



The Thistle



The St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh
Vol. 32, Issue 2 August 2026

The mission of the St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh is to preserve and promote Scottish Heritage and Traditions through educational, philanthropic and social endeavors, primarily in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

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The Sarah Jean Thompson Memorial Trophy—Dancer of the Day



West Virginia Highland Dancers



Dancer of the Day—Mairi Thomson Clow



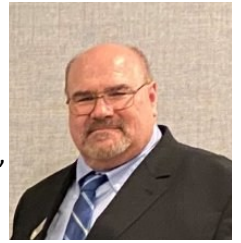


The Thistle



President's Message

Lads and Lasses: The Ligonier Highland Games were held in July with liquid sunshine in great abundance! We experienced a menagerie of weather including torrential downpours, light drizzle, sunshine, hard winds, and even a reported tornado near the town of Ligonier. All this being said, I want to share a big St. Andrew's thank you to all the folks who helped with the events that day. The efforts of all were extraordinary. Field activities were phenomenal, and pipers, heavy athletics, vendors, and all competitors were able to manage with the weather. A big "tapadh leat".



T-shirt Sales

Given the greatly reduced crowds at the Ligonier Games due to the weather, the St. Andrew's Society has a large number of T-shirts in stock. In an effort to get them into the hands of members, we are offering free shipping (a \$10 savings). Please use the order form or go to the St. Andrew's website to order. www.standrewspittsburgh.org

Happenings in Scotland

Starting on August 7th, 2026 and ending on August 29th, was "The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo". Over 70 years ago Lieutenant Colonel George Malcolm of Poltalloch produced a show titled "Something About a Soldier". He also produced "The King's Men" that same year. It was following these two highly successful productions that the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir Andrew Murray, invited the General Officer Commanding the Army in Scotland to present a military show called the Edinburgh Tattoo. The Tattoo has since become more and more of a success, being attended by Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen Mother, dukes, and a host of other high profile attendees.

While still in its infancy the Tattoo started drawing international participants. Highland dancing was included for the first time in 1953. While always a party, in 1962 the Chubby Checker's "Let's Twist Again" was played during the finale. Picture Scots enjoying a dram while twisting! You almost need three fingers to imagine it.

In the early 1970's the performances were scaled back to be a mostly domestic affair only including soldiers from South Asia. As the decade progressed, the event was opened back up to international participants. With the rising popularity of the event, the United States Marine Corps and Scots Guards performed in 1978. Primarily being a military presentation, the years have included various divisions of armed service members including motorcycle corps, police, and fire brigades. Ending the 70's with a new addition, the Window Ladder Display, demonstrating strength and coordination was showcased.

At the beginning of the 80's, the Falkland War impacted the Tattoo resulting in a reduction in participants. After all, this is a military show and the military was busy. What's a major Scottish event without a tartan? That problem was solved in 1983.

Jumping to the late 90's, the United States Army Silent Drill Display Team participated for the first time with their skilled rifle management.

John Hoffman





The Thistle



67th Ligonier Highland Games

First Name		Last Name			
Address					
Address					
City		State		Zip	
Email			Phone		

Crew Neck:	Quantity
Small	
Medium	
Large	
X- Large	
2x-Large	
3x-Large	
4x-Large	
V-Neck:	Quantity
Small	
Medium	
Large	
x- Large	
2x-Large	
3x-Large	
4x-Large	
Total Quantity:	
X \$20	
Shipping (Flat Rate)	FREE
Total due:	

FREE SHIPPING

Make Checks Payable to:

St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh

Mail a check and this form to:

St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh
c/o John Hoffman
121 Georgetown Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229

The design is on a tan
T-shirt for men's cut
and peach for the
lady's cut.

Questions? Contact John Hoffman at:

jchoffman12345@yahoo.com

Phone: (412)627-4850

FREE SHIPPING!





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My Scottish Education

I arrived in Edinburgh in September 2004, with the intention of studying Classics and French. I didn't understand the system, I just applied to a course that sounded familiar. I was eighteen, I had read the brochure and thought I knew what I was doing. The University of Edinburgh accepted me anyway.

The culture shock began almost immediately, and I want to be clear that I had not anticipated any. I had done zero preparation. University life in Scotland came with expectations I hadn't encountered before. Nights out weren't occasional—they were essential. Social life revolved around pubs, crowded dance floors, and a rhythm of drinking that felt both exhilarating and exhausting. At the same time, I had to learn a new language, or so it seemed. I thought I had moved to an English-speaking country. What I had not accounted for was that in Scotland, some vocabulary had a very different meaning than I was used to. "Pants," in American English, means something different over there.

After realizing a degree in Classics and French meant studying Classics and French for four whole years, I switched to Chinese on a whim. My classmates, most of whom had taken gap years and extensively traveled or lived abroad, seemed to know what they were doing. My reasoning was that a degree in Classics and French would be useless, and Chinese was practical and likely had more application to "the real world." That this would alter the course of my life is an understatement.

After graduating, I leaned fully into the Chinese detour. I spent time studying in Taiwan and working in mainland China, which made Edinburgh feel straightforward by comparison. Navigating daily life in a second language turned out to be both exhausting and oddly satisfying. I was used to immersing myself in environments that pushed me even further beyond my comfort zone. I navigated bustling night markets, rural classrooms, and cities where I was once again the outsider learning how to belong. Along the way, I traveled throughout Asia and Europe, collecting experiences and friendships that spanned cultures, languages, and perspectives. Edinburgh, it turned out, had been less of a destination and more of a starting point, teaching me how to exist in unfamiliar spaces, how to listen and adapt, and how to embrace uncertainty. Something I could have figured out earlier, had I read the brochure more carefully.

Submitted by Meagan Kruman





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Pittsburgh Scottish Country Dance Society

<http://www.pscds.org>

Covid Vaccines strongly suggested to attend any class.

Masks encouraged but not required (Covid protocols subject to change).

Fall 2026 Beginner+Basics Class Series: Monday Evenings from 6:45pm to 8pm

September 21st, 28th, October 5th, 12th, 26th

Cost is \$ 35.00 for 5-class series. Call or Email (see below) to register for class series.

Fall 2026 Experienced Classes (for non-beginners)

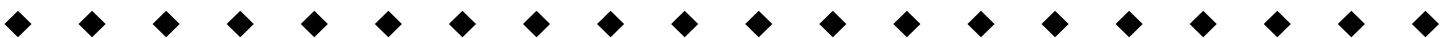
Monday Evenings 8pm-9pm (after Beginner+Basics class), Saturday Evenings 7pm-9pm

Cost: \$3.00 for first-time Attendees; Ongoing: \$7 per person, per class. Discount with membership.

Location: Grace Anglican Church on Mt. Washington, 319 West Sycamore St. 15211

No special costumes or clothing needed. Wear loose clothing allowing easy movement, with soft soled shoes.

Contact us: (412)915-0585 (leave message), or email pscds-email@verizon.net





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St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh

Officers Wanted – for 2027



Dale McLeod, Chair of the St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh Nominating Committee, is currently accepting nominations for any of the elected officer positions in the St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh for the 2027 calendar year. Each of the offices is elected annually for a one-year term, and any member in good standing is eligible to stand for election. It is possible to hold an office for multiple years, but there is no requirement to do so. This year's election will be held on September 12, 2026, during the society's Annual Meeting and Afternoon Tea.

Our current society elected officers are President John Hoffman, Vice-Presidents Dale McLeod and Pam Maniet, Treasurer Kathy Kasiorrek, Membership Secretary Liz Dahne, Corresponding Secretary Lorraine Mathiesen, and Recording Secretary Tammy Lynne Hoffman. While every office is open for election for the coming year, John Hoffman, Dale McLeod, and Tammy Hoffman have indicated their intention to step down from their respective offices. Therefore, there is an extra urgency to fill those particular roles.

If you are interested in being an officer, please contact Nominating Committee Chairman Dale McLeod at dalemcleod1@comcast.net. Kindly include the office(s) that interest you. I would be happy to have a voice-to-voice phone conversation if you wish. My phone is (724) 331-3265.

Nominations must be received by September 4, 2026.

Yours aye,

Dale McLeod

Nominating Committee Chair





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"There Are Damned Few of Us..."

Not-So-Famous and Infamous Scots Who Shaped Our World

William Thomson

by

Roy Aber

If you ever took a science course in high school or college, the name William Thomson would have very little, if any, significance to you. However, if you heard the name Lord Kelvin, you would (or should be able to) recall the name of the scientist who devised what is now called the Kelvin scale for temperature measurement. That was just one, and probably one of his least significant achievements in a remarkable career.

William Thomson was an Ulster Scott born on June 26, 1827 in Belfast, the son of James Thomson who was a teacher of mathematics at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution. William was the second son and brother to two sisters and three brothers. Along with his older brother, James, William was tutored by their father, while the two younger brothers were tutored by their older sisters.

In 1832, two years after his mother's passing, William's father was appointed professor of mathematics at the prestigious University of Glasgow. At the age of ten years, William began attending the University of Glasgow. Written accounts state that it was not a case of William being a precocious student but it was simply because the university had the facilities needed for an elementary school and at the time, ten years was a typical starting age. It was in Glasgow that the Thomson children were exposed to a more worldly view of life. In the coming decade, James and William would spend time in London, live in Germany and the Netherlands and study French in Paris.

At the age of twelve, Thomson won a prize for translating the works of the Syrian satirist, Lucian, from ancient Greek to English. When he was sixteen, Thomson won another class prize, this time in astronomy, for his "Essay on the Figure of the Earth" which demonstrated an early talent for mathematical analysis and creativity. At the ripe old age of seventeen, he wrote yet another paper under the pseudonym of P.Q.R. entitled "On the Uniform Motion of Heat in Homogenous Solid Bodies and Its Connection with the Mathematical Theory of Electricity". When I was seventeen, I was trying to memorize the lyrics to *Just like Romeo and Juliet* by The Reflections. It was this paper that tied the theories of thermal conduction and electrostatics that led James Clerk Maxwell, (we remember him, don't we class?) to describe it as one of the most formative and valuable papers in the field of natural science.

With such a distinguished list of publications and letters of introduction, James Thomson was able to send William to Cambridge University. While there, he excelled at athletics, in particular rowing (single scull) and took an interest in the fine arts, but his passion was still the world of natural science. He continued to excel in theoretical research and won the Smith's Prize for original research. It was after winning this honor that one of the examiners remarked to another "You and I are just about fit to mend his (Thomson's) pens".

In 1846, at the age of twenty-two, Thomson was appointed to the chair of Natural Philosophy at the University of Glasgow. He continued to hold this position until his passing. He now found himself teaching a class to students not much younger than himself in a school where just a few years previously he was a student himself.

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When Thomson was twenty-three, he developed a mathematical technique for solving problems of electrostatics that encouraged Michael Faraday to undertake research that led to the Faraday Effect that established light and magnetic phenomena are related. At twenty-three, I pretty much had the first verse of *Just Like Romeo and Juliet* down pat.

In the 1850's Thomson turned his interest to thermodynamics. Working in parallel but not with Rudolf Clausius, Thomson developed what would become the Second Law of Thermodynamics which states that heat is transferred from a warmer body to a colder one and cannot be transferred from the colder to a warmer body without work being performed on the colder body.

At this point in his life, William Thomson had accomplished more than ten men would have accomplished. And amazing as it sounds, he still had more achievements ahead of him, any one of which would have guaranteed his place in the history of natural science and engineering. One of his accomplishments was marrying Margaret Crum, the daughter of Scottish chemist and industrialist, Walter Crum in 1852. Unfortunately, Margaret's health was fragile and William spent the better part of the next seventeen years caring for his frail wife. It was during this period that a friend of Thomson's encouraged him to become involved with the laying of the first Trans-Atlantic cable. Thomson became interested and spent the next few years working with the Atlantic Telegraph Company including seafaring trips to lay cable. It was during these trips that Thomson developed a passion for sailing. It was this interest in sailing that led Thomson to develop a new method of deep-sea depth sounding and work to perfect an adjustable compass to correct errors from magnetic deviation.

Margaret Thomson's health continued to fail and she finally passed on June 17, 1870. Her death led Thomson to resolve to change his life style and he purchased a schooner called the *Lalla Rookh*, named for a fictional heroine by Irish poet Thomas Moore. It was on this ship Thomson entertained guests and scientific colleagues.

In 1873, Thomson was again at sea laying telegraph cable when the ship he was on was beset with faults. The ship docked in Madeira for sixteen days and while there, he became friends with a Charles Blandy and his three daughters, and one in particular named Frances or as she was called, Fanny. In May 1874, Thomson set sail for Madeira on the *Lalla Rookh* and as he entered the bay, he signaled the Blandy residence that overlooked the harbor "Will you marry me?" to which Fanny signaled back "Yes". On June 24, 1870, William Thomson and Fanny Blandy, thirteen years younger than Thomson were married.

In later years, still holding the chair of Natural Philosophy at the University of Glasgow, filed seventy patent applications, invented the mirror galvanometer, patented a recorder to transfer telegraph signals on to a paper tape, devised a tide predicting machine, and developed precision laboratory instruments to measure electrical current standards. He was even called upon to validate the efficiency claims of the eponymous engine developed by the German engineer Rudolf Diesel. It was after Kelvin validated the claims made by the German that Diesel's engine became a standard source of power for automotive, marine and power generation stations around the world. Needless to say, Diesel and Kelvin became fast and great friends.

In his lifetime, Thomson published over 650 scientific papers, knighted in 1866 with a hereditary peerage as Lord Kelvin by Queen Victoria for his work on submarine telegraphy, had at least seventeen physical phenomena and concepts and one mountain in New Zealand named after him. He was honored by almost every nation in the Western Hemisphere, received every scientific the British had to offer and honored by the Clydesdale Bank with his portrait on the £20 note in 1971 and currently his image graces the £100 note. And for all his scientific genius, he still wiffed on a

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few things. He thought Roentgen's discovery of x-rays was a hoax, radio had no future and heavier than air aviation was impossible. Even Hammerin' Henry Aaron struck out a few times.

On December 17, 1907 Lord Kelvin passed from this mortal earth at his Scottish country seat, Netherhall in Largs. He left no heirs to his title or estate. At the request of Westminster Abbey, Lord Kelvin's coffin was lead-lined oak and his remains were transported by train to London. He was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey beside Isaac Newton, a fitting tribute to one of the great scientists of his age.

Genealogy Corner

Log into **Family Search** and click on Roots Tech. Their catalog has 94 pages of files to explore. There are videos and listings of video classes you can take.



Ancestry's card catalogue has 33,919 entries. There are 64,000 family history books.. They also have instructional videos.

myHeritage has a wealth of information also.

Within each web site there are many other opportunities to explore your family's history. Many of them require a membership. I have viewed memberships as being cheaper than traveling to many different sites to do research.

Happy Hunting

Submitted by Pat Frick



The Thistle



Bringing Scotland to Redstone Highlands

Prior to his passing, former St. Andrew's Society President Paul Thompson put on his kilt and brought Scotland to the residents of Redstone Highlands in Murrysville back in May.

It was a delightful afternoon for those of Scottish heritage and those who were wanting to learn more about Scotland. As always, Paul put on a presentation like no other. His life experience and knowledge never disappoints. He covered just about every aspect he could in an hour long presentation. From the history of the Jacobites, to modern day politics he kept he fellow residents engaged.

Special guest, Katie Janeiro also performed a few dances for the residents. This was a special moment for Paul and Katie as this was an event that Sarah Jean had talked about doing after they moved into Redstone. I think she would have been proud of both of them. They always put on a good show together and we all knew she was smiling down on the two of them that day.

Submitted by Cathy Janeiro





The Thistle



With deep sadness, the Murdoch Family is heartbroken to announce the passing of Robert (Bob) Whitten Murdoch, age 89, of Whitehall Borough on June 6, 2026. He was born on March 21, 1937, in Munhall to Julia and Thomas Murdoch. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Thomas Murdoch. He was also preceded in death by his beloved wife of 58 years, Eleanore (El) Louise Murdoch (Uram), who passed away on March 11, 2026. Bob died peacefully with his son, Robert (RJ) John Murdoch by his bed side.

Bob is survived by his son, brother, Alan Murdoch, sister-in-law, Corinne Murdoch, daughter-in-law, Jenafer Murdoch, step-grandchildren, Austin and Katelyn Lewis, and numerous extended family. Bob attended Munhall High School, graduating in 1955. He then attended the University of Pittsburgh, graduating in 1960 with degrees in Pre-law and Sociology. While at Pitt, he was also a three-year letterman with the school's varsity soccer team and was named to the Third Team Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Delaware All College Soccer Squad in 1959.

Prior to attending law school, Bob served in the United States Army Reserves for 8 years (1960-1968), with 6 months on active duty and 7 ½ years in the Reserves. He was transferred from the Army Security Agency into the 446th Military Intelligence Detachment which met at Duquesne University. In 1964, he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant which he served in Military Intelligence as a Mobilization Designee. His security clearance was top secret, and he received an honorable discharge from Military Intelligence in September 1968. He later attended Duquesne University School of Law prior to passing the Pennsylvania Bar Examination in 1967. During his 55 years of law practice, he became a partner at four different Pittsburgh law firms before retiring from full-time practice in 2011. Specializing in medical malpractice defense, Bob participated as lead counsel in over 200 jury trials. He also took great pleasure practicing in the areas of admiralty/maritime, product liability, aviation, railroad and workers' compensation. Following retirement from the full-time practice of law, he served as an advisor and teacher to many attorneys, including his son. Bob took great delight in passing down his wealth of legal knowledge to those around him before completely retiring in 2022.

Bob's greatest legal achievement was successfully arguing before the Supreme Court of the United States the first case that involved the application of inflation to future lost earnings and alternative measures of damages. Outside of his work, he took great pride and pleasure in celebrating his Scottish heritage. Bob's father was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and came to the United States in 1922. His father became well known in Pittsburgh as Pittsburgh's Scottish Tenor and throughout surrounding states. Bob naturally fell in love with all things Scottish and joined in all the Scottish traditions that his family enjoyed. When his father passed away, Bob became the "Tartan Tenor" and sang at many Scottish functions in the tri-state area. He was able to records a CD of 24 well known Scottish airs and provided a number of his CD's to the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Room Scholarship Program so that any funds they received for a sale of his CD would go to that program.

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He held the position of Chairman of the Scottish Nationality Room for 17 years among his many Scottish interests that were far reaching and numerous, in Pittsburgh, as well as other states and Scotland. In 1998, he was asked by members of the Scottish Coalition, which is made up of eight national Scottish-American groups, to become the First National Chairman for Tartan Day in the United States. The Coalition had decided that Tartan Day would be formed and celebrated to commemorate the countless Scots and Scottish-Americans for the numerous contributions to all aspects of civilization as we know it today. The date of April 6th was chosen since that was the date the Declaration of Arbroath was written in the year 1320, in which Scotland declared its independence from England. He agreed to accept the invitation to act as the National Chairman and held that position for 13 years. As of 2013, he became the National Chairman Emeritus and held that title until the time of his passing. Former United States Senator Trent Lott addressed his colleagues in 1998 about the idea of Tartan Day coming into fruition. From that starting point, all three branches of the United States government joined in the creation of Tartan Day. The House of Representatives passed H. Res. 41 on March 9, 2005 recognizing Tartan Day. The United States Senate had passed a similar Resolution earlier, S. Res. 155 on March 20, 1998 and President George W. Bush issued a Proclamation stating that April 6, 2008 was to be Tartan Day. Tartan Day, which was first discussed in 1977 by representatives from eight Scottish-American organizations as an idea, is now a day celebrated throughout the world. Bob took great pride in helping this come to fruition.

Despite all of his professional accomplishments, Bob will be remembered most for his passion for his family and for being a kind, loyal, humble and honorable human being. Anyone who had the pleasure of getting to know Bob had nothing but kind words to say about him. He also possessed a sincere benevolence, going out of his way to assist those around him and make their lives better. He additionally commanded a deadpan sense of humor that always brought laughs to everyone he met.

Above all else, he was a dedicated caretaker for his loved ones and made significant sacrifices to improve the lives of his family. When his wife lost the ability to walk 20+ years ago, Bob focused the remainder of his life to being her companion and attendant, and ensuring that she still had the ability to participate fully in life. He was truly selfless. He was a loving and devoted father and husband, and was a constant positive, motivating and supportive force in their lives. He was also the ultimate role model and guide to his son. Bob will be greatly missed. His legacy will live on through his loved ones, who will carry on his love, kindness, duty and devotion. He was an absolute king among fathers, and the world will never be the same place without him. He will forever be missed.





The Thistle



In Memory of Paul Thompson

It is with great sadness that I share the passing of Paul Thompson, who went to be with God on Monday, August 17, 2026.

Paul was a pivotal and deeply respected member of the Scottish community, dedicating much of his life to promoting Scottish history, culture, and traditions. His extensive knowledge and love of all things Scottish were evident to anyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He grew up in the United Kingdom, was a graduate of Cambridge, and traveled extensively. A humble man, he was always willing to share his numerous interesting experiences, abundant knowledge, and immense passion for life with others. His great intelligence and boundless love for his heritage were matched by his friendly nature and genuine concern for people from all walks of life. Paul had a profound and lasting influence on everyone he encountered.

He served as President of the St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh for 13 years, stepping down only when his health no longer allowed him to continue in the role. His dedication to the Society and to the Scottish community was unwavering. Paul was a bagpiper, a Highland dancer, and a Scottish Country Dancer. For many years he was the liaison for the Clan Donald Trust and the St. Andrew's Society; he also served as the announcer at the Ligonier Highland Games. Paul was always willing to share his vast historical knowledge, and he did this through the workshops he presented on Tartan Day and the countless presentations he gave for various organizations.

From the day they first met at a Scottish event at Kennywood Park, Paul and his beloved wife, Sarah Jean, shared a lifetime of marriage, family, and love. Together, they touched the lives of countless people and welcomed others with warmth and generosity. Paul will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and the many members of the Scottish community whose lives he enriched. His legacy of service, friendship, and love for his Scottish heritage will continue to live on.

May Paul now be at peace, receiving his eternal reward with his Lord and Savior and reunited with his beloved Sarah Jean. Our sympathies are extended to their son, Alastair, and all their family. When we have further information, we will forward it to you.

Submitted by John and Tammy Hoffman





The Thistle



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Mark Your Calendars

ANNUAL MEETING 2026

AT

THE JOHNSTON HOUSE TEAM ROOM

St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh invites you to our Annual Meeting 2026 at the Johnston House on Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy Afternoon Tea followed by the society's Annual meeting. We hope our members will come out to enjoy a Saturday afternoon to be with friends and celebrate all the things that the society has done this year!





The Thistle



ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH ANNUAL MEETING 2026 RESERVATION

DEADLINE: September 5, 2026

No of Ticket (s)____@ \$45 a person = Total Due \$_____

GUEST NAME:_____ GUEST NAME:_____

GUEST NAME:_____ GUEST NAME:_____ Street
Address:_____ City, State, &
Zip:_____
Telephone: _____ Email:_____@_____

Need a special dietary request? Please contact Pam Maniet. Mail order form with check payable to St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh or you can make your payment via PayPal on our website

<https://www.standrewspittsburgh.org>

Pamela Maniet-SASP
150 N Spring Valley Rd
Canonsburg, Pa 15317
Cellphone # 412-535-1900

Questions? Email Pam at saspevents@gmail.com

Saturday, September 12, 2026
From 2:00pm - 5:00pm
The Johnston House
7041 Crider Rd Ste A
Mars, PA 16046

DETAILS: Afternoon Tea and delectable delights will be served and the Annual Meeting to follow after





The Thistle



Looking for a great activity for your child this year?

— Look no further! —



Highland Dancing offers something
for everyone—and it's so much more than just dance!



✦ **A Sport** – Highland dancing is an incredible athletic activity with physical demands comparable to long-distance running. It builds strength, endurance, balance, coordination, and confidence.



👠 **An Art** – Rooted in tradition and built on a technical foundation influenced by French ballet, Highland dancing develops grace, discipline, and precision.



👤 **For Boys & Girls** – Children of all backgrounds are welcome to discover this unique Scottish art form.



🌐 **A World of Opportunities** – From local performances and competitions to national and even international events, dancers have countless opportunities to grow, perform, and achieve.



🌱 **Start Young** – Children can begin Highland dancing as early as 4 years old, building lifelong skills and friendships.



✅ **Qualified & Safety-Focused Instruction** – Highland dance teachers complete rigorous training and certification through accredited organizations based in Scotland. They also maintain SafeSport® training and certification, helping provide a safe and positive learning environment.



👖 **Family-Friendly Costumes** – Traditional Highland costumes are designed to last for several years, and many can be resold for 50% or more of their original value, making them a smart investment for families.



🇸🇨 **Celebrate Scottish Heritage** – Highland dancing keeps the traditions, music, and culture of Scotland alive while inspiring the next generation.



🎓 **College Scholarship Opportunities** – Highland dancing can even open doors to college scholarships for dedicated dancers.



Whether your child is looking for a fun way to stay active, develop confidence, perform on stage, compete, or connect with Scottish culture, *Highland dancing offers an experience unlike any other.*



Heather & Thistle Highland Dancers

📍 **Beginner classes starting in September!**

✉ heatherandthistlehd@gmail.com | ☎ (412) 389-8425