

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends:

This is a year like no other. The entire Board hopes you, your family and friends are safe and well. If anyone needs some help or support please feel free to contact the club irishclubpdx@gmail.com or 503-286-4812.

Due to recent enhanced statewide restrictions, and to ensure the safety of our members and friends, the Board voted to cancel the Beltane Festival scheduled for May 16, 2020. We will be refunding anyone who paid for the event via Pay Pal. Committee members are returning what we can or transferring the credit to next year. We will have a full report at the next general meeting.

Our April general meeting is canceled in accordance with the Governor's orders. However, the Board agreed that the election of a new Board will go forward. Elections will be by e-mail this year, another first for the club. The by-laws state in Section 5 of Article IV, Election of Officers shall be by ballot. A plurality vote shall elect. In the event there is only one candidate for each office to be filled election may be by voice vote.

We have an exciting and full roster for the coming year, exactly one person for each of the 11 positions. We hope each of you will make your virtual voice heard and vote by e-mail! Ballots will be sent out by e-mail on April 15. We ask that you respond by April 20. Watch for an e-mail from irishclubpdx@gmail.com. We will announce the results on 4/25 so the new Board has time to prepare for the May 2 Board meeting.

We are hopeful we MIGHT be able to hold some of the other May events. The Appreciation Dinner on May 17 and the Andy Cooney concert on May 29. We will let you know for sure in the May Seanachai. We have to see what the Governor decides about the health restrictions. Can you tell we are a hopeful bunch???

For the next month or as long as we need, "stay home, save lives" needs to be our motto.

The Oregon Health Authority is a wonderful resource for local information. I am including a link below.

https://www.oregon.gov/oha/Pages/Index.aspx

Slainte, Mary

Please Pay Your Dues

To be eligible to vote in the upcoming Board election you must be a paid up member. If you haven't done so, and there are many good reasons to pay your dues in addition to maintaining your voting rights, you won't be eligible to vote in the upcoming election. Dues are \$35 per individual and \$55 per family. Renewals are at the full rate. New members are entitled to a pro-rated structure: January through March is 100%; April through June is 75%; July through October is 50%; and November and December are 100%, applied to the following year. Please send your payment to our Treasurer, Molly McGuire, at: 14914 NE Thompson Street, Portland, OR 97230.

Aer Lingus Ticket Raffle is On-Going

The Covid-19 virus forced the cancellation of our St. Patrick's festivities but not of our raffle for two round trip tickets from Seattle to Dublin, with a \$200 stipend for travel to Seattle. We are actively selling tickets for this fantastic prize. We are also working with Aer Lingus to extend the travel dates for ticket use. As it stands now, travel must be completed by the end of March 2021 but we are expecting that to change. The Board initially thought to have the raffle draw at our proposed Beltane celebration in May but that too has gone by the boards. It appears that our annual picnic on August 16th may be the next appropriate occasion for a raffle draw. Please continue to watch the newsletter for updated information about the extended travel date and location and time for the raffle draw.

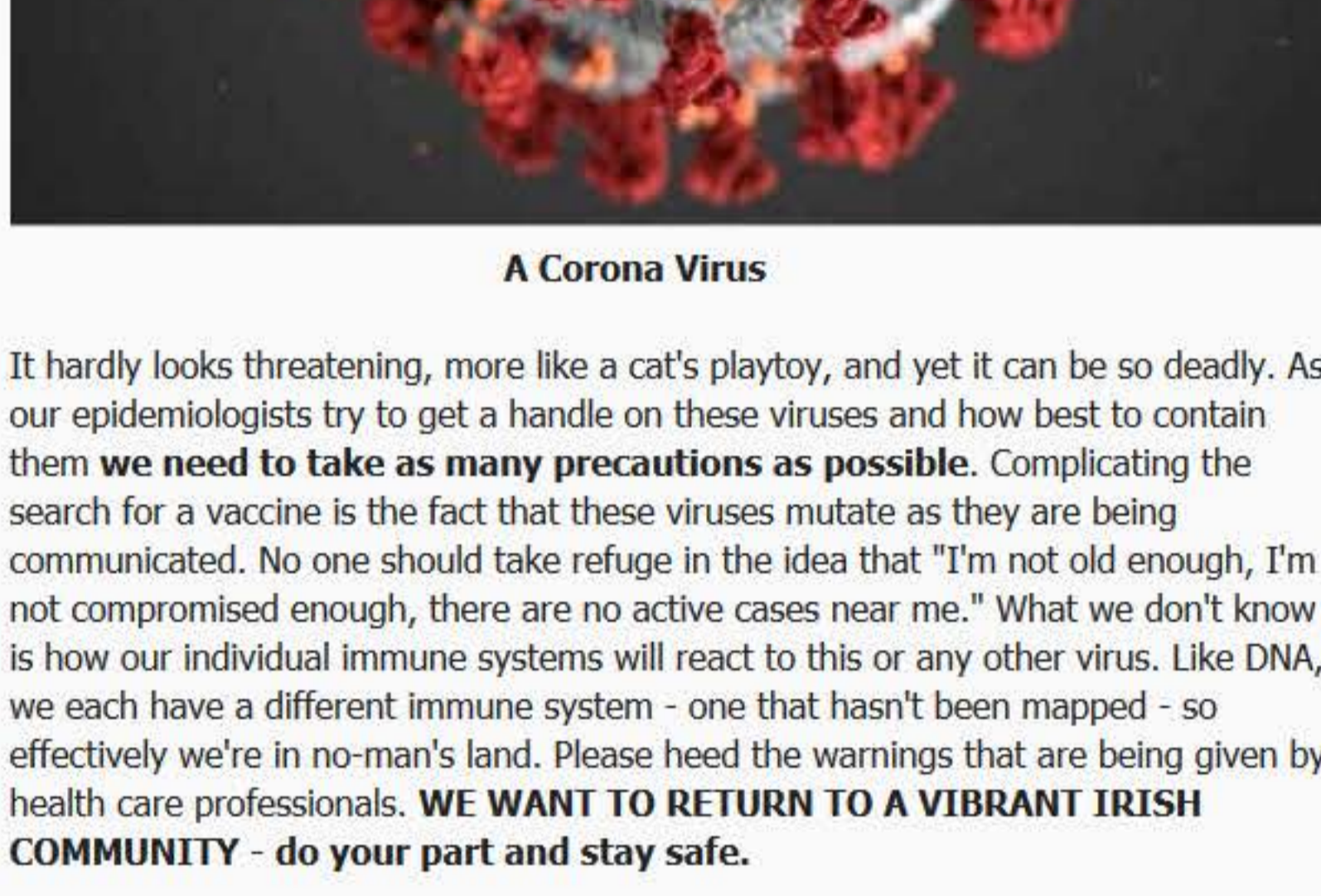
Raffle tickets are available from Mary Rose Kerg at: maryrosemulligan@comcast.net or 503-254-1377.



It's been a verrryyyy looonngggg time since AICS has sponsored a concert and it may be even longer. We believed we had a golden opportunity with Andy Cooney and his band being on the west coast in May to guide a musical cruise to Alaska. A number of AICS members have reserved their cabins - all the details are listed below under Irish cruises, in case you would like to join with them. In planning for this cruise those AICS members asked Andy if he would be available for a concert while in the Portland area. He readily agreed and that's how we happened to have had the good fortune to engage him. Will we see him? That depends on whether or not the cruise remains scheduled. We will, of course, let you know in our May newsletter.

For those of you who are not from the East coast, here's a brief introduction: Andy Cooney hails from a family of firefighters home-based on Long Island. Andy got his start as one of a stable of talented musicians and singers mentored by Paddy Noonan, a decades-long fixture in the New York Metropolitan area. A piano accordion player, Paddy and his band could be seen at most Irish weddings during the 50's through 80's. He played the dance music Irish Americans loved. He later branched out to organizing and leading trips to places far and near - with his band providing the entertainment. He traveled from the Catskills to his native Malow, Cork and well beyond. As you can see, Andy has taken a page from this master's book. Unfortunately, the master's book closed with his death this past week. No, it was not Covid-19.

All the information for concert reservations is contained in the flyer above and for the cruise in the section below.



It hardly looks threatening, more like a cat's playtoy, and yet it can be so deadly. As our epidemiologists try to get a handle on these viruses and how best to contain them we need to take as many precautions as possible. Complicating the search for a vaccine is the fact that these viruses mutate as they are being communicated. No one should take refuge in the idea that "I'm not old enough, I'm not compromised enough, there are no active cases near me." What we don't know is how our individual immune systems will react to this or any other virus. Like DNA, we each have a different immune system - one that hasn't been mapped - so effectively we're in no-man's land. Please heed the warnings that are being given by health care professionals. WE WANT TO RETURN TO A VIBRANT IRISH COMMUNITY - do your part and stay safe.

Irish Gaelic Level I Course Offered at PCC Cascade Campus - Postponed Until Summer Session

For those of you who have always said you would like to learn Irish Gaelic, now is your chance. Brian O'Hart will be teaching a Level 1 course in the summer session at PCC's Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth Street, Portland, OR 97217. Class will be every Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:50 in Terrell Hall - Room 101. Registration Number is 27386 and the cost is \$130. There is a limit of 30 students.

Good and Welfare

Fortunately, we have no illnesses to report.

Save the Date for AICS Activities:

As noted above, we are hoping to resume our schedule in May, if not, we will let you know in the next newsletter.

Genealogy Committee

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

Celtic Events

Celtic Community Night at Arthocho Music, 2007 SE Powell Boulevard, Portland, OR. The second Wednesday of the month is dedicated to Irish music. All scheduled dates are postponed until further notice. 2nd Saturday Community Concert has been postponed.

Irish Theatre News

Corrib Theater has postponed all presentations until further notice

Irish Cruises

Andy Cooney's 2020 Musical Cruise

Andy Cooney is hosting a cruise through the inner passage to Alaska, leaving Seattle, WA on May 31st and returning to Seattle on June 7, 2020. Cruising 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: travel@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 18 to 25th, leaving from and returning to Barcelona, Spain. Although Cherish the Ladies is a traditional band, there will be social dance music, singers, and comedians in abundance as well as Swallows Tail, a traditional band that needs no introduction, for set dancing. Need to brush up on your jive or quick step, there will be lessons available, sessions too for those who would like. Here are the ports of call for this cruise aboard the Norwegian Epic:

- Barcelona
Rome
Florence
Pisa
Cannes
Palma, Majorca, Spain

There is a range of pricing: interior cabins start at \$1,399; balconies are \$1,779 - \$1,929; mini suites are 1969-3668. Airfare is not included in this pricing.

For more information go to info@joaniemaddencruise.com.

Irish Dance - Weekly Classes - All Postponed Until Further Notice

Monday: Set Dancing classes at Betty Woerner's, 2912 SW Arnold Street, Portland, OR 97219. Call 503-244-1593 for more information or directions. There is no charge for classes. Sean nos dancing taught by Maldon Meehan, advanced class at 7:00pm at the dance studio at the Audocinema 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. Thursdays: Winds of Donegal, 7-9:00 PM at the Winona Grange, 8340 SW Seneca St., Tualatin, \$5 fee. Beginners always welcomed!

Monthly Dance Events - All Postponed Until Further Notice

Cell 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 Sandal Irish Entertainment.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@irishjam.com.

Cell of the Valley: 2nd Friday Cell, 8-11PM (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.cellsofthevalley.org

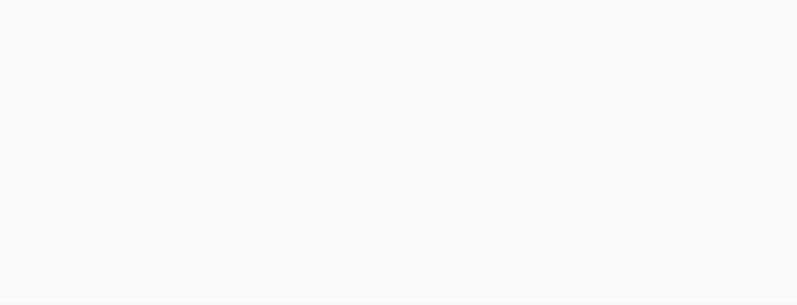
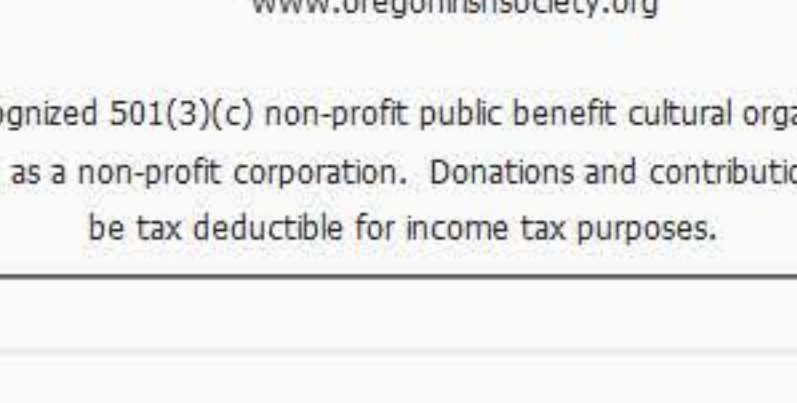
Cell of the Valley also hold classes every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the same location. \$5 per class

Tir Eoghain cell class has now gone from a weekly to a monthly meeting. There will be no class until further notice. The new date and time will appear in next month's newsletter.

Comhaltas Cell: 4th Friday of the month cell usually held at the Selwood Community House, 1436 SE Spokane Street, Portland, OR 97202, has been postponed. When it resumes the schedule will be Form Session tune learning from 4:00-5:00 pm; Irish Gaelic Conversation from 4:00-6:00 pm; Improver Session from 5:00-6:00 pm; Irish Song Circle from 5:00-6:00 pm; pot luck from 6:00-7:00 pm; open session 7:00-9:45 pm; set dancing lesson 7:00-7:30 pm; set/cell dancing from 7:30-9:45 pm.

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.



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 2019-2020

President: Mary Sacksteder, Vice President: Jim O'Connell, Recording Secretary: Jule O'Connell, Corresponding Secretary: Louise Martell

Treasurer: Moly McGuire, Directors: Brendan Kerg, Donal Brady, Trustees: Shirley Hahn, Dorothy Foley



Left to right: Mary Sacksteder, Jim O'Connell, Louise Martell, Caroline Fogarttz, Shirley Hahn, Moly McGuire, Dorothy Foley, Jule O'Connell, Brendan Kerg, Mollie Cogan Spiering, Helen Greahall.

Editor of An Seanachai: Dorothy Foley

Committees

Book Club: Jule O'Connell, Communications: Helen Greahall, Genealogy: Don Anderson

Scholarship: Mary Sacksteder and Jim O'Connell, Sunshine: Patsy Lee

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

Consulate General of Ireland

Robert O'Driscoll, Consul General of Ireland, 1100 Pine Street, San Francisco, CA 94111

Tel: 415 392 4214, Fax: 415 392 0885

Email: SanFranConGen@dfa.ie, Website: www.consulateofirelandinsanfrancisco.org

Honorary Consulate of Ireland

John F. Keane, 7511 10th St SW, Unit #1, Edmonds, WA 98026

Tel: 425 582 2688, Email: JKeane@IrishConsuSeattle.com, Website: www.IrishConsuSeattle.com

AICS Website

www.oregonishsociety.org

The AICS is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) 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.