



# Thistle Epistle

Summer 2018

## From the President

Dear Members,

This is my first President's Message and I am both excited and honored to serve. I would like to start off by thanking Greg Roth and Peter Guthrie for their countless years of service to our society. They have both greatly impacted our community and we are so grateful for them.

I am joined this year by a great new team of board members. Please be sure to check out their introductions.. We would really like to hear from you. If you have any ideas, thoughts or questions, please be sure to contact us.

The summer brings my favorite season of Highland Games. We hope to see you around our region at games and more specifically our own Spokane Highland Games on August 4th.

Happy Summer!

Marie

## From the Vice-President

I am excited about this year's changes for the summer picnic. Having the annual get-together scheduled for the weekend after the Highland Games may give more people the opportunity to attend. Also, I am looking forward to hosting and cooking the entrees for the potluck event being held at our residence just south of Spokane. In some cases it is one of the few times each year we get to see old friends and meet family members.

Doug

---

## Annual Picnic

This year the annual picnic will be held after the Highland Games at the home of Vice-President Doug Malcolm. The Society will provide the entree we ask that people coming to the picnic bring a side dish to share.

**Date:** Saturday, August 11, 2018

**Start time:** 4:00 p.m.

**Address:** 13411 S. Sherman Road, Spokane, WA 99224

**RSVP:** Please RSVP to [spokanescots@gmail.com](mailto:spokanescots@gmail.com) no later than August 8. Please put Picnic RSVP in the subject line.

## Affiliate Reports

### National Tartan Day

Spokane's Tartan Day celebration was featured on page 2 of the Tartan Day Society of Washington State Spring/Summer Newsletter. In it they reported:

**“Spokane Tartan Day** Spokane St. Andrews Society celebrated its 2d Annual National Tartan Day on April 6 at the Shade Library. Special guest speaker, Jack Down, a professor of British Culture and Literature at WSU, read the Declaration of Arbroath and talked about Scottish History and how it affects the U.S. Barbara Bley, event organizer, read the Washington State Proclamation followed by other talks, presentations and demonstrations on Scottish culture Refreshments of Scottish tea and biscuits were served and it was acknowledged to be an overall great success. Ms. Bley will manage our tent at Prosser and Spokane games! “

Thank you, Barbara, for bringing National Tartan Day to Spokane and thank you to all the other participants that helped make it the celebration that it was. Jeff Benefield, librarian at the Shadle Branch of Spokane Public Library, also thanked Barbara for holding the celebration at his branch.

*Barbara Bley*

### Spokane Highland Games

Greetings to all in the Scottish community, the Spokane Highland Games are fast approaching. All of us on the Highland Games Committee are working hard to make the games fun and enjoyable for all. We have Heavy Athletics, Highland Dance competition, a Shortbread Contest, Scottish Country Dancing, Piping and drumming competitions, Clan booths and a Tartan Day booth, and a awesome line up of Celtic Bands. Vendors such as, Holy Heck USA, Granny Fi's Shortbread, and many more. The Angus Scott Pipe Band, Shadle Park Pipe Band and the Border Highlanders will be joining us. There will be kids games, and many entertaining heritage events happening at the Games.

---

We welcome volunteers for the day of the Games or for the set-up and takedown days immediately before and after the Games: call Catherine Hill at 927-0023 if you are interested.

The games will be August 4, 2018 at the Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, 404 N. Havana. Gates open to the public at 9:00 a.m. and the events last until 5:30 p.m. See you there!

*Cheryl McLean*

### [Nine Pint Coggies](#)

We are hosting a screening of “The Groove is not Trivial”, at the Magic Lantern Theater on July 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. A required number of tickets must be purchased by June 29 for this showing to take place. Please visit

<https://fan-force.com/screenings/the-groove-is-not-trivial-magic-lantern-spokane-wa/> for more information and to purchase tickets.

Also, there is a CdA Library gig on Monday, June 25, at 5:00 pm.

“Libraries Rock” is the theme for the Idaho Libraries summer reading 2018. Coeur d’Alene Library is holding concerts each **Monday night from 5-7 PM** out on the park side lawn of the library. Muckle Roe is performing a program of Scandinavian and Shetland tunes.

*Catherine Short*

### [Country Dancers](#)

Scottish country dancing really does help you make connections anywhere in the world! We recently had visitors from Cape Town, South Africa, who were in town for a conference. They packed their dancing shoes when an internet search showed Spokane had a dance group and an exchange of emails confirmed time and place.

We also enjoyed visits from a member of the Seattle branch of the RSCDS and a professor from Caldwell College, Idaho, and his wife. He is working on a research project relating to the preservation of Scottish—and by extension a Celtic—identity in places outside of Scotland. He was interested in what brought us all to Scottish country dancing and what Scottish events took place in our area and our involvement in them. We were happy to share our experiences with him.

We’re looking forward to dancing at the Highland Games again this year: look for us in the Harpers’ Tent on Games morning. In the meantime we are dancing as usual on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the hall of the Greek Orthodox Church and all are welcome to join us. Call Cynde (979-1832) or Anna (924-1284) for possible schedule changes during the summer.

*Anna Guthrie*

---

## Angus Scott Pipe Band

This has been a busy quarter for us! We have had a blast though!

We kicked off April with a Tartan Day event at the Shadle Library! We played a set and then stuck around to talk to people about what Tartans represent.

We had a great time at Liberty Creek Elementary for their Art Fest! They were a fun group to perform for!

We very much enjoyed playing for all the Gonzaga graduates as well! We played tunes as the undergraduates, graduates, and law school students march up to receive their diplomas. This is a fun bonding weekend for our band and it is so fun to celebrate with the Zags each year!

Playing for the WSU graduations was awesome too! We played tunes for the graduating classes getting their diplomas as well. Go, Cougs!

The unveiling and dedication of the memorial for Sgt Greg Moore was another event we played for in Coeur d'Alene, ID. It is always an honor to be a part of these types of events.

The Wild Goose Bill Days in Wilbur, WA was a fantastic time! We enjoyed spending time at the Big Bend Historical Museum!

Memorial Day always brings amazing events as well. This year we played at Fairmount Memorial Association for their annual Memorial Day service. We are forever grateful for our service members and hope that we can play a part in honoring them, especially on days like Memorial Day.

We do have some awesome events coming up too! We are excited to be a part of the first annual CDA Gathering of the Bands! This event will take place at City Park in Coeur d'Alene, ID on July 14th. This event is free and open to the public. Opening ceremonies start at about 11:00 am and closing ceremonies will begin at about 5:30 pm. If you're interested in joining, either as a participant or spectator, you are welcome to! Individual performances are encouraged. If you'd like to play with a group, there are several that would be happy to have you join in for the day!

We are also looking forward to participating in the Bitterroot Celtic Games and Gathering in Hamilton, MT on August 18th and 19th. This Games has so much to offer! We will spend the day competing individually, as well as performing as a group. More information can be found at:

<http://www.bccg.org/>

As always, we are happy to welcome new members and hold open practices each Monday evening at 6:30 pm at Millwood Presbyterian Church.

*Brittney Sargent*

---

## [Coeur d'Alene Firefighters Pipes and Drums](#)

### Inaugural Coeur d'Alene Gathering of the Bands

The Coeur d'Alene Firefighters Pipes and Drums is hosting a Gathering of the Bands event in Coeur d'Alene City Park this July. This will become an annual event, a reason for bands in our region to get together and socialize, exchange ideas, and give public performances. We have invited 24 bands from Idaho, Washington, Montana, and Canada, as well as dancers. Many are busy this year, but plan to schedule around this event so they can join us next year. All are welcome to join us to listen to the groups perform sets and as a massed band. We are still ironing out the details, by necessity this year is a little informal. We estimate that the performances will begin at about 1pm. For details at it gets closer, check [the band's facebook page](#).

*Jessica Bryant, P/M Coeur d'Alene Firefighters Pipes and Drums*

## [Highland Dance](#)

### A Little Bit of Scottish History

There has been a lot of flooding across the United States this June. Can you imagine a flood of whiskey? Well, that very thing happened in Glasgow early in the morning of 21 November 1906.

The Loch Katrine (Adelphi) Distillery was situated in Muirhead Street in the Gorbals district of Glasgow. One of the distillery's washback vats collapsed resulting in a massive flood of over 150,000 gallons of hot whiskey. The torrent ran through the distillery yard and the neighboring street. There was only one fatality.

You can find the full article on the History UK website. The article, written by Ben Johnson is entitled "[Great Gorbals Whiskey Flood of 1906](#)".

## Introductions



### ***Marie Grimes-Darling - President***

Marie started dancing at the age of 8 with Elizabeth Coyle. Since that day, she has loved highland dancing and all things Scottish (except for haggis). In 1997, she became a certified dance teacher and has been teaching to all ages ever since then. Marie is currently also a world wide judge on the Scottish Official Board.



### ***Doug Malcolm - Vice President***

Doug has been involved with the Society for nearly 10 years. He served as Treasurer from 2012-2017. He is very passionate about Scottish History and Heritage.



***Kathy Wiebers - Treasurer***

Kathy Wiebers has been a "dance and pipe band mom" since 2009. She was the treasurer of the Shadle Park Instrumental Music Parent Group and is currently the treasurer of the Shadle Park (community) Pipe Band. She has volunteered at the Spokane Highland Games for many years assisting with the dance competition, and also at other highland dance competitions. She is excited to take on this new role of treasurer of the St. Andrews Society. She also works full time as the office manager of a building supply wholesaler.



***Gillian Sayer - Secretary***

Gillian has been a member of the Angus Scott Pipe Band since 2009. She has served as Secretary and Quartermaster. She has worked for Spokane Public Library for 24 ½ years (in varying positions) and beginning in August you will find her at the South Hill Branch. She is looking forward to the challenges of being the Secretary for the St. Andrew's Society and Editor of the Thistle.



***Clint Hill - Webmaster***

Clint is retired, but remains active as the webmaster for the St. Andrews Society, Spokane Scottish Highland Games and Spokane Fall Folk Festival. He also volunteers at Trentwood Elementary School and Horizon Middle School assisting with math, science, literature, social studies, photography and more. Clint served previously as the chairman of the Spokane Scottish Highland Games for two years and is currently the treasurer for the Games.

## **From the Editor**

This is the first time I have created a newsletter. Thank you for bearing with me! I am open to any suggestions and feedback. You can send an email to [spokanescots@gmail.com](mailto:spokanescots@gmail.com). Just put the subject heading as "Newsletter Suggestions".

Thank you!

Gillian