

An Seanacháí



Vol. 81, Issue 1, January 2020

January Meeting, Tea Party and Book Discussion

Our January meeting will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at the Oregon Stamp Society building, [4828 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland](#). Please bring the following items with you: a tea cup and saucer or mug for your own use and a sweet or savory dish for sharing. The afternoon begins with a short business meeting but then quickly turns to eating, drinking and fellowship.

The tea is being hosted by Julie O'Connell who will need help with both set up and clean up. If you are able to help please come at 1:00 pm. Most welcome are electric tea kettles, tea pots for serving, creamers, sugar bowls and teas you personally prefer and would like to share. It would be especially appreciated if you would bring your sharing dish on an appropriate platter, with serving pieces if needed.

The book discussion will be led by Jim O'Connell. ***An Irish Country Doctor*** by Patrick Taylor is an engaging reflection of a by-gone time in Ireland, when medical practice was local and personal. You'll enjoy meeting the characters who populate the countryside, as well as the two doctors who do their best to maintain their patients' physical, mental and emotional well being. You needn't have finished the book to enjoy participating in the discussion or simply listen to those who have.

This is one of the most interesting meetings of the year. Even though all of them are enjoyable, this meeting has sustenance for both body and mind - you won't want to miss it. Pictured below is just an example of what awaits you!



Pub Social and Card Game

No more winter blues - it's time to get your hot streak going! Thanks to Jim O'Connell and J.J. Grealish you'll have a chance to add to your card playing skills with an afternoon at Whelan's Pub, pictured below. Not only will there be fellowship, food and fun but you can join in a game of "25," one of the most popular card games in Ireland. No worries that you don't know it YET - J.J. Grealish has prepared a fantastic tutorial. Nor should you feel compelled to play. But it is an opportunity to learn a new card game and perhaps become part of a group that will continue the game at other times and places.



Whelan's Irish Pub - Ready and Waiting for Us!!

So, plan to come to Whelan's Irish Pub at [11709 SE Division Street, Portland, Oregon 97266](#) on Sunday, January 26th from 1:00-4:00 pm. Jim has planned this carefully so it doesn't interfere with any football games and J.J.'s tutorial is spot on. Try your hand at it - you may be pleasantly surprised!!

St. Bridgit's Crosses, Imbolc and Holy Wells at Our February Meeting

February 1st is St. Bridgit's Feast Day, usually commemorated with the making of St. Bridgit's Crosses, those rushwoven symbols integral to the legend of Bridgit's encounter with a dying Roman general. Using materials that she found next to the stream where he lay, she fashioned a cross from rushes, giving it to the Roman who she converted to Christianity at his last breath. In the Druidic calendar this time of year, February 1-2, is known as Imbolc. It celebrates the renewal of life after Samhain has done his dance of death. Now flowers bloom again and nature begins to light the morning and night skies. The daffodils are awash in Ireland and trees begin to bud in Portland.



At our February meeting Louise Martell will have materials for fashioning St. Bridgit's crosses. At this time of year Holy Wells are visited by both Christian and Druidic followers. There are said to be 3,000 Holy Wells in Ireland. They are usually of limited, local size and are often said to have been derived thought the power of a Saint. Some attribute magical healing powers to the waters of the wells. Is there any truth to that? Truth is usually what you chose to believe, but come to our February meeting and find out. It will be held on Saturday, February 15th at 2:00 pm at the Oregon Stamp Society Building, [4828 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97211](#).

Scholarship Update

The Board has recently made a revision to the rules governing the Scholarship Fund. It has now been opened to nonmembers who are hoping to participate in an activity that furthers our mission statement, such as Irish music, dance, sport, etc. There is a total annual amount of \$500 available each year. The Scholarship Committee will determine the recipient(s) and the amount(s) applicants receive. Applications are now available on our web site and must be received by March 31, 2020 for this year's scholarship award(s). Please call Vice-President Jim O'Connell if you would like more information about the process: 503-650-1130.

Tell Us About You

We all have different talents and experiences that make us who we are. Some of us see each other on a regular meeting basis, or not, but we often don't know very much about each other. If you would like to share some of your background and experiences with your fellow members, feel free to write a piece about yourself for inclusion in the Seanachai and send it to the editor at: abbydorneypdx@gmail.com. It may be more fun to do than you think - give it a try!

Get well wishes go out to two of our members, **Michael Tanner**, recovering from knee surgery that forced him to forego our holiday festivities and **Joe Dunne**, also recovering from knee surgery and anxious to get back to set dancing.

Welcome to new members **Ellen and Dana Ramer**.

Save the Date for AICS Activities:

February General Meeting

Saturday, February 15th at 2:00 pm
Oregon Stamp Society Building
[4825 NE 33rd Avenue Portland, Oregon](#)

AICS St. Patrick's Party

Tuesday, March 17th
Aquinas Hall
[340 NE Clackamas Street Portland, OR 9723](#)

Ancient Order of Hibernians

You don't have to be a member of the Hibernians to attend their monthly history lessons. They have a stellar line up for January and February that is both educational and enjoyable. Meetings are held in the Hibernian Room in Kells at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. The history lesson usually precedes it at 5:30 pm but please check with Bill Gallagher at 503-939-8732 for the exact time. January's history lesson on Tuesday the 21st is entitled ***Winston Churchill and the Irish - Anything But a Special Relationship***. February's history lesson on Tuesday the 18th will be enacted by a local theater group replicating a great story presented last year by AICS member Tim Birr concerning the abuse of Irish Catholic soldiers serving in the Union Army during the Civil War. The abuse was so extreme it forced the Irish to desert the Union side and take up the Rebel cause.

Saturday, March 7th will be "The Greatest Saint Patrick's Day Banquet Ever" - even if Bill has to say so himself. Again, it will be held in the Hibernian Room at Kells beginning at 6:30, featuring Breda Yeates's Molly Malone Dancers, live music by Cary Novotny, including traditional Irish ballads, and piping by Tim Birr. There will be a grand buffet, a prize raffle and the famous "cake raffle."



The Molly Malone Dancers



Tim Birr and Bill Gallagher

On Tuesday, March 17th at 8:00 am there will be a Mass at the Cathedral followed by a ceremony at the Great Hunger Memorial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Breakfast will follow the Mass and ceremony.

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 Irish music at Artichoke. This month Bellow Bridge, an acoustic folk band that plays music in a contemporary Celtic style is featured on Wednesday, January 8th, at 7:00 pm. For ticket info please call 503-232-8846.

2nd Saturday Community Concert will be held on January 11th at Winona Grange [2718 340 SW Seneca Street, Tualatin, OR](#), at 7:30. Button accordionist John Whelan will be performing. The cost is \$20 and tickets may be obtained from Brown Paper Tickets: 800-838-3006 or on-line at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4426142

Annual Shamrock Cruise on board the Portland Spirit will be sailing on Sunday, March 15, 2020 from 2:30-5:30. The boat will leave from [110 SE Caruthers Street](#) in Portland, OR (next to OMSI). Tickets are now available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4315614 or call 800-838-3006.

Irish Cruises

Gertie Byrne's 2020 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
Puerta Vallarta

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
British Columbia, Canada.

Inside cabins are \$1299 per person; ocean view are \$1799 per person; and balcony are \$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 an eastern Mediterranean cruise from October 18 to 25th. There will be 80 of the best Irish musical groups performing including Cherish the Ladies. This cruise will leave from and return to Barcelona, Spain. For more information go to: joaniemaddencruise.com.

Irish Dance

Monday: Sean nos dancing taught by Maldon Meehan, advanced class at 7:00pm at the dance studio 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 for a six week session if paid in advance.

Set dancing at Betty Woerner's at [2912 SW Arnold Street, Portland](#) - no charge. Call 503-244-1593 for more info.

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

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

Monthly Dance and Music Events

Ceili Mor: 1st Friday of the month. 8-11 pm (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 over \$10.00. For more information please go to SandALrishEntertainment.com or www.irishpdx.com.

Irish Jam Session: 2nd Sunday of the month. 3-6PM, 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](#). \$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 at the same location. \$5 per class

Comhaltas Ceili: 4th Saturday at Sellwood Community Center, [1436 SE Spokane Street, Portland, OR 97202](#). Basic set dancing lesson 7:00-7:30 pm; ceili 7:30-9:00 pm; sets for advanced dancers 9:00-10:00 pm. Fee is \$10.00.

Comhaltas Tune Bench: at Sellwood Community Center, 4:00-5:00 pm tune learning; 5:00-6:00 pm slow session; 5:00-6:00 pm beginner/improver slow session; 6:00-7:00 pm pot luck and song circle. Fee is \$4:00-10.00.

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.



OIDA
Oregon Irish Dance Academy
*Non-Competitive Irish
Dancing Classes for All Ages*
503-819-9555
oregonirishdance@gmail.com
www.oregonirishdance.com



**PORTLAND
STORY
THEATER**
portlandstorytheater.com | 503-284-2226

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

Whelan's Irish Pub
Come Join the Craic!
11709 SE Division Street
Portland, OR 97266
(503) 327-8020
whelanspdx.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: Louise Martell

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: Louise Martell

Genealogy: Don Anderson

Scholarship: Jim O'Connell and Donal Brady

Sunshine: Patsy Lee

St. Patrick's Celebration 2019, Mary Rose Kerg, Brendan Kerg, Louise Martell, Rose Ann and Tony Ranft

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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.
