

# An t-Albannach

## NEW YORK CALEDONIAN CLUB

Promoting Scottish Heritage • Established 1856

NYCALEDONIAN.ORG

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023

### THE NYCC SCHOOL OF HIGHLAND DANCE



The NYCC School of Highland Dance celebrates its first anniversary this August after an exciting foundational year of sharing Scottish culture in New York City.

Led by certified dance instructors Stephanie Ward and Emily Ritter, the school offers lessons for students of all ages and experience levels. Over the past year, the NYCC School of Highland Dance has grown from one class a week to four, and now offers both beginner and advanced classes for adult students and weekly primary classes for younger students aged 2-7. The school continues to grow and expand and is always happy to welcome new students.

The NYCC dancers are enthusiastic about Scottish culture and arts and were excited to showcase their Highland dancing skills in this year's New York City Tartan Day Parade. In April, over a dozen students donned kilts and marched (and danced!) with the NYCC down 6th Avenue in the city's annual celebration of Scottish culture.

Teachers Stephanie and Emily continue to be ambassadors of Highland dance in New York City and beyond, performing and competing across the country and internationally. This past year, they've been honored to represent the NYCC School of Highland Dance while performing with Shot of Scotch NYC, Heartland Highland in Kansas City, the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, and the Belgium Tattoo. Stephanie also had the honor of representing the East Region while competing at the ScotDance US National Championships this July. Both teachers are passionate about sharing their extensive knowledge of Highland dance and Scottish culture with their students.

For more information about the NYCC School of Highland Dance, contact us at [dance@nycaledonian.org](mailto:dance@nycaledonian.org) and visit [www.nycchighlanddance.com](http://www.nycchighlanddance.com).

## THE CHIEF'S CHANTER

I am honored to have been elected as the 85th Chief of the NY Caledonian Club at our Annual General Meeting on June 10, and thank our membership for their votes of confidence! My election as a first generation American of Dutch-Czech heritage is confirmation that the NY Caledonian Club is true to its motto of "Open to the World." While I cannot claim Scottish heritage, Scotland holds a big place in my heart and I look forward to continuing the work of those who came before me.



Patricia Klecanda, 85th Chief in Glencoe, Scotland

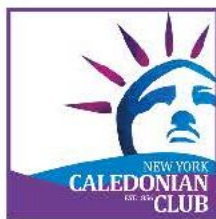
Lorraine Bell has been a fantastic Chief for the past four years and we are so grateful for her dedication, hard work, and service to the Club. Two of her years were in the pandemic, yet we have emerged intact and stronger for it under her leadership. I am delighted that she accepted to serve as the Chieftain and a heartfelt thank you to past Chief McDevitt for being the Chieftain for four years as well. We would also like to thank our departing board member, Marti Gonzales, for her eight years of service to the NYCC. I look forward to working closely with Lorraine Bell along with Kalyn Loewer (Secretary), Kyle Dawson (Treasurer), and our wonderful board, including our newly elected board members Fraser Grier, Suzanne Holter, and Mary Ellen Scullard. We are excited to have their energy and fresh ideas added to an already engaged board as we plan our many events and Scottish Studies for the year ahead.

At the AGM Chief Bell announced three new honorary members of the Club, Katie Rule and Jeanetta Ross, who have been members of the Club for more than four decades and past Chief, John McDonald, who served as the 67th, 70th, and 80th Chief of the Club. Congratulations to three members whose contributions to our Club have been invaluable.

I look forward to meeting you at the many events we are already planning for 2023-2024. If you have any ideas for events or want to volunteer with us, please reach out to [info@nycaledonian.org](mailto:info@nycaledonian.org).

Sláinte Mhath,

Patricia Klecanda  
85th Chief



### THE NEW YORK CALEDONIAN CLUB

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Join the Club! Become a member!  
Click on

<https://nycaledonian.org/membership>

### An t-Albannach,

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Editor-in-Chief & Layout Artist: Barbara Lynn Rice  
Editor: Heather McCabe

With contributions from others - thanks!

Comments? Email: [newsletter@nycaledonian.org](mailto:newsletter@nycaledonian.org)



# “Voices Over the Water”

By B.L. Rice

“Voices Over the Water”, a new documentary on the Scottish diaspora in America, premiered on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Directors Guild of America in New York City. The documentary will eventually be shown as a miniseries destined either for PBS or the BBC. New York Caledonian Club members, as well as two ACGA members, Michael Newton, who was also a consultant for the film, and John Grimaldi, were interviewed in it. The film is a broad survey exploring the past and present of the diaspora. Prior to the screening, Robert Ian Mackenzie, Guy Perrotta, Jane Ferguson, Newton, June Skinner Sawyers, and Lorraine Bell, the 84th Chief for the New York Caledonian Club, gave a brief presentation.



Photo Credit: Barbara L. Rice

Guy Perrotta and Jane Ferguson were its co-producers, directors, and writers who brought it to the screen, along with associate producers, Sonja Henrici and June Skinner Sawyers. Narration was by Karen Allen and Simon Prebble. The project was a labor of love that began around 2018, and the producers wanted to present a project with “some academic gravitas and yet show broad appeal to the general public”.

The film covers interviews with contemporary Scottish immigrants and descendants of Scottish immigrants, living in the United States. It also discusses historical migrations from Scotland, among them, the Argyll Colony of Gaelic speakers who came to Cape Fear in North Carolina. The documentary ends with looking beyond the difficulties of the past, to the present and future of Scots and their descendants here in America. For more information on the project, visit its website at <https://voicesoverthewater.com/about-the-film/an-overview/>.

Reprinted from the Summer 2023 issue of the newsletter, An Naidheachd Againne (Our News), with the kind permission of An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (ACGA), known in English as The American Scottish Gaelic Society. Website: [www.acgamerica.org](http://www.acgamerica.org)

## NYCC HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

*Celebrating NYC Tartan Week with a Ceilidh and music at The Tailor*

Photo credit for  
top left & center photos:  
Thomas Hoebbel Photography  
<https://th-photo.com>



*Behind the Met with music and a picnic in July*



*Pub Night!*



*Memorial Day at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument*

## NYCC SCOTTISH GAELIC CLASSES FALL 2023

A bheil Gàidhlig agad? Chan eil!?

Do you speak Gaelic? No!? Well, no worries! The New York Caledonian Club will be offering again this fall, Beginning Gaelic 101 for absolute beginners, and NEW, an Intermediate Scottish Gaelic 102 class as well.



Thomas Leigh

All classes will be taught via Zoom by Thomas Leigh, starting Tuesdays at 7pm with Intermediate Gaelic, October 3, 2023, and Beginning Gaelic will be held on Wednesdays, at 7pm starting October 4, 2023. For more information, click on <https://nycaledonian.org/scottish-studies>.

*Thig crìoch air an t-saoghal ach mairidh gaol is ceòl.*  
The world may end, but love and music will last forever.  
—Scottish Gaelic Proverb



## UPCOMING NYCC EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE!

We are working on upcoming events! Visit [www.nycaledonian.org](http://www.nycaledonian.org) for more information.



COMING SOON!

### Kilted Bowling

#### **When:**

Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 8:00pm

#### **Where:**

Frames NYC  
550 9th Ave  
New York, NY 10018

#### **Tickets:**

Members \$50  
Non-Members \$60

### SAVE THE DATE!

Saint Andrew's Day, November 30, 2023 at The Tailor

Burns Supper, January 20, 2024 at the Down Town Association

NYC Tartan Week 2024

Tartan Day Parade, April 6, 2024

NYCC Pre-Parade Ceilidh, April 5, 2024

NYC Mòd, Scottish Gaelic competition & workshops, April 3-4, 2024

And more! For information, visit <https://www.nyctartanweek.org>