



Balgonie Castle, Scotland

Jan 2018

Vol 6 Issue 1

H.E. Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ
Grand Bailiff - Grand Bailiwick

YEARLY REPORT

Here we are again at the end of another year. Believe me, after 25 the years go very quickly. We are financially in good shape. Our Treasurer, Chev. Robin Price is doing a splendid job. He is working diligently with a CPS in order get up to get the books in order, so things will run more smoothly for him in 2018.

At the end of April, I flew to Minneapolis to attend the Convent of St. Columba where I met with possible future postulants and am glad that I received Information Sheets from one couple. The weekend was very enjoyable, the convent was dignified and the dinner quite hilarious from beginning to end and over \$800 was collected for the Breast Cancer unit in Minneapolis.

The Priory of St. Columba has three postulants who will become full members next April 28 at their convent/investiture in Springfield, Missouri. God willing, I will attend this event.

The Priory, Commanderies and Preceptories are continuing to work hard on their charity commitments.

The first weekend of May, I attended the convent/investiture of the Priory of Robert the Bruce in Anaheim, California where their postulant became a full member. Here again, I was very impressed with all reports from the Prior, Charity Coordinator, Commanders and Preceptors regarding their charity activities both past, present and still to come. Everyone enjoyed lunch at Mimi's following the event.

The Priory has two postulants. The convent/investiture will be held next November (2018) in Anaheim, California. Your Prior will send out invitations nearer the time.

I have met with both Priors to answer their questions and am always available via phone and e-mail regarding any concerns and situations.

I travelled to Scotland in August to meet with our Grand Prior, his son Stuart and his wife, Kelly. I went to Balgonie on a Monday just to meet with our Grand Prior as I had many issues which needed to be discussed and spent two hours with him. Everything was positive, and I am glad to say he listened and responded favorably. One of my questions was about Balgonie appointing his heir

and I was diplomatic in saying this person will only take over when Balgonie wishes to retire. Anyway, I told him I would like Stuart to follow in his footsteps and Balgonie told him he would give me an answer the next day.

On Tuesday, Robin and Kimi Price and myself attended dinner at Balgonie Castle and had a short service in the chapel beforehand. It was a delightful evening and a great time was had by all. John, Balgonie's piper, also attended as did Stuart and later Kelly joined us, so we had a chance to get to know her much better.

Also, Balgonie confirmed that Stuart would be honored to be our next Grand Prior which is great news and allows us to use the Castle whenever we need it.

The Privy Council consists of – The Grand Bailiff, Dame Patricia Tennyson Bell; The Deputy Grand Bailiff, Chev.

Mark C. O'Dell; The Treasurer, Chev. Robin John Price; The Executive Grand Officer, Chev. Harrison Dan Philbrick; The Supply Officer, Dame Nellie Graham Lowry; The Secretary, Dame Anita Scott Philbrick, and The American Legatee, Chev. J. Connall Bell.

The Privy Council holds three conference calls per year and the last one was on November 11th. Both Priors, Dame Cheryl Cook of Robert the Bruce, and Chev. Robert [Bob] Buie of St. Columba, are invited guests to all Privy Council conference calls and are required to give their up-to-date reports.. Continued on page 2...



Continued page 1...

Our Newsletter Editor is Chev. Robert Ryder and our Website Person is Chev. Allen Cummings.

If you have a change of address, e-mail, or phone number, please contact Chev. Dan Philbrick.

Both Robert Ryder and Allen Cummings need photos and articles on an ongoing basis. Also, if any member of either Priors is not receiving The Victor, that member should let his or her Commander know who in turn will go to their respective Prior, and who will contact Robert to straighten the problem out.

Please remember the chain of command. We appreciate members finding discrepancies about the structure of our Order. Please remember to bring whatever you think is out of order to your Preceptor, Commander, Prior and Grand Bailiff rather than try to fix the problem yourself.

I was asked a question regarding attending the Kirking of the Tartan Ceremony, and if it is appropriate to present the Scottish Knights Templar tartan to be "kirked". There is absolutely no problem in doing so and remember our motto – "Not unto us but unto you Lord will be the glory."

I wish you and your families a Very Happy Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.

Thank you for your support, dedication and service.

Patricia Tennyson Bell
Grand Bailiff

The Marriage of Chev. Joseph Ralph [JR] Bigelpw, KTJ, and Philomina By Chev. JR Bigelow, KTJ

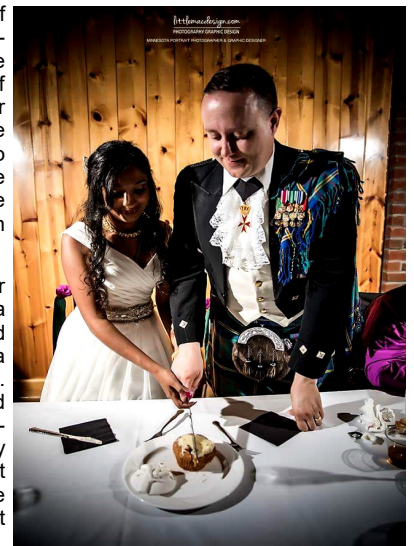


Philomina and I got married on September 2nd at the Little Log House Pioneer Village in Hastings, MN. We had many brothers and sisters of the order in attendance, as well as people from the Scottish communities in both Washington and Minnesota. Our piper is a friend of ours out here on Whidbey Island that we kidnapped. The song he played for the wedding party entrance was an adaptation he made for us from the tune For the Love of a Princess, which was featured on the Braveheart soundtrack. We included a Scottish quach and an Indian thaali tying ceremony in the wedding. Our wedding favors were travel suitcases with Darjeeling tea and shortbread cookies, to represent us. The church was St. Bonifacious, built in 1800 and later disassembled and moved to the site for preservation. The pioneer village has gathered old buildings, equipment, etc... There is a scale model of the old Hastings bridge, an old cat house, bank, school house, Gas Station signs, neon

signs and all kinds of fun stuff out there. One of my requirements was that we take Bonnie and Clyde pictures in front of the bank. The photographer loved our pics so much, she incorporated some of them into her wedding show display. She loved it when we told her we wanted to sneak out for golden hour/ sunset pics.

The cupcakes: we had our cupcakes made by Nadia Cakes. It turns out they had won some competition on a show called Cupcake Wars. When Phil and I first started dating, we used to make peanut butter, banana, honey sandwiches for each other. It was our way of saying I love you when we were both at work. Its a long story involving Sandwich Theory. You can look it up if you want. Well, we had 4 flavors of cupcakes, but had them make one of the flavors a custom selection. The cupcake was honey banana with a core of peanut butter honey frosting topped with vanilla butter cream and drizzled with honey. Nadia Cakes loved it so much, they said they were going to make it again for the public, and let us name it. One of the things Phil and I first bonded over was our love of adventure. We still call each other our favorite adventure buddy, and that's what we named the cupcake, The Adventure Buddy.

Thank you all so much for making our wedding day such a wonderful experience. It means a lot to [Philomina](#) and I that we could share our day with you.



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St. Cuthbert Holds it's Annual Commandery Meeting Chev. Mark A. Peterson, KCTJ, Commander, ST Cuthbert

The Commandery of St. Cuthbert held its annual Formal Meeting in Northern California near Old Town Sacramento on June 17, 2017 most of our members showed up on Friday and we were all able to meet and go to dinner at a local Irish Pub, where we had a wonderful dinner and everyone had an opportunity to talk and get caught up.

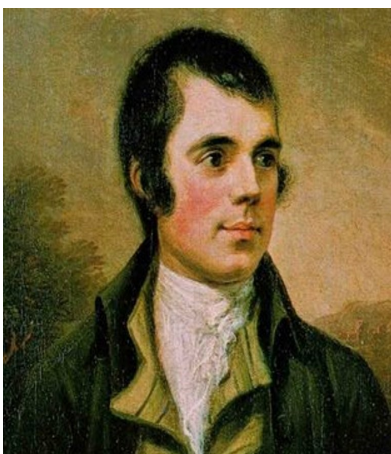
The next day on Saturday we held our Formal Commandery Meeting at the Trinity Cathedral Church in downtown Sacramento, the church was absolutely beautiful and made the experience of our Formal Meeting seem very meaningful. I would like to thank Chev. Joseph Blaylock, KTJ who made all of the arrangements in getting the church lined up for our meeting.

Special thanks go out to H.E. Dame Patricia Bell, GCTJ, GMTJ our Grand Bailiff and Dame Cheryl Cook, DCTJ and our Prior, for taking the time to attend our Formal Meeting, everyone at St. Cuthbert's appreciates them for attending our meeting and contributing as much as they did.

After the Formal Meeting we all met at the Fornaio Restaurant and was where we held our Officers Mess, we had a wonderful dinner, and during our evening festivities we held our Silent Auction and with the generous donations and people opening their hearts for people who are in need of our assistance we were able to raise \$1,020.00 this money will be divided amongst our members in Oregon and Washington as it is their turn to receive the monies for the charities of their choice.



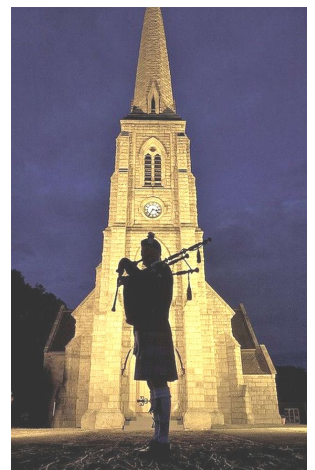
Best Regards
Chev. Mark A. Peterson, KCTJ
Commander, ST Cuthbert



Robert Burns (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796), also known as **Rabbie Burns**, the **Bard of Ayrshire**, **Ploughman Poet** and various other names and [epithets](#), [\[nb 1\]](#) was a Scottish poet and lyricist. He is widely regarded as the [national poet](#) of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide.

Selkirk Grace

Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thankit.



Christmas for the Heritage House

by Dame Cheryl Cook, DCTJ, Prior of the Priory of Robert the Bruce

On **December 15th**, I was given the honor of being Mrs. Claus for the Women and Children of the Heritage House at a luncheon that was given for them by the First Congregational Church of Anaheim.



A wonderful sit down luncheon was provided with barbeque chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, Macaroni and cheese for the kids, green salad and rolls. There were plates of dessert passed around after lunch.

A gentleman from the church belongs to a wood working group that created a variety of wooden cars, trucks and puzzles for the children that were placed on each of the tables as

center pieces. It was wonderful to see the kids eyes light up when they saw them and it was a great way to keep them busy and occupied.



There was a violinist that played some Christmas carols and lead a sing-a-long with the aid of a singer. The Pastor spoke and a lady from the Heritage House gave a testimonial along with a member of the church that spoke about how she is so grateful to be able to be a part of providing the luncheon, as many years ago when she first came to the church as a single mother they reached out to help her and her chil-

dren to have a Christmas.

The biggest joy of the event for me was the passing out of the gifts for the Mom's and children. To see them receive the gifts and the joy that it brought to them. I was thanked by the mother for helping them to give Christmas to their children.

We were also able to provide many of the additional items that the house needed, including Diapers, Baby wipes, Journals, Alarm clocks, Socks of all sizes and toiletries.



Respectfully submitted,
Dame Cheryl Cook, DCTJ
Prior, Priory of Robert the Bruce



Preceptory of Balantrodoch by Chev. TJ Smith, KTJ, Preceptor

4th Quarter Report

The Preceptory of Balantrodoch had a busy 4th quarter, filled with food, fellowship, service, and the Spirit of Christmas. Knights and Dames volunteered together in early December, packing meals to go to Haiti at Feed My Starving Children. With the other teams present, 131 boxes were packed, providing 28,296 meals, which will feed 78 children for one year.

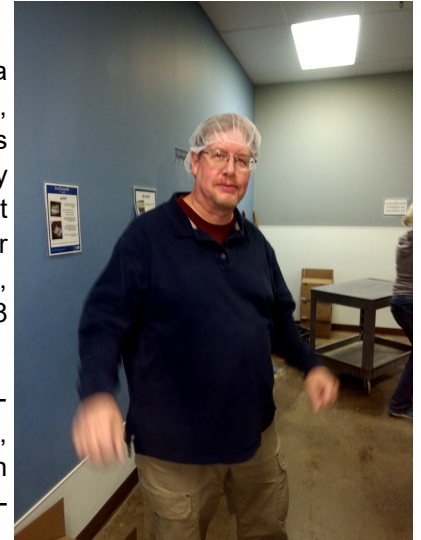
Of note, our 3rd quarter charity was selected in memory of Katrina Faith Gibson, the daughter of postulants Doug and Robin Childs, who died of complications of her battle with cancer this past June. The charity is the Four Diamonds Fund, which funds pediatric cancer research at Penn State, but also makes up the difference insurance does not cover, providing free cancer care to all children with cancer it serves, as well as supporting families' travel expenses, lodging, etc. The charity is named for the tale of a knight, written in 1969 by 11 year old Christopher Millard during his cancer journey, and his quest for the four diamonds of courage, wisdom, honesty, and strength, to which we all aspire.

We also celebrated with our annual St. John's Dinner on December 27th, a formal black tie holiday celebration.

We are looking forward to our Vigil at Arms in March, to be held at Preceptor Chevalier TJ and Dame Nicole Smith's home, to be followed by the pilgrimage to Missouri for the Investiture in April.

Slainte! Gus am bi sinn a 'coinneachadh arithist.

Chev TJ Smith, KTJ, Preceptor



Priory of Robert the Bruce - Athlit Commandry

Story of Veterans Village

by Chev. Patrick Pat McConnaughay, KTJ, Commander

About a year ago Athlit Commandry took on a new quest. We began to look into charities which had meaning to our mission as a religious military order. After some extensive research, we came up with V.V.S.D. , Veterans Village of San Diego. V.V.S.D. is a very unique program to help homeless veterans get back on their feet. With five locations throughout San Diego County, VVSD is the only program of its kind in the United States.

Each year VVSD provides services to more than 2,000 military veterans, men and women, who have served and sacrificed for our country.

VVSD provides a Continuum of Care with a full range of comprehensive and innovative services for military veterans for

- Prevention
- Intervention
- Rehabilitation
- Aftercare

"There is no finer program for homeless veterans in America than VVSD." Pete Dougherty, former national Director of VA Homeless Programs

VVSD extends assistance to veterans in need and their families by providing:

- Substance Abuse Recovery
- Mental Health Counseling
- Job Training and Job Search Assistance
- Housing
- Food
- Clothing
- Legal Services

History of V.V.S.D.

Veterans Village of San Diego was founded in 1981 as the Vietnam Veterans of San Diego.

In 1981, five Vietnam veterans, Jack Lyon, Bill Mahedy, Randy Waite, Paul Grasso, and Russ Kelly were struggling with the traumas of war and looking to enhance services from the VA that were available to them at that time. They were sitting around in a group counseling session talking seriously about mounting a combat assault on the VA. They knew they would probably get arrested, but they were desperate to shine a spotlight on the lack of medical and psychological care for Vietnam veterans.

As luck would have it, the facilitator of the counseling session was Father William Mahedy, who served as an Army chaplain in Vietnam. Mahedy made a suggestion to the group. "Why don't you take this energy and do something that will really make a difference?"

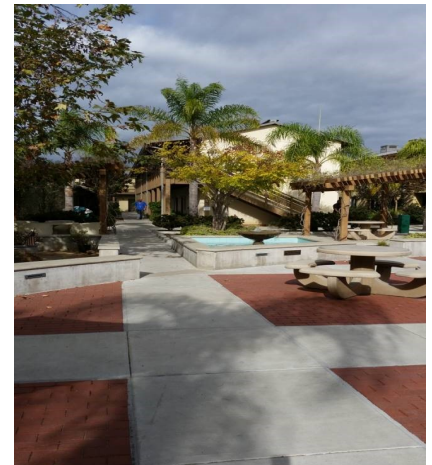
The group took the suggestion to heart and formed Vietnam Veterans of San Diego to help their comrades who were sleeping on the streets, under bridges and in parks. From this modest beginning, VVSD changed their name to Veterans Village of San Diego (2005) and have evolved over the past three decades into a nationally-recognized, non- governmental organization known for delivering innovative services to veterans.

Over the last year Athlit has contributed to VVSD, volunteered at "Stand Down", and toured their main facility. Chev. James Owen and Chev. Patrick McConnaughay were invited to their first annual appreciation luncheon this past year. The luncheon was well attended and a very rewarding experience. They met the President and C.E.O. of V.V.S.D. Kim Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell served in the United States Navy for 17 years as a Surface Warfare Officer on board surface ships and at shore command. She achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander. She was hand selected by the Secretary of the Navy and White house to serve as a White House Military Social Aide. During her last 2 years of active duty she served as the Deputy Director of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Office of Warrior and Family Support. Ms. Mitchell was President and Co-founder of Dixon Center for Veterans and Military Services for the five years prior to becoming Chief Executive Officer of VVSD in 2017.

The main campus of VVSD is a beautiful facility, a reflection of the commitment to their mission. Athlit commandry is honored and proud to have a brick placed in their patio in support of such a worthwhile organization. Below is a picture of the patio and our brick.



The Courtyard at
Veterans Village:



A close-up picture
of our brick:

Priory of Robert the Bruce Christmas Party by Dame Cheryl Cook, DCTJ, Prior



On December the 9th we gathered at the home of Patrick and Sandra Moffett for our annual Christmas party. A large thank you is not enough for all of the work that Patrick and Sandra did to make this a wonderful event. This year we were collecting gifts for the Mother's and children of the Heritage House North in Anaheim, CA. We were able to provide gifts for 17 Mom's and 37 Children. The outpouring of those who were able to contribute to this worthy cause was greatly appreciated.

We enjoyed a potluck with a wide variety of dishes and desserts. The time spent enjoying a meal and sharing our lives is always wonderful. It is great to have the time to catch up on the happenings in each other's lives and to hear about plans for the year ahead.



We also did a small silent Auction and a new venture in which I gave each of my Commanders, Charity Coordinator and Protocol officer the opportunity to select up to 2 charities that they researched and were able to vet with confidence as to the disbursement of the funds received. We raised funds for several charities and this was done with respect to the givers as we had information in the charities and envelope to place the donation in without anyone else needing to see what you chose to give. The Priory is donating \$100 to each of the charities to start and then the funds donated from those in attendance.



Two of our members Commander Richard Strayer and Dame Christy Orcholski played some Christmas tunes on bagpipes. I truly believe that a great time was had by all.

I will have the pleasure of getting to play Mrs. Santa for the Heritage House on the 15th at a luncheon that is being given for them at the First Congregational Church in Anaheim.

Commandery of Stirling

by Chev. Geoff Chaboude, KCTJ, GMTJ, Commander

First, my abject apologies, as you know with all the health problems that all of the Commandery has been dealing with, we've been rather disjointed in our activities, but I have been lousy at communications. We had our annual cookout and social on 12 August, after a fine meal we decided that we would support RFM charity again and all were notified that there would be an Investiture in Springfield. We finally got a group picture taken and I'm attaching it.

We will be having our annual barbeque in mid July, and I will make sure that we get pics and have a report and also more on last months project then.

Yours Aye,

RFM: [Riverbend Family Ministries](http://riverbendfamilyministries.com/)

<http://riverbendfamilyministries.com/>



L-R: Derrick & Deborah Bruce; Geoff & Judith Chamboide; Lucinda & Jay Goetz; Janey & Jim Brewens; kneeling, Richard Bruce.

Some Scottish sayings:

Gonnae no' dae that! – *Going to not do that.*
 Pure dead brilliant – *Exceptionally good.*
 Yer bum's oot the windae – *You're talking rubbish.*
 Am pure done in – *I'm feeling very tired.*
 Am a pure nick – *I don't look very presentable.*
 Ah umnae – *I am not.*
 Ma heid's mince – *My head's a bit mixed up.*
 Ma heid's loupin' – *My head is sore.*
 Yer oot yer face! – *You're very drunk.*
 Yer aff yer heid – *You're off your head – a little bit Maw – Mum.*

Mad wi' it – *Drunk. daft.*
 Hell mend ye – *In other words "it serves you right!"*
 "Och aye the noo" – *Oh yes, right now.*

When you have just said something to someone that they don't quite believe, they are very likely to reply by saying – **Aye, Right!!**

Perhaps one of the most used Scottish sayings is "**Auld Lang Syne**" the famous song penned by Robert Burns, and sang throughout the world, especially at New Year. The translation can be taken as "*old long since*" or "*old long ago*".



Graphic-artist is by Chev. G. Allen Cummings, KCTJ



Highland cattle
 ([Scottish Gaelic](#): Bò Ghàidhealach; [Scots](#): Heilan coo) are a [Scot-tish cattle](#) breed. They have long [horns](#) and long wavy coats.

They are a hardy breed due to their native environment, the [Highlands](#) of Scotland. This results in long hair, giving the breed its ability to overwinter. Bulls can weigh up to 800 kilograms (1,800 pounds) and cows up to 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds). Their milk generally has a very high [but-terfat](#) content, and their meat, regarded as of the highest quality, is gaining mainstream acceptance as it is lower in [cholesterol](#) than other varieties of beef.

Editors Page - by Chev. Robert Ernest Ryder, KCT, BMTJ

To begin this Editors page or a spot within The Victor, may I suggest we begin this newsletter again; read and see as if it was the first time. We may view our 'Order-working'.

Thank you for composing your articles and submitting your great photos. The Victor is our newsletter and reveals we are an active Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, our Scottish Knight Templar.

For the next issue, I desire with each previous article/photos to also provide information, as much as possible, of future events. Therefore, I will know what to expect when the next issue is due. Thank you!

To quote Chev. Mark O'Dell, GCTJ, BMTJ, Deputy Grand Bailiff, *'What you will receive from the Order, is what you put into the Order'*.

Next issue due July / August 2018..

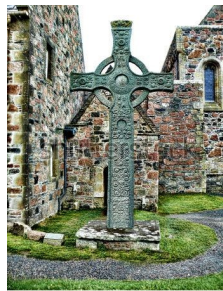
Sainte Mhath,

Chev. Robert Ernest Ryder, KCTJ, BMTJ / Dame Cathie A. Ryder, DTJ

[A big thanks to : Chev. H. Dan Philbrick, KTJ,
Executive Officer, Grand Bailiwick,]



Mossing away... until
next issue July/Aug 2018



- Jan 30: The death of Bonnie Prince Charlie. 1789
- Fe 8: The death of Mary Queen of Scots
- Mar 18: The martyrdom of Grand Master Jacques De Molay. 1314
- Mar 17: St Patrick
- Apr 1: Easter & Fools Day
- Apr 6: Tartan Day [wear your tartan]
- Apr 16: Battle of Culloden. 1746
- May 30: Feast day of Jeanne D' Arc
- June 23: Battle of Bannockburn. 1314

