

The Highland Fling

September 2025



Chris MacKenzie, President

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A rare mid-latitude Shapiro-Keyser cyclone. Sounds scary. Storm Floris. I had to go to Scotland to finally be in the middle of a named storm. Being in the middle of it was not too bad, but the mess left behind was a sight to behold. This is what my family and I encountered on our second day in Scotland on August 4th during our bus trip from Inverness to Gairloch. We saw rainbows, whitecaps, and many trees blown down. Crazy weather. But the whisky flowed.

I left our Highland Games a few hours before the end to make my flight from DTW. At that point, all seemed to be running smoothly and the event was in the capable hands of all of our volunteers. The Games are what we make of it. If we have a problem we fix it, not complain about why it was done that way in the first place.

There were a lot of expectations in place for the Games. This is the first time in 25 years that Cathy Hasse was not in charge. When I became president 3 years ago, Cathy had already stated she was done with the Games. I couldn't start out my first year as president without a Games chair so I was able to convince her to come back to finish out 25 years, ending with the 175th Anniversary Games.

After that we needed someone to take her place. Enter Julie Palmer. An enthusiastic new member with event planning experience. It would be no easy task, but I think she did a great job and we should all thank Cathy for her years of service and Julie who was willing to step in. Let's face it, Julie had some pretty big shoes to fill.

The Games are always a great place to see our friendly members. Some we see once a year, others we sometimes see weekly. We get together to celebrate our heritage and working for a purpose. That purpose is to share our heritage with others. I look forward to next year's Games.

September brings cooler weather and meetings back at the Hall. We have whisky tastings, Cèilidhs and St. Andrew's Day Party and Burns' Night. Looking forward to see you all again.

Don't forget to thank Cathy for her 25 years of service and Julie for stepping up!

Christopher Robert Fraser MacKenzie
President, St. Andrew's Society of Detroit



2025 SASD CALENDAR

September 2025

Date	Food	Charity	50/50	Benevolence
9/1	Labor Day National Holiday			
9/8	Membership Meeting, Kilgour, Social Hour 6:00 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m., Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.			
	Potluck	St. Vincent de Paul	Detroit Rescue Mission	Morse Elementary School
9/9	Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)			
9/11	Open Library Hours, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.			
9/15	Low Library Book Club, 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)			
9/15	Cultural Activities Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)			
9/16	House Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m. (Zoom) Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)			
9/20	Library Committee Business Meeting, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Open Library Hours, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.			
9/24	Membership Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)			
9/25	Open Library Hours, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.			

October 2025

Date	Food		Charity	50/50	Benevolence
10/6	Membership Meeting, Kilgour, Social Hour 6:00 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m., Business Meeting 7:15 p.m.				
	Membership Mtg & New Member Initiation	Shepherd's Pie Potluck	Forgotten Harvest	Spina Bifida Association	Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs
10/9	Open Library Hours, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.				
10/14	Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)				
10/18	Library Committee Business Meeting, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Open Library Hours, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.				
10/20	Cultural Activities Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)				
10/21	House Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m. (Zoom) Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)				
10/22	Membership Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)				
10/23	Open Library Hours, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.				
10/25	Whisky Tasting, Kilgour, Mission BBQ Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Tasting following				

2025 SASD CALENDAR

November 2025				
Date	Food	Charity	50/50	Benevolence
11/3	Membership Meeting, Kilgour, Social Hour 6:00 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m., Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.			
	Potluck	USMC Toys For Tots	Vietnam Veterans Macomb	Penrickton School for Blind Children
11/11	Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)			
11/13	Open Library Hours, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.			
11/15	Library Committee Business Meeting, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Open Library Hours, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.			
11/17	Cultural Activities Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)			
11/18	House Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m. (Zoom) Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)			
11/22	Deck the Hall, Kilgour, 9:00 a.m. to Noon			
11/26	Membership Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)			
11/27	Thanksgiving Holiday			
11/29	St. Andrew's Day Party, Kilgour, More Info soon			
	Calendar subject to change			



[CLICK HERE](#)
[to see our photos of](#)
[August 2025](#)
[Highland Games](#)

REMINDER: At an SASD event? Take photos! Send them to
flingeditor@detroitscots.com!



Beth Frahm
Benevolence Chair

Our Benevolences

Fall is quickly approaching and I look forward to getting back to gathering at our meetings. I am always so amazed at the generosity of our members on the ways they find to support our benevolences. Please keep up the good work with helping others less fortunate than ourselves.

September 8th - St Vincent de Paul, accepting used clothing and household items to be sold in their stores at a discounted price and funds are used for people in need. Please bring your items to the meeting. If we receive an abundance of donations, I will be looking for help getting the items delivered in Madison Heights near the Kilgour. If, you prefer a monetary donation for the charity of the month we can accept PayPal online at [DetroitScots.com/donate](https://www.detroitscots.com/donate) website. Or, checks and cash are always collected at the monthly meetings. Checks are to be made payable to the *St. Andrew's Society of Detroit*. You must indicate it is for the charity of the month in the memo line.

Many of you know we have been supporting **Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs** for a few years. They train and provide service dogs to veterans in need. Their mission is to prevent suicide. Twenty-two veterans die by suicide every day in the United States. Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs have been remarkably successful since they started the non-profit 15 years ago. They are our benevolence for October. This year they are holding a National Mutt Strut, Oct. 10-22--a walk to raise money and awareness. We have our own St. Andrew's Society Team! You don't need a dog to participate. And, you can choose how far and how often you want to walk. The SASD has been given a discounted registration fee of \$30 which includes an official T-shirt. Use the QR code on the flyer or go to www.themuttstrut.org click register now and enter the promocode **STANDREWDISC2025** after you have registered join a team. Select *St. Andrew's Society* in the drop down. If, the code is not accepted let me know as they will allow us additional registrations at a discount. Please share this with family and friends!

October 6th - Forgotten Harvest, non-perishable food items. They are always in need of canned items, peanut butter, pasta, and cereal.

November 3rd - Toys for Tots, unwrapped gifts for children.

December 1st - Coalition of Temporary Shelter (COTS), Toiletries, dental hygiene, feminine hygiene pads, twin size sheets, pajamas (children through adult), wash cloths, coloring books, board games, baby formula (ready-made), diaper rash cream





National MUTT STRUT



Sponsor



Walk



Run



Raise
Awareness

OCTOBER 10-22, 2025

TheMuttStrut.org ★ MedicalServiceDogs.org

SPONSORED BY



Help Us Unleash the Power to Heal

A walk to provide service dogs and mental health support to veterans, first responders, and others with disabilities – at no cost to them.

Now Nationwide

See website to find your nearest walk location/team or start your own!

Contact Rachel Gochenour at rgochenour@medicalservedogs.org for more info.

REGISTER NOW





Emily Bissell
Cultural Activities Director

Cultural Activities

*This far north, the harvest happens late.
Rooks go clattering over the sycamores
whose shadows yawn after them, down to the river.
Uncut wheat staggers under its own weight.
Summer is leaving too, exchanging its gold
for brass and copper. It is not so strange
to feel nostalgia for the present; already
this September evening is as old
as a photograph of itself. The light, the shadows
on the field, are sepia, as if this were
some other evening in September, some other
harvest that went ungathered years ago.
~Dorothy Lawrenson*

A very special thanks to all our Renaissance Festival Volunteers:

Michael Grabowski
Julie & Seth Palmer
Irwin Moyna
Tim Reade
Beverly & Rick Patchett
Liz & Irin Douglas
Emily Thomson & Grant Dithazy

We had fun and made connections with a lot of people interested in the Society! Thanks to everyone who came out.

General Membership Meeting Potlucks Are Back!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our General Membership Meeting on September 8th. If you are able to contribute to the potluck, please [sign up here](#).

Can't bring a dish but still want to contribute? Please consider donating to our general fund! Even a dollar or two will help defray the cost of paper goods, coffee, tea, etc.

I'd like to highlight some of those upcoming events. Mark your calendars!

October 25th Whisky Tasting

Tickets Go on Sale Monday, September 8th!!!

Get your tickets quick for one of Elliot's fabulous tastings. Tickets are \$100 and include the tasting and dinner by Mission BBQ. Tickets typically sell out quickly, so set a reminder for yourself!

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Save The Dates:

November 22nd Deck the Kilgour

November 29th St. Andrew's Day Celebration

More events are being added to our calendar all the time. Make sure to visit our events page to stay up to date on all our upcoming events!

Find volunteer opportunities at our [SignUpGenius landing page](#).

We want to hear from you! Got an idea for an event you'd like to see? Want to host an activity? Want to get involved and don't know where to start? Please email your ideas and questions to culturalevents@detroitscots.com.

Do you want to discover if the Cultural Activities Committee is for you? Come check out our next committee meeting on September 15th via Zoom.

[Link to Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 878 6259 4600

Passcode: 723223



The poster features a blue circular center on a plaid background. At the top left is the Detroit Scots logo with a map of Michigan. The central circle contains an icon of a person at a ballot box, the title '2026 Officer & Trustee Election', the meeting details 'December Membership Meeting Monday, December 1st at 7:00 pm', eligibility criteria 'All Executive Officers & 3 Members of the Board of Trustees are eligible for Election', and a call to action 'Consider Running for Office!'. Two diagonal banners on the sides read 'Officers' and 'Trustees'.

DETROIT SCOTS
The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, est. 1849

2026 Officer & Trustee Election

December Membership Meeting
Monday, December 1st at 7:00
pm

All Executive Officers &
3 Members of the Board of Trustees
are eligible for Election

**Consider
Running for
Office!**

Officers

Trustees



The Kilgour Centre Fund Drive

Saving our Kilgour Scottish Centre

In 2005 the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit received a bequest of 1.8-million dollars from the Jane Ault Kilgour Estate. Approximately \$800,000 was used to purchase and renovate what is now our Kilgour Scottish Centre. The remaining \$1-million (estimate) was placed in a restricted account solely to pay for the Kilgour's upkeep. In recent year's significant expenses have forced the Society to withdraw about \$300,000 from the principal. And, as stated in recent meetings, the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit is now in a financial crisis.

Recently, the Kilgour's fire suppression system underwent major repairs with costs totaling \$13,600. Replacing the north fireplace & piping is estimated to cost \$11,000. Further investments are needed to improve the HVAC system. And it is time to redo our parking lots again.

A Kilgour Centre Fund Drive has been established. The goal is to raise \$60,000 in one year from September 1st, 2025, through August 31st, 2026. Every member is urged to participate in the Kilgour Centre Fund Drive by giving \$200. You could choose to donate \$16.67 monthly, \$50 quarterly or, make a one-time donation of \$200. If donating at that level is too high right now, any size donation would be greatly appreciated.

Your donation can be made by logging into our [Wild Apricot Membership System](#) and going to the "Members' Only" homepage where you will see the Kilgour Centre Fund Drive or, through the QR code on the Kilgour Centre Fund business cards located by the front desk inside the Kilgour. If you'd prefer to write a check and mail it in, please make it to the *St. Andrew's Society of Detroit* and write "*Kilgour Centre Fund #40507*" in the memo line and address it to:

St. Andrew's Society of Detroit
c/o Kilgour Centre Fund Drive
2363 Rochester Rd.
Troy, MI 48083

Through the Highland Fling Newsletter, you will gain monthly financial updates of the Kilgour Centre Fund Drive's progress and news about projects. The Kilgour Centre is our home. Thank you for seriously considering contributing to the Kilgour Centre Fund Drive! For 176 years SASD members have risen to the challenge!

Don Hiruo & Van Rohr
Kilgour Fund Development Committee

Give a Dram for the Kilgour



The Kilgour Centre Fund Drive



THANKS TO ALL!

I wish to thank all the great people who helped make the Tug O'War at the 176th Highland Games a great success! At the top of the list is Joanne Hoekstra who provided us with great lunches all week (along with Linda Sugars) as well as providing 3 new pickup trucks and drivers to bring the Tug O'War Teams from the Barn onto the field in front of the stage. From her position at the barn, Joanne organized and directed the 5 teams (US Air Force, US Army, US Marines, Livonia Firemen, and the Windsor Police) as they entered the field to their special theme music provided by Mike Pilliteri. The entrance was flawless, and the contest was expertly directed by referee Matt Patterson.

Thanks to Wayne County Deputy Chief Gotti who presented the 1914 Sheriff's Cup to the winning constables of the Windsor Police.

At the end of the contest, participants came together at the entertainment tent for refreshments and music. Special thanks to Brian Maddaford, Kelly Hemmerling, Irin and Liz Douglas, Retired Marine Colonel Bill Black (who provided the team t-shirts), Shelby and Van Rohr, Emily Bissell, Curtis, Jeff, and Mark Cunningham, Kathleene Thomson, and our "Queen Bee" Julie Palmer!

I apologize if I left anyone out. It's been a long week!

Ron Cunningham
Tug O'War Chairman

176th GAMES REVIEW





Dear Members,

Wow. I can honestly say that our 176th Games were a resounding success! We steadily gained momentum throughout the year and our teams executed with excellence, passion and hard work. Here are the best stats from our Games:

- Games Day attendance increased by 1000
- 31 Clans signed up
- 13 Bands participated
- 134 Dancers competed
- 825 Cèilidh tickets sold
- All three Whisky Tastings sold out
- 254 Patron tickets
- 400 Volunteer slots filled
- Hard working high school football players
- Dedicated custodial staff from the local court

If you attended the Opening Ceremony, you heard our own Kathleene Thomson sing the National Anthem. She was marvelous.

We had only two minor medical emergencies and a child was separated from her guardian for only fifteen minutes because 50 volunteers and police officers went into action immediately.

I've never been more proud of the collective effort of our Society and volunteers.

Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the weather. According to our longest standing members, none could recall a more perfect day. We were blessed and our attendance grew because of the weather.

Kim Martin, our new Games Treasurer, has been working tirelessly to account for every dollar. We will present a summary at our membership meeting on September 8th. Final numbers are expected to be reported at our October meeting.

Momentum continues to build for our 177th Games, and I remain enthusiastic and fueled.

I would love to hear from you! Tell me your favorite memory. Did you observe an opportunity to improve something or solve a problem? Please email me your feedback:

highlandgameschair@detroitscots.com.

Finally, I hope you enjoy this wee drawing from one of our volunteers, Brian Jones.

From the bottom of my Scottish heart, mòran taing!

--

Julie Palmer
Games Chair
Annual Highland Games
St. Andrew's Society of Detroit



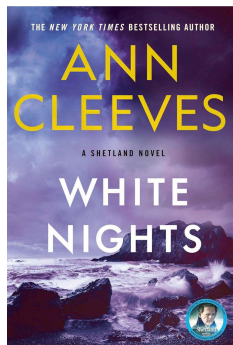


Charles S. Low Book Club

For next discussion on September 15, we will be reading *White Nights* (Shetland, #2) (402 p.) and *Red Bones* (Shetland, #3) (392 p.) by Ann Cleeves.

Here are the descriptions of the books:

White Nights, Shetland #2:

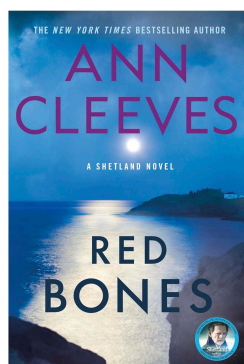


It's midsummer in the Shetland Islands, the time of the white nights, when birds sing at midnight and the sun never sets. Artist Bella Sinclair throws an elaborate party to launch an exhibition of her work at The Herring House, a gallery on the beach.

The party ends in farce when one of the guests, a mysterious Englishman, bursts into tears and claims not to know who he is or where he's come from. The following day the Englishman is found hanging from a rafter, and Detective Jimmy Perez is convinced that the man has been murdered. He is reinforced in this belief when Roddy, Bella's musician nephew, is murdered, too.

Perez knows he must break the cycle before another death occurs. But this is a crazy time of year when night blurs into day and nothing is quite as it seems.

Red Bones, Shetland #3



When a young archaeologist studying on a site at Whalsay discovers a set of human remains, the island settlers are intrigued. Is it an ancient find - or a more contemporary mystery?

Then an elderly woman is shot in a tragic accident in the middle of the night. Shetland detective Jimmy Perez is called in by her grandson - his own colleague, Sandy Wilson.

The sparse landscape and the emptiness of the sea have bred a fierce and secretive people. Mima Wilson was a recluse. She had her land, her pride and her family. As Jimmy looks to the islanders for answers, he finds instead two feuding families whose envy, greed and bitterness have lasted generations.

Surrounded by people he doesn't know and in unfamiliar territory, Jimmy finds himself out of his depth. Then there's another death and, as the spring weather shrouds the island in claustrophobic mists, Jimmy must dig up old secrets to stop a new killer from striking again.

The next meeting will be on September 15 at 5:30 p.m. (EDT) via Zoom. Contact Cathy McCullough Les (library@detroitscots.com) if you have any questions.



[Click here to see all of our
SignUpGenius Opportunities](#)

TICKETS GO ON SALE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

WHISKY TASTING

OCTOBER 25, 2025
BBQ DINNER 6:00 PM
TASTING FOLLOWING

\$100/PERSON

SPONSORED BY DIAGEO

KILGOUR SCOTTISH CENTRE
2363 ROCHESTER ROAD
TROY, MI 48063
248-526-1849

DETROIT SCOTS.com™
The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, est. 1849

A SCOTTISH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY FOUNDED IN 1849 AND AN IRC 501©(3) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

The poster features a black cat with yellow eyes, wearing a red and green plaid vest over a white shirt and a dark bow tie. The cat is sitting on a wooden bar counter. To the left of the cat is a bottle of whisky, and to the right is a glass of whisky. The background is a warm, dimly lit bar setting with a lamp and various bar items.

Have your Clan join the Wall!



Want your Clan plaque added to our Burns Room display?

Want to showcase your Scottish heritage at home or in your office?

Or perhaps you want to give someone a special gift.

If so, contact Carol Zagorowska at cazago@sbcglobal.net



Clan Crest Plaque Order Form

Name: _____

Email or text info: _____

Donate to Kilgour & verified Clan not displayed in Burns Room: yes [☐]

Clan: _____

Tartan: _____

Price: \$\$85.00

Purchase for personal use:

Circle Size: Standard 7x8 (\$85.00) or Large 10x12 (\$130.00)

Clan: _____

Tartan: _____

Circle Wood color: Light or Dark



St. Andrew's Society of Detroit 2025 Executive Officers & Trustees

Executive Officers

Chris MacKenzie	president@detroitscots.com
Bruce Gray	firstvp@detroitscots.com
Jean Wingblad	secondvp@detroitscots.com
Alison Coates	societysecretary@detroitscots.com
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Julie Palmer	highlandgameschair@detroitscots.com
Elliot MacFarlane	societybard@detroitscots.com
Fr. Scott Hunter	chaplain@detroitscots.com

Email Address

Board of Trustees

Elliot MacFarlane, Chair	2025-2027
Kent Richards, Co-Vice Chair	2024-2026
Bob Richardson, Co-Vice Chair	2024-2026
Beth Frahm, Benevolence Chair	2023-2025
Clifford Les, Secretary	2023-2025
Robert Crawford	2024-2026
Diane Raymond	2025-2027
Scott Hunter	2025-2027
Tim Reade	2023-2025

A Scottish Benevolent Society founded in 1849 and an IRC 501(c)(3) charitable organization

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For \$20 you can place an ad in the Fling.

See last page in this Fling or
Email the Fling Editor at

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Choose to support the SASD with your shopping at Kroger!

The St. Andrew's Society has been approved for the Kroger Community Rewards Program. When you select our Society as your chosen Non-Profit, and use your Kroger Plus account to shop, we will receive a donation!

**Rent the Kilgour Scottish Centre
for your next event!**

detroitscots.com/kilgour

A Scottish Benevolent Society founded in 1849 and an IRC 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
Detroit Scots / St. Andrew's Society of Detroit © 2025.



Located at the Kilgour Scottish Centre

2363 Rochester Road Troy, MI 48083
Phone: 248.526.1849
kilgour@detroitscots.com

The Highland Fling is produced by Shelby Brown Rohr,
Communications Director
flingeditor@detroitscots.com

Founded in the year 1849, St. Andrew's Society of Detroit is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is the oldest benevolent organization in the State of Michigan. Our mission is to provide assistance to fellow Scots and to encourage the love of Scotland through its history, customs, music, literature, and national games.

We're on the Web!

detroitscots.com

thekilgour.com

highlandgames.com

Happy September Birthdays

Janet Bobby
Gary R. Fawkes
Ronald Fiorani
Marilyn Joan Grazioli
Kristen Guinnane
Kelly Hemmerling
William Irvine
Jeanette Kennedy Asiala

Brian C. Kidston
Kimberly D. (Robertson) Martin
David A. Randall
Rene Rayfield
Robert Bruce Robertson
Paula Sutton Sarvis
David Smith
Jonathan Snow

Susan Stahl
Timothy A. Stewart
Terri Stocke
Bonnie Sutherby
Christopher Sytek
Kathleene Thomson
Roy Graham Watson

Note: Our Birthday Wishes are coming from our Membership System for those members who update their profile with their Month of Birth.



**St. Andrew's
Society of Detroit, Inc.**

Kilgour Scottish Centre • 2363 Rochester Road • Troy, MI 48083 • (248) 526-1849 • www.detroitscots.com • www.highlandgames.com • www.thekilgour.com

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Business Phone: _____

Business Website: _____

Information about the business (attach description or business card):

Which month(s): _____

\$20 Payment (business card ad) ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Credit Card

\$30 Payment (1/4 page ad) ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Credit Card

\$50 Payment (half page ad – only one per month): ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Credit Card

Make Check out to the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit

Mail completed form and check to: St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, Attn Fling Editor, 2363 Rochester Road, Troy, MI 48083

FOR EDITOR USE ONLY

Month: ☐ January ☐ February ☐ March ☐ April ☐ May ☐ June ☐ September ☐ October

☐ November ☐ December

PAID \$_____