



All-Ireland
cultural society
OF OREGON

An Seanacháí, Newsletter
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IRISH MUMMERS – A CHRISTMAS TRADITION

More than 400 years ago the custom of mumming was brought from England to Ireland. Irish "mummers" were dressed in straw outfits, going house to house entertaining the locals with their plays, rhymes, singing, dancing and music. Mumming was more common in the northern half of Ireland and along parts of its east coast. It was given an Irish twist via its characters and themes. Historically its all male troupes portrayed Irish heroes like St. Patrick, controversial political figures such as Oliver Cromwell and King George, folk characters like Jack Straw and mythological creatures like Beelzebub. A fight between two of these characters, one a villain, the other a champion, would end in blood. A doctor would then arrive and bring the dead character back to life. The theme of the plays - life, death and rebirth - is an annually recurring event in nature, exemplifying the start of winter, its demise and the eventual reemergence of spring.

In each mumming group one character requested payment in rhyme: "here I comes, Fiddly Funny, I'm here to collect the money. All silver, no brass, bad money will not pass," was a classic verse. Historically, the mummers converted these funds into alcohol soaked revelry after making their rounds. There have been some changes to the mumming tradition since the 1600's. Women are now well represented in mumming groups and monies collected are usually channeled into charity or community projects. Mumming nearly died out during the mid-1900's but has made a resurgence since a period of significant sectarian strife in Ireland. From the 1950-80's, mummers often needed permits to go about their revelries near the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Residents were understandably perturbed by roaming groups of disguised men. Nowadays, mumming is widely viewed as a quaint activity open to everyone and a significant connection to Ireland's traditions. AND - what happens to those costumes? They're traditionally burned at the end of the revelry!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Glad Tidings to All:

The holidays are rapidly approaching and I hope you are all ready for, hopefully, a family Christmas. I have such a small family, with half (2) living in Seattle, we always meet in Centralia for a Doherty Christmas....

We have been working to get parts of Portland lit up green for St Patrick's Day, as part of the Irish government's Global Green Initiative. So far we have the Morrison Bridge and the Twin Towers at the Oregon Convention Center. We are working on the MODA Center and maybe an office building or two in downtown Portland. If there are places in your area that may be a site, feel free to try and get it. Thanks to Brian Doherty and Bill Gallagher.

We have not yet made the final decision on the January General Meeting, but it may be on Zoom since we don't know what the holidays will bring with COVID and the new variant surges. Better safe than sorry.

The Winter Luncheon was a huge success. A big thanks goes out to Mary Sacksteder and Rose Ann Ranft for all their work on it.

I truly wish you all a safe and joyous Christmas. We all hope that 2022 will bring us a little closer to normal. Margaret.



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



MERRY CHRISTMAS ONE AND ALL!



JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Our January General Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 15th. As noted above in the President's message no decision has been made yet about the format but you will be notified when it has. PLEASE NOTE THAT ANNUAL DUES SHOULD BE PAID IN JANUARY. You can pay on line or by check - whichever you prefer. To pay on line visit the website at www.oregonirishsociety.org and follow the directions. Checks may be sent to our Treasurer, Julie O'Connell, at 4568 Exeter Street, West Linn, OR 97068.

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.

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.

ST. PATRICK'S PARTY – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Planning for any indoor event is very difficult in the age of Covid. That being said, we are still 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. 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.

OUR FATHER

TRANSLATED AND TRANSLITERATED BY JOAN MACNEILL

Ár n-Athair / Are n-AH-ir / Our Father

Ár n-Athair atá ar neamh, / Are n-AH-ir uh-TAH air nyav / Our Father that be on heaven

*Go naofar d'ainim, / Guh NEE-fur DAHN-yim / That is made holy your-name
(d'ainim is short for do ainm, your name. Ainm is normal spelling.)*

*Go dtagfadh do ríocht, / Guh DAHG-fuh duh REE-ukt /
That (should) come your kingdom*

*Go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh mar a dhéantar ar neamh. /
Guh NYAYN-tur duh holl air an TALuv mar uh YAYN-tur air nyav /
That is done your will on the earth as is done on heaven*

*Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu, /
Are NAIR-ahn LIE-hool TOO-wer DOO-un in-NYU(V) (V optional) /
Our bread daily give to us today*

*agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha / UH-gus MAH-ih DOO-in are VEE-uh-kuh /
and forgive to us our debts*

*mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin /
mar uh VWY-im-id-nuh dahr VAY-kyew-nuh fayn /
as that forgives WE to our debtor ourself (ne ending of mhaithimid adds emphasis)*

*Ach ná lig sinn i gcathú, / uk nah lig shin ih ga-hu (a in ga as in gad) /
But not let us in temptation*

ach saor sinn ó olc, / uk SEE-ur shin oh olk / but free us from evil.

This usually ends the Irish version, and is followed by

Áiméan / EYE-mayn / amen

CORRIB THEATRE 2022 PRESENTATIONS

Corrib Theatre's 2022 season presents the following:

"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.

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.

Quarterly Ceili - Arnold Street Irish Dancers

The Arnold Street Irish Dancers are starting a quarterly ceili with live music and called sets at the St. Barnabas Church parish hall, 2201 SW Vermont Street, Portland. The first ceili will be Saturday, December 4, 2021 starting at 6:30pm with required check-in. Proof of vaccination is required as is a mask and attendees will be asked to sign a waiver. Entry fee is sliding scale \$10-30.00. Attendance capped at 50. Please contact Betty Woerner for more information: 503-244-1593; 971-254-5962.

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.



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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

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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.

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