



AN SEANACHAÍ

NEWSLETTER OF THE AICS

VOLUME 87, ISSUE 6, FEB 2026

Seanachaí is the name of our newsletter. It is a Gaelic word that refers to a storyteller or historian. The Seanachaí is usually published most months of the year and sent out via email as well as posted on our website.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy IMBOLC! We hope that it is a healthy and prosperous year for you and your family and friends!

The Annual Tea Social with Irish Heritage Club Seattle President Caron McMahan was a huge success. See below for the recap

And we had a most wonderful time at the Full Heart Irish Pub for the annual pub social. See below for the recap

We have lost two dear members, Gail Getz and Joan MacNeil. See below for more info

Reminder, it is time to renew your annual membership(s). Click to [RENEW NOW](#)

Advertisement renewals are also due NOW.

February 21 is our next meeting, and Holly Griffith will direct us afterwards in a one-act play.

We have a 79% renewal and new membership compared to the end of 2025!!

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! Upcoming plays, concerts, dances, sports are in the links below. Check them out and be proud to say you are a member of the [AICS](#)!

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

Samuel Keator - President

NEWS

Please welcome our new members: Charles Hubbard, David Doogan and Megan Coogan Lynch, Jill Arallo, Robert and Quin Wild, Richard Finn, Kimberly Hendrickson, Annmarie Geary, Richard Dunbar, Brian and Sandy Griffin, Suzanne Jenkins, Emily Kearney, Marco Oswald, Elizabeth and Simon Butson, John Van Meter, and Deborah O'Daly and Rick Czemek!

Congratulations Holly Griffith and Kevin Grgurich on their marriage!



Recap of the annual Tea and Pub Socials



Pictures credit Carol Cummings

We had our annual Tea Social this year on Saturday, 17Jan2026, at the Oregon Stamp Society building - hosted by Anne Doherty and Carol Cummings and attended by 35 members and guests. All enjoyed the tasty treats and selection of teas contributed by attendees and AICS. We had time to socialize with old and new friends.

This year we had a guest speaker – the vibrant Caron McMahon, President of the Irish Heritage Club of Seattle. She gave a wonderful talk about her club, with focus on their many Irish Week festivities which will occur in March 2026. You can check out their events on their website: www.irishclub.org



The annual pub social was most enjoyable with music by Eric Killops, Preston Howard-Wilde and Richie Rosencrans of Na Rosai fame at the new Irish pub, Full Heart Irish Pub in Vancouver, WA

Both Gail and Joan were avid Tir Eoghain ceili dancers
RIP Gail Getz - February 8, 1937 - January 1, 2026



There will be a gathering this summer for Gail with many types of dances she loved!

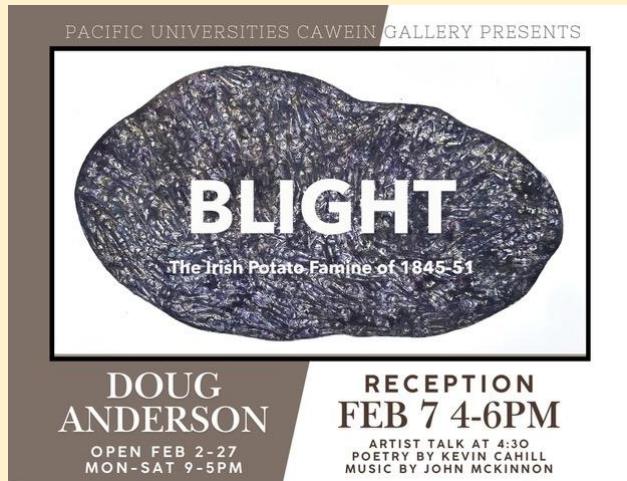
RIP Joan MacNeil (Jack Nelson)

In past issues, Joan contributed some interesting articles too



*RIP Joan MacNeil (Jack Nelson) Her wake will be on Sunday, Feb 22nd at the Dublin Pub
6821 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy, Portland, OR 97225 at 2 p.m.*

Community notes



I want to invite your members and readers to an exhibition about the Irish Potato Famine During on view at the Cawein Gallery at Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR February 2 - 27.

I was curious about the Great Famine and quickly realized I knew almost nothing about this pivotal event in the histories of both Ireland and America. A quick poll of my students at Pacific University revealed that many young

Americans are completely unaware it even occurred. The exhibition was born from a desire to educate both myself and my students. The collection features 80 drawings depicting all 1,490 evicted immigrants from the Mahon Estate, the Manor House, the workhouse depicted as a lace hair-shirt, among other resonant images the illustrate the Famine's lasting impact.

Below is an example of the work, *The Crossing*, where St. Brendan the Navigator leads the Irish to North America.

Thank you for your support, Doug Anderson



General Meeting notes

Next meeting is February 21 at the Oregon Stamp Society Bldg. 4828 NE 33rd Ave, Portland, OR 97211. **PLEASE bring stamps to donate to Ula Mae. Tear off the corner on your letters is all you have to do!**

Board of Directors Meeting notes

BOD meeting was February 7, Motion, second and passed on new members!

Committee reports

St Patrick's Day committee Next and final committee meeting on February 15th via zoom

Program committee nothing to report

Scholarship committee met on Wednesday, February 4th via zoom and the awardee(s) will be announced on March 17, 2026!

Save the dates

Saturday, Feb 21, at 3:30 pm (doors open at 3:30) General meeting (bring stamps please) and Corrib Theatre – 1 act play with us. Oregon Stamp Society Bldg

St Patrick's Day celebration 85th, Tuesday, March 17 4-7pm (flyer will be attached in the March newsletter.

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

[Ceili of the Valley](#)

[Corrib Theatre](#)

[Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann](#)

[Irish Heritage Club Seattle](#)

[Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers](#)

[Irish Network Portland](#)

[Portland Hibernian Society](#)

[Sean-Nós Northwest](#)

[Shangana Irish Theatre Tours](#)

Irish Dancing. Ceili, step and sets:

[An Daire Academy of Irish Dance](#)

[Murray Irish Dance School](#)

[Oregon Irish Dance Academy](#)

[Winds of Donegal Irish Ceili](#)

[Yeates Academy of Irish Dance](#)

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

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

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

Sports

GAA [Hurling](#)

Irish music concerts and sessions:

[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. An Seanachai goes to more than one hundred local households. For more information, email us at irishclubpdx@gmail.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

Facebook: 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)

Ireland is part of our story. We are a woman-owned company with active operations in Ireland and Oregon, grounded in an appreciation for culture, creativity, and community.

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We are a mission-driven marketing and consulting firm that helps organizations communicate clearly, grow sustainably, and build systems that support quality jobs and a skilled workforce. Our work blends strategy, design, web development, and workforce expertise to support long-term impact.

We are proud to support organizations that celebrate Irish heritage. Mention this newsletter to receive a courtesy consultation or preferred pricing.

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

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