebrate their heritage and are encouraged to wear their tartans if they wish to. Why April 6th you may ask? April 6th was the day that the Charter of Arbroath was signed. It gave Scotland her independence from England, but later England took it back. So the 6th of April is now Tartan day in all of America and in Canada as well. To help us celebrate this day we are very excited to have the Josh Condon Trio performing for us at the First Congregational Church on April 7th. You can find more details about Josh and the concert later on in this issue. The concert's proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund, for which we need your support. I can tell you that the time that you are listening to Josh and the trio will fly by. We are hoping to see you there!

We are also looking forward to the other up-coming events. I would like to note that the Ithaca Celtic Festival (notice the name change) has also changed the date of their event to the 13th of June. And, we are planning our own Picnic honoring our scholarship winners at Mossy Bank Park in Bath on July 18th. So as we head into springtime we look to warmer and brighter days and dream of long summer days Enjoy spring!

Slainte, Your Chief,



*Blake*

## BURNS DINNER 2015



A fine time was had by all at our annual Burns Dinner. It is hoped that Robert Burns would have been highly amused by the lightly costumed and unrehearsed vignettes illustrating episodes from his so life...as performed by selected members of your Board of Trustees. We were also entertained by our

splendid Caledonian Pipe Band, led by Lee Adelsburg, and by a well-chosen selection of Burns songs sung by Carl Johengen.

## TARTAN DAY 2015

The Scottish Declaration of Independence was signed on April 6, 1320. The American Declaration of Independence was, in fact, modeled on this particular document. Almost half of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent.

The US Senate Resolution on National Tartan Day was passed on March 20, 1998. (And our dear departed George Cunningham had a hand in moving this forward.) From that point onward, National Tartan Day was designated as a day for all Americans, particularly those of Scottish descent, to display their pride in their heritage on April 6 each year.

We recognize Tartan Day in various Kirkin' o' the Tartans events in local churches. This year, there will be observances at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Bath on April 12, and at the Corning Presbyterian Church on April 26. Either of these observances would be an excellent opportunity to display that tartan: all are welcome.

In celebration of Tartan Day, we are thrilled to have booked a concert for the public, featuring **Joshua Condon**, a pianist, conductor and composer, and currently the Keyboardist and onboard Music Director for the production of "Rock of Ages" on the Norwegian Breakaway Cruise Ship. He is a magna cum laude graduate of the Ithaca College School of Music, where



How about a raffle ticket?



"O what a glorious sight, Warm-reekin, rich!"



"To gie them music was his charge:  
He scre'd the pipes and gart them skirl,  
Till roof and rafters a' did dirl.--"

To give them music was his charge:  
He screwed the pipes and made them squeal,  
Till roof and rafters all did ring.

he earned a B.M. in Jazz Studies with a concentration in Music Theory. He is also a graduate of the Eastman Community Music School, where he earned a Pre-Collegiate Diploma in Jazz Studies with Honors. Josh has worked with and has been mentored by jazz greats such as Wynton Marsalis, Bill Cunliffe and John Clayton, and was the pianist in the Eastman Youth Jazz Orchestra and Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble for a total of eight years. He has been featured in Keyboard Magazine.

**Plan to join us, tell your friends and family!**



**JOSH CONDON TRIO IN CONCERT**

Followed by Scottish Reception

Tuesday, April 7 at 7 PM  
 First Congregational  
 United Church of Christ  
 171 West Pulteney Street  
 Corning NY

Suggested donation, \$15 at the door  
 Benefit our Scholarship Fund

Read more about Josh, listen to samples of his music at <http://www.joshcondon.com/>

**A WEE BIT OF HUMOR**

An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scot are all sharing a friendly pint together in the local pub. Coincidentally three flies which had been buzzing round their table dropped one into each glass, plip, plop, plunk. Like that.

"Blimey", cries the Englishman and waves for the barman's attention. "Excuse me good man, but there appears to be a fly in my ale. Could I get another"?

"Faith and begora", is heard from the Irishman as he gingerly scoops the insect from his glass with a spoon and continues drinking.

Both then look to the Scot who can be seen holding the offender over his own glass and screaming, "Spet et oot ye wee critter. SPET ET OOOOT"!

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Please be advised that if you are not current with your dues (Single \$10, Family \$15, Patron \$25, Benefactor \$50 or more, Life \$250) please remit them to Alistair Cormack straight away!

**TRAVELOGUE: Places to See!**



Jarlshof is the best-known pre-historic archaeological site in Shetland, Scotland. The site contains remains dating from 2500 BC up to the 17th century AD revealing prehistoric Scotland. Remarkable finds unearthed here have greatly contributed insights into the Pictish culture, and demonstrate a microcosm of Scottish history.

Structures on site include remains of a Bronze Age smithy, an Iron Age broch and roundhouses, a complex of Pictish wheel-houses, and a Viking longhouse. The broch is a uniquely Scottish rock round construction for which the use of or purpose has become vague.



**Gaelic Saying of the Day:**

'S fheàrr iasg beag na bhith gun iasg idir  
 A little fish is better than no fish at all.



## Past Chiefs of the Scottish American Society of the Southern Tier, Inc.

|                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>George Cunningham</i> | <i>December 1973 to December 1985</i> |
| <i>Don Campbell</i>      | <i>December 1985 to December 1991</i> |
| <i>Doug Coburn</i>       | <i>December 1991 to December 2000</i> |
| <i>Donald Flatt</i>      | <i>December 2000 to December 2003</i> |
| <i>Tom McIntyre</i>      | <i>December 2003 to December 2009</i> |
| <i>Blake Mayo</i>        | <i>December 2009</i>                  |



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## DATES TO REMEMBER

Apr. 7 Josh Condon Concert

April 12: Kirkin' of the Tartans, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath. 11 AM

April 26: Kirkin' of the Tartans, Corning Presbyterian Church, 10:30 AM

June 6: Allegany Celtic Festival, Belmont

June 13: Ithaca Celtic Festival

July 18: Scholarship Awards Recognition Picnic, Mossy Bank Park, Bath

September 5: Dundee Scottish Festival

October 9: Dish to Pass Dinner

November 14: St. Andrews Dinner

January 30, 2016 Burns Dinner



ALL THESE EVENTS AND MORE ON OUR WEBSITE <http://www.sasst.org/events.html>