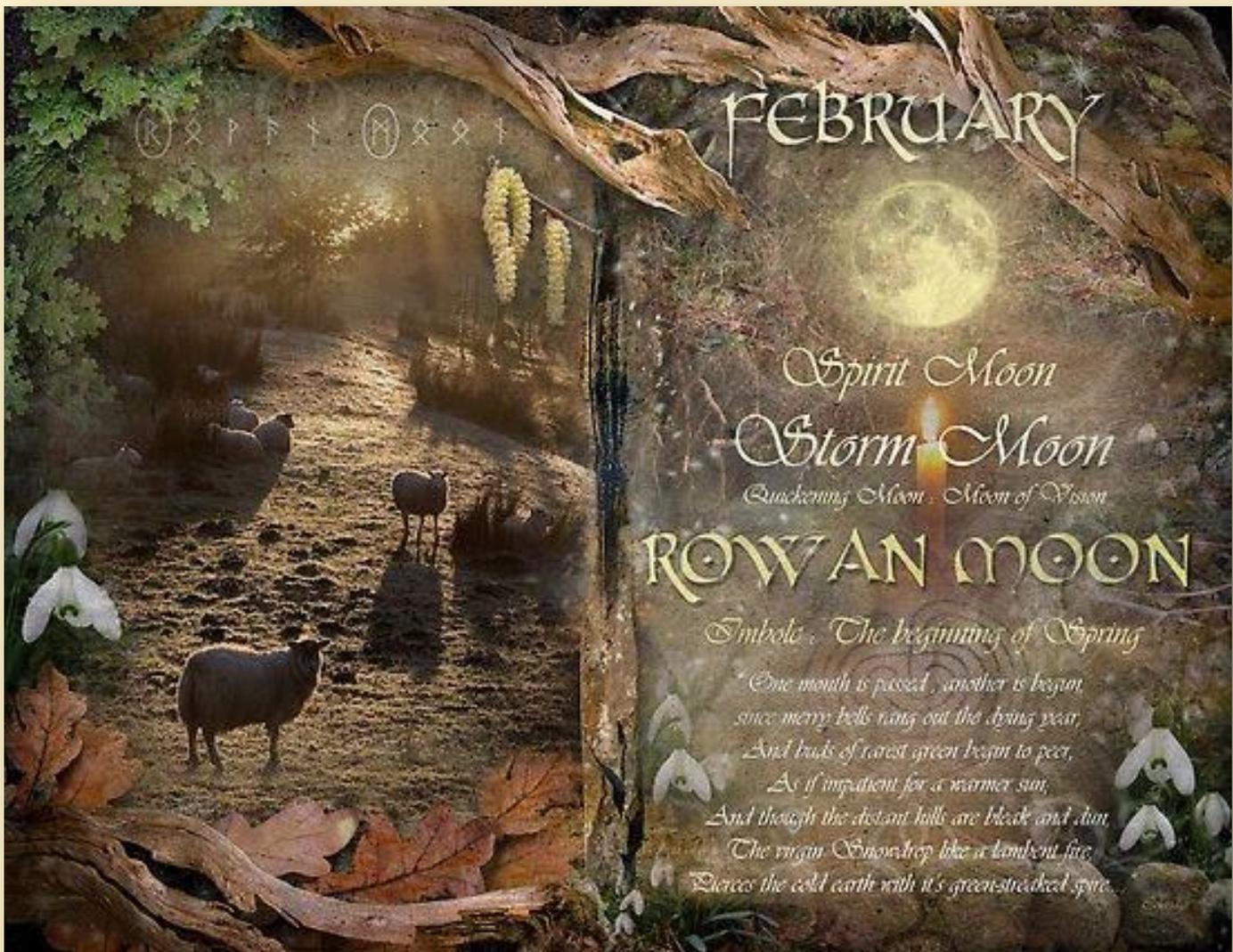




All-Ireland
cultural society
OF OREGON

An Seanachai, Newsletter
Vol. 81, Issue 10, January 2021



IMBOLC: JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Imbolc is a Gaelic traditional festival marking the beginning of spring. Also known as St. Brigid's Day, it's celebrated around February 1st, halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. It's believed that Imbolc was originally a pagan festival associated with the goddess Brigid, later Christianized to St. Brigid and her feast day established as February 1st.

Research shows that that the timing of the festival was originally more fluid and strongly based on seasonal changes. It has been associated with the onset of the lambing season (which could vary as much as two weeks before or after February 1st), the beginning of the spring sowing and the blooming of blackthorn. From the 18th century to the mid-20th century the holiday was a festival of hearth and home. Families would have a special meal or supper on Imbolc Eve. Typically it would include foods like colcannon, sowans, dumplings, barmbrack or bannocks. Often a representation of Brigid would be paraded around the community by girls and young women. Alternatively a young girl would take the role of Brigid. Escorted by other young girls she would go from house to house wearing a Brigid's crown and carrying a Brigid's shield and cross, all made from rushes. Children too would go from house to house asking for pennies for "poor Biddy," or money for the poor. Imbolc was also a time of weather divination, revolving around the old tradition of watching to see if serpents or badgers ventured forth from their winter dens. Surely you don't think we came upon Groundhog Day by accident?

JANUARY MEETING – BOOK DISCUSSION

Our January meeting and book discussion as well as our monthly meetings throughout the spring will be over Zoom. Links were emailed out. As noted in last month's newsletter the January meeting will feature a discussion of Patrick Taylor's *An Irish Country Christmas*. Taylor is the author of numerous books centered on Irish country life, all of them entertaining and heart-warming. This is the second book in the series, but there's no reason for you to stop there. An easy read, most of them can be obtained through your local library.

Mark your calendars for January 16th, February 20th, March 20th, April 17th, and May 15th, all at 1:45 pm.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION - 2021

Yes, our St. Patrick's Day celebration will be different this year. Despite the fact that a recommended vaccine has been developed, it will be some time before enough people have been inoculated to get anywhere near herd immunity, meaning we won't be enjoying a personal gathering. But that doesn't mean we can't celebrate the day virtually. While nothing is definite yet as to program content, we do have a committee working on establishing a traditional program that you can have the luxury of enjoying in your own home. So get up and dance around to the music and song that will be coming your way. There will be more details in next month's newsletter.



A St. Patrick's celebration in Dublin in years past. It won't look anything like this in March 2021.

HOLIDAY WISHES FROM THE HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL

In a recent phone call the honorary Consul General of Ireland, John Keane of Seattle, asked Mary Rose Kerg to extend his best wishes to the members of AICS for the new year and upcoming St. Patrick's season. If you would like to return John's good wishes you can find his contact information at the very end of this newsletter. It's comforting to know that even though the miles and Covid-19 are between us, our fellow Irishmen think of us and that out of sight is not out of mind.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Get Well Wishes go out to Christine Seed who continues to recover from hip replacement surgery.

Congratulations to Margaret Doherty on her recent retirement from the state legislature. Margaret represented District 35, the Tigard area, in the Oregon House of Representatives since September 2009.

Welcome to new member Rebecca Moore - the more the merrier - we're always looking for more new members. To all who are inviting friends to join AICS please ask them to do so with a membership application.

GENEOLOGY 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 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.

IRISH CRUISES

Joanie Madden 2020 Cruise is 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 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

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 [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. 8-11PM (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 abbydorneywdx@gmail.com.



OIDA
Oregon Irish Dance Academy

*Non-Competitive Irish
Dancing Classes for All Ages*

503-819-9555
oregonirishdance@gmail.com
www.oregonirishdance.com



Whelan's Irish Pub
Come Join the Craic!

11709 SE Division Street
Portland, OR 97266

(503) 327-8020
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



ACN Independent Business Owner

Anthony P. O'Carroll
Business ID# 02089444



Cell 971.803.0222
ACN Direct Online Storefront:
yconnect.acndirect.com
apocarroll@yahoo.com



Kiawe Island Bistro
Fresh Food, Fresh Taste

Eric Atlas
Executive Chef



212 NE 164th Avenue, Suite 12
Vancouver, WA 98684
360-254-5544
kiaweislandbistro@gmail.com
kiaweislandbistro.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR THE AICS

Address: AICS of Oregon
PO Box 3411
Portland, OR 97208
Telephone: 503 286 4812
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.

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

Consulate General of Ireland:
Robert O'Driscoll, Consul General of Ireland
100 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
Tel: 415 392 4214
Fax: 415 392 0885
Email: SanFranConGen@dfa.ie
Website: www.consulateofirelandsanfrancisco.org

Honorary Consulate of Ireland:
John F. Keane
7511 10th St SW, Unit #1
Edmonds, WA 98026
Tel: 425 582 2688
Email: JKeane@IrishConsulSeattle.com
Website: www.IrishConsulSeattle.com