

# An Seanacháí



Vol. 79, Issue 6, February 2018

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February is the month of love. **We celebrate Valentine's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup>.** Is there any association between love and being Irish? Yes, the Irish have a very special symbol of love, the *Claddagh* ring. We all have seen it because many Irish men and women (and Irish-Americans) wear it. It is usually a band of gold or silver band with a pair of hands holding a heart with a crown on top. These elements symbolize love (heart), loyalty (crown), and friendship (hands). Other explanations for the elements are that the hands represent the joining of hands in marriage, the heart is affection, and the crown means perfection.

Rings displaying the elements have been made in Galway since the 1700s but the symbols may go back as far as Roman times. The name *Claddagh ring* first appeared in the 1830s.

At first *Claddagh* rings were tokens of love – marriage, engagement, and close friendship. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the *Claddagh* ring became an icon of Irish identity. But it is still important to wear the ring the right way to convey relationships and intentions. The internet has plenty of information on traditional ways to wear the ring.

**Another reason Valentine’s Day is important is that it reminds AICS that it is the final few weeks before St. Patrick’s Day.**

**Another “theme” of this issue is Sam Keator** – his story, his activities, his love of all things Irish. Sam, we thank you for all you have done for AICS and the Irish community!

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### Dues May Be Increased

Last time the dues were raised was 1984, over 30 years ago. Over the years, the board has felt more and more pinched when it comes to meeting expenses for AICS events with the current dues. For example, the **cost for the St. Patrick’s Day venue** has increased by \$800 from last year.

Obviously dues have not kept up with inflation. Caroline Fogarty analyzed what \$25 in 1984 would be worth **in today’s economy**. The worth of \$25 has more than doubled! The Board of Directors recommends the following amendment in the bylaws to increase the dues.

The amendment to the bylaws is: The AICS board discussed and approved an amendment to the bylaws to increase the dues to \$40 for an individual membership and \$75 for a family membership.

Since a dues increase involves a bylaws change, the process for members to approve it is as follows:

- 1) The proposed amendment must be submitted to the board of directors for consideration prior to February 1. (This has been done.)

2) Proposed amendment shall be read at the February and April General Meetings.

3) Written notification shall be sent to all members at least 30 days prior to the April Annual Meeting.

The proposed will be presented at the February General Meeting. There will be no discussion at that time.

At the annual meeting in April, the proposed amendment will again be read with a motion to adopt. Then the amendment will be discussed before voting. Please come to the April Annual Meeting prepared to discuss the dues increase.

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Are You on the Seanachai E-Mail List?

One of the benefits of your membership is the *Seanachai* newsletter. Our *Seanachai* e-mail list has grown very long, and many of the recipients are no longer members. If you no longer wish to receive the *Seanachai*, please let me know via e-mail [martell@u.washington.edu](mailto:martell@u.washington.edu).

If you are not a current member and want to join so you can continue to receive the *Seanachai*, log on to [www.oregonirishsociety.org](http://www.oregonirishsociety.org). Click on membership, complete the membership application, print it out and mail it along with your membership dues to AICS, PO Box 3411, Portland, OR 97208-3411.

If you are **not a member by St. Patrick's Day**, you will be removed from the *Seanachai* list. **Don't let this happen!**

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## Members Enjoy Social Events

The highlight of the January meeting was the "high tea." The tea featured both savory and sweet goodies.



Lois and John Delihanty, Shirley Hahn Enjoying Tea

In January enjoying food, drink, and friends did not end with the "high tea." AICS members convened at Whelan's Pub on January 25 for more cheer. A good time was had by the attendees.



Mary Rose Kerg and Carol Cummings at Whelan's Pub



New Member, De Etta Fox, and Tom Crowley

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## How it All Started with Céilí Dancing and Then onto AICS and Concerts

by Sam Keator

**In the winter of 1997, a friend of mine sent me a motivational card, “101 ways to reduce stress.” Somewhere in the middle of the card, “dance a jig” jumped out at me. I took it to heart and sought out the Irish dance in Portland. I first danced with the All-Ireland Cultural Society of Oregon’s weekly Tír Eoghain Céilí dance class. That is where I met Bette Lou Halterman who suggested that I become an AICS member, and I did!**



Bette Lou Halterman

**Being the ‘new’ guy, I was eager to help and volunteer.** First it was to assist Margaret Doherty with the St Pat’s festival at the Polish Library and then on to concerts that the AICS hosted.

Soon afterwards, Margaret said she had done this for ten years and who would like to be the lead. I jumped on it. I had no experience but always enjoyed the energy from creating a fun, family event. I started at the Polish Library and then negotiated to move us to the Holy **Rosary’s Rosary Hall.** That brings us to concerts.

Mary Rose Kerg was the lead on these, and I helped her in any way that I could. Some were very successful, The Irish Tenors, Frank Patterson, Teada, and John McDermott. The last one we were putting together with the help of Walter McGovern, Rose Ann Ranft, and Mary Rose Kerg was for the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Tour of the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Unfortunately, it was

cancelled due to the 911 attack. Since then I have arranged a few small concerts for the Club at the Stamp Society Building that were well received, culturally, and educationally.



Mary Rose Kerg and Sam

Now, 20+ years later, three 3-year terms of being president, two 1-year terms being vice-president, one year being a director, and 17 years of teaching céilí for the Tír Eoghains, I was so fortunate to pass the baton of teaching the weekly drop-in class to Christina and Victoria White! They are full of the spirit of the dance that I always promoted.

Since AICS has backed away from sponsoring concerts, my wife Anne Doherty and I started a regular series in the southwest area of Portland at the Winona Grange #271 in Tualatin. The first was with Peter Yeates, and we had a whopping 26 folks attend on November 10, 2010. Since that day, we have hosted over 59 community concerts using not only the Winona Grange but also at the Pine Grove Community Hall, The Hollywood Theatre, The Old Church, Alberta Street Public House, The Sherwood Center for the Arts, and the Tualatin Heritage House. The genres we have are not only Irish, but also bluegrass, old-time, singer songwriter, Scottish, and gospel, all things the Irish enjoy.



Sam and Anne Doherty-Keator

**About five years ago, I said to me wife let's do a cruise with the theme of Irish the Sunday before St Patrick's Day.** Well, we now have. It is called the Shamrock Cruise, LLC. The inaugural cruise is this March 11 on the Portland Spirit with three levels of entertainment for you: Peter Yeates and Eddie Parente on the loading level, CRUMAC with Johnny B Connolly on the second level, Tim Birr greeting and playing his pipes on the third level and will mingle amongst the other two! Christina White of the Oregon Irish Dance Academy is bringing on board a team of step dancers that will migrate throughout the ship. What a great way to enjoy the scenes of the Willamette while the entertainers set the stage as you were in Ireland! We are also in the planning on additional Shamrock Cruises within the United States and Ireland.

There is more information about the cruise at [ShamrockCruise.com](http://ShamrockCruise.com), and concerts at [IrishPDX.com](http://IrishPDX.com). So, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!

Lastly, thank you to the AICS for accepting me, Ulster-Scot and supporting by attending our events that we always try to make family friendly as it should be for the whole community!

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Brother Eugene Traynor, OSM, Founder of the Tír Eoghain Ceili Group

Our beloved Brother Eugene passed away peacefully in Benburb, County Tyrone on January 16, 2018. .

Brother Eugene came to the Grotto in the 1960s and in the 197s moved and ministered at St. **Rita's parish in NE Portland**. However, he returned to Ireland about 20 years ago and worked between the priory in Benburb and Dublin.

Before he left Portland, he left his mark here. In 1978 he proposed that the AICS should focus more on culture and teach céilí dancing. He was so passionate about it that he volunteered to teach. Hence, The Tír Eoghain Céilí group was formed and has been dancing continuously for almost 40 years. The group started dance classes at Queen of Peace hall with two-hour classes once a week. **The group moved to St. Rita's hall and Brother Eugene continued to teach until he returned to Ireland. The Tír Eoghain's danced at different locations** and with different teachers over the years and have prevailed. Sam Keator was a long-time teacher; Christina White is the current instructor.



Brother Eugene and Sam Keator

Brother Eugene sent a beautiful Christmas card this past Christmas “to all his friends in the All-Ireland Cultural Society” and indicated that he keeps us in his prayers. Brother Eugene liked to know that the Tír Eoghain’s continued. I’m sure he is smiling down from Heaven with how the Tír Eoghain Ceílí dance group has evolved and continues to grow.

May his soul rest in peace.

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### **New Way to Volunteer for St. Patrick’s Day Celebration**

The AICS St. Patrick’s Day celebration will enter the electronic age with a new way to recruit volunteers. No longer will we have sign-up sheets at the February General Meeting. Instead Brendan Kerg will send invitations for volunteering to AICS members. He will use the program, “Sign-Up,” for recruiting and organizing St. Patrick’s Day volunteers. If you would like more information, please contact Brendan at [brendankerg@yahoo.com](mailto:brendankerg@yahoo.com).

The logo for St. Patrick's Day features the words "St. Patrick's" in a large, ornate, green, gothic-style font. The letter "S" is particularly large and decorative, with a small shamrock leaf integrated into its design. Below "St. Patrick's" is the word "Day" in a similar, slightly smaller, green, gothic-style font. The entire logo is centered on the page.

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## Flu Season Has Begun: A Reminder from the Board

This article from last year seems timely because of the severity of the flu this winter. This is not a plea to get flu vaccines but a reminder on how to protect ourselves and others from catching it and colds. Our gatherings, especially those with food, have potential for spreading flu and colds.

We know that we should not sneeze on each other. But are you aware that the flu and colds are mostly spread by hands? We may not be aware that we have germs on our hands especially when sharing food and drink.

So we implore you to be careful with the refreshments at breaks. Use hand sanitizer or wash hands before touching food. Better yet, avoid using your hands when serving yourself. The Board has provided utensils for serving or individual containers to protect each other.

**Let's make this a flu-free year!**

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## Save the Date for AICS Events

***Bad weather can still happen. Occasionally an AICS event has to be cancelled because of unsafe driving conditions. The board will notify members via email about cancellations on the afternoon of the event. If you do not have email, call the club telephone, 503 286 4812, if you have concerns about the weather. Remember that the board will put members' safety first.***

General Meeting

Saturday, February 17, 7PM

Oregon Stamp Society Building

4828 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

Portland

For more information call 503-286-4812.

Program: Tim Birr will speak about St. Patrick. Drawing for tickets for Shamrock Cruise

Genealogy-DNA Group

Saturday, February 17, 6PM

Oregon Stamp Society Building

4828 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

Portland

For more information call 503-286-4812.

Pub Social

Sunday, February 23, 4-7PM

T. C. O'Leary's

2926 NE Alberta

Portland

503-477-5969

Pub socials are informal gathering of members and guests, and they are free except food, drinks, and tips. Usually on the last Sunday of the month.

No General Meeting in March

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 17, 3 to 8PM

Holy Rosary Church Aquinas Hall

1333 NE Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd in Portland

This is our biggest event of the year!

Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 21, 7PM

Oregon Stamp Society Building

4828 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

Portland

For more information call 503-286-4812.

Program: "Show and Tell" of members' Irish Treasures, bylaws change in dues, election of officers for 2018-2019.

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### Shamrock Cruise Will Sail on March 11, 2017

Sam Keator has organized the Shamrock Cruise for Sunday, March 11, 2018, from 3PM to 5 PM on the *Portland Spirit* on the Willamette River. The cruise will feature some of the best of local Irish entertainment. Music and step dancing will be on all levels. One floor will be a quieter space. No host food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Boarding will begin at Salmon Springs Boarding at 2:30 p.m.

Admission is \$32 for adults; \$22 for youth 16 and under. Youngsters must be accompanied by an adult. Members will receive a 10% discount with buying on line ([brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)) and using the code "IrishClub."

As Mary Rose, AICS president, **summed up why we are supporting this event**, "All of us will be working our fingers to the bone for St. Patrick's on the 17th. This event sounds lovely - where we can enjoy great entertainment and will not have to work. **How great is that?"**

Let all of us support this maiden voyage of the "Shamrock Cruise" by getting the word out to family and friends.

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Chance to Take the Shamrock Cruise and Support a Good Cause.

Sam wants to pay back the AICS for the support he received from members over the years in his and Anne's efforts to promote Irish culture. He has donated two tickets for the Shamrock Cruise, a \$64 value, to AICS.

The Board decided that probably the fairest way to distribute these tickets is to raffle them off **and donate the receipts such as we did last year with the "Molly Malone" figurine. This year's recipient will be St. Birgitta's Church. For years St. Birgitta's has provided the space, without charge, where we store club property.** It is a parish that could use support

Here is more information on the raffle.

First Prize:

2 tickets to the Shamrock Cruise Maiden Voyage

Sunday, March 11, 2018 3PM

Portland Spirit - Salmon Springs Boarding, Portland OR at 2:30PM

A \$64 Value

Donated by Sam Keator and Anne Doherty [www.IrishPDX.com](http://www.IrishPDX.com)

Featuring entertainment by Peter Yeates, Eddie Parente, Tom Creegan, Dale Russ, Johnny Connolly, Cary Novotny and Tim Birr. Irish step dancers on each floor. Food and beverages available for purchase.

Other Prizes:

- **Owen Roe O'Reilly's Chardonnay Wine**
- Membership to the All-Ireland Cultural Society
  - Gift Basket
  - Pot of Gold – Cash

All proceeds go to **St. Birgitta's church**, which has stored AICS equipment and supplies for years. **It's our way of giving back.**

Drawing will be held at the AICS February 17, 2018 meeting and social.

Winners need not be present. They will be notified at that time.

Tickets are \$3 per ticket or 2 tickets for \$5.

Make checks payable to All-Ireland Cultural Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Contact information: All-Ireland Cultural Society. PH: 503-286-4812

About the Shamrock Cruise – [www.shamrockcruise.com](http://www.shamrockcruise.com)

You can obtain tickets from Mary Rose Kerg or before the beginning of the February General Meeting. There is no limit on the number of chances one can purchase. The drawing will be at the break of the February meeting.

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## News Briefs

### Program Committee Being Formed

AICS invites its members to serve on the Program Committee. The first meeting will be at 10:30AM on Saturday, March 3 after the board of directors meeting at the Starbucks on SW 117th off of SW Canyon. Please email Helen ([jj.helen@frontier.com](mailto:jj.helen@frontier.com)) if you need more information or want to volunteer.

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### Update on Long-time Member, Una NiClain

Mary Rose Kerg reported that she visited Una NiClain in Regency Care Facility. Even though her memory is fading she remembered good times with AICS. Years ago, Una was a very active member and served as secretary/treasurer. When Mary Rose asked Una how she was, she said she was happy and the food was good.

New Member

Please welcome DeEtta Fox to AICS.

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## Celtic Events

### Open the Door for Three

Friday, February 9

Sherwood Center for the Arts

22689 SW Pine St.

Sherwood

Doors open 6:45PM, show 7:30PM

Early Tickets available \$20-\$30 through Brown Paper Tickets

Open the Door for Three consists of fiddle player Liz Knowles, uilleann piper Kieran O'Hare, and Dublin-born singer and bouzouki player Pat Broaders. Their music is a rare combination of unearthed tunes from centuries-old collections, newly composed melodies, fresh arrangements of songs old and new, and homages to the musicians they grew up listening to.

Jim Malcolm

Saturday, February 10

Winona Grange

8340 SW Seneca St.

Tualatin

Doors open 6:45PM, concert 7:30PM

\$25 at the door, day of the concert.

Early tickets (\$12-\$20) available through Brown Paper Tickets

Jim Malcolm has been described as one of the finest singers in Scotland in any style.



## Dàimh

Saturday, February 24

Aladdin Theater

3017 SE Milwaukie

Portland

Doors open 8:00PM - Concert @ 9:00PM

Early tickets available, \$25 - \$36

through TicketFly

Daimh was named the Folk Bank of the Year - 2015 Scottish Traditional Music Awards. This Gaelic supergroup and unchallenged champions of straight in the eye Highland music is based around West Lochaber and the Isle of Skye.

## Shamrock Cruise Maiden Voyage

Sunday, March 11, 2018

Cruise 3-5PM, boarding at 2:30PM.

Tickets \$22- \$32 through Brown Paper Tickets

On-line ticket sales will end on Friday, March 2

Come ceili (Irish for gathering with friends) with your family and friends on the maiden voyage of the 'Shamrock Cruise! Live Music! Step Dancers!

Bistro food and full bar for your purchase.

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## **Weekly Ceili Events**

**Tuesdays:** Tir Eoghain ceili class, 7:30-9:30PM

St. Therese Multi-Purpose Center

1260 NE 132nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97230.

\$5 sliding. 14 years old and up.

**Tuesdays:** Ceili of the Valley, 6:30-8:30PM

Ceili and set dancing

VFW Hall

630 Hood St. NE

Salem

Thursdays: Winds of Donegal, 7-9PM

Winona Grange

8340 SW Seneca St.

Tualatin

5\$ fee. Beginners always welcomed! This class is structured for adults – young and old. We also encourage mature teens who want to learn.

### Monthly Ceili Events

Ceili Mor: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month. 8-11PM (Doors open 7:30PM), October through May

Winona Grange

8340 SW Seneca St.

Tualatin

\$12 adults, \$10 students (Age 12 and up), veterans, and seniors 65 and older.

For more information please go to [SandIrishEntertainment.com](http://SandIrishEntertainment.com)

**Irish Jam Session: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** of the month 3-6PM

Winona Grange

8340 SW Seneca St.

Tualatin

For more information, contact Sam Keator at [sam.keator@frontier.com](mailto:sam.keator@frontier.com).

**Portland Ceili Society: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday**

Featuring the tunes of Johnny Connolly and Cary Novotny

Instruction about 7:30PM, Dance 8-11PM

St. Barnabas Church Hall

2201 SW Vermont St

Portland

\$12 general admission/ \$8 for members

Visit the website for Portland Ceili Society, [www.portlandceilisociety.org](http://www.portlandceilisociety.org) for more information.

**Ceili of the Valley: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday**

7-8PM Lesson, 8-11PM Live music and ceili

VFW Hall 630 Hood St. NE

Salem

[www.ceiliofthevalley.org](http://www.ceiliofthevalley.org) for more information.

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**Featured Advertiser**

Our featured advertiser is Irish PDX.com. This is Sam Keator's business of providing Irish entertainment. Much of this issue is devoted to Sam's enterprises. We generally include Sam's events in "Celtic Events." Sam's newsletters have more information. These are ways to contact Sam for his newsletter and other events.

(503) 819.2689

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

[www.facebook.com/IrishPDX](http://www.facebook.com/IrishPDX)

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

[www.facebook.com/shamrockcruise](http://www.facebook.com/shamrockcruise)

[www.instagram.com/irishpdx](http://www.instagram.com/irishpdx)



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### Advertisements

If you have a business or a service to offer to our members, let us advertise for you. We can print your business card for \$25 per year. *An Seanachai* sends out ten or more issues per year, and these go to more than one hundred local households. For more information about this incredible bargain send an e-mail to Louise Martell, at [martell@u.washington.edu](mailto:martell@u.washington.edu).

Please welcome our newest advertiser, ACN, for office and residential computer services. The owner is Anthony O'Carroll, an AICS member. He can be reached through e-mail at [apocarroll@yahoo](mailto:apocarroll@yahoo) or by phone at 971 803 0222. His business card will be posted in the next edition of *An Seanachai*.

# ceili of the valley



**Tuesday Night Classes**  
6:30-8:30 Ceili & Set Dancing

**2nd Friday Ceili**

7-8 p.m. Lesson  
8-11 p.m. Live Music & Ceili

all at the VFW Hall,  
630 Hood St. NE in Salem

[www.ceiliofthevalley.org](http://www.ceiliofthevalley.org)

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# OIDA

Oregon Irish Dance Academy

*Non-Competitive Irish  
Dancing Classes for All Ages*

503-819-9555

[oregonirishdance@gmail.com](mailto:oregonirishdance@gmail.com)

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





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### **Essential Information for the All-Ireland Cultural Society**

Address: AICS of Oregon  
PO Box 3411  
Portland, OR 97208

Telephone: 503 286 4812

Board of Directors 2017-2018

President: Mary Rose Kerg

Vice President: Brendan Kerg

Recording Secretary: **Julie O'Connell**

Corresponding Secretary: Helen Grealish

Treasurer: Christine Seed

Directors: Louise Martell, Caroline Fogarty, Patrick Seed

Trustees: Tom Crowley, Colleen Spiering, Shirley Hahn

Editor of **An Seanachai**: Louise Martell

Committees

Book Club: **Julie O'Connell**

Communications:

Genealogy: Don Anderson

Scholarship: Tim Birr, Bruce Kenny

Sunshine: Patsy Lee

**St. Patrick's Celebration 2018**: Brendan Kerg

Consulate General of Ireland:

**Robert O'Driscoll, Consul General of Ireland**

100 Pine Street

San Francisco, CA 94111

Tel: 415 392 4214

Fax: 415 392 0885

Email: [SanFranConGen@dfa.ie](mailto:SanFranConGen@dfa.ie)

Website: [www.consulateofirelandsanfrancisco.org](http://www.consulateofirelandsanfrancisco.org)

Honorary Consulate of Ireland

John F. Keane

7511 10<sup>th</sup> St SW, Unit #1

Edmonds, WA 98026

Tel: 425 582 2688

Email: [JKeane@IrishConsulSeattle.com](mailto:JKeane@IrishConsulSeattle.com)

Website: [www.IrishConsulSeattle.com](http://www.IrishConsulSeattle.com)

AICS Website

[www.oregonirishclub.org](http://www.oregonirishclub.org)

The AICS is a federally recognized 501(3)(c) non-profit public benefit cultural organization. The AICS is listed with the State of Oregon as a non-profit corporation. Donations and contributions made to the AICS may be tax deductible for income tax purposes.

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