



BRITISH
BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY

We Say Goodbye to 2016



Relief Committee Chair Susie Gregory with HMCG Andrew Whittaker,
BBS President Kathleen Kimura and BCGSF Vice Consul Nicola Richardson.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for your efforts throughout the past year in supporting our mission of assisting British nationals in need. Your contributions provided vital assistance to individuals and families throughout California, the North West and Alaska. Your generosity and our partnership with the British Consulate General San Francisco allows us to continue to support those in dire need.

Thank you to those of you who were able to celebrate at the Christmas party this year. It was wonderful to share some laughs and pause to reflect on the important work that we do!

Relief in 2016

In one of our most recent cases, we partnered with the BCGSF to assist a Brit who traveled to Portland on holiday, where he was mugged and all of his personal belongings stolen. After a brief stay in hospital and with assistance from the BBS, the Consulate was able to issue an emergency passport and arrange for a return flight to the UK.

In one of the more involved cases, we have been providing assistance to a homeless Brit in Silicon Valley. We first learned about the gentleman from a BBS member who heard a British accent while at the market. The member decided to start a conversation with the gentleman to learn how someone from the UK would end up living on the streets in the US. Malcolm, the subject of this relief case, has been homeless for some time and suffers from a number of medical conditions. After an extremely successful visit with [Project Homeless Connect](#), organized by the BBS, Malcolm was provided with eyeglasses and desperately needed medical assistance.



BCGSF Consular Assistant Melissa Cox with Susie Gregory, Relief Chair



Malcolm with Relief Care Consultant Joanna Findlay and good samaritan Xanthine

Since our first encounter with Malcolm, he has made small steps toward independence and better health. He was fortunate enough to make contact with a good samaritan who regularly checks on his welfare. She ensures that he has a charged mobile phone (paid for by the BBS), takes his medication and has arranged for him to have eye surgery in the coming weeks. It is our hope that these steps will lead to further independence and eventually a life on his own.

How you can stay connected with the BBS



Did you know that you can find the BBS on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)? We aim to connect not only with members on social media but also share relevant British-related content, highlighting the partners that help us to further pursue our goal of assisting those most in need.

If you haven't been already, be sure to tag yourself or friends with the hash tag #BBSEvents! Check out the latest photos from the BBS Christmas party and our table at the BABC Christmas Luncheon.

Donations and Supporting the BBS

Interested in donating to the BBS? Select us on [Amazon Smile](#)!

For those of you not familiar with this program, when you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase price to the British Benevolent Society of California. Bookmark the [link](#) and support us every time you shop! It is an easy and effective way to donate.



Mostly British Film Festival



The Mostly British Film Festival heads into its 9th year with 26 new and classic feature films and documentaries from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, India, New Zealand and South Africa. More than half of them, including opening and closing night features, are San Francisco premieres.

Mostly British opens on February 16 with "**Their Finest**," the latest from "An Education" director Lone Scherfig. With a cast headed by Bill Nighy - who will attend the festival – and Gemma Arterton, this delightful romantic comedy tells the story of the British film industry during World War II, charged with buoying the spirits of people living in constant fear of the Blitz.

For more about the festival, visit [Mostly British Film Festival](#) and get your tickets today!

About the BBS

The British Benevolent Society (BBS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to build and nurture our diverse community through advice, support and relief when needed in the United States. Based in San Francisco our mission is to protect, support, prepare and connect.



- Protect: Emotional and Financial relief in times of need
- Support: Transition support and education for new arrivals
- Prepare: Essential local information to thrive including earthquake and disaster readiness
- Connect: Create connections and advance British cultural education and interests

Protect - Support - Prepare - Connect

To become a Member: [Click Here](#)



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