



2018 annual report

Formed in 2006, the Céilí of the Valley Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and perpetuating Irish heritage and culture in the Willamette Valley primarily through social events that incorporate music and dance.

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.



Ceili dancing at the Samhain Festival

a letter from our president

2018 — What a wonderful year for the Ceili of the Valley Society! We have kept the traditions and mission of our group alive and growing. I want to credit the hard work of our Board and dance demo group, which performs year-round at events. The goodwill and community exposure it produces keeps our Ceili of the Valley visible to the community and, even beyond, with our Facebook followers. In fact, just the other day someone stopped me to say, “You’re part of that Irish group.” We are being noticed.

Our annual statistics of musicians, callers and events is listed elsewhere in the Annual Report. I want to highlight other areas.

We welcomed a new Board member, Darrin Johnson, this year. He quickly got engaged, bringing his business perspective. He suggested the group consider having the first dance class be free-of-charge as a unique way of encouraging people to try. The Board immediately voted to approve this. That launched us into having a weekly Facebook dance class event posting. Including the free first class information was instrumental in having some people find us.

And, we always wonder about the placement of our posters about Ceilis throughout town. Yes, those are effective too. We’ve had several people notice those and decide to see what a Ceili Mor is all about. Some have heard our Ceilis are a great resource to connect with musicians. We are getting known for many facets.

Our biggest event, the Samhain Celtic New Year Festival was definitely the highlight of the year. The Board made the decision to move the event to the Willamette Heritage Center. The setting was perfect to showcase the musicians, presenters, and exhibitors, plus, having the food catered with recipes we provided simplified the work without sacrificing the quality. The children had fun with arts & crafts, face-painting, and child-sized Highland games with awards. It could not have been better and the number of attendees increased substantially — some even coming from out-of-state. Our group is already planning for 2019.

Ceili of the Valley Society is fortunate to have a large group of volunteers who perform for dance demonstrations. With our ever-increasing requests, it allows the flexibility to accept invitations to participate in various community events. There are always enough members available.

Finally, I appreciate all that the Board contributes. I want to especially thank two Board members: Elisa Chandler, our dedicated dance instructor and Board Treasurer, and Ginny Wedel, our Board Secretary. Ginny works tirelessly to get documents prepared, posters distributed and our scrapbook up-to-date. Other Board members not previously mentioned also contribute tremendously: Ann McBride submits information to the Statesman for upcoming events, Jessica Boone designs our monthly Ceili Mor posters, and Rick Chandler quietly and effectively does what is needed to help set up and prepare for our Ceili Mors and dance classes.

Thank you all for helping make Ceili of the Valley Society a very welcoming and wonderful community organization.

Respectively submitted,
Beth Nevue
President, Ceili of the Valley Society

Snapshots from the Samhain Celtic New Year Festival
October 27, 2018 at Willamette Heritage Center
Visit www.celticfestival.info for more photos



Ceili dancing at the Samhain Festival



Welsh Society of Oregon Chorus



Learning to make Celtic Knots with Carl

ceili of the valley society BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Beth Nevue

Secretary: Ginny Wedel

Treasurer: Elisa Chandler

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

teacher's note

It is a great joy to come to class each week and see our Ceili of the Valley dance family! We have new folks coming to check us out and many are choosing to stay and be a part of the fun. Thank you to everyone for being helpful to new people as they learn the steps, formations, and how to put it all together. It can be a daunting task, but everyone's willingness to guide them along makes it possible. I really love it when we get it...and also when we laugh when we don't! A special thank you to the Demo team for being up for the craziness of the last Demo season. We will work on some new dances to keep it fresh as we head into the 2019 season...who knows what will be in store for us...

Looking forward to 2019 – more new dances, more new friends, more new places to share our joy of dancing together.

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

Elisa
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elisachandler1@gmail.com

celtic music hour

The Celtic Music Hour had its inaugural show in December 2011. After completing seven years on air, Ann and Beth continue to innovate with fresh ideas for programming, including playing a show of all the number 1's from various CD's and creating a show made entirely from music in the KМУZ library. Conducting interviews with musicians has always been an added feature. This year was no different. Listeners have enjoyed hearing from musicians including singer Emmet Cahill responding to questions submitted by Emmet's Street Team, guitarist Dirk Freymuth & piper Eric Rigler sharing unique stories from their careers, and Cillian Vallely from Lunasa talking about that group and a concert in Portland with another powerhouse Irish group Altan. As an added benefit, each of these talented musicians donated promotional tickets to their shows to be given away to lucky listeners.

A unique experience was interviewing cast members from the Irish play Dancing at Lughnasa, which was being performed locally at the Pentacle Theatre. Coordinating with local groups to bring the Celtic culture alive in a different form is another gift we are able to share with our listeners.

As always, the Celtic Music Hour brings the best in Celtic music. We appreciate our listeners in Salem on KМУZ 88.5 and 100.7 FM, those who tune in on KYAC 94.9 in Mill City, and all who stream our show from near and far. Plus, having the show available on radio free america for two weeks following a show has benefitted those listeners who were unable to capture the show at other times. Finally, we would like to thank the Celtic musicians who send us their music to share with you. It is always such a delight to receive music in the mail from our musician friends and others who are finding us.

celtic music hour
KМУZ 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

2018 In REVIEW

ceilis

MUSICIANS:

Many thanks to the amazing musicians that play at the Céilí's. Traditional Irish music provided by the below musicians playing an array of instruments such as: whistle, uilleann pipes, fiddle, concertina, harp, bodhran, accordion, and bouzouki.

- Betsy Branch
- Bob Sloper
- Brad Johnson
- D'n'A' — Doug Heydon & Amey Herman
- Dale Russ
- Dan Compton
- Eliot Grasso
- Elizabeth Nicholson
- Fran Slefer
- George Penk
- Heather Pinney
- Joe Root
- Mikey Beglan
- Nancy Conescu
- Outbound Traveler — Richie Rosecrans, Jake Greico, and Gordon Freeman

CALLERS:

- Bruce Kenny
- Christina White
- Elisa Chandler
- Geraldine Murray
- Harry Reed
- Jack Kenny
- Julie Cutler
- Maldon Meehan
- Sam Keator

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, Cammie Miner, Carl Beilstein, Darrin Johnson, Elisa Chandler, Ernie Kirchner, Ginny Wedel, Jessica Boone, Laura DeVoe, Len Munks, Lydia Goodman, Mark Thimm, Patti McCarthy, Rick Chandler, Tracy Loew, and David and Hannah Zelmer.

community outreach events

(All events in Salem unless otherwise noted.)

CVS spreads Celtic joy in communities all year long.

- Art in the Park — July (Dallas)
- Bonaventure Retirement Home — March (Albany)
- Brookdale — March
- Cedar Village — March
- Englewood Park — August
- Hayesville Elementary School — March
- Multicultural Day at the Capitol — September
- Pentacle Theatre — January
- Polk County Folklife — March (Monmouth)
- Salem Art Fair — July. With musicians: Brad Johnson & Roy Rowland
- Salem Health & Diversity- August
- Salem Library — July
- Salem Open Streets — September
- St. Joseph Ceili — October
- Tangent Elementary School — April (Tangent)
- World Beat Festival — June. With musicians Brad Johnson and Roy Rowland
- YMCA — August

Classes & Events hosted by Ceili of the Valley Society:

- St. Patrick's Day — Annual Walk-About in Salem led by Willamette Valley Pipes & Drums
- 3rd annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival — October 22. This was our first year at the new venue Willamette Heritage Center-Spinning Room

accomplishments

- TOT Grant
- Marion Cultural Development Corporation (MCDC) Grant

samhain festival



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

- City of Salem, TOT Grant
- MCDC Grant
- Rich Duncan Construction
- Real Systems
- KМУZ Community Radio

Donations from: Len Monks, LifeSource Natural Foods

PRESENTERS:

- Headliner band “Biddy on the Bench” featuring Keven Grgurich, Nick Frey, Noah Cotter, Casey Dyer, Tristan Cormack, and Trever Cormack.
- Amica Grimberg — Facepainting
- Becky Johnson — Spinning
- Benton Brigade Hurling Club
- Brian Ó hAirt — Irish Gaelic language, Sean Nos singing & Sean Nos dancing
- Carl Beilstein — Celtic knots with rope
- Channing Dodson — Highland pipes for opening ceremony for Sword Dance, Scottish Gaelic Language, Scottish & Irish Pipes introduction
- Eric Chandler — Sword dance & Kilt folding
- Gordon Monroe — Storytelling
- Kerry Wymetalek — Genealogy
- Laura DeVoe — Highland Dance
- Nancy Kurz — Uncial Calligraphy & Printmaking
- Maldon Meehan — Sean-nos dance, Brush dance, History of Irish Dancing
- Welsh Society — Welsh Cake demo & Welsh language
- Welsh Society of Oregon Chorus

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

EXHIBITORS:

- All Ireland Cultural Society (AICS)
- Becky Johnson- Spinning

- Benton Brigade
- Comhaltas Ceótoirí Eireaann
- Welsh Society of Oregon & Bryn Selon Welsh Church

VENDORS:

- Angela Dawn Creations
- Bridie’s Irish Faire
- Carbony Celtic Winds
- Ernie Kirchner Tie Dye
- Garden Gate Hollow Soaps
- Granny Fi’s Shortbread Cookies
- Laura DeVoe Jewelry
- Clay by Nancy Kurz
- Pen & Print
- Third Coast Art Glass

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

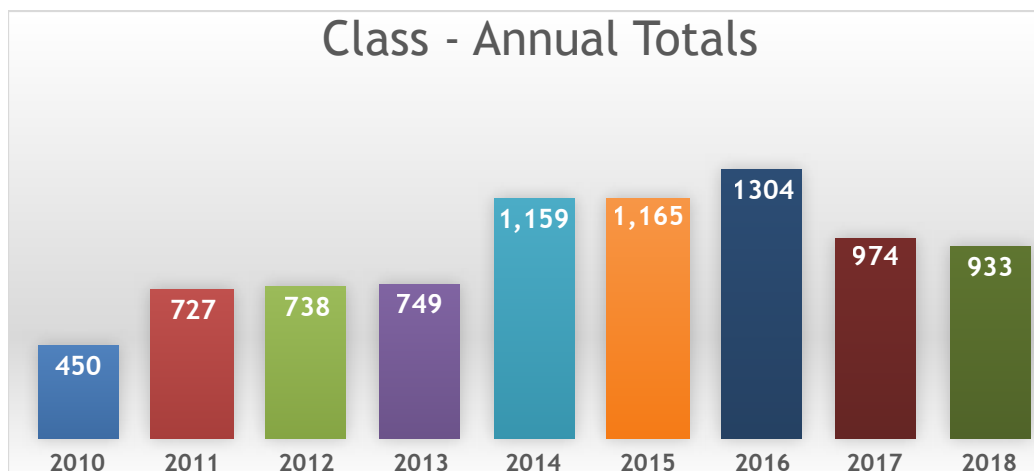
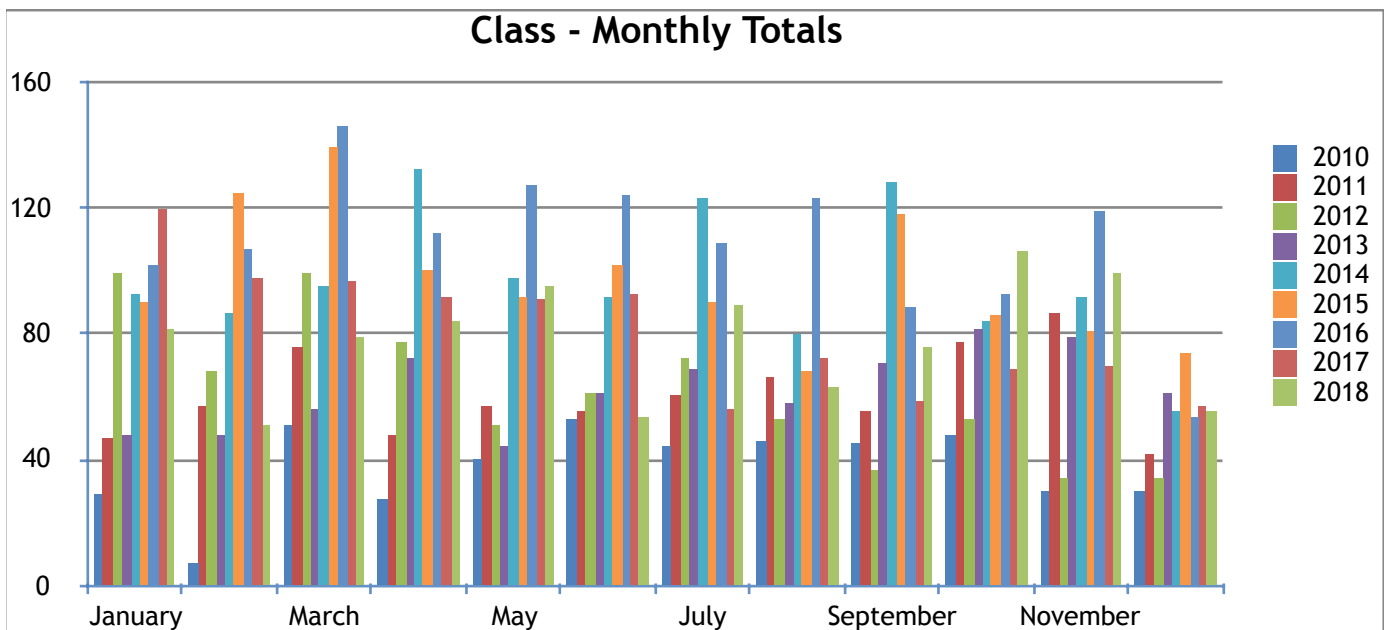
Ann McBride — Volunteer Coordinator
 Beth Nevue — Craft/Kids Area Coordinator
 Elisa Chandler — Festival Co-chair
 Ginny Wedel — Festival Co-chair
 Patty Thompson — Food Coordinator
 Brad Johnson — Music Chair
 Jessica Boone — Signage
 Len Munks — Safety Coordinator
 Pamela Kelly — Vendor Coordinator
 Rick Chandler — Outdoor Mini-Highland Games

As well as...

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Anne Lambert | Julie Cutler |
| Alan Thompson | Karen Scranage |
| Alex Kirchner | Kay Fielding |
| Bevin Peters | Kelsey Pobacion |
| Bob Howell | Les Weiglos |
| Carl Beilstein | Liane Kirchner |
| Cassady Kirchner | Lisa Chandler |
| Christy Flesh | Lydia Goodman |
| Colin Hutchins | Mark Thimm |
| Darrin Johnson | Mary Kennedy |
| David Scranage | Nancy Kurz |
| Doneille Chomiak | Patti McCarthy |
| Elisa’s Sister | Robin Albrecht |
| Eric Chandler | Susan Thompson |
| Ernie Kirchner | Stacey Johnson |
| Evan Hohne | Tracy Leow |
| Felix Chao | Tony Tanza |
| Jody O’Neill | Trish Rossito |
| John Johnsons | Verland Kelly |

class attendance summary

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| January | 29 | 47 | 99 | 48 | 93 | 90 | 102 | 120 | 82 |
| February | 7 | 57 | 68 | 48 | 87 | 125 | 107 | 98 | 51 |
| March | 51 | 76 | 99 | 56 | 95 | 139 | 146 | 97 | 79 |
| April | 27 | 48 | 77 | 72 | 132 | 100 | 112 | 92 | 84 |
| May | 40 | 57 | 51 | 44 | 98 | 92 | 127 | 91 | 95 |
| June | 53 | 55 | 61 | 61 | 92 | 102 | 124 | 93 | 54 |
| July | 44 | 60 | 72 | 69 | 123 | 90 | 109 | 56 | 89 |
| August | 46 | 66 | 53 | 58 | 80 | 68 | 123 | 72 | 63 |
| September | 45 | 55 | 37 | 71 | 128 | 118 | 88 | 59 | 76 |
| October | 48 | 77 | 53 | 82 | 84 | 86 | 93 | 69 | 106 |
| November | 30 | 87 | 34 | 79 | 92 | 81 | 119 | 70 | 99 |
| December | 30 | 42 | 34 | 61 | 55 | 74 | 54 | 57 | 55 |
| | 450 | 727 | 738 | 749 | 1,159 | 1,165 | 1304 | 974 | 933 |



ceili attendance summary

| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| January | 25 | 49 | 63 | 40 | 137 | 75 | 69 | 65 | 62 |
| February | 26 | 56 | 43 | 63 | 76 | 130 | 76 | 76 | 38 |
| March | 36 | 54 | 52 | 170 | 108 | 100 | 100 | 113 | 53 |
| April | 25 | 42 | 71 | 34 | 52 | 70 | 65 | 51 | 59 |
| May | 28 | 54 | 37 | 35 | 53 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 39 |
| June | 16 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 40 | 35 |
| July | 15 | 32 | 37 | 18 | 54 | 50 | 67 | 57 | 54 |
| August | 22 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 67 | 50 | 47 | 33 | 57 |
| September | 36 | 36 | 33 | 50 | 73 | 63 | 54 | 67 | 72 |
| October | 42 | 113 | 32 | 35 | 50 | 69 | 67 | 44 | 60 |
| November | 30 | 24 | 76 | 58 | 78 | 51 | 68 | 68 | 71 |
| December | 48 | 52 | 32 | 37 | 70 | 64 | 60 | 65 | 54 |
| Total | 349 | 539 | 503 | 593 | 818 | 772 | 773 | 719 | 654 |

