



2017 annual report

Formed in 2006, the Céilí of the Valley Society is an Oregon non-profit, public benefit cultural organization, under ORS 65, organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes.

our purpose is:

- To educate the public about Irish dance and culture by providing public access to the same;
- To research the history of Irish dance and preserve that cultural knowledge through educational outreach to the public;
- To nurture and develop Irish dance callers and musicians for the purposes of ensuring the continuation of a vibrant cultural community;
- To enhance the community by creating a cultural organization dedicated to Irish music, dance and other Irish cultural activities;
- To support the local Irish community and to enhance relationships between the local Irish, Scottish and other Celtic cultural communities in the Salem area and the larger Willamette Valley of Oregon.



a letter from our president

IN ITS 11TH YEAR THE CEILI OF THE VALLEY SOCIETY CONTINUES to spread the craic in the Mid-Willamette Valley. In a quick review of the numbers: Ceili of the Valley Society membership continues to grow. We have 82 members, 489 Facebook page likes and an average of 18 regular class attendees.

As I complete my second year as the President of the Ceili of the Valley Society, I reflect on the tremendous volunteers within our organization. I'd like to start by thanking our Board members for leading our Celtic community. This year the Board welcomed Jessica Boone as a new member-at-large. Jessica jumped right in! She has also joined our dance demo team and created our monthly Ceili Mor poster.

Volunteer spirit is visible in every aspect of our organization. Because of the number of people willing to be a part of our demonstration dance group, Ceili of the Valley Society was able to perform and have an all-day presence at community events like the World Beat Festival, the Salem Art Fair, the inaugural Englewood Forest Festival and Open Streets Salem. Plus, the group did performances at Salem's Saturday Market, grade schools, preschools, retirement communities and assisted living facilities, besides leading a stroll around the downtown Salem area on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day. In other words, we got around!

Our volunteers were integral to the success of our Second Annual Samhain Celtic New Year's Festival too. As a prelude to the festival special volunteers



Elisa Chandler and Ginny Wedel spent an entire day as artists-in-residence at Grant Community School, the location of our festival. These enthusiastic volunteers spent one day working with the music instructor to teach some basic dance moves in each music class. The culmination of their work was evident as the children performed their own Celtic dance at the Grant Community School Evening of Culture. What a thrill that was!

The Ceili of the Valley Society appreciates support from the community. We have been the recipient of grants from Salem's TOT and Celtic Heritage Alliance, besides corporate sponsorship for our Second Annual Samhain Celtic New Year's Festival. We're also delighted that other Oregon Celtic organizations supported our festival through participation and donation. That allowed us to expand the variety of our Celtic workshop programs and children's activities. New this year was a Scottish language class, a program on women in the history of the Easter Rising, knitting and calligraphy classes, and piping classes. Musicians for the event included Channing Dodson, Elizabeth Nicholson, and the headliner group, Dreos. Though

the weather interfered with the planned outdoor activities, it didn't dampen the spirit of the day. And, we're already planning for next year's event.

And finally, we wish to thank the family of Irish-born Jean Lavery Lee. In her memory they donated seven boxes of books that she collected over a lifetime. As they wrote in a short biography, their mother "had fierce love for Ireland and for the Irish; and she loved a good book". With this generous gift the Ceili of the Valley Society plans to build a special lending library in 2018.

The Ceili of the Valley Society looks forward to our twelfth year, continuing with our mission to promote Celtic culture in the mid-Willamette Valley. And to those reading this, come join us at a class or Ceili, attend one of our two annual concerts, watch a demonstration or come to our Samhain Celtic New Year Festival. Or, come to all of our activities!

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Nevue
Ceili of the Valley Society President

ceili of the valley society BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Beth Nevue

Secretary: Ginny Wedel

Treasurer: Elisa Chandler

Members at Large: Richard Chandler, Brad Johnson,
Ann McBride, and Jessica Boone

As mentioned in this year's President's Annual Report, the family of Jean Lavery Lee generously donated their mother's treasured books of Ireland to the Ceili of the Valley Society. They also wrote a short biography and included an email that she had written to family members.

Jean was born in Ball Hill, County Donegal, Ireland to Margaret Jane Meehan and William John Lavery. Jean emigrated with her parents to Boston, Massachusetts at the age of one. She attended and graduated from Charles Bullfinch Elementary School, The Girls' Latin School, Boston College, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Graduate School

of Education. She married Fred Lee and moved as a young bride to Sunnyvale, California. She raised four children and embarked on a career at Stanford University, becoming one of its top administrators. Jean traveled to Ireland many times over the course of her life.

As we include the email she wrote, we are amazed at the synchronicity of life. She writes of Brian Friel's "Dancing at Lughnasa" as the Ceili of the Valley Society is enjoying having members of Pentacle Theater join us at class to learn Irish dance for their performance of that very play, which starts January 19th and runs through February 10th.

Dear David {and family},

I was interested to hear that you had attended and enjoyed a performance of Brian Friel's "Dancing at Lughnasa." I saw it performed in Eureka three or four years ago with Wiley and Loretta Cousins. Friel is outstanding, one of the best playwrights of the second half of this century, I think, and I had admired his work since I first saw a matinee performance of "Philadelphia, Here I Come" (still my favorite) in the early 1960's. I remember that I went up to the theater in San Francisco all by myself one Saturday afternoon, came home to Sunnyvale wildly enthusiastic, dragged Fred up to see the play the following weekend. About ten or fifteen years ago, we saw yet another of his plays, "Translations," also set in Donegal.

What I will tell you now will surprise you, but it is the truth. Some time after Friel's first play ran on Broadway in the 60's, indeed some time after I had discovered Friel on my own, my mother told me that he is a very distant cousin of ours one of the Friel's from Doorin Point, near Donegal Town. The Point, as my mother called it, was in her time an isolated and somewhat desolate piece of land jutting out into Donegal Bay. Paddy Meehan, my grandfather - for reasons no one has ever understood - sold a fine home nearer the town, moved his family (my grandmother, my mother and her two younger sisters) to Doorin while children of elementary school age. There they lived for several years, away from neighbors, schools, playmates, and civilization. Kara and I visited the site on my first return visit to Ireland. The foundation of the house was still evident at the time, although my brother has since tried to locate it and could not. A solitary rose bush grew, and Packy Meehan (Kara do you remember him), a cousin from yet another branch of the family who had left his farming chores that day to escort us and the Reids to the old homestead, gallantly picked a rose for me. I still have it in my scrapbook.

The two branches of the Meehans were not the only families on the Point. The Friel's, also cousins, were another. And, according to Tony Waugh (still another cousin and the family historian - David, all of this must be overwhelming you) Brian Friel is one of those Friel's, or related to them.

I have my mother's brief note here. You must remind me to show it to you when you next come to Sunnyvale.

Love, Jean



teacher's note

You come...you dance...you laugh...and you are willing to try new things or dance a dance we have done a 100 times so the new folks can "get it". That's what makes being your teacher so special to me! 2017 was filled with opportunities to dance together in class and to share our love of dancing with the community. One highlight was seeing the "Grant Community Jig" presented by the Grant Community School 5th Grade students at the school's multi-cultural evening. The students devised this dance based on steps they learned when Ginny and I were "artists in residence" for a day in the music classes. They incorporated their own moves...I have never seen a wave (think sporting event) in an Irish dance before! Their enthusiasm was infectious! We will work on getting the video posted to the CVS Website.

As always, thanks to all who make dance classes, ceilis, and demo team events possible (you know who you

are!). You may not think you play a large role, but all of the parts that folks play come together to make the events happen! I would especially like to thank Julie for researching new dances for us to try. New experiences and new friends made while trying to figure out the steps make the challenge worthwhile.

Looking forward to 2018 – more new dances, more new friends, more new places to share our joy...what's not to like about that!

Please let me know if you have any questions (especially during class if we are whizzing along too fast), suggestions, comments. I want the CVS experience to be as much fun as possible for everyone.

Elisa
602-316-0825
Elisachandler1@gmail.com

support IRISH culture & heritage in OREGON... join the ceili of the valley society!

celtic music hour

The Celtic Music Hour celebrated its sixth anniversary on KMUZ by playing the same Matt & Shannon Heaton tune that opened our inaugural show on December 9, 2011. We've come a long way since then. KMUZ announced this year that the Celtic Music Hour podcasts top the list for most listened of all on the station. Who would have guessed that this started with twenty CD's between us. Now we have musicians from across the nation, Canada and Europe sharing their music with us. And, we have quite the Celtic music library!

Interviews have become an integral part of our program. Introducing both music and musicians brings an important dimension to the show. This year we've had the pleasure of interviewing local, national and international musicians including: John Doan, Ryan McKasson & Elias Alexander, Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, Lindsay Straw, Eliot Grasso, Chloe Agnew, Emmet Cahill, Hanneke Cassel, Alan Reid, and members of Old Blind Dogs.

Part of the mission of our show is to educate about the Celtic culture. This year we created new shows highlighting Celtic historical figures. In March during Women's History month, we had the pleasure of interviewing Aislinn Adams about women in the Easter Rising and in a later show that month shared vignettes of several other Celtic women. For a new feature we based shows on books about Celtic people important in American history and biblical discovery. The books were: The Immortal Irishman: The Irish Revolutionary Who Became An American Hero about Thomas Meagher, and The Sisters of Sinai, about Scottish twin sisters, Agnes

and Margaret Smith. This is their story of educating themselves in multiple languages, traveling to St. Catherine's Monastery in the area of Mt. Sinai, and discovering one of the oldest manuscripts of the Bible. All of this in the 1800's when women did not undertake such journeys.

But, the Celtic Music Hour is really all about the music. Our show themes remain a standard and anticipated way to share a variety of Celtic sounds. We are delighted that the Celtic Music Hour continues on KMUZ 88.5 & 100.7 FM in Salem & Keizer, both live and in a rebroadcast format. KMUZ has added the opportunity to listen to a show for up to two weeks after broadcast on radiofreeamerica. Plus, KYAC 94.9 FM Mill City continues to air our show.

Our show continues to expand its reach. We're delighted that we have 537 fans following us on Facebook and that our Celtic imprint continues to grow.

We want to thank the Ceili of the Valley Society for underwriting our show and for members' support during KMUZ Pledge Drives. We couldn't be on the air without you!

celtic music hour

KMUZ 88.5 & 100.7 FM, Salem/Keizer
7 to 8 p.m. Friday with a rebroadcast at 10 a.m.
Tuesdays. Stream the show live at kmuz.org
KYAC 94.9 FM, Mill City
10 to 11 a.m. and 5 to 6 p.m. Mondays.
Stream the show live at kyacfm.org



2017 in REVIEW

ceilis

MUSICIANS:

Many thanks to the amazing musicians that play at the Céilís.

- Brad Johnson
- Chad Southwell
- George Penk
- Heather Pinney
- Outbound Traveler- Richie Rosecrans, Jake Greico, & Gordon Freeman
- Dale Russ
- Joe Root
- Geraldine Murray
- Mikey Beglan
- Bob Soper
- Elizabeth Nicholson
- Channing Dodson
- D'n'A (Doug Heydon & Amey Hermon)
- Elizabeth Nicholson
- Felim Egan
- Nancy Conescu

CALLERS:

- Maldon Meehan
- Bruce Kenny
- Mary Lowes
- Sam Keator
- Pan-Celtic Ceili featuring Elisa Chandler, Julie Cutler, Jack Kenny, and Harry Reed

events

Ceili of the Valley Society is blessed to have musicians willing to give their time and talent in our participation in community events. The audience is better enriched with traditional Irish music performed by these high caliber musicians.

Our volunteer dancers were 16 strong: Ann McBride, Beth Nevue, Carl Beilstein, Darrin Johnson, Elisa Chandler, Ernie Kirchner, Ginny Wedel, Jack Howard, James Bowman, Jessica Boone, Laura DeVoe, Mark Thimm, Patti McCarthy, Rick Chandler, Tracy Loew, and Tony Tanzi.

community outreach events

(All events in Salem unless otherwise noted.)

- Cedar Village - History demonstration & demo (March)
- Montessori presentation at Electric Avenue (March)
- Montessori presentation at Promonotory (March)
- Hayesville Elementary school - Demo and audience participation (March)
- Bonaventure Retirement Home (Albany) - Demo (March)
- Cedar Village History Presentation (March)
- Hillside Retirement Community (McMinnville) (March)
- The Manor at Hillside
- Harrisburg Multi-Cultural Fair (May)
- Center 50+, Nonprofits Meet & Greet (June)
- Englewood Forest Festival (August)
- Grant Community School, Artist in Residence
- Grant's Music Room (October)
- Grant School Cultural Night
- Grant Community School Assemblies (October)
- Salem Saturday Market
- Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade with musicians Willamette Valley Pipes & Drums (April)
- World Beat Multi-Cultural Festival with musicians Brad Johnson and Todd Silverstein (June)
- Salem Art Fair with musicians (CVS's first time for attending this event) (July)
- Salem Open Streets
- Concert with Doimnic Mac Golla Bhride & Declan McClafferty (April)

Classes & Events hosted by Ceili of the Valley Society:

- 6th annual St. Patrick's Day Walkabout in March with pipes & drums by Willamette Valley Pipes & Drums
- April concert with Doimnic Mac Golla Bhride & Declan McClafferty
- October concert with Dréos
- 2nd annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival in October

accomplishments

- Calendar on CVS website
- Speakers purchased to use in the back of the hall
- TOT Grant
- Celtic Heritage Grant
- Marion Cultural Development Corporation (MCDC) Grant

samhain festival

Our 2nd annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival was made possible by the generous support of:

- City of Salem, TOT Grant
- Celtic Heritage Alliance Grant
- Rich Duncan Construction
- Real Systems
- Valley Credit Union
- Bliss Sequoia Insurance & Huggins Insurance
- KМУZ Community Radio
- Uptown Music

As well as: Doty Pruett Wilson PC, Lifestyle Inc, Len Monks, LifeSource Natural Foods, Marion-Polk Food Share, and Minto Island Growers

PRESENTERS:

- Dreos: Glen Waddell (guitar), Brandon Vance (fiddle) , & Eliot Grasso (flute & pipes)
- Aislinn Adams
- Becky Johnson
- Bruce Kenny
- Carlee Wright
- Channing Dodson
- Dennis Willer
- Elizabeth Nicholson
- Eric Chandler
- Gordon Monroe
- Helen Burros
- Kerry Wymetalek
- Laura DeVoe
- Mary Lowes
- Portland Scottish Dancers
- Welsh Society
- Welsh Society of Oregon Chorus

We greatly appreciate those presenters that donated their time in lieu of payment.

EXHIBITORS:

- All Ireland Cultural Society (AICS)
- The Great Kilt & Celtic Clothing – Carlee Wright
- Spinning – Becky Johnson
- Welsh Society of Oregon & Bryn Selon Welsh Church
- Scottish Kilt Folding – Eric Chandler

VENDORS:

- Aislinn Adams Design
- Nancy Kurz
- Laura DeVoe
- Cloaked in Time
- Handworked Leather
- Third Coast Art Glass

You may have seen these friendly faces. These following volunteers ran the festival like a well-oiled machine:

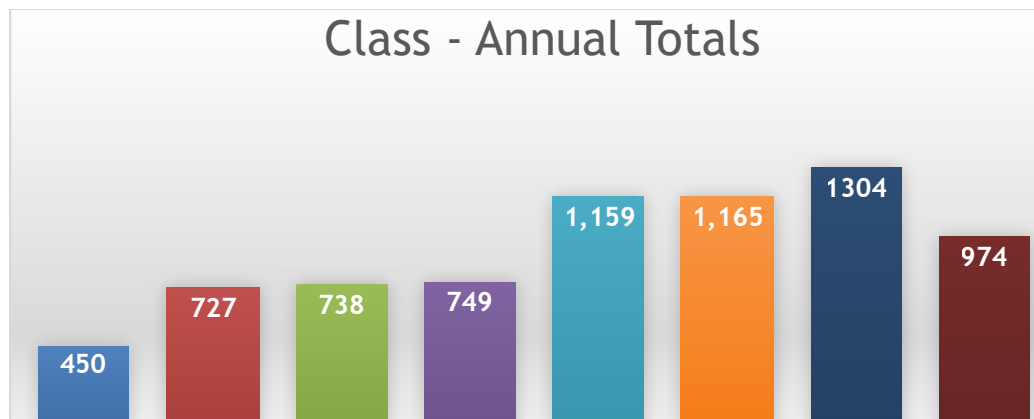
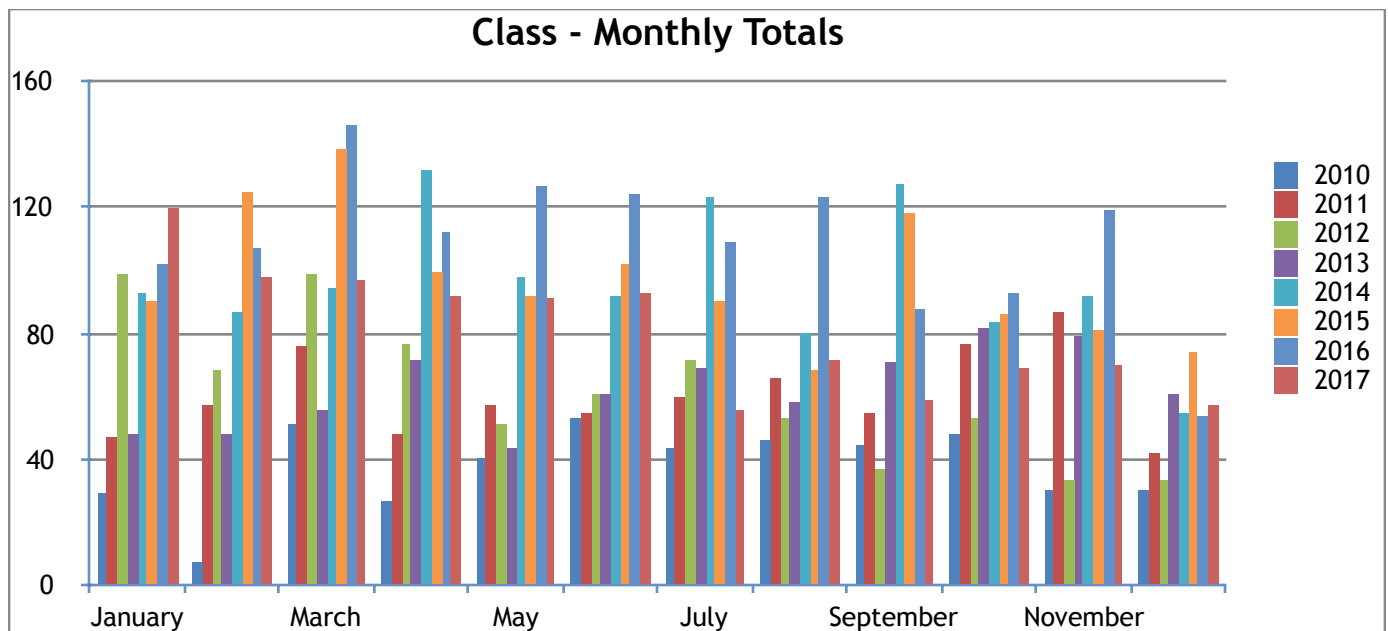
- Carl Beilstein - Festival Chair
- Ginny Wedel - Co-chair, Facility & School Liaison
- Ann McBride - Volunteer Coordinator
- Beth Nevue - Children's Area Coordinator
- Elisa Chandler - Finances
- Len Munks - Safety Coordinator
- Tracy Loew - Food Coordinator
- Jessica Boone - Signage
- Pam Kelly - Vendor Coordinator
- Rick Chandler - Outdoor Mini-Highland Games

Plus dedicated volunteers:

Anne Lambert	Kameron Lynch
Becky Johnson	Karen Scranage
Cammie Miner	Kelsey Pobacion
Carol Simila	Lisa Chandler
Cassady Kirchner	Mark Thimm
Darrin Johnson	Nancy Kurz
David S	Patti McCarthy
Doneille Chomiak	Patty Beilstein
Eric Chandler	Robin Albrecht
Ernie Kirchner	Sorcha O'Conner
Evelyn Dahlberg	Teri West
Felix Chao	Tony Tanzi
Jim Dahlberg	Trish Rossetti
John Johnson	Yuko Olsen & Family
Jonathan Page	

class attendance summary

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
January	29	47	99	48	93	90	102	120
February	7	57	68	48	87	125	107	98
March	51	76	99	56	95	139	146	97
April	27	48	77	72	132	100	112	92
May	40	57	51	44	98	92	127	91
June	53	55	61	61	92	102	124	93
July	44	60	72	69	123	90	109	56
August	46	66	53	58	80	68	123	72
September	45	55	37	71	128	118	88	59
October	48	77	53	82	84	86	93	69
November	30	87	34	79	92	81	119	70
December	30	42	34	61	55	74	54	57
	450	727	738	749	1,159	1,165	1304	974



ceili attendance summary

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
January	29	47	99	48	93	90	102	120
February	7	57	68	48	87	125	107	98
March	51	76	99	56	95	139	146	97
April	27	48	77	72	132	100	112	92
May	40	57	51	44	98	92	127	91
June	53	55	61	61	92	102	124	93
July	44	60	72	69	123	90	109	56
August	46	66	53	58	80	68	123	72
September	45	55	37	71	128	118	88	59
October	48	77	53	82	84	86	93	69
November	30	87	34	79	92	81	119	70
December	30	42	34	61	55	74	54	57
	450	727	738	749	1,159	1,165	1304	974

