



## PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION

July 2022

### From the President

Happy Summer. Have you travelled or traveling soon? I hope you are able to finally make that trip that was postponed by the pandemic. Karen and I are off to Scotland at the end of the month. Originally planned for September 2020, we will do a small ship cruise to the islands - Shetland, Orkney, Lewis, Mull & Skye. We will also sojourn to Islay for a wee whisky tasting, and spend time in and around Paisley as well as Robert Burns country, Ayrshire.

PBFSCO was thrilled to welcome all the friends and families on the Flying Scotsman Train Ride in June. The weather was delightful. And has been our tradition, we were welcomed aboard with bagpiping. Great thanks to Graham Phuvanatnaranubala of the Piedmont Highlanders Pipes & Drums. After the ride, we enjoyed picnic lunch in the park adjoining the Sunol Station. Kudos to Kristen and Dean Scott of the Celtic Tea Shoppe for the impromptu songs after lunch.



## Mark Your Calendar

### Pub Night and Games Tent

Join us for PBFSCO Pub Night Thursday, September 1st, 6:00-9:00pm at Main Street Brewery in downtown Pleasanton to kickoff the Scottish Highland Gathering & Games weekend. Enjoy Celtic entertainers, Pipe Band, food and drink. Scottish Belhaven will be the featured beer. There will be a drawing sponsored by American Friends of Erskine, the proceeds benefitting the Erskine organization that has been supporting veterans in Scotland since 1916.

Please stop by the PBFSCO hospitality tent at the Games on Saturday & Sunday. We will be located with other Scottish societies in the Clan area.

### Burns Supper 2023

Make plans to attend the 2023 PBFSCO Burns Supper on Saturday, January 28th, at the Pleasanton Marriott. It will be our 27th tribute to Robert Burns, featuring Golden Bough. More information and ticket details will be sent out in the fall.

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## Remembrance

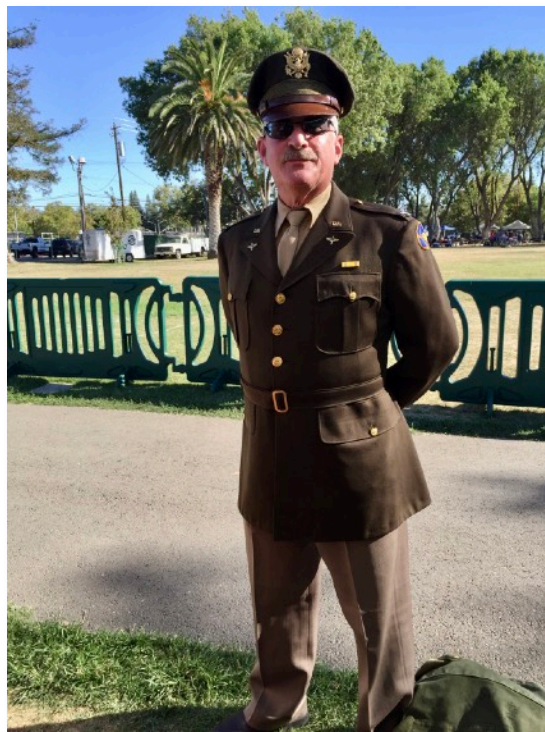
### Fred Rutledge

Several PBFSCO members attended Fred Rutledge's Celebration of Life at the Encinal Yacht Club last month. It was a beautiful sunny day on which to remember Fred. He was a man of many talents - historian, educator, bagpiper, military veteran, humanitarian, lecturer and civic leader.

Fred was born in Piedmont, California, a fourth-generation native Californian. History was such a big part of Fred. He had a B.A in History from U.C. Berkeley, a M.A in Education Administration from St. Mary's College and he enrolled in history classes at Oxford University.

In his free time you may have seen Fred's lectures on the Civil War and/or World War I dressed in authentic vintage attire. He also performed a one man show impersonating President Theodore Roosevelt at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton. And in retirement, Cal Discoveries Travel hired Fred to give history talks to audiences around the world.

And little did I know that Fred was quite a collector of baseball hats and ties. Jane and family spread them out on several tables at the celebration. Everyone was encouraged to take one or two. It was a fitting tribute to see folks donning one of Fred's hats!



2015 visit to the PBFSCO hospitality tent

PLEASANTON-BLAIRGOWRIE-FERGUS  
SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION

**Alex Beaton**

Many in the Scottish community were saddened to learn of the passing of Alex Beaton. In the Bay Area, he is fondly remembered for his many years of performances at the Scottish Highland Gathering and Games in Pleasanton and hosting annual tours to Scotland. Alex died on May 27, 2022 at the age of 77.

Alex was born and raised in Glasgow. He began his professional career as a youthful 19 year old in the Glaswegian folk group called The Cumberland Three. As folk music's popularity declined in the UK, Alex's mates in the Cumberland Three returned to Glasgow from London and Alex emigrated to New York in 1965. As a permanent resident, he was drafted into the Army in 1966 which led to a job with the Third Army Soldiers Shows in Ft. McPherson in Georgia, and eventually performing in the 7th Army Soldiers Chorus in Germany.

With a travel bug after the Army, Alex moved to Aspen, Colorado, then Phoenix, Arizona and then Southern California. In 1983, Alex performed at the Annual Festival of the Scottish Society of Los Angeles. Thus began his long career of performing at various festivals and Scottish Games throughout the U.S. True to his roots, he created Glenfinnan Music and brought out a series of albums. And it was in 1996 that Alex began hosting tours to Scotland that sold out every year.

Alex graced center stage for PBFSCO's 2007 Burns Supper. Not only was he our featured entertainer, he adeptly presented the "Address to the Haggis".



A freak accident at home paralyzed Alex from the neck down in 2011, a month after returning from one of his Scotland tours. Although he was out of the public eye for the past 11 years, the large audience he garnered over his career created a following that continued to touch base with him.

In a message on his website his family said: "He would like you to remember him in your own way and in your own time. Please know that he had a good life; lived it on his own terms and managed to carve out a career for himself doing something he loved".

## Scottish Trivia

A new set of 10 trivia questions below.

On the following page, answers to the trivia questions from the previous newsletter.

## Scottish Trivia #2

1. What is the National Animal of Scotland?
2. What is the most popular soft drink in Scotland?
3. In 'How I met your mother', Ted and Marshall always listen to the same song in the car. Which one is it?
4. How long is the Royal Mile in Edinburgh?
5. What is the oldest university in Scotland?
6. Visitors to Urquhart Castle may well be looking out for what?
7. Abbotsford House was once the home of the author of the series of books Called the Waverley Novels. What is the name of the author?
8. This city is located on the River Tay and is known as the 'Fair City'.
9. Out in the Firth of Clyde is a small volcanic island called...?
10. A unique lift system was opened in 2002 to reconnect the Union Canal with the Forth & Clyde Canal, what is it called?

## Scottish Trivia #1

How did you do on the questions from the previous newsletter? Answers in **bold**

1. The largest islands in both Orkney and Shetland share which name?

**Mainland**

2. What was the name of the rock that the ancient kings of Scotland sat on to be crowned?

**Stone of Destiny or Stone of Scone**

3. The old Carlton burial ground is the resting place of many well known Scottish figures, but what American President has a statue which lies amongst the tombstones?

**Abraham Lincoln**

**Many claim the statue is the finest ever sculpted of Lincoln. It sits atop a memorial for Scottish soldiers who fought and died in the American Civil War. It is inscribed with a quote from Lincoln "To preserve the jewel of liberty in the framework of freedom".**

4. Spanning the river Clyde from Pacific Quay to Govan is the bridge called the Clyde Arc, what do most Glaswegians call the bridge?

**The Squinty Bridge, as it crosses the river diagonally.**

5. The most famous son of Ayrshire is Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns. In which town or village was he born?

**Alloway**

6. Capital city Edinburgh is located on the east coast of the country and on the southern shore of what body of water?

**Firth of Forth**

7. The West Highland Way, what would you be advised to wear while exploring this natural area. (The answer isn't a raincoat)

**Hiking boots**

**From Milngavie (Mullguy) to Fort William, 95 miles of beautiful scenery which includes Glencoe.**

8. These islands off the west coast of Scotland are sometimes called the Western Islands?

**The Hebrides**

**Two groups of islands, the Inner Hebrides and the Outer Hebrides**

9. What Scottish town is twinned with Pleasanton?

**Blairgowrie**

10. What height must a Scottish mountain be to be classified as a 'Munro'?

**3,000 ft**

**They were first catalogued in the late 1890's by Sir Hugh Thomas Munro, Bart of Lindertis**

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SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION

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**Fiona**

living & milking happily at  
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