



Vol. 81, Issue 7, October 2020



SAMHAIN/HALLOWEEN

Samhain and Halloween are separate celebrations but the fact that they occur so close to each other in the calendar year and share some of the same rituals leads us to think of them as one. There's little doubt that Halloween is an outgrowth of Samhain. Making the connection stronger is the fact that this year each will be celebrated beginning on the evening of October 31st. Both celebrations acknowledge death, the death of the harvest season, symbolic of all creation, and the slow death of the day, with dawn and dusk closing in on us - while awaiting Beltane, our renewing Spring celebration.

The most visible ritual of Samhain was the lighting of the Great Fire, set on the Hill of Tullaght for all of Ireland to see. No other fires were permitted during this period. To the Druids it gave light and heat for the dark days ahead. It was intended to guide the paths of friendly spirits to mingle with the living and the populace WORE MASKS AND COSTUMES to ward off the evil spirits that found their way from the other world. Not so different from where we find ourselves today.

It's at this time of year that the barrier between the living and the dead is at its thinnest. The Druids believed that the thinning of the barrier allowed the dead to return to this world, using the doors of the sidhe, the mounds of the wee people, to warm themselves among the living. Perhaps that's why the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls are recognized on November 1st and 2nd, so close to that period of "return."

Many of us in the area were terrified of the orange flames of the great fires we just experienced on the west coast. Having evaded the worst possibilities of the Oregon wildfires, we can now take a moment to appreciate the Druids acute awareness of Nature, with all its beauty and danger. Now is the season to enjoy the orange glow of jack-o-lanterns, celebratory lights and trick or treats - it seems nature provides both.

October General Meeting Information – VIA ZOOM

Saturday October 17th at 2:00 pm.

Zoom link below. We need you to RSVP at irishclubpdx@gmail.com

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89389803525>

Above is the link to enter the Zoom meeting. If you have a Zoom account you can simply click on it and it should take you to our meeting.

Do you zoom? If you do not and would like help signing up or to do a practice run reach out to us at irishclubpdx@gmail.com BEFORE Saturday. **You must have a ZOOM account (it's free) in order to log on with the link above. If you do not have an account just go**

to zoom.com to sign up before Saturday please.

If you do not have the Zoom icon somewhere on your computer then you do not have a ZOOM account and you will need to sign up.

We know this might be a bit messy for the first few times using it for such a big group but we will have help available. If we are patient and kind with each other we will make it happen!

If you plan to Zoom please RSVP to irishclubpdx@gmail.com. We want to be sure all those that want to attend can. And we will look for you and try to reach out if we do not see you logged on.

Please plan to log on at least 15 minutes early so we can work out the kinks. We plan to start the meeting at 1:40 so we can give everyone time to log on and get settled. Early birds will get to socialize a bit before the business meeting starts.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday when this year's scholarship winner, Christina White, will speak about using her AICS scholarship money to pursue her TCRG - the teaching certificate awarded by the World Irish Dance Association.

Christmas Luncheon

We are hoping to hold our Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Monarch Hotel, 12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas, as we did last year. We will have a limited number of seats available due to Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing and masks will be in order. We anticipate that the menu will be substantially the same as last year BUT THERE WILL BE NO BUFFET - only French service. The cost will be \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. If you are planning to attend please mail your check to our Treasurer, Julie O'Connell, at 4568 Exeter Street, West Linn, OR 97068. Your check must be to Julie by November 7th.

Julie O'Connell is a gift to AICS - a gift that keeps on giving. Julie has just secured a \$2,900 grant for AICS from the Oregon Cultural Trust. Thank you for your constant vigilance of all things financial regarding the AICS Julie!!

St. Patrick's Day Celebration 2021

The Board has voted to suspend the St. Patrick's Day celebration as we have known it but is hoping to come up with a new format that will allow us to celebrate our heritage while conforming to Covid-19 health mandates. There is sufficient time to discuss suggestions as to

how to accomplish that so please feel free to make them. The Board intends to revisit our option in January and construct a safe, celebratory but downsized event.

Alcohol that was bought for last St. Patrick's Day, cancelled as you know, is being made available to members at cost. Please contact Mary Rose Kerg if you would like O'Hara's, Guinness or Smithwick's beer at cost: maryrosemulligan@comcast.net.

Red Cross Contribution

At our September Board Meeting a motion was made and approved by the Board to contribute \$500 to the American Red Cross in recognition of their outstanding efforts to help those displaced and damaged by the wildfires that tore through the west coast. Constrained by the fact that our by-laws limit expenditures that have not been approved by the membership to \$100, Treasurer Julie O'Connell has sent a check for \$100 to the Red Cross. The remaining \$400 contribution recommended by the Board will be discussed and voted on during our October General Meeting noted above. Please plan to attend if you would like to be heard on this Board recommendation.

Our by-laws are going to be reviewed by a committee of three members appointed by the Board, Julie O'Connell, Molly McGuire and Mary Rose Kerg, to suggest revisions and updates, which will then be proposed to the Board and ultimately the membership for approval at the April Board Meeting.

Good and Welfare

We are hoping that all our members are well and safe. As previously noted by President Mary Sacksteder, if you need any help during this difficult period please reach out to any officer or Board member. No one is alone.

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. 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

Joanie Madden 2020 Cruise - Postponed Until September 2021

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 September 5 to 12, 2021, leaving from and returning to Barcelona, Spain. Although Cheriish 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. Classes are available on Zoom and will cover a variety of themes such as: dancing to the tune; triplets; signature moves; improvisation and the body. Beginner and more advanced classes are available. For more information and/or registration, please contact Maldon at: maldonmeehan@gmail.com.

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

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 SandAIrish.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. 8-11PM (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.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

Tir Eoghain ceili 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 Ceili: 4th Friday of the month ceili usually held at the Sellwood Community House, 1436 SE Spokane Street, Portland, OR 97202, has been postponed. When it resumes the schedule will be: Foinn Seisun 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/ceili 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.



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

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

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Essential Information for the All-Ireland Cultural Society

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Board of Directors 2020-2021

President: Mary Sacksteder
Vice President: Jim O'Connell

Recording Secretary: Beth Setters
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Rose Kerg
Treasurer: Julie O'Connell
Directors: Patsy Lee, Lois Delahanty, Brendan Kerg
Trustees: Molly McGuire, Sam Keator, 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: Mary Rose Kerg
Genealogy: Don Anderson
Scholarship: Jim O'Connell
Sunshine: Patsy Lee
St. Patrick's Celebration 2020: Brendan Kerg and Mary Rose 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.
