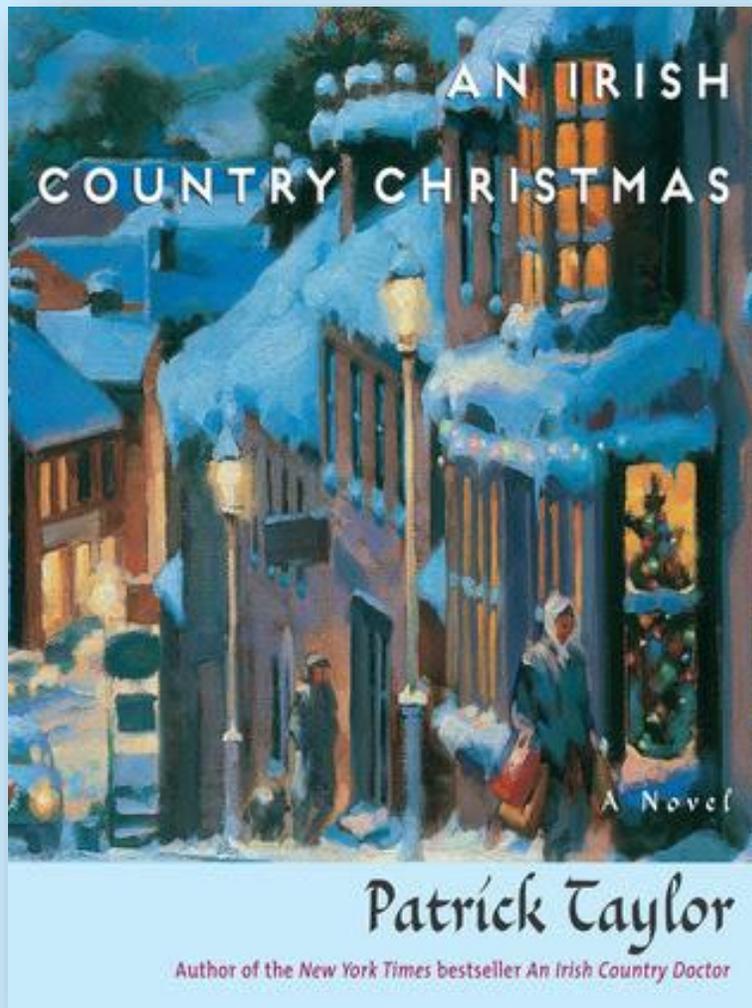




All-Ireland  
cultural society  
OF OREGON

**An Seanachai, Newsletter**  
**Vol. 81, Issue 9, December 2020**

## CHRISTMAS AS IT USED TO BE



The first shipment of Covid-19 vaccines has arrived in Oregon, perhaps a symbolic North Star that will lead us back to "normalcy," whatever that may prove to be. Christmas this year will be different - all the dances and ceillis, dinners and tea parties will be strictly limited in number, attended with the hope that all revelers have been rigorously careful to sidestep the virus. While our celebrations may be circumscribed, we do have the wonderful escape of a trip to Ballybucklebo, Ireland for a traditional Irish Christmas. Patrick Taylor, author of the Irish Country series, has done a masterful job of recounting Christmas in relatively modern Ireland as experienced by Doctors Fingal O'Reilly and Barry Laverty. We made their acquaintance last year when we discussed the initial book in the series, *An Irish Country Doctor*. Our January meeting will feature a discussion of the third book in the series, *An Irish Country Christmas*. Despite the joy and celebration of the holiday season both doctors will face challenges and crossroads. There's no requirement that you read all or even any of this novel but it's more enjoyable when you do. You may be able to get a copy from your local library. Although closed temporarily, Multnomah county libraries are now able to do curbside borrowing by arrangement. Had you researched this title at the library, you would have been confused by the fact that there are two books entitled *An Irish Country Christmas*. One was released around 1998 by County Kerry author Alice Taylor, no relation to Patrick. A decade later Patrick Taylor, a County Down doctor, released a novel with the same title. Confusing - but very different reads!!

# JANUARY MEETING

Our January meeting and meetings throughout the spring will be over Zoom. Links were emailed out.

Mark your calendars:

Jan 16, 2021 1:45 PM

Feb 20, 2021 1:45 PM

Mar 20, 2021 1:45 PM

Apr 17, 2021 1:45 PM

May 15, 2021 1:45 PM

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nollaig Shona Duit

Happy Christmas to you! During this holy season of reflection and giving the board wants to thank you for your continued support of the club.

If you have not joined us on one of our Zoom meetings then we hope you will in January. If we can help you set up Zoom (it's free) please reach out via phone 503-286-4812 or email [irishclubpdx@gmail.com](mailto:irishclubpdx@gmail.com). We will be happy to help.

As I write this the vaccine is rolling out across the country. We are hoping 2021 will offer us more opportunities to be together. Until then stay safe.

Join us in our all club read An Irish Country Christmas by Patrick Taylor. We will discuss it at the January meeting over a cup of tea. Remotely of course but how fun to all sip our tea and talk about the book.

I came across this lovely Christmas Prayer that seemed to capture the spirit of the holidays.

May the joy of the angels that holy night resound in your heart and bring you delight.

May the faith of the shepherds kneeling in prayer remind you of God's love everywhere.

May the wise men's devotion that brought them so far be also, for you, a guiding star.

I recently saw a yard sign that said if you can be anything be kind. What a wonderful reminder that sometimes the simplest goals are the most worthy to pursue.

Peace, Mary

Ps. A Christmas toast to you and yours:

May peace and plenty be the first to lift the latch on your door,  
And happiness be guided to your home by the candle of Christmas

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION - 2021

There have been numerous ideas suggested as to how to safely celebrate St. Patrick's Day in 2021. The consensus to date is that we will have a virtual party containing some or all of the following activities:

- Tualatin Valley F&R Pipe Band performing at a fire station, with fire trucks in the background.
- Irish step dancing and ceili dancing
- Music
- Penny and the Puppets
- Coloring pages for children to print and color.
- Baking demonstrations, such as Irish soda bread and tea cakes.
- Irish recitations and storytelling.
- Pictures of past AICS events.
- Songs - which we may need permission to play.
- Humor/jokes
- Snippets of history.

Also under consideration is a scaled down physical party - perhaps for less than 100 people. Possible venues are: the Polish Hall; Stamp Society Building; Monarch Hotel or Holy Rosary's small hall. All are welcome to join the committee and the first virtual meeting of the committee will be held following the January Board Meeting on January 9, 2021 at approximately 10:45. If you are interested in joining the committee please let Mary Sacksteder know so that she can send you the appropriate Zoom link. Mary can be reached by e-mail at [irishclubpdx@gmail.com](mailto:irishclubpdx@gmail.com) or by phone at 503-286-4812.



Can't Wait to Dance at St. Pat's Again!!!

## GOOD AND WELFARE

ICS has many devoted members who's concern for and loyalty to the organization survives even death. The family of recently deceased member, Una NiClain, also known as Winifred Tschida, has kindly donated a number of lovely pieces of Belleek and Lenox for inclusion as raffle prizes to benefit the Society. Special thanks to Una's aunt, Connie Shipley, for making this donation in Una's memory.

## GENEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Contact Don Anderson ([dndanderson@comcast.net](mailto: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 THEATER NEWS

Gemma Whelan has announced that Corrib Theatre has commissioned three short audio plays from Irish playwrights that will deal with the current global turmoil. Those authors are Jodi McCarrick, Rosaleen McDonough and Bisi Adigun, a Nigerian-Irish author. Those plays will be available in early 2021 and a discussion will be held via Zoom. We're all anxious for the new Corrib season to begin and if you have questions or would simply like to chat with Gemma she invites you to do so via e-mail. Her address is [gemma@corribtheatre.org](mailto:gemma@corribtheatre.org).

## 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](mailto:info@joaniemaddencruise.com).

# IRISH DANCE

## **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](mailto: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 [SandAlrish Entertainment.com](http://SandAlrishEntertainment.com) or [www.irishpdx.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:abbydorneypdx@gmail.com).



**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)

**Whelan's Irish Pub**  
*Come Join the Craic!*

11709 SE Division Street  
Portland, OR 97266

(503) 327-8020  
[whelanspdx.com](http://whelanspdx.com)

Like us on Facebook!

**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)

**ACN** Independent Business Owner

**Anthony P. O'Carroll**  
Business ID# 02089444

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ACN Direct Online Storefront:  
[yconnect.acndirect.com](http://yconnect.acndirect.com)  
[apocarroll@yahoo.com](mailto:apocarroll@yahoo.com)

PROJECT feeding kids

**Kiawe Island Bistro**  
Fresh Food, Fresh Taste

Eric Atlas  
Executive Chef

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[kiaweislandbistro.com](http://kiaweislandbistro.com)

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR THE AICS

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Telephone: 503 286 4812  
Website: [www.oregonirishsociety.org](http://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.

## 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  
Editor of An Seanachai: 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.

## 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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