
An Seanacháí

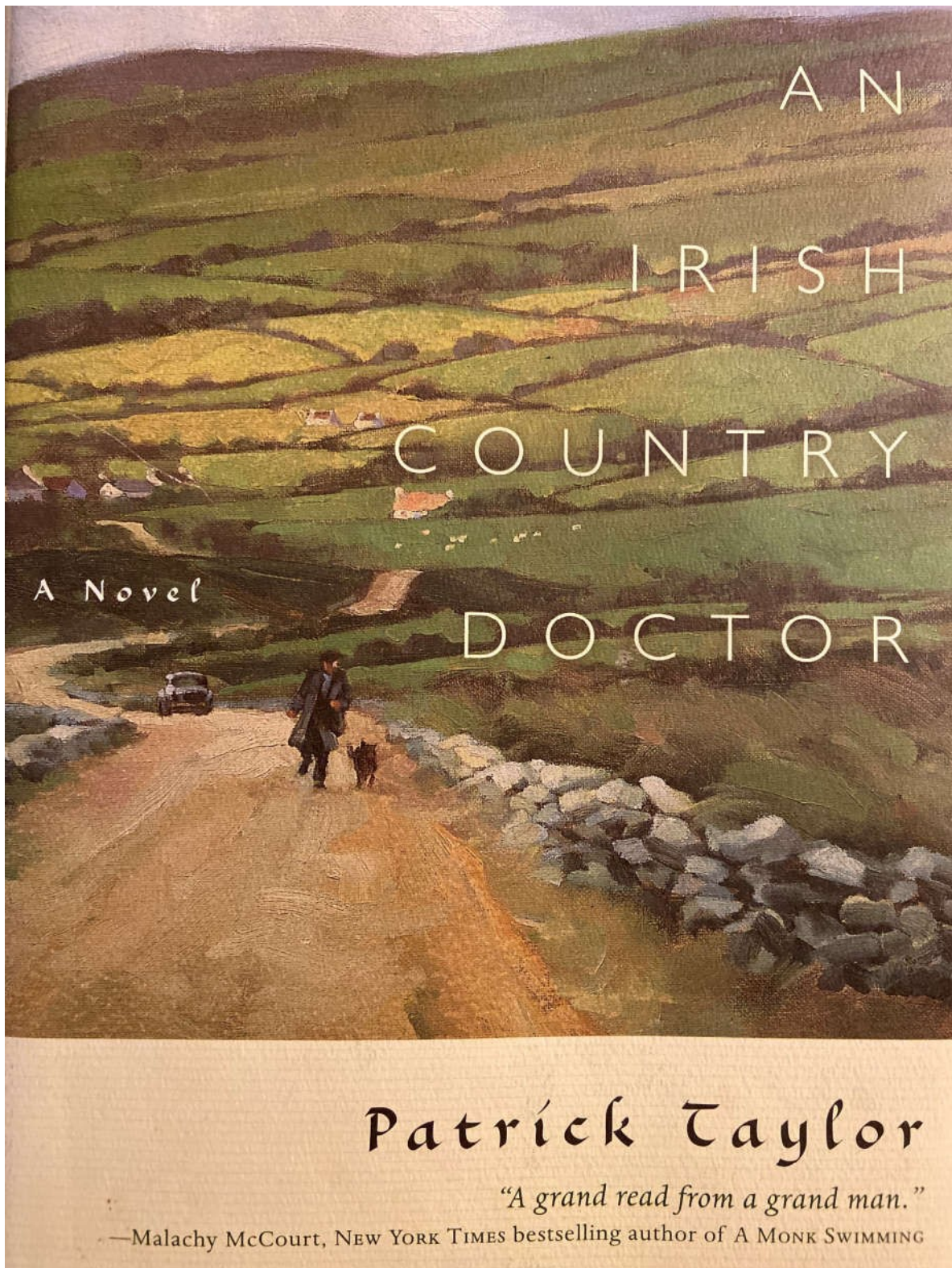


Vol. 80, Issue 12, December 2019

January Meeting, Tea Party and Book Discussion

Our January meeting will be held on Saturday, the 18th, in the Oregon Stamp Society building at [4828 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR](#). This is a grand occasion, as only high tea can be, so plan to come and enjoy it. Please bring the following with you: **a tea cup and saucer or mug and a sweet or savory dish for sharing**. It begins with a short business meeting but then quickly turns to eating, drinking and fellowship. After you've had a chance to sate your gastronomic whims you will have the chance to stimulate your intellect with a discussion of the book ***An Irish Country Doctor*** by Patrick Taylor. You needn't have read the entire book or even part of it. The discussion by those who have read it will be informative and enjoyable too.

The tea is being hosted by Julie O'Connell. The book discussion is being led by Jim O'Connell - yes, they are related! If you would like to help with tea set up please come at 1:00 pm - Julie will be glad to see you - as will your co-members. This is one of the best meetings of the year. Even though all of them are enjoyable, this meeting has offerings for both mind and body - you won't want to miss it.



January Pub Night

There's no reason to have the January blues after the holidays have passed. Not only can you look forward to a tea party earlier in the month but now you have an opportunity for a taste of something stronger. Jim O'Connell has arranged a pub night or rather pub afternoon for us. It will be held at Whelan's, [11709 SE Division Street](#) in Portland from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. on Sunday, January 26th. All attendees are invited to learn the Irish card game "25." Come on, it's not rocket science - it's just great fun.

J.J. Greelish has prepared a wonderful tutorial that you can keep at your elbow as you try your hand at it. Pub gatherings allow for a little more social time than we have at regularly scheduled meetings. It's also an opportunity to support those businesses we ask to advertise in our newsletter.

Celebrating Christmas with AICS

Hopefully you were able to attend this year's annual Christmas Luncheon at the Monarch Hotel on Sunday, December 8th. There were approximately 35 revelers there to enjoy the traditional Christmas menu of turkey and ham as well as the Left/Right

Game organized by President Mary Sacksteder who also chaired the event. It's a chance for us to gather together during the Christmas season for a leisurely luncheon, game playing and carol singing. Thanks to new member Betty Woerner who led us in caroling and to all who came out to ensure the afternoon was festive. If you didn't make it this year there is always next year.



The gang's all here - where were you?

Christmas in Ireland

Christmas in Ireland is celebrated much as it is here but with a couple of unique traditions. Irish Catholics celebrate Christmas from the Eve, December 24th, to January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany. Twisted syntax has led this day to be referred to as "Small Women's Christmas," but of course it is "Little Christmas," celebrating the arrival of the Magi with gifts: gold, symbolic of kingship on earth; frankincense, symbolic of deity; and myrrh, an embalming oil, symbolic of death. Prior to Advent families, at least those in the countryside (Culchies), begin forming their candles, large, thick tallow candles that are placed in a holder. In our parents and grandparents time candle holders were usually hollowed out turnips. In turn, those candles were placed on the window sill inside the home, ostensible to light the way for Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Here we've usually strung Christmas lights outside our houses. Traditional meals served are goose, turkey, ham or pork roast, with all the trimmings.

The day after Christmas, St. Stephen's Day, also known as the Wren's Day, is an opportunity for several pursuits: young children use it as an opportunity to dress in some form of costume and call to the neighbors while adults often use it to accompany children collecting monies for various charities. Then, too, it's usually an occasion for another celebratory meal and house dancing, an opportunity for local musicians to gather at a local rambling house, meaning one where the occupant usually hosts music and dancing for the locals. This is especially popular in the south of Ireland, particularly County Kerry's heavily Gaeltacht area of Dingle. But no Christmas season would be complete without the traditional Christmas Cake, a rich fruit cake, months in the making because of the need to treat it with brushfuls of fine Irish whiskey, enrobed in marzipan and covered with a stiff white royal icing (make sure your dental insurance is up to date before attempting a piece). That cake

can last for weeks or be gone in a matter of an afternoon. It was also the traditional wedding cake for our parents and grandparents. NOLLAIG SHONA DAOIBH.



A Traditional Irish Christmas/Wedding Cake

Thanksgiving Winners And Workers

St. Birgitta's food pantry was the recipient of approximately \$100 generated by the "Bingo" games played at our November meeting, a fun and "profitable" afternoon. Our new Corresponding Secretary, Louise Martell, called the games. Louise was a fine replacement for the late Emmet Justice, who, along with John Curtin, were the "bingo boys" for many years. That \$100 resulted from three regular games and a "blackout" game (all squares need to be covered). The grand prize of a gift certificate to purchase a turkey was won by Jim O'Connell, who generously turned it over to St. Birgitta's. Lois Delihanty won the "Sweeps" and gave her winnings to the St. Birgitta effort. Many thanks to those who brought canned food, peanut butter, soups and more.

Special thanks to Mary Rose for keeping track of the winners, winnings and donations.

Interested in Volunteering?

No organization, especially a non-profit such as AICS, could survive and accomplish its mission without its volunteers. But no volunteers should have to feel that they alone are carrying the weight of the Society. Some of our present officers would like to either try new positions or step down from the Board. If you would like to take a position please let President Mary Sacksteder know of your interest. Elections are a few months away, which will give you time to think about what position might interest you. Most Board members are present at monthly meetings so you may want to take the opportunity to ask one or more of them about their particular position. The maintenance of the organization is up to all of us - not just a few.

Good and Welfare

The holiday season is often filled with celebration and good cheer. While that remains true this year too, our revels are punctuated by significant losses. One of our former Treasurers, Juli Carty, passed away earlier this month. Her memorial will be held on Wednesday, December 18th, at 1:00 pm at St. Mary of Guadalupe Catholic Church, [29309 NW 11th Ave.](#),

[Ridgefield, Washington 98642](#). Juli was an enthusiastic member of the Tir Eoghain dancers and both she and her husband, Kevin Brown, were long time members of AICS. We will miss her. Our hearts go out to Kevin and Juli's family.

Below is a picture of Juli taken in happier times.



Sadly, Ailish Brandon, the eldest daughter of Marie Clohessy, has passed away too. Marie was an early and long time member of AICS who did much to ensure the continuation and growth of the organization. Our hearts go out to Ailish's family.

Save the Date for AICS Activities:

January General Meeting

Saturday, January 18th at 2:00
PM Stamp Society Building
[4825 NE 33rd Ave. Portland](#)

Pub Night

Sunday, January 26th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
Whelan's Irish Pub
[11709 SE Division Street](#)
Portland, OR

Genealogy Committee

Contact Don Anderson (dndanderson@comcast.net) if interested in joining the Genealogy Committee.

Celtic Events

Celtic Community Night at Artichoke Music, [2007 SE Powell Boulevard, Portland, OR](#). The second Wednesday of the month is dedicated to Celtic music at Artichoke. This month Stringed Migration is featured on Wednesday evening, December 11th at 7:00 pm. The quartet is composed of Elizabeth Nicholson on harp; Bob Soper on fiddle; Eddie Parente on viola; and Bob Barrick on double bass and pipes. For ticket info please call 503-232-8846.

The 2nd Saturday **Community Concert and Annual Food Drive** will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 7:30 in Winona Grange 271, [8340 SW Seneca Street, Tualatin, OR](#). Fiddler **Kevin Burke** will be performing. The cost is \$20 and tickets may be obtained at Brown Paper Tickets: 800-838-3006 or on line at :<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4337282>.

An **Irish Yule Ball** will be held on December 27, 2019 from 6:30-10:00 at the Columbia Ecovillage Dining Hall, [4647 NE Killingsworth Street, Portland, OR](#). This is a ceili and pot luck. Donations for the band would be much appreciated. Cary Novotny and friends will be playing.

Irish Cruises

Gertie Byrne's Mexican Cruise

An all Irish cruise of the Mexican Riviera leaving from and returning to San Diego between February 22-29, 2020!!! Perfect for west coasters. Yes, 95 % of the talent on this ship is brought out from Ireland by well-known entertainment entrepreneur Gertie Byrne, originally from County Mayo. These are the ports of call:

Cabo San Lucas Oasis Baja (California) Mazatlan Puerto Vallarta

If you would like more information on this cruise please call 1-800 -356-4713 or go to this web site:
<http://www.gertrudebyrnepromotions.com> - it has a complete list of entertainers and pricing.

Andy Cooney's 2020 Musical Cruise

Andy Cooney is hosting a seven-day cruise through the inner passage to Alaska, leaving Seattle, WA on May 31st and returning to Seattle on June 7, 2020. Cruising is aboard the Emerald Princess. Ports of call are: **Ketchikan; Endicott Arm and Dawes**

Glacier; Juneau; Skagway and British Columbia, Canada. Inside cabins are \$ 1299 per person; Oceanview are \$1799 per person; and Balcony is \$2149 per person. Taxes, fees and port charges are \$243.14 and airfare is not included in the pricing. For more information call Travel Professionals at 800-724-9511 or 845-651-4441. They can also be reached by e-mail at travelpro@warwick.net.

Joanie Madden 2020 Cruise

For those of you who'd like to venture a little further from home, Joanie Madden and Cherish the Ladies are running a western Mediterranean cruise from October 18th to 25th aboard the Norwegian Line's Epic. This cruise is designed for those who love to dance. Set dancing teacher Pat Murphy and Comhaltas ceili dancing teacher Paul Keating will be on board for those "taking their first steps."

Because Cherish the Ladies is a traditional band the dance music will feature set and ceili dancing tunes, but bands for ballroom dancing will be playing too. The cruise leaves from **Barcelona, Spain** travels to **Naples/Pompeii, Italy**, goes on to **Civitavecchia/Rome**, then to **Livorno/Florence/Pisa**, heads back to **Cannes, France** and **Palma Majorca Spain** before returning to Barcelona. For more information go to: joaniemaddencruise.com.

Irish Dance - Weekly Events

Monday: Sean nos dancing taught by Maldon Meehan, advanced class at 7:00 pm at the dance studio in the Audiocinema Building, [226 SE Madison Street, Portland, Oregon](#) and beginner class at 8:00 pm at the same location. Fees: \$20 at the door or \$15 per session for a six week session if paid in advance.

Set Dancing and lessons at Betty Woerner's, [2912 SW Arnold Street, Portland, OR 97219](#), every Monday from 7:00-9:00 pm.

Call Betty at 503-244-1593 for more information or directions. No fee.

Tuesdays: Tir Eoghain **ceili** class, 7:30-9:30 pm at St. Therese Multi-Purpose Center, [1260 NE 132nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97230](#).

Thursdays: Winds of Donegal, **ceili** dancing, 7-9:00 pm at the Winona Grange, [8340 SW Seneca St., Tualatin](#), \$5 fee. Beginners always welcomed!

Irish Dance - Monthly Events

Ceili Mor: 1st Friday of the month. 8-11 PM (Doors open 7:30 PM), October through May, Winona Grange, [8340 SW Seneca St., Tualatin](#). \$12 adults, \$10 students (Age 12 and up), veterans, and seniors 65 and over \$10.00. For more information please go to [SandAlrish Entertainment.com](http://SandAlrishEntertainment.com) or www.irishpdx.com.

Irish Jam Session: 2nd Sunday of the month. 3-6:00 pm, Winona Grange, [8340 SW Seneca St., Tualatin](#). For more information, contact Sam Keator at sam.keator@frontier.com.

Ceili of the Valley: 2nd Friday Ceili. 8-11 PM (Doors open 7:00 pm, lesson about 7:15), Year Round, VFW Hall, [630 Hood St](#)

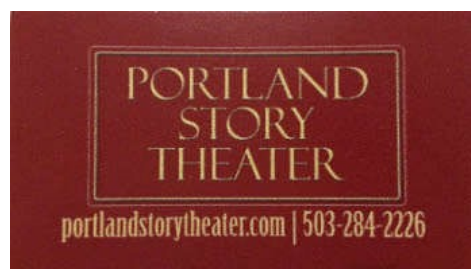
[NE, Salem, OR](#). Admission: \$10 General, \$8 CVS Member, \$5 students (age 11 and up), Kids 10 and under are free, \$30 Family. For more information please go to www.ceiliofthevalley.org

Ceili of the Valley also hold classes every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the same location. \$5 per class

Comhaltas Ceili: 4th Friday of the month - this month's ceili is a social evening and session at The Dullahan's, [252 B Avenue](#) in Lake Oswego, OR. Please check with Phil Meehan at philmeehan1@gmail.com for any questions.

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* goes to more than one hundred local households. For more information about this incredible bargain send an e-mail to Dorothy Foley at abbydorneypdx@gmail.com.





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Essential Information for the All-Ireland Cultural Society

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Board of Directors 2019-2020

President: Mary Sacksteder
 Vice President: Jim O'Connell
 Recording Secretary: Julie O'Connell
 Corresponding Secretary: Helen Grealish
 Treasurer: Molly McGuire
 Directors: Brendan Kerg, Mary Sacksteder
 Trustees: Shirley Hahn, Dorothy Foley



Left to right: Mary Sacksteder, Jim O'Connell, Louise Martell, Caroline Fogartt, Shirley Hahn, Molly McGuire, Dorothy Foley, Julie O'Connell, Brendan Kerg. Missing: Colleen Spiering, Helen Grealish.

Editor of *An Seanachai*: Dorothy Foley

Committees

Book Club: Julie O'Connell
 Communications: Helen Grealish
 Genealogy: Don Anderson
 Scholarship: Mary Sacksteder and Jim O'Connell
 Sunshine: Patsy Lee
 St. Patrick's Celebration 2019: Bill Fogarty, Brendan Kerg and Mary Rose Kerg

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AICS Website

www.oregonirishsociety.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.
