



2019 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.



CVS exhibit "Slainte" at World Beat Gallery

a letter from our president

As I reflect on 2019, I am reminded of the impact Ceili of the Valley Society has in the community that members may not even realize. At a recent community event, I was talking with people I had never met about a program we had just witnessed. The people said they were interested in dancing and, if they ever did, they would want to try coming to the Ceili of the Valley Society dance classes. They had no idea that I was affiliated. I quickly let them know of Tuesday night dance classes, and the benefit of the first one being free. They put it on their calendar. I'll look forward to seeing them at our first class in 2020.

Yes, we are active in the community. Just look at the long list of dance demonstrations and exhibitions our group has done this year. You know that we have the luck of the Irish when it is sunny during our St. Patrick's Day Walk-About around downtown Salem.

Ceili of the Valley Society had 21 opportunities to do dance demonstrations and other outreaches in the community. That didn't include our St. Patrick's Walk-About or our Samhain Festival. In other words, we keep a presence in the Willamette Valley that more than meets our mission to promote Celtic culture. When you include our weekly dance classes and monthly Ceili Mors, that is remarkable.

When the Salem Multicultural Institute and World Beat asked whether Ceili of the Valley members would be interested in hosting an exhibit at its gallery,

our group stepped forward quickly. The Seven Celtic Nations exhibit is full of information and artifacts that pull in a visitor. The director of the Salem Multicultural Institute shared that people are drawn to the part of the exhibit that involves their own heritage. One man spent a long time at the Welsh portion of the exhibit, talking about his own family heritage and stories. For the director, that is exactly what the gallery is intended to do; share cultural experiences. And, it didn't stop there! We noticed that three Welsh groups shared the Ceili of the Valley Facebook page which had a photo of the Welsh part of the gallery exhibit. One was from New York! So, our impact is much broader than the Willamette Valley.

Our involvement in the Salem Art Fair brought a new opportunity for us. We “got art.” Ceili members shared information about our group as they applied Celtic knot temporary tattoos to those who wanted them. It was such a success! That thirty seconds to set the tattoo allowed for conversation about Celtic culture and our group. One woman in her 80s requested one. She had never had a tattoo before; she was pleased to be sporting her first. Another person decided she wasn't going to wait until she was 80 to get her first. It's excitement like that that Ceili of the Valley generates.



CVS demonstrating ceili dance at Samhain Festival

And what can I say about our Samhain Festival? We ran out of soup (an indicator of the number of people in attendance). Musicians, dancers, exhibitors, vendors and presenters all enjoyed spreading Celtic joy to attendees. And, thanks to a generous donation from Newport Signs, Ceili of the Valley is now the proud owner of a six-foot Celtic cross to display at festivals.

Finally, Ceili of the Valley has a new format for conveying Celtic community events. Instead of weekly emails, our group now uses MailChimp to send a monthly notice. This system can also be used for special notifications mid-month.

All in all, it has been a year filled with learning new dances, welcoming new dance class members, participating in new dance demonstration sites, and above all, having fun in the process.

On behalf of the Ceili of the Valley Society Board, I would like to thank all sponsors, supporters, contributors, attendees, musicians, friends and Ceili of the Valley members for making 2019 another successful year. We are looking forward to 2020.

Respectively submitted,

Beth Nevue

President, Ceili of the Valley Society



Highland dance with bagpiper at Samhain Festival

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

celtic music hour

The Celtic Music Hour has just completed eight years of new weekly programs on KMUZ 100.7 & 88.5 FM.

The station now has an expanded service reach, including service to Dallas, Oregon during the evenings at KMWV 98.3 HD2. During the day, that signal is KTUP Dallas. Expanded service means just that. The KMUZ signal now reaches farther than ever so listeners in Salem don't need to rely on streaming. That means that, along with our listeners through KYAC 94.9 FM in Mill City, we have quite a reach! We don't track where our listening audience is, but we're always delightfully surprised when someone calls while we are on air to ask for the name of a musical selection or to let us know of technical difficulties. We have a presence and a following!

The Celtic Music Hour has several highlights this year. First, our show "crashed" the KMUZ streaming system by having too many listeners when we interviewed guest Emmet Cahill in February. No other program has reached that status.

Second, we had the pleasure of interviewing founding member of the Chieftains, Paddy Moloney. That was such fun! He certainly can carry on a conversation! Beth had the opportunity to see the Chieftains in concert shortly after the interview and got to meet and have a photo with the band members. And, people are drawn to the signed Chieftain's concert poster that we display at Ceili of the Valley community events.

If those two weren't enough, a community radio station in Newfoundland contacted KMUZ asking whether it could play our show on its station. Unfortunately, we couldn't negotiate that happening because they wanted daily programming. But, what an honor!

We are constantly thinking of new ideas for programming. One new theme this year was a weather show. It's always amazing how much music there is for a particular theme. We also got to have a show featuring music donated to us by a KYAC listener. How thoughtful of that individual!

We look forward to beginning our ninth season of the Celtic Music Hour. We could not continue without the support of the Ceili of the Valley Society and its members.

Beth Nevue & Ann McBride
Celtic Music Hour DJ's

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

Na Rósai and friends at Samhain Festival



teacher's note

Where's the best place to be on a Tuesday night you ask? Well...in my opinion...you can't beat CVS Dance Class at the Salem VFW Hall!!! The folks that come to dance are the greatest...always willing to try something new. This is true of the faithful "regulars" and the brand new dancers who stop by just to check us out. It's pretty cool to see some of those newbies turning into regulars. The best part is how helpful everyone is and how we are willing to laugh with each other as we figure things out. You are all what makes the drive from Shedd worthwhile every Tuesday! One of these days I will try and figure out just how many dances we have experienced over the years (or even just in a year), I think we would be surprised. I'll probably do that when I sit down and organize music...ha! I guess with that being said, I would like to thank everyone for putting up with me as my brain occasionally gets overloaded and I forget where we are in a dance and what comes next.

It's been a pleasure to have Lydia come and call dances during class. She is doing a great job and I know we are all looking forward to seeing her grow in this capacity. I know others of you are interested in learning to call, so please remind me and we will get you going.

Again, a special thank you to the Demo team for being up for the chaos of the last Demo season. 2019 was a wild ride. I am looking forward to trying out some of our new dances this season and suspect that it will be just as awesome.

Looking forward to 2020 – more new dances, more new friends, more new places to share our joy of dancing together, and more stories to share.

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
602-316-0825
elisachandler1@gmail.com



Ceili finale at the Samhain Festival

2019 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
- Brad Johnson
- Bob Soper
- Brian Matthew Hart
- Bronnie Griffin
- Cary Novotny
- Corner House (Gordo Freeman, Jake Greico, Channing Dodson, & Teresa Baker)
- D'n'A (Doug Heydon & Amey Herman)
- Dan Compton
- Eliot Grasso
- Elizabeth Nicholson
- Fran Slefer
- George Penk
- Geraldine Murray & the Retired Popes (Geraldine Murray, Joe Reedy, & Zac Léger)
- Glenn Waddell
- Heather Pinney
- Jake Greico
- Joe Root
- Nancy Conescu
- Outbound Traveler (Jake Greico, Ritchie Rosencran, & Gordo Freeman)

CALLERS:

- Bruce Kenny
- Christina White
- Elisa Chandler
- Harry Reed
- Julie Cutler
- Maldon Meehan
- Mary Lowes
- Sam Keator

SOUND:

- Brad Johnson
- Mark Thimm

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 performance team were 19 strong: Ann McBride, Ben Scandella, Beth Nevue, Cammie Miner, Carl Beilstein, Darrin Johnson, David Zelmer, Elisa Chandler, Ernie Kirchner, Ginny Wedel, Hannah Zelmer, Jessica Boone, Laura DeVoe, Len Munks, Lydia Goodman, Mark Thimm, Patti McCarthy, Richard Chandler, and Tracy Loew.



Welsh Society of Oregon at Samhain Festival



Ceili finale at the Samhain Festival

community outreach events

(All events in Salem unless otherwise noted.)

CVS spreads Celtic joy in communities all year long.

Approximately 1,600 people attended our events.

MARCH:

- Albany Bonaventure
- Campfire Group
- Cedar Village
- Hallman Elementary School Cultural Fair
- McMinnville Hillside Retirement Community, The Manor
- McMinnville Hillside Retirement Community
- Montessori Discovery Center, Electric Campus
- Montessori Discovery Center, Promontory Campus
- Salem Bonaventure
- Windsor Health & Rehabilitation

APRIL:

- Earth Day Celebration @ Oregon Gardens

MAY:

- Willamette Women's Soccer Game

JUNE:

- World Beat Festival

JULY:

- Salem Art Fair

AUGUST:

- Englewood Park
- Oregon State Fair, Explore Oregon Showcase
- Salem Health Diversity Fair
- Salem Saturday Market

OCTOBER:

- Salem Multicultural Institute, World Beat Gallery Sláinte Exhibit – Oct. 2019 thru Feb. 2020

NOVEMBER:

- Grant Community School Cultural Event

DECEMBER:

- Willamette Heritage Center, Magic at the Mill

Classes & Events hosted by Ceili of the Valley Society:

- St. Patrick's Day — Annual Walk-About in Salem on March 16th. Led by Willamette Valley Pipes & Drums
- 4th Annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival on October 27th at Willamette Heritage Center, Spinning Room

accomplishments

- Converted to MailChimp for Monthly Newsletter
- Grant Award — Fred W Fields Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
- World Beat Gallery Exhibit — Sláinte

samhain festival

Our 4th annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival was made possible by the generous support of these sponsors. \$500 and more:

- Fred W Fields Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
- City of Salem AFSCME LOCAL 2067
- Rich Duncan Construction
- Real Systems

\$250 and more:

- Bliss Sequoia Insurance | Huggins Insurance
- The Summit Group of Oregon
- Salem Health
- Friends of Ceili of the Valley Society

PRESENTERS:

Headliner ban — Na Rósai (Erik Killops, Richie Rosencrans, Preston Howard & Conor O-Bryan)
Members did workshops, concert, and provided live music for dance presentations & for the Ceili Dancing Finale.

- Aislinn Adams — The War of Independence | Emphasis on Women's Roles
- Amica Grimberg — Facepainting
- Carl Beilstein — Celtic Knots with Rope
- Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann — Spooky Song
- Conor O'Bryan — Celtic Winds
- Eric Chandler — Sword Dance, Kilt Folding & Highland Pipes/Dance Presentation
- Erik Killops — Celtic Strings Presentation
- Hannah Zelmer — Celtic Dance Showcase & Highland Pipes/Dance Presentation
- Gordon Monroe — Storytelling
- John Goff — Highland Pipes & Dance Presentation

- Kerry Wymetalek — Genealogy
- Maldon Meehan — Sean Nos Workshop, Celtic Dance Showcase & Caller for Ceili Finale
- Mary Grace Brogdon — Harp Intro Workshop & Mini Concert
- Nancy Kurz — Printmaking & Uncial Calligraphy Demonstrations
- Nora Sherwood — Bodhran Workshop, Sean Nos Workshop, & Celtic Dance Showcase
- Oregon Irish Dance Academy — Celtic Dance Showcase, Step Dancing Workshop, & Caller for Ceili Finale (Christina)
- Preston Howard — Piping & Celtic Winds Presentations
- Richie Rosencrans — Celtic Strings Presentation
- Welsh Society of Oregon — Welsh Cakes Demonstration; Welsh Songs, Jokes & Folktales; and Improv Theatre

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

EXHIBITORS:

- All Ireland Cultural Society (AICS)
- Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireaann (CCE)
- Welsh Society of Oregon

VENDORS:

- Angela Dawn Creations
- Bridie's Irish Faire
- Genesis3D
- Granny Fi's Shortbread Cookies
- KhC Designs
- Lyoncraft
- Pen & Print
- The Freckled Lass

You may have seen these friendly faces. 560 hours volunteer hours put on our 4th Annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival. 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
 Jessica Boone — Signage
 Len Munks — Safety Coordinator
 Pamela Kelly — Vendor Coordinator
 Patty Thompson — Food Coordinator
 Rick Chandler — Outdoor Mini-Highland Games

As well as...

Alex Bauman
 Brad Johnson
 Beven Peters
 Cammie Miner
 Carl Beilstein
 Carlee Wright
 Chris Harker
 Darrin Johnson
 David Zelmer
 Drew Astolfi
 Ernie Kirchner
 Eric Chandler
 Evan Kohne
 Felix Chao
 Gary Houser
 Gwyneth Miner
 Hannah Zelmer
 Jody O'Neill
 John Johnson

Joshua Scott
 Kelsey Población
 Les Weiglos
 Liane Kirchner
 Linda Schaffer
 Lisa Chandler
 Mark Thimm
 Michael Carreras
 Nancy Kurz
 Patti McCarthy
 Rhonda McKee
 Robin Albrecht
 Teri Therkelsen
 Trish Rossito
 Tracey Rose Brown
 Tracy Loew
 Verland Kelly
 Zoe Davis

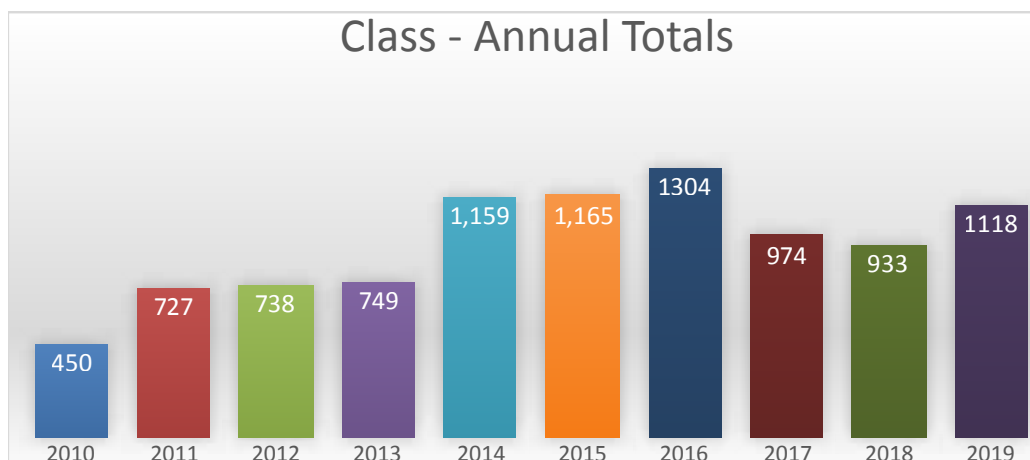
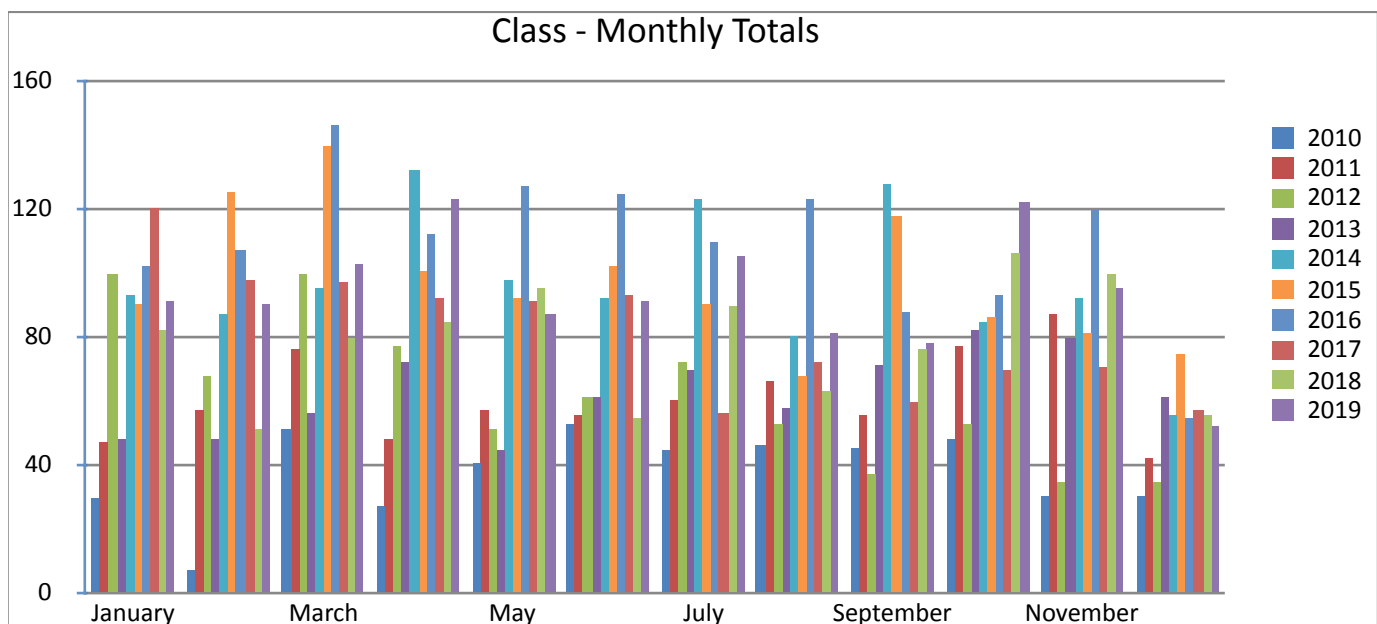
Sound provided by: Peter Yoakum

St. Patrick's Day Walk-About



class attendance summary

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	29	47	99	48	93	90	102	120	82	91
February	7	57	68	48	87	125	107	98	51	90
March	51	76	99	56	95	139	146	97	79	103
April	27	48	77	72	132	100	112	92	84	123
May	40	57	51	44	98	92	127	91	95	87
June	53	55	61	61	92	102	124	93	54	91
July	44	60	72	69	123	90	109	56	89	105
August	46	66	53	58	80	68	123	72	63	81
September	45	55	37	71	128	118	88	59	76	78
October	48	77	53	82	84	86	93	69	106	122
November	30	87	34	79	92	81	119	70	99	95
December	30	42	34	61	55	74	54	57	55	52
Total	450	727	738	749	1,159	1,165	1304	974	933	1118



ceili attendance summary

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	25	49	63	40	137	75	69	65	62	52
February	26	56	43	63	76	130	76	76	38	72
March	36	54	52	170	108	100	100	113	53	63
April	25	42	71	34	52	70	65	51	59	60
May	28	54	37	35	53	50	40	40	39	60
June	16	0	0	27	0	0	60	40	35	36
July	15	32	37	18	54	50	67	57	54	66
August	22	27	27	26	67	50	47	33	57	46
September	36	36	33	50	73	63	54	67	72	72
October	42	113	32	35	50	69	67	44	60	65
November	30	24	76	58	78	51	68	68	71	79
December	48	52	32	37	70	64	60	65	54	51
Total	349	539	503	593	818	772	773	719	654	722

