



2020 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.



Dancing at a distance

a letter from our president

A pandemic didn't stop the Ceili of the Valley Society from continuing its mission.

Our group got off to a great start in 2020 with our Annual Board Retreat where we set goals for the year and also continued regular classes, monthly ceilis, and planned performances and activities.

The Seven Celtic Nations exhibit, which was set up at the end of 2019 at the Salem Multicultural Center and World Beat, continued into the New Year. In fact, the Center requested that it remain up a month longer than originally scheduled. As part of the exhibit the Multicultural Center asked Ceili volunteers to be available as experts for scheduled tours. Two groups from Willamette University requested that in 2020. Being able to participate in their educational experience added to our mission to promote Celtic Culture.

We believe that Ceili of the Valley Society may have had the only St. Patrick's Day parade in the United States in 2020. With the coronavirus spreading, St. Patrick's events scheduled in March were canceled as governments requested lockdowns. Our group's event happened just before restrictions. With a piper leading the way we marched using social distance guidelines through Riverfront Park and parts of Salem. The coronavirus did not deter the joy of the day.

In a regular year various groups ask Ceili of the Valley Society to do dance demonstrations, especially around St. Patrick's Day. Our group was able to complete only two before restrictions caused a cascade of cancellations. Community events where Ceili of the Valley Society performed and encouraged audience participation did not happen. It was a very different year. The temporary tattoos we ordered to give to visitors at our exhibit booths wait for another year.

However, the coronavirus did not stop Ceili of the Valley Society from continuing to retain our community presence. As it became clear that an in-person Samhain Celtic New Year Festival would not be possible, our Board decided to explore a virtual festival. With the assistance of contacts in the Celtic community, multiple Celtic groups came forward to participate in the music portion of the month-long Festival, supplying music videos, their biographies and contact information. The Festival had virtual representations from all of the Seven Celtic Nations in its cultural section, highlighting foods and recipes, dance, language, and activities. There were virtual demonstrations and vendors. Particular highlights were four live zoom events, a concert from Scotland with Jim and Susie Malcolm, a sean-nos dance class and demonstration by Maldon Meehan, a history of the women in the Irish Rebellion by Aislinn Adams, and a virtual whisky tasting hosted by Bill Mullen. The four live presentations were well-attended and well-received. Based on statistics from computer data, the Festival was a success. We are hoping to return to a live event in 2021 and have reserved the Willamette Heritage Center for October 24th.

Finally, in-person classes and Ceilis have been on hiatus since March 2020. That has not stopped the group! With Zoom's help, classes continue. And, we tried a couple zoom Ceilis before pausing for the holiday season. Our caller, Elisa Chandler has even adjusted some dances to adhere to social distancing guidelines once we are able to dance in person.

All in all, despite a pandemic, Ceili of the Valley Society proved that it is integral in promoting Irish and Celtic culture in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Before closing, I would like to give a huge thank you to Elisa Chandler. She has tirelessly devoted her time to becoming a zoom expert to help pivot our dancing to a virtual format. Without her, our Virtual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival would not have proceeded as smoothly. On behalf of the Festival Committee, she downloaded all musician videos, set up and did sound checks for all live demonstrations and, as treasurer, sent compensation to appropriate participants. She is integral to Ceili of the Valley Society's success.

We look forward to 2021, a year we hope brings a close to the pandemic; a year we can once again return to in-person activities.

Beth Nevue
President, Ceili of the Valley Society



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 show must go on! Despite having the radio station closed to DJ's since mid-March due to the pandemic, the Celtic Music Hour has not missed a beat. Because we've been on the air since December of 2011, we have a large number of saved recorded shows. Who knew we'd be drawing upon them now? Before this year, we'd only had one replay in the entire duration of the show.

We started the year 2020 with our traditional Rockin' in the New Year show. And we had our first interview of the year with Seamus Egan in February in anticipation of his concert at the Smith Fine Arts series on March 14th. Unfortunately, Smith Fine Arts had to cancel that performance.

We are fortunate that we have such a great group of listeners. They have appreciated the shows, which have been edited to include more music and eliminate past Celtic Calendars. We've also been able to add some updated Celtic activities, such as Ceili of the Valley Society's Virtual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival.

And, we've improvised. Having both DJ's creating the show has been our hallmark. Due to social distancing, that cannot happen. Ann has been granted access to the station as an essential worker. She cleans the space. So, we have done one completely new show with a New Music theme. On one of her cleaning days, Ann took extra time to be the lead DJ, while Beth called in to add her comments. This recorded show aired for our annual Show of Gratitude in November.

Plus, we expanded our genre. We interviewed a Celtic author! Through the magic of Zoom, we interviewed Eilidh Miller prior to the release of her inaugural book, *The Watchers*. Since the book involved Scottish history, we aired her interview on our show honoring St. Andrew's Day.

Despite challenges in the year, the Celtic Music Hour has adapted to continue to entertain and educate our listeners. Stay tuned for more in 2021.

celtic music hour

KMUZ 88.5 & 100.7 FM, Salem/Keizer

7 to 8 p.m. Friday; rebroadcast 10 a.m. Tuesdays

Go to kmuz.org for streaming options

KYAC 94.9 FM, Mill City

10 to 11 a.m. and 5 to 6 p.m. Mondays

Stream the live at kyacfm.org



St. Patrick's Day Walk-About



teacher's note

I am really not quite sure what to say in this note for 2020. We started off with a bang: classes happening every Tuesday, 2nd Friday Ceilis in January and February, demos set up for our fabulous demonstration team, a show highlighting the Seven Celtic Nations at the Salem Multicultural Center, and plans for much more...and then...it all came to a halt. It took some time to regroup and figure out what was possible during a pandemic.

Through some experimentation, and Zoom research, we have been able to hold a few virtual ceilis, starting with pre-recorded music and then venturing into using live music. I would like to say thank you to Mark Thimm for being there to help me out with sound and to the musicians, Dan Compton, Fran Slefer, Amey Herman, and Doug Heydon, who were willing to give it a go. I also want to thank the faithful Ceili of the Valley dancers that came to these virtual ceilis and figured out ways to dance by themselves or with the other people in their households. We hope to continue with more Zoom Ceilis in 2021...just until we can dance again in person!

We are holding a virtual dance class every Tuesday. We generally explore a Scottish dance and an Irish Ceili dance and then fill in with participant requests. The downside to a virtual Ceili dance class is teaching new dancers, so it's primarily experienced dancers attending, which is fun for all of us, but I would like to figure out how to reach new folks. I guess that can be a New Year's Resolution for me!

Mostly, I want to say thank you to everyone that has stayed connected via the ceilis, classes, renewed memberships, Facebook, Messenger...Our Ceili of the Valley Dance Family is still strong and we all look forward to a brighter 2021.

Please reach out to me if you want more information on the classes and ceilis...or anything that's dance related.

Elisa
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elisachandler1@gmail.com



Dancing at the 2nd Friday Ceili

2020 IN REVIEW

ceilis

MUSICIANS:

Many thanks to the amazing musicians who provided the tunes for our two in-person Céilís and two zoom Ceilis. Using an array of instruments, the following musicians played traditional Irish and other Celtic music:

- Bob Soper
- Dan Compton
- D'n'A | Doug Heydon and Amey Herman
- Joe Root
- Erik Killops
- Fran Slefer

CALLERS:

- Bruce Kenny
- Elisa Chandler
- Sam Keator

events

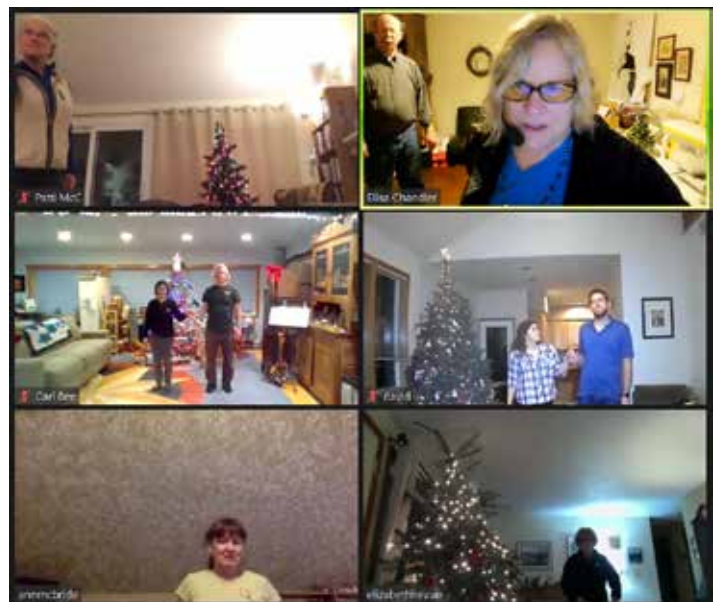
Our volunteer performance team members: Ann McBride, Ben Scandella, Beth Nevue, Cammie Miner, Carl Beilstein, Darrin Johnson, David Zelmer, Elisa Chandler, Ernie Kirchner, Ginny Wedel, Hannah Zelmer, Jessica Boone, Laura DeVoe, Len Munks, Lydia Goodman, Mark Thimm, Patti McCarthy, Richard Chandler, and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

Community Outreach events: (All events in Salem unless otherwise noted.). CVS usually spreads Celtic joy in the Mid-Willamette Valley all year long. To our dismay, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, community groups canceled 11 of our planned performances. This impacted our usually busy performance schedule.

March: Cedar Village Assisted Living & Memory Care
Feb: Chesterton Academy Fundraiser in Mount Angel
Oct. 2019 through Feb. 2020: Salem Multicultural Institute, World Beat Gallery Sláinte Exhibit
Jan: World Beat Gallery | Celtic Crafts Day



2nd Friday Ceili



Tuesday Night Virtual Dance Class



February 2020: Chesterton Academy Fundraiser in Mount Angel



Classes & Events hosted by Ceili of the Valley:

- St. Patrick's Day Annual Walk-About on March 16 in Salem. Led by Willamette Valley Pipes & Drums
- 5th annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival in October (virtual month-long festival)
- A Yard Dance
- Ceili Zoomed

accomplishments

- Changed format to a monthly Ceili of the Valley email newsletter
- Added Ceili of the Valley and Samhain Celtic New Year Festival to the internationally-based website www.transceltic.com
- Initiated Zoom classes for those already familiar with dance steps
- Held four virtual Ceilis - two with prerecorded music, created for CVS in 2015 by Brad Johnson, Teresa Baker, George Penk, and Chad Southwell, and two were with live music. We want to thank Dan Compton, Fran Slefer, Amey Herman, and Doug Heydon for providing music long distance!
- Created a virtual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival
- Awarded Oregon Community Foundation Grant
- Awarded The Reser Family Foundation Grant

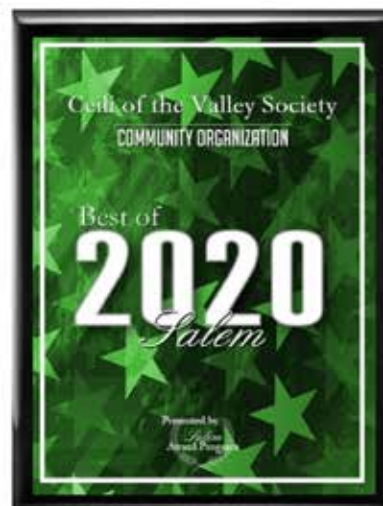
Ceili of the Valley Society Receives 2020 Best of Salem Award

Salem Award Program Honors the Achievement

SALEM March 29, 2020 — Ceili of the Valley Society has been selected for the 2020 Best of Salem Award in the Community Organization category by the Salem Award Program.

Each year, the Salem Award Program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category.

These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Salem area a great place to live, work and play.



Samhain

CELTIC NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Like many events nationwide, our 5th annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival went virtual this year. Instead of one day of festivities, we rose to the occasion and held a month-long virtual festival during October.

The festival format allowed visitors to explore the 7 Celtic nations and experience the cultures through music, events, foods (via recipes), activities, and even vendors. Twenty-five musicians and groups from local, national, and international locations submitted music videos. Ten made videos specifically for our festival. International contributors were from Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Brazil and Belarus.

Although our Festival was in October, the Samhain Festival site remains active. Take a little vacation and go on a virtual trip through the seven Celtic nations by visiting the site at <https://celticfestival.info/>.

SPONSORS:

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

- Friends of CVS
- Oregon Community Foundation Grant
- The Reser Family Foundation
- Real Systems
- The Salem Foundation
- The Summit Group of Oregon

IN-KIND DONATIONS:

- KМУZ Community Radio
- Press Play Salem

Samhain Virtual Event — Aislinn Adams | Ireland's Revolutionary Years (1916-1923)



PRESENTERS:

The following individuals and musicians created events and music specifically for our Festival.

LIVE ZOOM EVENTS:

- Jim and Susie Malcolm | Festival Kick-off Concert from Scotland
- Aislinn Adams | Ireland's Revolutionary Years (1916-1923)
- Maldon Meehan | Irish Sean-nós Dance demonstration and lesson
- Bill Mullen | Whisky Tasting

WORKSHOPS:

- Brian Ó hAirt | Irish Gaelic Lessons
- Channing Dodson | The Pipes. Demonstration of Scottish and Irish Pipes
- Gus McGinnis (Carl) | A Celtic Knot Activity
- John Pope and Kevin Carr | Galician Culture & Music
- Nancy Kurz – Drawing Celtic Knots

Musicians (who provided original content):

- Aleys Chumakov
- Banda Taverna
- Brick Top Bloggers
- Channing Dodson
- Kathryn Rose
- Lisa Lynnne & Ayeh Frankfurt
- Na Rósáí
- Old Man Flanagan's Ghost
- The Finns
- Keith Roberts of The Young Dubliners closed the Festival for us

IN APPRECIATION:

We want to especially acknowledge Steve Behrens for reaching out to his large musician base to invite them to participate in the virtual Samhain Festival and for locating Bill Mullen to host the zoom whisky tasting event.

VOLUNTEERS:

The Festival would not have been possible without volunteers. Together they contributed over 200 hours reaching out to musicians, presenters, and vendors and gathering information for our 5th Annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival website

SPECIAL THANK YOU:

A pivot to a virtual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival would not have been possible without the technical expertise of Carlee Wright. Thanks to Carlee, our Festival website came to life and made the Festival very successful!



Samhain Virtual Workshop — A Celtic Knot Activity

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Ceili of the Valley friends we lost in 2020



Joyce Gleason



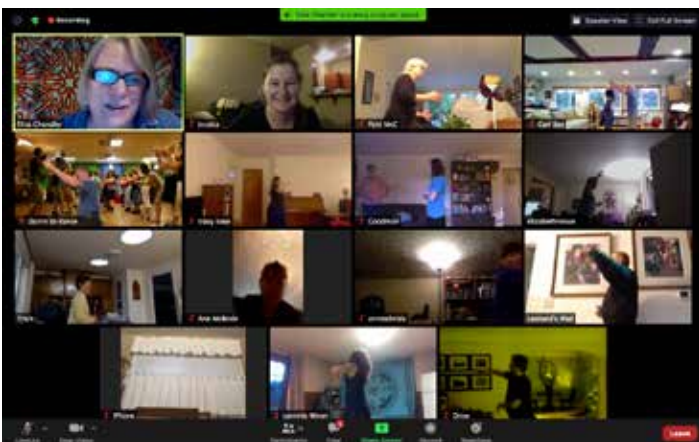
Julie Cutler



January 2020: Celtic Crafts Day at World Beat Gallery



March 2020: Cedar Village Assisted Living & Memory Care



June's Virtual Ceili



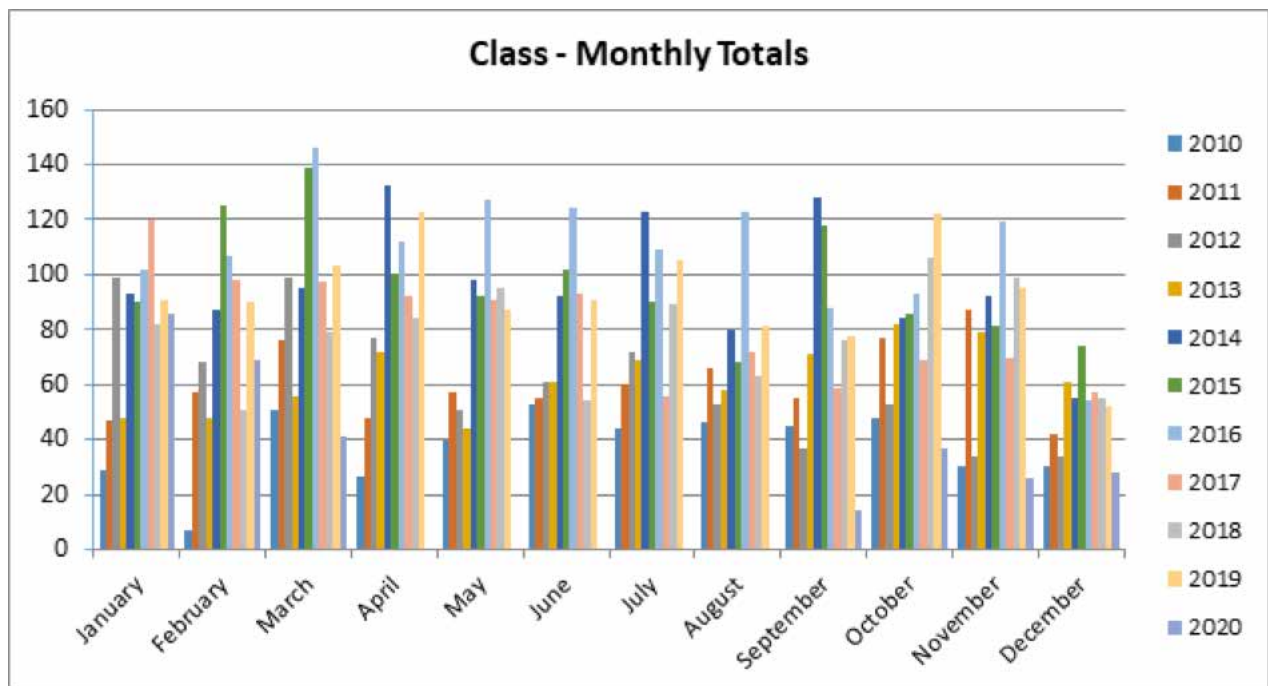
September's Virtual Ceili



class attendance summary

Class Attendance Summary (March 10, 2020 was the last in-person class due to Covid-19)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	29	47	99	48	93	90	102	120	82	91	86
February	7	57	68	48	87	125	107	98	51	90	69
March	51	76	99	56	95	139	146	97	79	103	41
April	27	48	77	72	132	100	112	92	84	123	0
May	40	57	51	44	98	92	127	91	95	87	0
June	53	55	61	61	92	102	124	93	54	91	0
July	44	60	72	69	123	90	109	56	89	105	0
August	46	66	53	58	80	68	123	72	63	81	0
September	45	55	37	71	128	118	88	59	76	78	14
October	48	77	53	82	84	86	93	69	106	122	37
November	30	87	34	79	92	81	119	70	99	95	26
December	30	42	34	61	55	74	54	57	55	52	28
	450	727	738	749	1,159	1,165	1304	974	933	1118	301



ceili attendance summary

Ceili Attendance Summary (February 14, 2020 was the last in-person Ceili due to Covid-19)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	25	49	63	40	137	75	69	65	62	52	68
February	26	56	43	63	76	130	76	76	38	72	69
March	36	54	52	170	108	100	100	113	53	63	0
April	25	42	71	34	52	70	65	51	59	60	0
May	28	54	37	35	53	50	40	40	39	60	0
June	16	0	0	27	0	0	60	40	35	36	0
July	15	32	37	18	54	50	67	57	54	66	0
August	22	27	27	26	67	50	47	33	57	46	11
September	36	36	33	50	73	63	54	67	72	72	34
October	42	113	32	35	50	69	67	44	60	65	0
November	30	24	76	58	78	51	68	68	71	79	0
December	48	52	32	37	70	64	60	65	54	51	0
	349	539	503	593	818	772	773	719	654	722	182
Average	29.1	44.9	41.9	49.4	68.2	64.3	64.4	59.9	54.5	60.2	15.2

