



All-Ireland
cultural society
OF OREGON

An Seanacháí, Newsletter
Vol. 82, Issue 4, October 2021



Samhain Fires Light the Night Sky as Ghosts and Goblins Gather Nigh

SAMHAIN

It's that magical season of the year again known as Halloween to many people but Samhain in the Celtic world where it all first began. No matter what it's called it marks the end of the harvest, hence the display of pumpkins and other fall fruits, and heralds the dormant winter period. It acknowledges death, not only of crops but of human beings and members of the animal kingdom, yet it's focus is on the continuation of the spirit. Ghosts, banshees, fairies and sprites return, guided by the Samhain fires, to rejoin the living. Witches ride brooms, accompanied by black cats or other familiars, capable of carrying out their mistresses bidding. It has been suggested that witches evolved from the concept of the banshee, a female spirit sent to gather the soul of the dying. Animal companions were said to have struck a bargain with witches, offering to help in some way if the witch would give her soul to Satan. After the bargain was struck, the cat or other companion, would carry out malevolent errands on the witch's behalf, ranging from spoiling a neighbor's milk to harming an enemy. In return the witch would provide a soft bed and food. While folklore is amusing and interesting, thankfully Samhain has become an opportunity to celebrate Irish culture and tradition as well as our fascination with the phantasmagoric

Ceili of the Valley's 6th Annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival

Ceili of the Valley is presenting a series of programs, both live and virtual, throughout the month of October in celebration of Samhain. There will be two live concerts at the VFW Hall, 630 Hood Street Northeast, Salem Oregon 97301, one on October 23rd at 7:00 pm entitled Celtic Harps, Rare Instruments and Wonderous Stories and the second on October 27th at 7:00 pm entitled The Fire Concert, featuring Scottish music. Details are available at: <https://celticfestival.info/>; or facebook.com/ceiliofthevalley. Check the website for a full display of the programs throughout October. Please note that proof of vaccination or a recent Covid test will be required for entrance to any program and masks are necessary.

AICS made a significant donation to this festival for which we received a very gracious thank you. Four concert tickets were given to AICS in turn. The Board will determine the most appropriate way to award those tickets, to be announced at our October monthly meeting.



The Celtic Year - Beginning with Samhain, The New Year

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

The October monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, October 16th at 3:00 pm. This will again be a Zoom meeting and invitations will be going out closer to the meeting time. It's going to be very informative - Presenters Tim Birr and Louise Martell will resolve the issue of whether Mrs. O'Leary's cow was responsible for the Great Chicago Fire - a burning issue. Please join us to enjoy this presentation and to keep abreast of planning for the rest of the year. Questions as to when we think we can resume in person events such as meetings and the Christmas luncheon will be on the menu. At this meeting and every following event until St. Patrick's Day you will be reminded that we have two very attractive and expensive baskets that will be raffled off at the St. Patrick's Party. This is a fundraiser for AICS. We are coming off a year in which no dues were assessed so let's get behind this effort. As to dues, we are coming to the end of the calendar year and, unlike 2021, 2022 will be a full dues-paying year. Just sayin'.

The Brady Basket, donated by Sean Brady, contains a gift certificate for a wine tasting for two at Archery Summit Winery, 18599 NE Archery Summit Road in Dayton, Oregon AND a \$70 bottle of wine, 2 wine glasses, a cheese board, knives and a bottle opener, valued at \$270.

The Comhaltas Basket, donated by Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, contains bottles of the Irish whiskeys Tullamore Dew, Paddy's, and Jameson's, a bottle of Hennessy's cognac, two bottles of Irish Death Ale, 4 tasting size Irish whiskies, a container of Marcona almonds and 2 Italian salami wedges, valued at a giant snatter.



The Brady Basket



The Comhaltas Basket

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Covid and the changing protocols surrounding indoor gatherings have made it difficult to establish our usual schedule of events. To date, we anticipate having our regular Christmas Luncheon at the Monarch Hotel on Saturday, December 4th, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Most likely masks will be mandated except when eating and drinking. We don't have a price as yet but should be able to give more exact information at our October General Membership meeting or in the next newsletter. For now please hold the date.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As noted above, planning for any indoor event is very difficult in the age of Covid. That being said, we are betwixt and between as to the presentation of our St. Pat's program. How much will be live and how much will be streamed remains to be seen. But no matter what the format, one thing we do need is volunteers. If you have volunteered in the past or would like to start now please contact Mary Rose Kerg at irishclubpdx@gmail.com. Or, make your availability known at our General Membership Meeting on October 16th. As it appears now we will have food, beverages and entertainment at Holy Rosary Hall on March 17th as we have in the past but on a smaller scale. That means we will need volunteers to work in those areas, including set up, take down and admittance. You can find out more about what help we will need at the October 16th meeting.

SOME IRISH-ENGLISH WORDS

By Joan MacNeill

There are many English-language words which have connections to Irish*. Some are more solid than others. Some may be wishful thinking. Here are samples:

Banshee: An evil spirit, whose shrieking presages a coming death. From bean sí (byan-she) woman fairy.

Blarney: Speech that is not exactly truthful, as in florid flattery. It comes from Queen Elizabeth I, who eventually referred to Cormac McCarthy's many elaborate excuses delaying his transfer of Blarney Castle and holdings, as "blarney". The estate is named for the plural blárnai, of blár, field. Oddly, the Irish have picked up the English usage, and they translate "blarney" as beal bán, fair (smooth) mouth.

Car: The word came to English in a roundabout manner from Old Irish carr, a wheeled transport. It's still the same word in Modern Irish.

Daddy-o: Popular with youth 60 years ago. Folks have used terms for some kinds of people as slang for other people, for ages. Irish for grandfather is daideo, pronounced almost identically.

Gallowglass: Not in common use, but is used historically for elite mercenary fighters from Scotland and Ireland. From gall óglaigh, foreign volunteers (warriors). The final ss are English additions.

Hillbilly: This may be a stretch, but is ascribed to the 18th-century Scotch-Irish settlers in Appalachia, who retained much of their original culture due to isolation. They were Protestants from Ulster, who revered the English King William of Orange, for his decisive victory over Catholic forces, in the 1690 Battle of the Boyne. They lived in the hills, and referred to King Billy so often that observers came to call them hillbillies. Not Irish language, but Ireland, canyway.

The following two items were discovered in an 1897 book of Donnchadh Ruadh MacConmara's ("Red Donough"), poems and tales. He is supposed to have spent some time in Newfoundland in the mid-18th century, where he picked up local English, and Gaelicised some of it for his Irish-language works. So these two items could be from that, although the Irish below is valid.

Hurl: Slang for "vomit", popular several years ago. He wrote of a seasick young man who was ag urlaic (ag UR-lik), vomiting.

Shaver: The term "young shaver" has often been used affectionately for "boy". This made no sense, but was just accepted, until I encountered his use of seibh The Irish is caoineadh (KEEN-yah), weeping.fir** (shave fear), that is "gentleman". Aha! Now it makes sense. Substituting fir for the nominative fear, "man", is not grammatically correct, but even English has such switches for convenience, such as me for I.

Keening: Mourning the dead, usually by wailing women. The Irish is caoineadh (KEEN-yah), weeping.

Shamrock: The three-leafed plant, like a clover. Irish is seamair óg (SHAM-er og, o as in go), little three-leaf. Óg means young, but is often used for small c. The plant frequently called a shamrock is the more showy sorrel, or sometimes just a clover. The plant regarded as the true shamrock is the little hop clover. They are rare in Ireland, as shamrocks are stated to be. Four-leaf clovers can not be shamrocks, by definition. They are extremely rare in Ireland, so it is lucky to find one. They are common in more sunny places, such as California.

Shanty: A poorly-made small building. It is popular to derive shanty from Irish sean tígh** (or tí), "old house". But the proper term for house in this context is teach (tyok). See the ungrammatical substitution discussed above. Webster gives the origin as French chantier (shawn-tyay), a lumberman's workshop and dwelling. You decide.

Whiskey: From Gaelic uisce beatha (ISH-kuh BYAH-huh), water of life (living). The term has equivalents in several languages. They have come full circle adding the Irish fuisce (FISH-kuh), adapted from "whiskey". Don't confuse it with uisce, which just means water.

* The word "Irish" is used for Irish Gaelic, whereas "Gaelic" is used for Scotch Gaelic, to avoid confusion. Gaelic is from Gaelige (GILE-yu-guh), the name for the language in both languages.

* In Irish, the adjective follows the noun. Some adjectives can be placed before, but they are connected to it as one word. So both sean tigh, and seibh fir are a bit illegal. But there is always poetic license.

CORRIB THEATRE

The Corrib Theatre has announced its schedule for the 2021-2022 season and will begin subscription sales on November 8th. It's so good to have live theatre back, presented in different venues, exploring different views. The following plays will be presented:

"Maz and Bricks" from February 8-March 13 at Portland State University, exploring the issue of abortion;

"The Smuggler" from April 27-May 22nd at T.C.O'Leary's, questioning what the American dream is worth;

"Kissing the Witch" from June 9-June 26th examining what it means to have equal choices.

For exact times, locations and ticket price see info@corribtheatre.org

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. Artichoke Music has returned to action. Please check their web site for upcoming events during the summer.

2nd Saturday Community Concert has been postponed.

IRISH CRUISES

Joanie Madden 2020 Cruise - Postponed until September 2022

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.

ANDY COONEY'S 23RD ANNUAL CRUISE OF IRISH STARS - 2022

This talent-packed cruise will be leaving from and returning to Fort Lauderdale, Florida between January 29th and February 5, 2022. Andy Cooney and his band plus Ronan Tynan are the headliners but there are many other wonderful musicians and entertainers who will be on board for your pleasure. The ports of call for the Sky Princess, Princess Cruise Line, are:

Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands
Belize City
Mexico
Roatan
Honduras
Cozumel

Pricing for this cruise varies from \$1,099 to \$1,919.00 based on double occupancy, taxes and fees of \$349 per person are not included in that pricing. If you book before June 1st you'll receive the premier beverage package, free wi-fi and prepaid gratuities. To book please call Travel Professionals at 1-800-724-9511 or contact them at 62 N. Main Street, Suite, #114, Florida, NY 10921, travelpro@warwick.net.

Deposits are fully refundable until October 13, 2021.

Those of you who would like more regular contact with Andy Cooney tune into his new podcast called Andy Cooney New York Irish Hour. You can find it through your podcast app or on You Tube.

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 – Please Check With Sponsors

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 abbydorneyidx@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:
ynotconnect.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 2021-2022

President: Margaret Doherty
Vice President: Christina White
Recording Secretary: Dorothy Foley
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Rose Kerg
Treasurer: Julie O'Connell
Directors: Patsy Lee, Lois Delahanty, Beth Setters
Trustees: Molly McGuire, Sam Keator, Brendan Kerg
Editor of An Seanachai: Dorothy Foley

COMMITTEES

Book Club: Julie O'Connell
Communications: Mary Rose Kerg
Genealogy: Don Anderson
Scholarship: Lois Delihanty and Christina White
Sunshine: Patsy Lee
Webpage and Facebook: Christina White
History Committee: Mary Rose Kerg and Dorothy Foley

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