

February 2024



The Raven

Monthly Newsletter of the
Clan MacDougall Society of North America



From the President

Mo dheagh chairdean! (Welcome my Friends.)

Here we are in our second month of the year. Games season kicked off here in the United States in Florida. It's been a busy time for us and we want YOU to know what is instore for 2024! For me: It is my plan to attend the festival titled "little scotland" in Vinta, Oklahoma on March 16th; The summer Gathering in Oban; and The Oklahoma Games in Choctaw, OK on October 11th through the 13th.

Keep up with the games in YOUR area by visiting our **events page** often! This is where you can see the Games we will have representatives at so you can interact with and ask questions of them.

You - our members - have stated that local events, newsletters and genealogy are of great importance among the benefits that we offer. Games and Gatherings consist of the majority of Local Events. Are YOU curious about why we don't have any representation in YOUR area? **Contact us** and find out how YOU can HELP! Or email me here: president@macdougall.org.

NOTE:

If you need help registering for the Gathering in Oban this summer, please visit our TikTok link [here](#) for a "how to" video.



A Word from Dunollie Castle and Museum

By Alison McNab

Dear Clan Member,

First, whilst a little late, may I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024. This year is special for us all with the **6th MacDougall Clan Gathering** to be held on the grounds of Dunollie Castle, the seat of the Clan MacDougall. This special occasion will once again be hosted by your **Clan Chief, Morag McDougall of MacDougall of Dunollie**.



Want to see this view in person? Join Us in Oban!

This is a big occasion and only happens every 5 years – a trip of a lifetime to time to visit your ancestral ‘home’, experience a range of wonderful events and enjoy superb Dunollie hospitality. Most importantly, it’s a rare opportunity to gather with fellow MacDougalls to enjoy the special camaraderie and closeness that being a clan member bestows.

A huge amount of planning and hard work is currently ongoing to ensure a successful delivery of this event which will create a truly memorable occasion for all. That is why we are working right now with a number of organisations on a tailor-made programme of events to deliver special experiences for you all.

Many of these event suppliers are in high demand, especially during the period of the Clan Gathering, so it is essential that we are able to confirm numbers of those who wish to attend as soon as possible. In fact, this is very soon indeed with the end of February being the cutoff date for some of these suppliers.

I would therefore encourage you to confirm your attendance at the earliest opportunity so we can secure our programme of events and make this Gathering a joyous and memorable experience for us all.

You can follow this link to access the booking site for the activities: **Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds - Oban**. Please do not hesitate to contact the team on info@dunollie.org, if you need any assistance – they will be more than happy to help.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to welcoming you to Dunollie this year.

Alison McNab
Chair of Trustees

Visit Oban, Argyll, Scotland and Join Clan MacDougall for the International Gathering 2024!



Visit: Dunollie.org for tickets and MORE information

A Virginia Burns Night

Robert Burn remains the most famous Scottish poet even 228 years after his death. In his short 37 years, he penned such famous lyrics as "Auld Lang Syne" and is considered a pioneer of the Romantic movement. His life is celebrated in and out of Scotland each on his birthday, January 25, with a Burns Night. The first Burns Night gathering was held on the fifth anniversary of his death in 1801 by his friends, and the tradition has lived on as a way to celebrate not only Scotland's most lauded poet, but the Scottish culture itself. One such celebration is held in Northern Virginia every year at the Kena Shrine in Manassas.

The Kena Shrine is a temple [chapter] of the Shriners organization, an international brotherhood that is most famous for its children's hospitals. The Kena Shrine has a very active group of bagpipers with a deep love for Scotland, which led them to establish the Burns Night celebration. This year's celebration marked the fifth Burns Night. The evening is marked by the piping of the Haggis, an address to the lads and lassies, and dancing. This year, a group of highland dancers came to show off their skill (pictured) and teach the attendees multiple different dances. While the dancers were superb, the attendees certainly could have used some more practice!



The haggis was piped through the room by the Kena Shrine Highlanders pipers, led by the Society's own webmaster John McDowall (pictured). The Selkirk grace was said by a local Bishop who hails from Scotland; Father Vince's gentle Scottish burr prompted all to bow their heads and give thanks: *Some hae meat and canna eat, And some wad eat that want it, But we hae meant and we can eat, Sae let the Lord be Thankit!* All attendees were given the chance to try the haggis as a part of their plated dinner.

As a special treat, a local teacher who was on exchange from Scotland gave an address on the significance of Robert Burns's life and poetry. Quincy had discovered the Burns Night at Kena through a Google search the year prior, and gave the Shriners a rave review and returned in 2024!

All in all, the night was marked by a deep appreciation for Scotland and Robert Burns. The event will be held again in 2025, and attendance is open to any who wish to attend!



A Question For You from Dunollie



We have been asked

*"What does it mean to YOU
to be part of the Clan MacDougall?"*

This question comes from across the pond in Argyll. We are all interested in what your thoughts are on the matter. Please send your answers to Misha Lowther at **President@MacDougall.org** so they can be sent to Dunollie for the Gathering. It doesn't matter if you are not attending. You are part of Clan MacDougall and the question is:

"What does that mean to YOU?"

I can't wait to hear what you have to say!

I can't ask our members to answer this question without answering it myself.

Would you like to know what my answer is?

Now, this will shock some of you if not most of you-especially if you don't know me. I never felt a sense of kinship to the name MacDougall until 2019. That year, just before Covid-19 hit, I joined The Clan MacDougall Society of North America. I never expected it to make a difference in my life. ***Being part of Clan MacDougall means*** being part of history, part of a worldwide family, part of something bigger than myself. It means knowing where I come from and where I belong. It explains why I love some of the things I loved before I ever heard the name MacDougall. It's a defined part of me, my self, my being. I can't wait for the Gathering this summer to learn even MORE about my Scottish home, my

roots, my history, and my soul.

The John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarship Program

Applications for the John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships are now open.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to financially support learning endeavors that enhance knowledge or appreciation of the Society and/or our cultural heritage.

Applications will be accepted **until April 1, 2024**.

We are so very proud to be able to support such talented, passionate students through the generosity of our members. Thank you for making a difference! To join in this effort, please consider making a donation using the button below.

[Program Details](#)

[Application](#)

[Donate Here](#)

Annual Campaign

We would like to say **"Thank You"** to all of our members who contributed to our Annual Campaign.

If you missed your renewal letter or contribution letter, PLEASE contact us to update your contact information.

Our Society is working hard to carry out our purposes for generations to come, thanks to **your** help!

It's never too late to join or contribute!

Please help make your Society and its good works better than ever!

New Members

Sharon Hill
Hickory, NC

Laurie Murchison
Malverne, NY

Jeffrey Fowler
Oceanside, CA

Ursula Änäkälä
Vanta, Uusimaa, Finland

Michael McDowell
San Antonio, TX

Steve Romine
Athens, AL

Juliann Thompson
Auburndale, FL

Bruce MacDougall
Bridgton, ME

Hendrick Berelson
Brooklyn, NY

Contact Us

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Free Scottish Banner

The Scottish Banner is our community's largest international newspaper.
Click below for the February 2024 issue!

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The Clan MacDougall Society of North America **online store** with the Queensboro Company is your source for **official** CMSNA apparel. A portion of each purchase you make directly benefits the Society's budget and our ability to keep doing all the things you care about.

Thank you for your continued support!

Persons wishing to submit articles, photos, or items of interest may contact:

Lindsay Davis, Editor

newseditor@macdougall.org

Clan MacDougall Society of North America is a registered 501(c)(3) Nonprofit.

OUR NONPROFIT MISSION

To perpetuate Scottish culture through the collection, preservation, and distribution of literary, historical, and genealogical materials, especially those related to Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall. Preservation of heritage sites and relics is of particular importance, as is the education of our kin through learning opportunities and scholarships.

Donations in support of these causes is tax deductible in the U.S.

Membership is open to all.



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