



# AN SEANACHAÍ

## NEWSLETTER OF THE AICS

### VOLUME 87, ISSUE 2, OCT 2025

Seanachai is the name of our newsletter. It is a Gaelic word that refers to a storyteller or historian. The Seanachai is usually published most months of the year and sent out via email as well as posted on our website. Email us at [irishclubpdx@gmail.com](mailto:irishclubpdx@gmail.com) if you'd like to be added to our monthly email list for the Seanachai.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

[Happy Samhain](#) everyone! Our first general meeting on September 19 was well attended as we adopted the general budget, programs and our to be 85<sup>th</sup> annual St. Patrick's Day celebration!

I am proud to announce that we have 93 members, 1 honorary and 5 pending (we will vote them in at the next BOD meeting). The meet and greet afterwards was great as we meet new members, Zach, Georgia, Patricia, William and three visitors!

I hope to see you in person at our **October Bingo** event (**cash only**) on Saturday, October 18, 3:30pm - details below. Please feel free to bring potluck-style beverages and sweets and savories for the Bingo social.

**We are accepting applications for our annual scholarships! Link down below.**

We are in hopes that the energy you bring to your Club will resonate throughout our communities!

**In the links below, there is much to do in our area with many organizations! Check them out and be proud to say you are a follower of the [AICS](#)!**

**I have arranged a few discounts below for the upcoming [Gaelic Storm](#) and [Onoir](#) concerts!**

I'm looking forward to a continued happy, healthy and spirited 2025-26 87<sup>th</sup> season with you!

Samuel Keator - President

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# NEWS

## **AICS 2025-2026 Program adopted** – save the dates and participate **BOLD date indicates business meeting prior.**

- 1) October 18
  - a. Bingo – Kevin Seed, Sean Garvey and Samuel Keator
- 2) October 25
  - a. Samhain festival information booth – Melody Fisher
- 3) November 15**
  - a. General meeting and Poetry contest with Carlos Reyes local Irish poet
- 4) December
  - i. Winter social Dec 6, Old Spaghetti water front 1-3pm - Mary Sacksteder, Anne Doherty, Carol Cummings, Melody Fisher
- 5) January 17
  - a. Annual Tea social and guest speaker Caron McMahon – President Irish Heritage Society Washington – Anne Doherty, Carol Cummings
- 6) February 1
  - a. Annual Pub Social 4-6
    - i. Full Heart Irish Pub, Vancouver with music by Erik Killops, Richie Rosencran, Preston Howard-Wilde
- 7) February 21**
  - a. General meeting and Corrib Theatre – Holly Griffith
- 8) March 17, 2026 85<sup>th</sup> annual St. Patrick's Celebration 4-7pm Aquinas Hall
- 9) April 18**
  - a. Annual meeting – no program
- 10) May 16
  - a. Appreciation luncheon TBC
- 11) May ?? Annual Memorial wreath laying – Mt Calvary Cemetery
- 12) August 16
  - a. Annual picnic St Birgittas

**Kathleen Kelly** has recently released her new novel, "However Long the Day," which tells the story of Irish American immigrants. 'A family saga set in the harsh mining communities of Michigan, Montana, and the lush Pacific Northwest.' It draws inspiration from Ireland's rich folkloric traditions and customs whose mythic character and cultural depth were a source of inspiration. [Click](#) for more info

We will have an informational table again at the annual [Samhain Festival](#) in Salem October 25, 2025.

**Reminder - Note from Maria McGill-Zupan**-Chapter President for the **Trinity College Dublin PNW** (WA, OR, ID, MT). 'Do we have any Trinity Alums in our group, please ask them if they're interested in joining our chapter. Contact Maria at [mariazupan7@gmail.com](mailto:mariazupan7@gmail.com) if so!

**BINGO with an additional \$50 gift card for the blackout**  
**Saturday, October 18, 3:30**

**\$1/card or 6 for \$5 - PAYS 50%/game. Blackout \$2/card or 6 for \$10 - PAYS 100% plus \$50.00 gift card. 5 Games plus blackout; straight line (diagonal, horizontal or vertical), inside picture frame (4 corners around free), outside picture frame (outside corners, no I, N, G), postage stamp (top right (NE corner) G & O), railroad (2 verticals B & O only), BLACKOUT. Committee Kevin Seed, Sean Garvey, Samuel Keator, and Treasurer Melody Fisher**

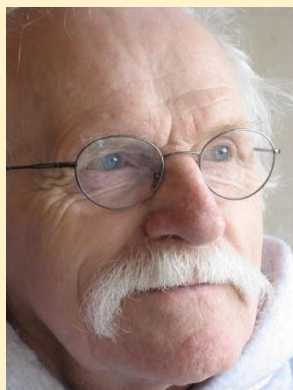


**Last year's blackout winners were Eleanor and Terry. Who will win this year?**

**\*\*November 15, general meeting followed by [Carlos Reyes!](#)**

**Noted Poet and translator Carlos Reyes' book about Ireland, *At the Edge of the Western Wave* was a three time finalist for the prestigious National Poetry Series. *A Choice from Two Pockets* is his seventeenth published volume. Recent poetry: *The Empty Chairs of February* (2024), *The Four Hinges of the World* (2023), *Osage Elegy* (2021). His work as a translator is seen in *Poemas de amor y locura/Poems of Love and Madness; Selected translations* (2013). He is also the author of a prose memoir, *The Keys to the Cottage, Stories from the West of Ireland* (2015), finished while he was poet-in-residence at the Heinrich Boll Cottage on Achill Island, Ireland. On the Irish theme notable also: *Along the Flaggy Shore, Poems from West Clare* (2018).**

**\*\*And a **poetry contest** from our members, you! Start creating an Irish Poem and Carlos will judge them and receive a prize TBD by the BOD. Membership benefits for you!**



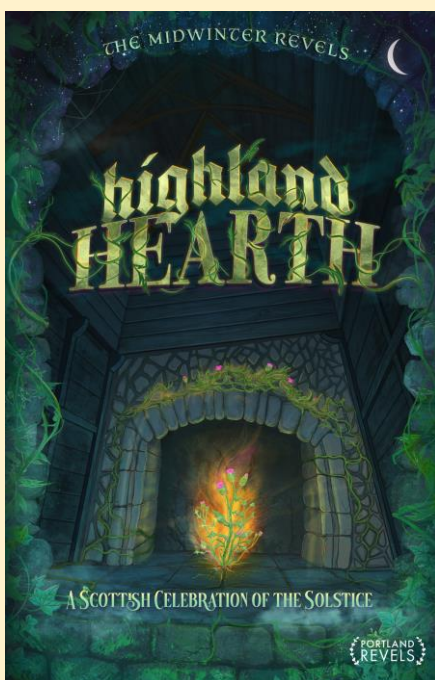
Win a pair of tickets. Info below picture.



A pair of Gaelic Storm tickets to the **first** to email us **'YES'**, they will attend! Simple.

Gaelic Storm Oct 17 [Tickets and info](#)

A brilliant show coming this winter from our friends.



Portland Revels on sale Oct 13 [Tickets and info](#)

You can save \$5 for the only Oregon concert with [Onóir](#)! Concert is on Thursday, November 6 at the Old Church concert hall. At checkout, apply the code **AICS** [Click](#) for tickets and save \$5. There are **ONLY** ten tickets available so act now before they are all taken.



[Onóir](#) are a modern Irish male folk group, who sing harmony-focused songs and musical arrangements. Formed in August of 2020, when four individual, Donegal-based musicians; Tom McHugh, Declan Gaughan, Deane Connaghan, and Diarmaid McGee, joined forces to create a contemporary version of the famous Irish folk ballad; “The Auld Triangle”. Onóir are getting ready to blow your mind... This is a night not to be missed. As they put their unique stamp on the timeless ballads and folk songs that we all love. But be prepared for a few pleasant surprises as they delve into americana, heart rending soul and a little bit of country. In addition to top quality vocals there’s going to be some fun and laughter along the way.

# Board of Directors Meeting notes

**Next BOD meeting, Saturday, November 1 at 10am**

## September 20 General Meeting notes

17 members and guests attending

Adopted minutes of April 19

Adopted the Treasures report

Moved and seconded annual general budget, passed

Moved and seconded program. Amended to include wreath lying, passed

Moved and seconded St. Patrick's Day schedule and budget, passed

A wonderful meet and greet afterwards

**Next general meeting, November 15**

## Committee reports

St Patrick's Day committee will meet Sunday, October 5 to review: Need to find a chairperson for the raffle (**email us if you would like to chair**); what discount for members at the door; caterers notes. The committee will report at the November general meeting

## Irish non-profit Associations - **Click** on their links for current news

[Ceili of the Valley](#)

[Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers](#)

[Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann](#)

[Corrib Theatre](#)

[Irish Heritage Club Seattle](#)

[Irish Network Portland](#)

[Portland Hibernian Society](#)



[Sean-Nós Northwest](#)

[Shangana Irish Theatre Tours](#)

**Irish Dancing. Ceili, step and sets:**

[1st Friday Ceili Mor - Tualatin](#)

[2nd Friday Ceili Mor - Salem](#)

[3rd Friday Ceili Mor - Portland](#)

[An Daire Academy of Irish Dance](#)

[Murray Irish Dance School](#)

[Oregon Irish Dance Academy](#)

[Winds of Donegal Irish Ceili](#)

[Yeates Academy of Irish Dance](#)

**Sports**

GAA [Hurling](#)

**Irish music concerts and sessions (jams):**

[IrishPDX](#) [Trail Jams](#)

## ADVERTISEMENTS

If you have a business or a service to offer to our members, we can include your business card for \$25 per year, January – December. An Seanachai goes to more than one hundred local households. For more information, email us at

[irishclubpdx@gmail.com](mailto:irishclubpdx@gmail.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](http://www.ceiliofthevalley.org)



**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)






# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR THE AICS

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION is open

Address: PO Box 3411, Portland, OR 97208 Telephone: 971-412-0814

Website: [www.oregonirishsociety.org](http://www.oregonirishsociety.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AICSOregon](https://www.facebook.com/AICSOregon)

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 2025-2026

**President:** Samuel Keator

**Vice President:** Mary Sacksteder

**Treasurer:** Melody Fisher

**Recording Secretary:** Holly Griffith

**Corresponding Secretary:** Sean Garvey

**Trustees:** Karol Burke, Kevin Seed (not pictured)



Attend Board Meetings: Anyone is welcome to attend Board meetings to observe and/or participate. Email us at [irishclubpdx@gmail.com](mailto:irishclubpdx@gmail.com) if you would like to attend our next Board Meeting.

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## CONSULATE GENERAL

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