

Shasta Celtic Society  
PO Box 492935  
Redding, CA 96049-2935



# NEWS

November-December 2019, Vol. 23, No. 3

## PREZ SEZ

Here's hoping you had a nice summer. The SCS Board of Directors goes dark every year in July and August. We met in September to begin plans for our Robert Burns' Supper to celebrate his birthday every January. While it was good to get together for the Burns' event, we discussed many things. The Board has been undergoing several changes due to family health issues, our own aging health issues, people moving away, or retiring, and life's ever-changing circumstances. Danielle Roberts, Jill Montgomery, and Cherry McCabe have stepped down from the Board in these past months.

The SCS Board of Directors has evolved over its 20+ years as a non-profit, and that is to be expected. However, in these last few years our SCS membership has decreased, and our Board of Directors has aged, with few new people to replace us.

There have been a few times over this past year that the Board has considered folding our SCS tent, and closing down all together. Gratefully, each time, at least one board member has rallied the troops and gotten us back on track. We are, however, proposing some changes to the SCS by-laws that you will see printed in up coming issues of this newsletter, and the process for you to vote on the changes.

As an example, currently we have 7 SCS members that make up the Board of Directors, and we need a quorum of 4 people to vote on issues. We often don't have 4 board members present

at our monthly meetings, so nothing gets decided. A solution is to drop the Board down to 5 members, with a quorum of 3 to pass a vote.

The Shasta Celtic Society will still be around to celebrate Celtic culture, but probably hosting less events. If you wish to get involved with the SCS WORKING Board of Directors, by all means call any one of us listed on this newsletter's last page for details

— Holly Hooton, President 



## SAVE THE DATE!!!

**2020 is closer than you think, and so is the SCS Burns Supper on January 18, 2020!**

Robert Burns' acquaintances held the first Burns supper on July 21, the anniversary of his death, in Ayrshire, Scotland, in the late 1700s, and was later changed to January 25, his birthday. It's time to start our planning and the gathering the village of volunteers it takes to put this grand night together. **We need help with poetry readers, decorations, and the list goes on. Please call 547-5517** if you want to help, and plan to come to our monthly meetings, held right after the regularly scheduled business meetings.



# Shasta Celtic Society

Presents its 23rd Annual

# Burns Night Supper



## January 18th

At the Red Lion Hotel • 1830 Hilltop Dr. Redding

**Social Gathering at 5:00pm • Program & Dinner at 6:00pm**

Join us for a gala evening honoring the life and works of  
Scotland's most beloved son, Robert Burns.

Enjoy a full Scottish themed buffet dinner along with  
toasts, speeches, poetry readings, singing and bagpiping...

**Lest ye not forget the Haggis!**

**\$50 Per Person • Tickets On Sale Now at:**  
**[scsburnsnight.eventbrite.com](http://scsburnsnight.eventbrite.com)**

**For More Information Call: 530.547.5517**

**Please Visit [ShastaCelts.org](http://ShastaCelts.org)**



## THE 23rd ANNUAL BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

You are cordially invited to attend the Shasta Celtic Society's Twenty-third Annual Burns Night Supper, to be held Saturday, January 18, 2020, at the Red Lion Hotel on Hilltop Drive, Redding.

This wonderful gala event honoring the life and works of Scotland's most beloved son, Robert Burns, will include all the traditional entertainment and trappings that everyone has come to love and expect. There will be toasts and speeches, poetry readings, singing, piping, the parading of the Haggis, and musical entertainment—all done in high Scots style. The talent includes performers associated with the Shasta Celtic Society and the Jefferson Pipe Band.

This year's theme is "the inspiration of Burns." In his short life he wrote so many poems and songs that inspired so many in his time and that passed into future generations.

Please come join the festivities. The doors open at 5 PM for the traditional social Gathering, with cheers and great conversation at "The Robbie" and again will feature special libations and a Scotch Tasting! After the gathering, your seat will be ready for you, and the ceremonies will commence promptly at 6 PM. A no-host bar will be available throughout the evening and will feature special libations at "The Robbie."

Dinner will feature a buffet, with special entrées of Tri-Tip with Whiskey Sauce and Chicken Marsala. Along with these entrées there will be salad, bread and butter, Fresh Roasted Winter Vegetables and, to complete our feast, the Chef's Decadent Dessert Display. Coffee and tea will also be served.

To make our evening more exciting, the raffle once again will be coordinated by Diane Elrick, and assisted by her able Raffle Lads and Lassies. Diane is always looking for unique and exciting prizes to raffle off, so if you have that special item you would like to donate, please contact her at 246-3603. Remember the raffle supports the modest price for this special evening.

Year after year the SCS has held the price of this event to the lowest fee possible but this year there will be a small price change, \$50 per ticket. This includes appetizer, dinner, dessert, tip and a night of pure entertainment. There are several ways to purchase tickets: By mail, send in the RSVP form with your remittance to the address on the form by January 12th, after that date you can register and pay on-line: Facebook at Shasta Celtic Society, the SCS website [shastacelts.org](http://shastacelts.org) (under upcoming events you will find Burns Night information) or Eventbrite [scsburnsnight.eventbrite.com](http://scsburnsnight.eventbrite.com). All reservations must be prepaid and are non-refundable. Your paid reservation will be held at the door and if you provide your email, you will be sent a confirmation of your paid tickets. We know that the SCS Burns Night is the "best in the west," so spread the news, bring your family and friends, and RSVP as soon as possible to reserve your place. SCS members who attend will be entered into a drawing for a special basket just for members.

Scottish attire or semi-formal wear is highly encouraged. No jeans, please! For more information, please contact: Chris Alexander (547-5517), or Bob Elrick (246-3603).

We look forward to seeing you this year, and please share the news with your friends of this grand event, and one of the best Burns Night celebrations anywhere! As Burns wrote... "To sum up all, be merry, I advise; And as we're merry, may we still be wise."

Let the festivities begin!

—The Burns Night Committee

### RSVP FORM FOR BURNS NIGHT SUPPER 2020 (BY MAIL)

Yes! Count me in as a guest at the Shasta Celtic Society's 23rd Annual Burns Night Supper on 1/18/2020!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Include your e-mail address to get a reservation confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print the full names of all guests in your party:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

☐ Check here if you wish to reserve a table for your group (parties of 8 or more, only).

Total # guests: \_\_\_\_\_ × \$50 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total remittance (includes tax and gratuity)

Please make check payable to the Shasta Celtic Society and remit by January 11th, 2020, to:

Shasta Celtic Society, Burns Night Committee, P.O. Box 492935, Redding, CA 96049-2935

OR you can register and pay on-line at: [scsburnsnight.eventbrite.com](http://scsburnsnight.eventbrite.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JEFFERSON PIPE BAND

Congratulations to the Jefferson Pipe Band for their success at the Scottish Highland Gathering and Games held August 31st – September 1.

**The band won First Place** on August 31 and a Second Place on Sept 1 in Grade 5.

**This was a tremendous victory and win in a very large competition.**

MEAL DO NAIDHEACHD!



## SPAMALOT

"God be praised, we have a quest!"

Take part in the Axiom's own staging of the musical that was "lovingly ripped off" of Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

(Starring SCS's Mike Spence!)

**Feb. 6th - Feb. 23rd 2020**

Axiom Repertory Theatre: 2613 Bechelli Ln • Redding

**More Info:** [www.axreptheatre.com/event-info/spamalot](http://www.axreptheatre.com/event-info/spamalot)

## THE CELTIC ROOTS OF CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

by Alastair Kneale on December 23, 2017



The roots of the Christmas traditions that we recognize today can be traced back to pre-Christian celebrations of the Winter solstice. The solstice is the twice yearly event when the sun appears to be at its highest or lowest point above the horizon. In the northern hemisphere the Winter solstice usually occurs annually between December 20 and December 23.

The Winter solstice was seen by the ancient Celts as one of the most significant times of the year. The Neolithic monuments of Newgrange in Éire, Maes Howe in Orkney, Scotland and Bryn Celli Ddu in Ynys Môn, Wales are examples of burial chambers constructed to capture the full impact of sun's rays during the solstices.

Druids, the priestly class in ancient Celtic society, celebrated the festival of Alban Arthuan (also known as Yule) at the time of the Winter solstice. It was on this day that they ceremonially gathered mistletoe from oak trees. A practice described in the writings of Roman historian Pliny the Elder (Gaius Plinius Secundus AD 23 – August 25, AD 79).

The name Christmas is from the Mass of Christ (Christ-Mass). The actual date of

the birth of Jesus is not given in the Bible. The spread of Christianity during the first millennium (January 1st AD to December 1000 AD of the Julian calendar) was aided by the new religion adapting to the ceremonies and traditions of the existing religions. At times the early Christians also adopted existing deities to ease the transition from old beliefs to new ones, as is thought to be the case with Brigid the Celtic fertility goddess who became known to Christians as Saint Brigid.

So when celebrating Christmas the traditional trappings that go with this festive season have roots that go far back into Celtic history. The Mistletoe gathered by the Druids for its magical and health giving properties. The Yule log burnt by the Celts to counter the darkness of mid-Winter when they thought the sun stood still for twelve days and to bring good luck. The Holly and Ivy; evergreens that Celts saw as important to keep evil spirits at bay. The Tree decorated with symbols of solar objects and gifts to Celtic gods and goddesses. ☸

## SCS ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**APRIL 2020**

(DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

**Election for the Board of Directors**

**We are in need for dedicated volunteers who wish to serve on the board. Please call Holly Hooton 530-243-8094 if you would like to serve as a director on the board.**

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!!!

The Shasta Celtic Society is made up of great folks like YOU! Whether or not your ancestry is Scottish, Irish, or Celtic in any way, we are an organization with a great track record of doing positive things in the Northstate. Please consider becoming a first-time member or renewing your membership to take advantage of a variety of privileges, including:

- Special recognition for your membership at the annual Burns Night Supper.
- Bi-monthly newsletter.
- Member recognition at the annual tea.
- Celts in the Park Annual picnic.
- First Foot Party, New Years Day!
- And more surprise events!

ANNUAL DUES

Yearly Shasta Celtic Society Membership dues are now due. Look for the yellow postcards in the mail.  
Individual memberships are \$15. Family memberships are \$20. Thank you for your continued support of SCS !

Never has a membership in the **Shasta Celtic Society** been more appealing! Become a member and get discounts to many local concerts, our Burns Night Supper, and other Society sponsored events. Join today and save! Already a member? Encourage a friend and share the fun!

Shasta Celtic Society Membership Application

Name(s):

Address:


Telephone(s):

E-mail address(es):

Membership level:    \$15/Individual    \$20/Family    \$10/Mailing list only

Preferred newsletter delivery:    via e-mail    via post

Shasta Celtic Society monthly meetings are held every 2nd **WEDNESDAY** at 6:00pm at Red Lion Hotel in Redding.



RAMBLING HOUSE  
CELTIC PERFORMANCE

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 7:30pm  
at the Ross Ragland Theater  
(Klamath Falls, Oregon)

Rambling House melds the heart of Celtic and American folk music with the discipline and sophistication of Baroque music under the direction of Grammy-winning guitarist William Coulter and former Stevie Wonder Band collaborator Edwin Huizinga. Soprano Amanda Powell, of Apollo's Fire notoriety, sings with untethered joy.

This presentation of music is accented with the percussive brilliance of modern Irish step dancing as choreographed by Riverdance veterans Brandon Asazawa and Alyssa Reichert. Brian Bigley, uilleann pipes, and Kristen Capp Bigley, violin are the producers of this show and A Celtic Christmas, which performed to about 1,000 people last December at the Medina PAC. Tickets: \$32/ \$27/ \$23

Tickets & Info: <http://rrtheater.org/event/7272-3-3-2-2-2-2-2-3-3-6/>

To participate in Shasta Celtic Society events, I can (please check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer in general	<input type="checkbox"/> Set up or take down at events	<input type="checkbox"/> Decorate
<input type="checkbox"/> Sit on the Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Photograph events	<input type="checkbox"/> Donate items for raffles, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Sit on a committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Play a musical instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> Make phone calls
<input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate events	<input type="checkbox"/> Dance and/or sing	<input type="checkbox"/> Bake cookies, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Submit articles	<input type="checkbox"/> Work at information booths	<input type="checkbox"/> Not able to volunteer

Other talents and interests:

CONTACTS:

Public Contact: Kitty Seiler ..... 530.515.8692

Membership Chair: Chris Alexancer ..... 530.547.5517

Shasta Celtic Society  
P.O. Box 492935  
Redding, CA 96049-2935  
ShastaCelts.org

# CELTIC CALENDAR

## A CELTIC CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 21st @ 7:30pm

Cascade Theatre • 1731 Market St. • Redding

Tickets & Info: [CascadeTheatre.org](http://CascadeTheatre.org)



## SPAMALOT

Feb. 6th-23rd, 2020

Axiom Repertory Theatre • Redding, CA

[axreptheatre.com/event-info/spamalot](http://axreptheatre.com/event-info/spamalot)



## SENORA CELTIC FAIRE

March 6-8, 2020

Mother Lode Fairgrounds • Senora, CA



## RAGBLING HOUSE

March 17, 2020 • 7:30pm

Ross Ragland Theater • Klamath Falls, OR



## 2020 WOODLAND CELTIC GAMES

April 25-26, 2020

Yolo County Fairgrounds

RSVP to Dave or Chris Alexander: 530.547.5517

Shasta Celtic Society monthly meeting:

Every Second **WEDNESDAY** at 6:00pm

at Red Lion Hotel Redding



Shasta Scottish Country Dance Class:

Every Thursday at 6:30pm

at Palo Cedro Community Guild Hall

(formerly known as Millville Grange)

More info call: 347-0825 or 244-4183



Jefferson Pipe Band Practice:

Every Tuesday at 7:00pm

at Shasta High School Cafeteria

More info call: 941-2238 or 949-7430



**Become a member of the Shasta Celtic Society!**

Membership applications forms available at:

[www.shastacelts.org](http://www.shastacelts.org)

# SHASTA CELTIC SOCIETY DIRECTORY

Shasta Celtic Society

PO Box 492935 • Redding, CA 96049-2935

[www.ShastaCelts.org](http://www.ShastaCelts.org)

### OFFICERS:

President.....Holly Hooton 530.243.8094

Vice President.....Bob Elrick 530.246.3603

Treasurer.....Michele Spence 530.378.1683

Secretary.....Kitty Seiler 530.515.8692

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

Jean Cannon .....530.227.3274

Shirley Pritchett .....530.243.1250

Mike Spence .....530.378.1683

Entertainment Committee Chair:

Holly Hooton .....530.243.8094

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