

# HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

[www.caledonians.com](http://www.caledonians.com)

Volume #109 Issue # 9

DECEMBER 2011

## NEXT GATHERING

DECEMBER 9, 2011 - 7:30 pm

**Entertainment this month are the NW Scottish Fiddlers with Calum MacKinnon** - The Northwest Scottish Fiddlers will be playing traditional Scottish fiddle music. Born in Scotland to Hebridean parents, Calum spent his early years growing up on the Isle of Tiree. He started fiddling at eight years old and made his first broadcast performance on BBC Radio at age twelve. He performs regularly at the Masters of Scottish Arts concert at Benaroya Hall. His group of fiddlers, of all ages, play some rousing and exciting fiddle music which will be enjoyed by all.



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### Letter from our President, Don Moore:

First off, Christmas and New Year greetings from the Board of the Caledonian Society. The Society's year is shaping up nicely. Our "History of Scotland" study group gets underway this month, the entertainment and education events at our Society Gatherings are in place for the rest of the year, as Social

Director Bill announced at the last meeting and the Board is trying to resurrect Burns Night. I am presently negotiating to get the new Scottish Rite building; we will know more about this later in the month.

The Board continues to seek ways of keeping the Society invigorated. Are you satisfied with how what the Society is providing you? Are there things that are not working for you in our current operations? Can you think of things the Society could do to improve itself? In the perfect world, each member would share the answers to these questions with at least one Board member so that member could share it with the rest of the board. It's not a perfect world but sharing this information would improve our little corner of it.

You might think that if you are satisfied with the Society, you don't need to say anything. That's true sometimes, but not this time. The Board is starving for some feedback. Surveys and questionnaires don't work here. We need to know what you think, feel and want of the Society. Should we try to grow the Society into something new? That's one possibility. Should the Society continue to fill the niche is currently fills? That's a completely viable option. Is that what you want? The only thing we can't do is go back to the past. Everything else is our option. Tell us what you would like.

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**Letter from the Editor** – Happy Holidays, everyone! I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving and will have a good Christmas and Hogmanay. We had a fun gathering last

month with a wonderful tea. Our entertainment was Dan Carollo, a Celtic guitarist, with Julie Mainstone, a Celtic singer. They were really quite good and their music was enjoyed by all. We honored our Veterans by having them stand and tell us which branch of the service they were in and when they served. It makes one proud to see how many vets we have in the society, both men and women. It was nice to see Janet Hews, who told us a story about Scotland during the Second World War. We have some terrific entertainment this month, Calum MacKinnon, with his NW Scottish Fiddlers. He will have our toes tapping and hands clapping, I'm sure. They play traditional Scottish fiddle music. In January, we plan to have Tom Laurensen, who will speak on the Highland Clearances from 1746-1880s. As always, as Editor of the Heatherbell, I welcome comments and suggestions. I am happy to consider any article you would like printed, although I may edit if the copy seems too long. I like to see our members participating in this newsletter. I hope to see you all on December 9. Stay warm!

**Sunshine report** – Bonnie sent two cards – one to Ellen Fuhrman, who was ill with pneumonia, and one to Art Henderson, who is having knee surgery. Remember, if you hear of anyone who is ill or in hospital, please let Bonnie know so she can send a card.

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### Honoring our Veterans at the November gathering.



Diana Smith

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**Tea:** Thank you for the following for bringing tea in November: Kim Cambern, Rosemary Blakemore, Diana Smith, Victoria Vegors, Alan Hall, and Phillip Junkins. For December, our volunteers are Bonnie Munro, Nancy Wallace and Kim Cambern.

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**Raffle:** Thank you to the following for donations to the raffle in November: Allan Patten, Dorothy Leo, Diana Smith, and Phil and Cora Howard. As always, we appreciate nice donations, preferably Scottish things. In December, we will have five CDs, purchased by the board, to benefit the Highland Hospice in Inverness, Scotland. Highland Hospice is the only Hospice in the Highlands of Scotland serving adults with incurable life-limiting disease. The CD contains a selection of Gaelic carols featuring the talents of some of Scotland's very top traditional musicians including: Julie Fowles, Kathleen MacInnes, Bruce MacGregor, James Graham, Caledonian Canal Ceilidh Trail, Margaret Stewart, Maggie Macdonald, Paul McCallum, Flying Fiddles and many more.



**Hogmanay** – In Scotland, Hogmanay (the New Year's celebration) is a bigger holiday than Christmas. Traditionally, Christmas was rather quiet, spent at home with family, but Hogmanay is a week-long celebration with lots of eating and drinking and much fun. The roots of Hogmanay perhaps reach back to the celebration of the [winter solstice](#) among the [Norse](#), as well as incorporating customs from the [Gaelic](#) New Year's celebration of [Samhain](#). In [Rome](#), winter solstice evolved into the ancient celebration of [Saturnalia](#), a great winter festival, where people celebrated completely free of restraint and inhibition. The [Vikings](#) celebrated [Yule](#), which later contributed to the [Twelve Days of Christmas](#), or the "Daft Days" as they were sometimes called in Scotland. The winter festival went underground with the [Protestant Reformation](#) and ensuing years, but re-emerged near the end of the 17th century. There are many customs, both national and local, associated with Hogmanay. The most widespread national custom is the practice of ['first-footing'](#) which starts immediately after midnight. This involves being the first person to cross the threshold of a friend or neighbor and often involves the giving of symbolic gifts such as [salt](#) (less common today), [coal](#), [shortbread](#), [whisky](#), and [black bun](#) (a rich [fruit cake](#)) intended to bring different kinds of luck to the householder. Food and drink are then given to the guests. This may go on throughout the early hours of the morning and well into the next day (although modern days see people visiting houses well into the middle of January). The first-foot is supposed to set the luck for the rest of the year. Traditionally, tall dark men are preferred as the first-foot. It is customary to sing "[Auld Lang Syne](#)", a traditional poem reinterpreted by [Robert Burns](#), which was later set to music. It is now common for this to be sung in a circle of linked arms that are crossed over one another as the clock strikes midnight for New Year's Day, although it is only intended that participants link arms at the beginning of the final verse, coordinating with the lines of the song which contain the lyrics to do so.

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**Scottish Country Dancing** – every Monday evening at the Phinney Neighborhood Center; contact Victoria Johnson or Fraser MacLeod.



**Janet Hews, who gave us a story about Scotland during the war.**

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**Seattle Pro Musica presents CELTIC CHRISTMAS - MUSIC FROM IRELAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES – Dec. 10 and 17 –** Experience the lively sounds of traditional Celtic choral music for the Christmas season, as well as new music by composers from Ireland, Wales and Scotland. The evening includes a traditional candlelight processional and works performed in Welsh, Irish, Gaelic, and English. Seattle Pro Musica's Christmas concerts have been voted "top holiday concert" by Seattle audiences. December 10 at Seattle's Town Hall, 7:30pm; December 17 at Bastyr University Chapel in Kenmore, 3:00 and 7:30pm. Seattle Pro Musica (SPM) is the premier choral ensemble in the Pacific Northwest and one of the finest choral ensembles in the country. Katie Skovholt, [katie@seattlepromusica.org](mailto:katie@seattlepromusica.org), 206-781-2766; [www.seattlepromusica.org](http://www.seattlepromusica.org)

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**Our November entertainment - Julie Mainstone and Dan Carollo**

## Scottish History nights –

Our Scottish History series will be starting Dec. 13th, 7:00 pm, and will meet the second Tuesday of every month, at the Lake City Presbyterian Church. It's free, but we will be taking donations to cover the rent. Please contact Kim Cambern to reserve your spot ([kcambarn@comcast.net](mailto:kcambarn@comcast.net)). We will be using the BBC series "A History of Scotland". Neil Oliver, archaeologist, broadcaster and charismatic presenter of the award-winning documentary series "Coast", charts the birth and growth of the Scottish nation in a compelling and comprehensive series.

We will present the ten episodes in 5 thought-provoking evenings, one every month. Mr. Oliver's fresh perspective to Scotland's past, challenges many of the perceived notions of Scottish history. Using stunning, BAFTA-winning cinematography and mesmerizing narrative, the series tells of battles and allegiances, political intrigue and religious conflict.

This series charts the journey from the diverse tribes' first stirrings of identity around 2,000 years ago through to devolution and the reopening of the Scottish Parliament. It reveals the fascinating struggles, power brokers, incidents and characters across the years from William Wallace, Robert the Bruce and Sir Walter Scott, to the Highland-Lowland rivalry, the Covenanters, the Darien disaster\* and the tobacco lords. Using the very latest in historical research, "A History of Scotland" is a sweeping and insightful chronicle of an often turbulent, but continuingly fascinating, nation.

Then for the sixth and last month, we will be offering a bonus feature entitled "How the Celts Saved Britain". Dan Snow questions the traditional, Anglo-centric view of history and reveals how the Irish saved Britain from cultural oblivion during the Dark Ages, in this provocative documentary. Travelling back in time to some of the remotest corners of the British Isles, Dan unravels the mystery of the lost years of 400-800 AD, when the collapse of the Roman Empire left Britain in tatters. The story begins with how 5th century AD Roman 'Britannia' was plunged into chaos by the arrival of Anglo-Saxon invaders, causing Roman civilisation to disappear from Britain,

explaining why a new civilisation emerged in one of the most unlikely places - Ireland.

Within a few generations, Christianity transformed a backward, barbarian country into the cultural powerhouse of early medieval Europe.

(\*The Darién scheme was an unsuccessful attempt by the Kingdom of Scotland to become a world trading nation by establishing a colony called "New Caledonia" on the Isthmus of Panama in the late 1690s. In practice the undertaking was marked by poor planning and leadership, lack of demand for trade goods, devastating epidemics of disease, and increasing shortage of food; it was finally abandoned after a siege by Spanish forces in April of 1700. As the Darien company was backed by about a quarter of the money circulating in Scotland, its failure left the nobles and landowners – who had suffered a run of bad harvests – almost completely ruined and was an important factor in weakening their resistance to the Act of Union (finally consummated in 1707). Although the scheme failed it has been seen as marking the beginning of the country's transformation into a modern nation orientated toward business. Within a generation Scotland had one of the most advanced commercial cultures in the world.)

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**Gung Haggis is coming!** Mark your calendars! Gung Haggis Fat Choy will be on Feb. 19, 5:00-9:00 pm, at the China Harbor Restaurant in Seattle; reservations required (last year we sold out early). A Chinese-Scottish cross-cultural event featuring Scottish and Chinese entertainment, as well as Scottish and Chinese food. Attendees are encouraged to wear national dress from either country, or a combination of both. Bill McFadden will have more details soon.

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### Scottish News:

**Viking ship found in Scotland** - A Viking ship, which for 1,000 years has held the body of a chieftain, with his shield on his chest and his sword and his spear by his side, has been excavated on a remote Scottish peninsula - the first undisturbed Viking ship burial found on the

British mainland. The timbers of the ship found on the Ardnamurchan peninsula rotted into the soil centuries ago. However, the outline of the classic Viking boat, with its pointed prow and stern, remained. An expert on Viking boats, Colleen Batey from the University of Glasgow, dates it to the 10th century.

**Pandas get their own tartan** – They hail from China and are not part of a clan, but the giant pandas set to arrive at Edinburgh Zoo before the end of the year have been granted their own tartan. The Scottish Register of Tartans, which approves applications for new patterns, has released details on its website of “The Edinburgh Zoo Panda” design, created to celebrate the arrival of breeding pair Tian Tian and Yangguang. The main colors are black and white, representing the pandas. There’s also red for China and green to represent bamboo, the animals’ favorite food. Red overchecks in blocks represent the number “3”, which symbolizes luck and is similar to the Chinese character for birth. Grey shades convey the gradation of color from black to white as seen on the pandas’ fur. The tartan was commissioned by the Edinburgh Zoo.

**The Scottish Fold has become the hottest new pet in Hollywood** - This is a rare breed of feline descended from a white Perthshire barn cat who lived near Coupar Angus in 1961. Its unusual folded-ear appearance, believed to be the result of a spontaneous genetic mutation, caught the eye of local shepherd William Ross. He asked for a kitten from the litter for breeding purposes and every Scottish Fold is believed to be descended from that one animal. Scottish Folds cannot be bred with each other without causing severe genetic mutation, meaning it is common for a litter to contain only one cat with the true folded ear appearance. As a result they regularly change hands for up to £1,000. Prospective owners are often placed on waiting lists or even entered into lotteries for available kittens. Some Hollywood stars who own Scottish Folds are Kirsten Dunst, Mia Farrow, country music megastar Taylor Swift, and Patrick Dempsey.

**New Scottish ferries will offer ‘cruise ship comforts’** - A new era of cruise liner-style luxury dawns for Scottish ferry passengers.

They will be offered Jacuzzis, saunas and iPads to enhance their voyage. New vessels, which will be the biggest ferries to sail between Britain and Ireland, will also provide Xbox consoles and free drinks when they take over the Scotland-Belfast route. Operator Stena Line claims the ferries will provide “unprecedented levels of comfort on the Irish Sea” for the one million passengers a year on the route. Stena’s Superfast VII and VIII are each nearly 700ft long – the length of two football pitches.

**Scottish slang to be included in updated dictionary** - Colloquialisms are to be included in the Concise Scots Dictionary, which is to be put together by the Scottish Language Dictionary charity. Dr. Maggie Scott, a researcher in Scots and Scottish English at Salford University and one of the speakers at a conference scheduled for next year, said slang can be difficult to classify, particularly in Scots. She said: “It’s difficult enough to decide if Scots is a dialect or a language.” Some words to be included are “numpty” in Scots (an idiot or fool), “hata”, originally an African-American term for a “critic motivated by jealousy”, Dingie: to deliberately ignore someone; Ned: coarse, uncultivated; Spraff: to talk at length; Gadgie: bloke, man; Jakey: an alcoholic, tramp.

**Highland Games in losing battle for survival** – The Highland Games in Scotland are still popular tourist attractions and community focal points across Scotland, but the first national study has found the games are closing down at an increasing rate and organisers are battling for their survival. The three-year study found the number of events has declined from more than 200 in the 1940s to just 90 today. A government report said: The Scottish Highland Games network is based on a foundation of volunteers. No volunteers, no Highland Games, it’s as simple as that. Volunteers are all getting older together, and there is nothing to replace them.

**Dr. Livingstone** – He is Scotland’s most famous explorer, who rose from a humble upbringing as a Lanarkshire cotton mill worker to become a pioneering medical missionary in

Africa. Now his extraordinary life is to be celebrated in a major exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland to coincide with the 200th anniversary of his birth in 2013. It will tell how the Scot gained almost mythic “celebrity” status in 19th-century Britain as a scientific investigator and explorer, but enjoyed fame at the expense of his wife and family. Such was his celebrity in his own day that after he died of malaria in Africa, his body was returned for burial in London in Westminster Abbey. Rare personal items are being reunited for the first time for the exhibition, including an antelope net, a weaving loom, hand-drawn maps, letters, his compass, a wooden slave stick – used for restraint – and iron shackles. The exhibition will trace Livingstone’s life story, from his humble beginnings in Blantyre, working in a cotton mill, studying medicine and divinity, then working as a missionary in Africa, and becoming a national hero in Victorian Britain after publishing his first book. He had a vision to end the slave trade and to open up Africa to Christianity and lawful commerce. He was the first European to cross Africa from west to east, and while he made few converts to Christianity, his success as an explorer and his work as an abolitionist secured for him a lasting reputation. However, he wasn’t a very good husband or father, and he did not get on well with many people. He was a difficult man to like.

**National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh**

More than a million people have visited the renovated National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh since its £47 million overhaul was unveiled at the end of July. A further boom in visitors is expected next year, when two major exhibitions will open – one featuring ancient Egyptian artifacts and the other celebrating Catherine The Great.

**The 2011 Edinburgh Military Tattoo** – This new DVD features the full 90-minute show, including performances by the Massed Pipes and Drums, The Band of the Royal Netherlands Army Mounted Regiments, The Brazilian Marine Corps Martial Band, The German Mountain Army Band, The Lone Piper, and The Massed Bands of Her Majesty’s Royal Marines. The DVD is \$24.40 and is dual format so it is playable on any machine Worldwide. For more details, see: [www.musicinScotland.com](http://www.musicinScotland.com). (This site is a good one for finding all kinds of Scottish music.)

**For your holiday dinners, try a traditional Scottish dish:**

Forfar bridie – is a type of meat pastry, originally made in the town of Forfar, Scotland; a savory pie similar to a pasty, but the pastry is not as hard and no potato is used.

Collops – thin slices of meat, of either beef, lamb or venison. This is combined with onion, salt, pepper, and suet, then stewed, baked or roasted.

Crappit heid – a traditional Scots fish course which consisted of the head of a large cod or similar sized fish, washed, descaled and then stuffed with a mixture of oats, suet, onion, white pepper and the liver of the fish in question. This was then sewn or skewered to close the aperture and boiled in seawater.

Cullen Skink – a thick Scottish soup made of smoked Finnan haddie, potatoes and onions.

Partan Bree – a seafood specialty from north-eastern Scotland; its name derives from its ingredients - *partan* being the Gaelic for crab and *bree* a Scottish term for soup or brew.

Rumbledethumps – a traditional dish from the Scottish Borders. The main ingredients are potato, cabbage and onion; it is similar to Irish colcannon, and English bubble and squeak.

Skirlie – a dish combining oatmeal, some form of fat or oil, onion, salt and pepper. It is eaten on its own, used as a stuffing for a mock-sausage, the mealie pudding, or used as a stuffing for chicken.

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**Fund raising ideas (true Scottish stories):**

Do you like tea? Trevor Robinson drank 100 cups of tea in nice hours fifty-six minutes on May 4, 1974 to claim a new world record for tea-drinking. His comment, after finishing, was, "I feel terrible!" His record attempt was made in an effort to raise money for charity. Each cup held one-third of a pint of hot, milky tea.

Damp bagpipes? Father John Archie Macmillan once raised money to build a new community hall on the Hebridean island of Eriskay by playing the bagpipes while water-skiing.

## Upcoming events:

Dec. 3 - Enumclaw Christmas Parade, Enumclaw, WA; participate with the SSHGA; line up at 5:00, parade starts at 6:00; for further information, please contact the Association at (206) 522-2541 or email [scots4ever@sshga.org](mailto:scots4ever@sshga.org).

Dec. 3 – Puyallup Christmas Parade, Puyallup, WA. It gets to Puyallup around 5:00 pm. They have an ice rink in the park, and the Christmas lights in the park

Dec. 4 – Magical Strings Yuletide Concert, 3:00pm, Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center, 10020 SE 256<sup>th</sup> St, Kent; [www.magicalstrings.com](http://www.magicalstrings.com)

Dec. 4 – Celtic Women Symphony Tour, Snoqualmie Casino, [www.celticwomen.com](http://www.celticwomen.com); [www.snocasino.com](http://www.snocasino.com); <http://www.ticketnetwork.com/tix/celtic-woman-12-04-2011-tickets-1630071.aspx>

Dec. 9 - Caledonian-St. Andrew's gathering; 7:30; Lake City Presbyterian Church; entertainment is NW Scottish Fiddlers - Calum MacKinnon - <http://www.nwscottishfiddlers.org/>

Dec. 10 - Beyond Celtic; 8:00 PM Paramount Theatre, Seattle; **CANCELLED**

Dec. 16, 17, 22 - Magical Strings Seattle Celtic Yuletide Concerts, [www.magicalstrings.com](http://www.magicalstrings.com)

Dec. 18 – Tartan Tenors Christmas, Longview, WA; [www.tartantenors.com](http://www.tartantenors.com); <http://columbiatheatre.com>

Dec. 18 - Bronn and Katherine Journey, 2:00 pm, Everett Performing Arts Center, 2710 Wetmore Ave Everett, WA; <http://bronnjourney.com/page.php?id=79>

Jan. 7 - Molly's Revenge; 7:00 pm; Auburn Performing Arts Center, Auburn, WA; <http://www.auburn.wednet.edu/PerformingArts/APACCalendar.html> (click on Jan. 7)

Jan. 13 - Caledonian-St. Andrew's gathering; 7:30; Lake City Presbyterian Church; entertainment Tom Laurenson speaking on the Highland Clearances from 1746-1880s

Jan. 13-15 – Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas weekend workshop, Fort Casey, Whidbey Island; [www.alasdairfraser.com](http://www.alasdairfraser.com)

Jan. 14 – Tacoma Scots Pipe Band's "A Night with Rabbin Burns" - info: Alice Kinney 360-446-5772; [kinneys4@hotmail.com](mailto:kinneys4@hotmail.com)

Jan. 20-21 – Celtic Nights, Bellingham and Bremerton; Bellingham - 360-734-6080; [www.celticnights.ie](http://www.celticnights.ie); [www.mountbakertheatre.com](http://www.mountbakertheatre.com); [www.admiraltheatre.org](http://www.admiraltheatre.org)

Feb. 10 – no Caledonian-St. Andrew's gathering; we will be at the Masters of Scottish Arts

Feb. 10 – Masters of Scottish Arts concert, Benaroya Hall

Feb. 11 – Jim Malcolm, 8:00pm, Traditions Cafe, Olympia, WA; [www.traditionsfairtrade.com](http://www.traditionsfairtrade.com); [www.jimmalcolm.com](http://www.jimmalcolm.com)

March 4 – St. David's Day, Puget Sound Welsh Association, Lake City Presbyterian Church

March 9 - Caledonian-St. Andrew's gathering; 7:30; Lake City Presbyterian Church; entertainment is NWJPB

March 8-9-10 – Keith Highlanders Pipe Band, Kirkland Performance Hall, [www.khpb.org](http://www.khpb.org); [www.kpcenter.org](http://www.kpcenter.org)

March 11 – Erin Go Bragh - a celebration of all things Celtic with Master Chorus Eastside; Kirkland Performance Center, 3:00 pm; [www.kpcenter.org](http://www.kpcenter.org); [www.masterchoruseastside.org](http://www.masterchoruseastside.org)

March 17 – Irish Festival, Seattle Center

March 17 – Celtic Fire, Bremerton, [www.michaellondra.com](http://www.michaellondra.com); [www.admiraltheatre.org](http://www.admiraltheatre.org)

March 24 – Clan Gordon Pipe Band's 49<sup>th</sup> annual Tartan Ball, [www.clangordonpipeband.org](http://www.clangordonpipeband.org)

April 13 - Caledonian-St. Andrew's gathering; 7:30; Lake City Presbyterian Church; entertainment is Don Moore speaking on the History of the Bagpipes

April 14 – Oregon Scottish Festival, Albany, OR; [www.oregonscottishsociety.com](http://www.oregonscottishsociety.com)

April 18 – Masters of Tradition, Olympia; [www.martinhayes.com](http://www.martinhayes.com); [www.washingtoncenter.org](http://www.washingtoncenter.org)

May 11 - Caledonian-St. Andrew's gathering; 7:30; Lake City Presbyterian Church

June 8 - Caledonian-St. Andrew's gathering; 7:30; Lake City Presbyterian Church



A fellowship founded in  
Seattle in 1902 to foster  
a love of Scotland, her  
people and her heritage.

**Mailing Address:**

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**Dancing:**

Mondays, 7 p.m. at The  
Phinney Ridge Community  
Center. For information  
contact Fraser MacLeod  
(fraser509@hotmail.com)

**Gatherings:**

- When - Second Friday of each month except  
July, August and September.  
Where - Lake City Presbyterian Church  
3841 N.E. 123<sup>rd</sup> St. Seattle WA 98125  
Directions - From Lake City Way proceed east on 123<sup>rd</sup>  
to 40<sup>th</sup>. Park in the Church parking lot.  
Time - Set-up at 6:30 p.m.  
Social Hour at 7:00 p.m.  
Business meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
Entertainment and raffle at 8:00 p.m.

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