



2021 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.



a letter from our president

The closing paragraph for the 2020 Annual Report held hope for the end of the pandemic and the return to in-person activities in 2021. Well, part of that goal was achieved. The pandemic continues. The Ceili of the Valley Society Board of Directors thoughtfully planned for a return to some activities to keep the Celtic community engaged and to promote the safety and health of participants.

Zoom continued to be one method of reaching our Celtic audience. Ceili of the Valley sponsored three donation-only zoom events. They were a Robert Burns concert with Peter Daldry in January, a St. Patrick's Day concert with Beltaine in March, and a Genealogy presentation by Doug Crosby in May. Elisa Chandler accepted the invitation from Center 50+ to do a soda bread baking event.

Starting with the St. Patrick's Day Walk-About through Salem Riverfront Park, Ceili of the Valley Society kept the Irish spirit alive with this in-person outside event. The group handed out complimentary Irish-themed masks to participants and passers-by alike and marched throughout the park accompanied by recorded music.

Continued on next page

When weather allowed in April, our Dance Demonstration Team started outdoor practices at Riverfront Park, hoping that summer festivals would invite us to participate. Unfortunately, all summer festivals got canceled for a second year in a row. The dance skills the team kept practicing did not go wasted. The group did dance at Saturday Market in October 2021 to do a rain-delayed National Dance Day event.

Ceili Mors also returned. Outdoor summer events happened at Cesar Chavez Elementary School in June, July and August. We became knowledgeable about outdoor venue options, port-a-pot rentals, and summer winds. Indoor Ceilis began in October. The October Pan-Celtic Ceili was in memory of Julie Cutler, who organized that one annually since its inception. For safety the group required either a completed Covid vaccination series or a negative Covid test done within 72 hours of the event, plus mask-wearing. In addition, the VFW adjusted its heating system to allow for open windows and doors for good air flow.

When deciding how to proceed with the Sixth Annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival, the Board elected to have a hybrid model. Like Ceili Mors, indoor events required masks and either completed vaccinations or a negative Covid test within 72 hours of the event. Attendees expressed gratitude for these guidelines for their safety and health. Successful events included Aislinn Adams talk on plant life similarities between Ireland and Oregon; Lisa Lynne's harp workshop and later-in-the-day concert with Aryeh Frankfurter, and finale concert with The Fire.

Several years ago the family of Jean Lee donated her extensive collection of Irish books to the Ceili of the Valley Society to use as they wished. The Board of Directors has been safely keeping them while waiting to create a library. With the pandemic continuing, the idea of a library faded. Instead, the group decided to have a book give-away at live events. Attendees at the Samhain Festival and Ceili Mors have left with books-in-arms and smiles on their faces, benefitting from the gift originally made in Jean Lee's honor. We again thank the family for their generosity.

Ceili of the Valley Society has many things to be grateful for in a pandemic year. Despite not having regular dance classes, the group successfully planned for safe Ceilis. Despite revenue challenges, the group received grants to be able to sponsor activities. And despite not having the same visibility at community events, Ceili of the Valley Society remained a presence in the Willamette Valley.

I would like to thank the strong leadership from the Board of Directors to successfully maneuver through these unique and challenging times to keep the mission of the Ceil of the Valley Society alive. We remain hopeful for a return to more activities in 2022.

Beth Nevue
President, Ceili of the Valley Society



ceili of the valley society BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Beth Nevue
Treasurer: Elisa Chandler
Secretary: Ginny Wedel

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

celtic music hour

After playing edited rebroadcasts for over a year due to the pandemic, KMUZ had policies and safety measures in place to allow in-studio live broadcasts to resume on June 1, 2021. Changing from a live show on Fridays at 7 pm to its former rebroadcast time on Tuesdays at 10 am, meant that the Celtic Music Hour was the first show to return. The reentry felt like it was a brand new experience. After getting rid of the cobwebs from being out of the studio for so long, Ann and Beth were quickly back in the saddle. They instituted several new themes including Travel Shows, Garden and Flower Shows and a Summer Show.

Promoter friends of the Celtic Music Hour contacted us to get musicians and authors back in the public eye. Ann and Beth were fortunate to interview Larry Kirwan, founding member of Celtic rock band Black 47, who talked about his newly released book, Rockaway Blue. Later, Megan Walsh of Celtic Woman shared information about the group's newest CD called Postcards from Ireland, along with information about the group's activities during the lockdown. One special show was a tribute to Paddy Moloney, The Chieftains founder, who died in October. For that, we replayed an interview with him from 2019, along with music that showed the group's versatility. Finally, December 2021 marked the 10th anniversary of KMUZ 88.5 & 100.7 FM and the Celtic Music Hour. It has been quite a journey from our beginning with about twenty CD's to the vast Celtic library we have developed. Ceili of the Valley Society has been an underwriter for the show for many years. That financial support has been instrumental in keeping the Celtic Music Hour on the air. We are hopeful for many more years of sharing Celtic Music with listeners.

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

teacher's note

I will make this short and sweet...I am looking forward to 2022 and actually being able to teach classes!! I will continue my search for long sets of jigs and reels and new, fun dances to share once we can start in-person classes again. We have our fingers crossed that we can start up again sometime in February.

Elisa
602-316-0825
elisachandler1@gmail.com



NAME OF MUSICIANS HERE PLS

2021 in REVIEW

ceilis

We managed to get in a few outdoor summer céilis and began indoor céilis in October, shots, tests, masks and all. Unfortunately, we only had one in-person class and our Silent Auction Fundraiser was cancelled. CVS is lucky to have Mark do our sound. He persevered through it all, hauling sound for outdoor céilis with windy conditions.

MUSICIANS:

Many thanks to the amazing musicians that played at our céilis, both outdoors and indoors. It has been a very difficult time for musicians. And special thanks to the musicians that played at our outdoor ceili's with wind challenges. Traditional Irish music was provided by the below musicians playing an array of instruments.

- Chad Southwell
- D'n'A | Doug Heydon and Amey Herman
- Channing Dodson
- Geraldine Murray
- Na Rósai | Conor O'Bryan, Erik Killops, Preston Howard, and Richie Rosecrans
- Preston Howard Wilde
- Teresa Baker
- Zac Legar

CALLERS:

- Elisa Chandler
- Bruce Kenny
- Geraldine Murray
- Harry Reed
- Jack Kenny
- Shannon Brown

events

Our volunteer performance team was (20) strong. Leading our team is Elisa Chandler with volunteer dancers: Ann McBride, Beth Nevue, Cammie Miner, Carl Beilstein, Darrin Johnson, David Zelmer, Drew Astolfi, Ernie Kirchner, Ginny Wedel, Hannah Zelmer, Jessica Boone, Laura DeVoe, Len Munks, Lydia Goodman, Mark Thimm, Patti McCarthy, Richard Chandler, Robin Albrecht, and Tracy Loew.

Community Outreach events: (All events in Salem unless otherwise noted.). Still figuring how to make it work with the Covid-19 pandemic and staying flexible, CVS was able to sprinkle a little Celtic magic this year. CVS had a mix of virtual and in-person events.

February: Tea Time Talk Ceili of the Valley Society with Maldon Meehan. Zoom event.

March: Baking Soda Bread with Elisa, sponsored by Friends of Center 50+. Zoom event.

October: Salem Saturday Market. In-person event.

Classes & Events hosted by CVS:

January: Peter Daldry Concert. Robert Burns Celebration. Zoom concert.

March: St. Patrick's Day Parade at Salem Riverfront Park.

March: Beltaine Concert. Zoom event

May: Genealogy with Douglas H Crosby, Finding Your Roots. Zoom event.

October: Samhain Celtic New Year Festival (6th year). In-person & virtual month-long festival.

accomplishments

- City of Salem – TOT Grant
- Marion Cultural Development Corporation (MCDC) Grant
- Oregon Arts Commission Grant



samhain festival

“Making it work” seems to be the theme throughout this year. Unable to hold a large indoor event, Ceili of the Valley Society held a month-long Samhain Celtic New Year Festival again, blending in-person and virtual events in October. We hope you enjoyed having both the personal and armchair experience.

Our in-person events included a presentation, a workshop and two concerts.

In the virtual experience, we had some featured performers and you could armchair travel through the Celtic nations with our on-line content for dancing, historical sites, kids’ activities, food and drink.

Although our Festival was in October, there are still many fun sites to hear and see on our website. Take a little vacation and go on a virtual trip through the seven Celtic nations and visit <https://celticfestival.info/>.

Also, check out our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPf6vXt31XPXGjnrNIS92ig/>

SPONSORS:

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

- City of Salem – TOT Grant
- Friends of Ceili of the Valley Society
- Marion Cultural Development Corporation (MCDC) Grant
- Real Systems
- The Summit Group of Oregon

IN-KIND DONATIONS:

- KМУZ Community Radio
- Press Play Salem

PRESENTERS:

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

YOUTUBE FEATURED PERFORMERS:

- Alan Reid
- Seamus Gagné

LIVE ZOOM EVENT:

- Bill Mullen | Whisky Tasting

IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS:

- Aislinn Adams | Native Plants Stories Connecting Oregon & Ireland
- Lisa Lynne | Celtic Harp Hands-On Workshop



Celtic Harps, Rare Instruments & Wondrous Stories with Lisa Lynne & Aryeh Frankfurter

IN-PERSON CONCERTS:

- Celtic Harps, Rare Instruments & Wondrous Stories | Lisa Lynne & Aryeh Frankfurter
- The Fire

Sound: Many thanks to Mark Thimm who did sound for the Celtic Harps concert and to Yoakum Sound & Light for The Fire concert.

Volunteers: The Festival would not have been possible without these volunteers. Together they contributed over 260 hours reaching out to musicians, presenters, setting up, breaking down, and researching information for our 6th Annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival website.

Festival Planning Committee: Ann McBride, Beth Nevue, Elisa Chandler, Ginny Wedel, Jessica Boone
Volunteers: Carl Beilstein, Drew Alstoft, Mark Thimm, Pam Kelly, Patti McCarthy, and Richard Chandler.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Samhain Celtic New Year Festival website. Visit <https://celticfestival.info/> for more music and demonstrations.



The Fire



Celtic Harp Hands-On Workshop with Lisa Lynne





