



2022 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

When the Ceili of the Valley Society Board of Directors met in January 2022, the state of Oregon was still highly impacted by Covid and its impacts on being able to gather safely. A mask mandate remained in place.

Based on that, our Board anticipated another year of limitations with indoor dance classes, Ceilis and our Samhain Festival. We planned for that, but held out hope for a loosening of restrictions.

That wish came to fruition with our ability to start indoor Ceilis at the VFW Hall in March 2022. Because of the close contact with dancing, our group decided to require vaccinations and masks at Ceilis. Attendees, musicians and callers alike were generally supportive of this decision for the health of our community. Those restrictions gradually were loosened during the year. Ceilis now only recommend masks and vaccinations.

There were many highlights to the year. Amber Milmore, owner of The Freckled Lass, contacted Ceili of the Valley. Her business generously sponsored our March and October Ceilis. That also help create ideas for other fund-raising possibilities.

Participating in private parties and community events was also notable.

From a birthday party for a 100-year-old to dancing at weddings, schools, Saturday Market and festivals, the Ceili of the Valley Society dance demonstration team was back in the community spotlight. The local press, the Salem Reporter, noticed us, too. It ran a story on us performing at Saturday Market for International Dance Day.

Our Samhain Celtic New Year Festival returned to an in-person event at the Willamette Heritage Center this year. Not knowing how the community would respond to an inside event in the fall, we were thrilled to have over 500 attendees enjoy the music, cultural groups, activities and foods of the Celtic nations. A group from the Isle of Man participated for the first year. The lunch menu, soups from three Celtic nations, sold out, an indication of the attendance. Advertising was key to the success of the festival through social media, posters and signage, including a Commercial Street banner and an electronic billboard sign on the Bliss Insurance building. Thanks to sponsorship and grant support, our group was able to have outstanding musicians and presenters, as well as keeping admission and meal prices cost-effective for attendees.

Though Ceili attendance has not returned to its pre-pandemic levels, Ceili of the Valley Society continues to attract outstanding musicians and callers. In fact, our group hosted the eleven member first all-women's Two Rivers Ceili band in November.

Our group is vibrant and engaging in the greater Salem Community. In an effort to reach out more in social media, we started an Instagram account for Ceili of the Valley and also regularly post activities on the Travel Salem event calendar.

In closing, Ceili of the Valley Society is so grateful to those who support us through grants and donations. We are also fortunate to have a generous group of volunteers. Thanks to our dedicated Board, Ceili of the Valley Society has successfully navigated the pandemic and remains a strong cultural component of the Salem community. I invite you to review the complete list of those people and groups in this annual report.

Beth
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

The Celtic Music Hour had a complete year of new shows in 2022. That is remarkable after having part-year new programming and many rebroadcasts due to the pandemic effects in both 2020 and 2021.

Always trying to keep the programming fresh, we instituted some new program themes including Irish American Music, Postcards from Celtic Nations, and Return of Spring. Along with that, music promoters from national and international areas contacted us to provide new music from upcoming musicians. Our year included a couple extra New Music - themed shows specifically designed to showcase these contributions.

A Celtic Music Hour year would not be complete without interviews. We were able to complete two this year. The first was with Irish musician Seamus Egan before his Seamus Egan Project Concert at the Smith Fine Arts Series at Western Oregon University.

The second interview was with Celtic Woman singer Muirgen O'Mahony in May Because Celtic Woman was on tour, its promoter asked that we interview Muirgen to showcase the group's latest CD, Postcards from Ireland. This is the second time we've been asked to promote the tour. The first time, the tour was canceled due to the pandemic. This time, the sold-out show at Ilani Casino in Washington happened, as did many others on the United States tour.

On a final note, we played a song, performed by a Ukrainian Celtic music group, which was written to support their nation under siege by war.

We look forward to another year of providing Celtic Music to our listening audiences.

celtic music hour

KMUZ 88.5 & 100.7 FM, Salem/Keizer

10-11 a.m. Tuesdays; rebroadcast 7 to 8 p.m. Friday

Go to kmuz.org for streaming options

teacher's note



Quoted from my 2017 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!" These sentiments all still ring true.

2022 brought back familiar faces and some new ones! It was great to renew connections and to make new dancing friends. I had fun finding themed Scottish dances to use throughout the year and trying new tunes to use with our favorite dances. I truly appreciate the patience of experienced dancers as we introduce new dancers to steps and figures. People learn by watching and doing, and you help to make this a fun experience for our new friends. Our demo group was able to get out and about again, which was lots of fun. I especially like the opportunities we have to incorporate the audience members into our dances. The smiles and giggles are priceless.

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.

Here's to a new year of dancing...may it bring more new friends, more new tunes, more new dances, and most of all, more fun shared with each other as we figure things out!

Elisa

602-316-0825

Elisachandler1@gmail.com

2022 IN REVIEW

CÉILIS

Céili of the Valley returned full force in March 2022, just in time for St. Patrick's Day! We had our first time Céili sponsor, The Freckled Lass, for our March Céili. We started out with mask and vaccination requirements, following the CDC and State recommendations. Thanks to all musicians, callers, and attendees that willingly followed requirements for the safety of themselves and others.

MUSICIANS:

Many thanks to the amazing musicians that played at our céilís and events. We were all so ready to hear and dance to “live” music! Traditional Irish music were provided by the below musicians playing an array of instruments.

- Baron Collins-Hill
- Bob Soper
- Bronnie Griffin
- Cary Novotny
- Chad Southwell
- Channing Dodson
- D'n'A (Doug Heydon & Amey Herman)
- Geraldine Murray
- Joe Root
- Kate Gregory
- Nancy Conescu
- Na Rósaí (Richie Rosencrans, Preston Howard-Wild & Erik Killops)
- Preston Howard Wilde
- Ryan Johnson
- Two Rivers Céili Band (11 Members!)

CALLERS:

- Bruce Kenny
- Elisa Chandler
- Geraldine Murray
- Harry Reed
- Jack Kenny
- Maldon Meehan
- Mary Lowes
- Shannon Brown

Many thanks to volunteer Mark Thimm for doing sound for our céilís.



2022 IN REVIEW

events

Our volunteer performance team is (19) strong. Leading our team is Elisa Chandler with volunteer dancers: Ann McBride, Beth Nevue, Cammie Miner, Carl Beilstein, Darrin Johnson, David Zelmer, Ernie Kirchner, Ginny Wedel, Hannah Zelmer, Jessica Boone, Laura DeVoe, Len Munks, Lydia Goodman, Megan Willett, Patti McCarthy, Richard Chandler, Tracy Loew and Mark Thimm, our sound person.

Community Outreach events: (All events in Salem unless otherwise noted.). CVS spreads Celtic joy in communities all year long through 14 events. Approximately 1,800 people attended.

February—AICS virtual St. Patrick's Day event

March—100th Birthday Party for George McNabb

April—International Dance Day at Salem Saturday Market

June—Private Wedding Reception
World Beat

July—Salem Art Fair & Festival

August—Englewood Festival

September—Private Wedding Reception
Salem Saturday Market for National Dance Day
Albany Scottish Festival & Highland Games
Olalla Cultural Festival

December—Magic at the Mill

Events hosted by Céili of the Valley Society:

March—St. Patrick's Day Parade

led by Willamette Valley Pipe and Drums

October— Samhain Celtic New Year Festival

accomplishments

Grant awards from —

- City of Salem – TOT Grant
- Oregon Arts Commission (OAC) grant
- Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), Small Arts & Culture Grant, Fred W. Fields Fund of Oregon Community Foundation

Started an Instagram account.

The Freckled Lass was our first céili sponsorship for our March céili.



samhain festival

SPONSORS:

Céili of the Valley was so excited to return in-person for our 7th annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival! The festival was made possible by the generous support of these sponsors.

\$500 AND MORE:

- Capitol Subaru
- City of Salem – TOT Grant
- Real Systems

\$250 AND MORE:

- All-Ireland Cultural Society
- Salem Health
- The Summit Group of Oregon
- Friends of Céili of the Valley Society

IN-KIND DONATIONS:

- Bliss Sequoia Insurance
- KМУZ Community Radio
- Press Play Salem

EXHIBITORS:

- All Ireland Cultural Society
- Céili of the Valley Society & Salem Multicultural Institute – Celtic Nations / World Beat Display
- Comhaltas Ceóltoriri Eireann (CCE)
- Oregon Manx Society
- Welsh Society of Oregon
- Willamette Valley Nomads
- Willamette Valley Pipes & Drums

VENDORS:

- Angela Dawn Creations
- Bridie's Irish Faire
- Carbony Celtic Winds
- Celtic Kate Gemwaith
- Genesis 3D
- Granny Fi's Shortbread
- T and T Creations
- The Freckled Lass

Sound provided by: Peter Yoakum
Publicity provided by: Carlee Wright



PRESENTERS:

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

- Headliner band – Biddy on the Bench (Casey Dyer, Kevin Grgurich, Noah Cotter, and Trevor Cormack) members did workshops, concert, and provided live music for the Ceil Dancing Finale.
- Aislinn Adams – The Irish Civil War 1922-1923. Looking Back 100 years
- Amica Grimberg – Hand Painting
- Biddy on the Bench – Fiddle Workshop (Classical vs. Irish), Shanty Singing Workshop, and Uilleann Pipes Workshop
- Carl Beilstein – Celtic Knots with Rope
- Capital Calligraphers – Names in Uncial Font
- Eric Chandler – The Folding and Wearing of the Great Kilt
- Firelight Stories – Celtic Storytelling by Gordon Munro
- Rob Gandara – Beginner Whistle Workshop
- Micheál Ó Domhnaill Branch of Oregon, Comhaltas Ceóltóirí Eireann (CCE) and Two Rivers Band – Set Dancing Presentation with audience participation
- Scottish Dancing Presentation – Emily Bonneau, Hanna Zelmer, Nate Wahlgren, Céili of the Valley Demo Dancers
- Willamette Valley Nomads – Hurling
- Willamette Valley Pipes & Drums – Festival Opener & Closing March Through

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



FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:

Beth Nevue – Family Crafts Area Coordinator, Elisa Chandler – Festival Co-chair, Ginny Wedel – Festival Co-chair, Jessica Boone - Signage, Len Munks – Safety Coordinator, Megan Willett – Volunteer Coordinator, Pamela Kelly – Vendor Coordinator, Patty Thompson – Food Coordinator, Rick Chandler – Outdoor Mini-Highland Games

VOLUNTEERS:

The Festival would not have been possible without these volunteers. Together they contributed over 930 hours recruiting musicians, presenters, vendors, and exhibitors, setting up, working the festival day, breaking down, and post-festival tasks.

Ann McBride
Art Short
Bear
Ben Willett
Bill Galbraith
Bob Howell
Cammie Miner
Carl Beilstein
Cathy Quinn
Christen Short
Christopher Harker
Darrin Johnson
David Scrange
David Zelmer
Deb Ralls
Drew Astolfi
Emily Bonneau
Emily Standish
Eric Chandler
Ernest Kirchner

Hannah Zelmer
Jodi O'Neill
John DeJarnatt
John Johnson
Jonathan Pope
Karen Scrange
Kathleen Fish
Liane Kirchner
Linda Schaffer
Lisa Chandler
Lydia Goodman
Mark Thimm
Oliver Kirchner
Patti McCarthy
Red Kirchner
Rob Miner
Sharon Crocker
Tracy Loew
Vere McCarty
Zoe Davis



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

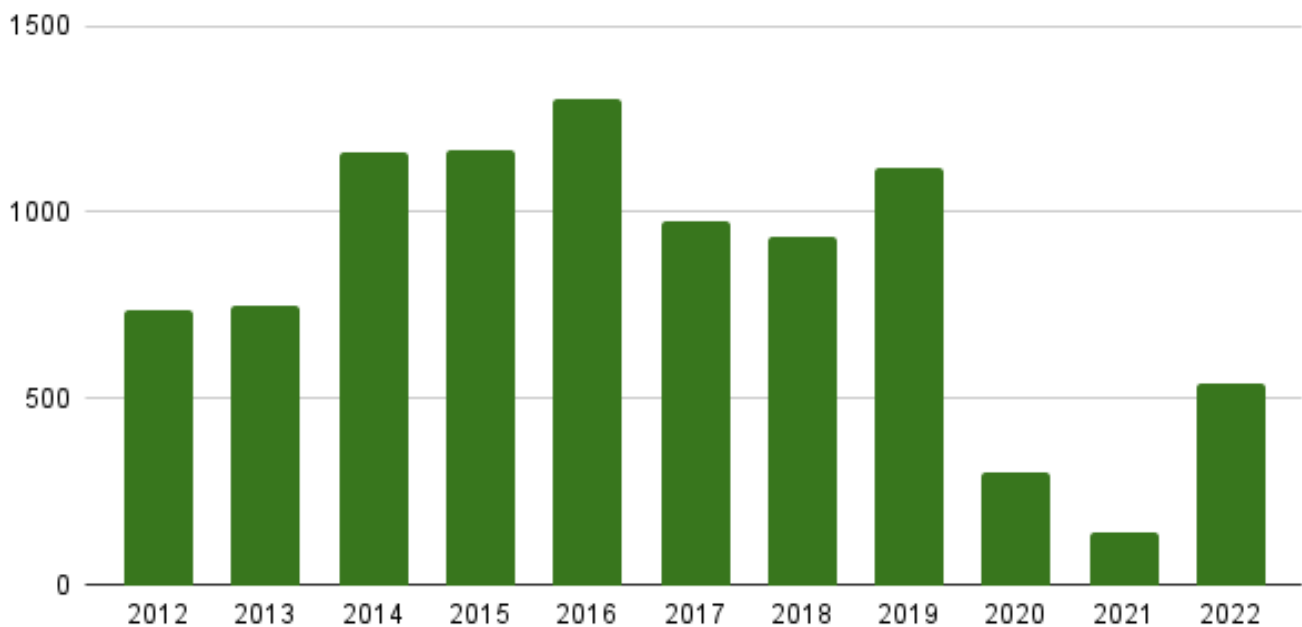
class attendance summary

NOTE: Years 2020 through 2022, attendance was down due to Covid.

For part of 2020 through 2021, Virtual classes were held January through April. One in-person class was held in August 2021 before we cancelled classes.

In January and February 2022, classes were cancelled. On March 2022, in-person classes resumed.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	99	48	93	90	102	120	82	91	86	43	0
February	68	48	87	125	107	98	51	90	69	23	0
March	99	56	95	139	146	97	79	103	41	52	44
April	77	72	132	100	112	92	84	123	0	9	34
May	51	44	98	92	127	91	95	87	0	0	61
June	61	61	92	102	124	93	54	91	0	0	67
July	72	69	123	90	109	56	89	105	0	0	41
August	53	58	80	68	123	72	63	81	0	12	62
September	37	71	128	118	88	59	76	78	14	0	57
October	53	82	84	86	93	69	106	122	37	0	74
November	34	79	92	81	119	70	99	95	26	0	75
December	34	61	55	74	54	57	55	52	28	0	28
	738	749	1,159	1,165	1304	974	933	1118	301	139	543



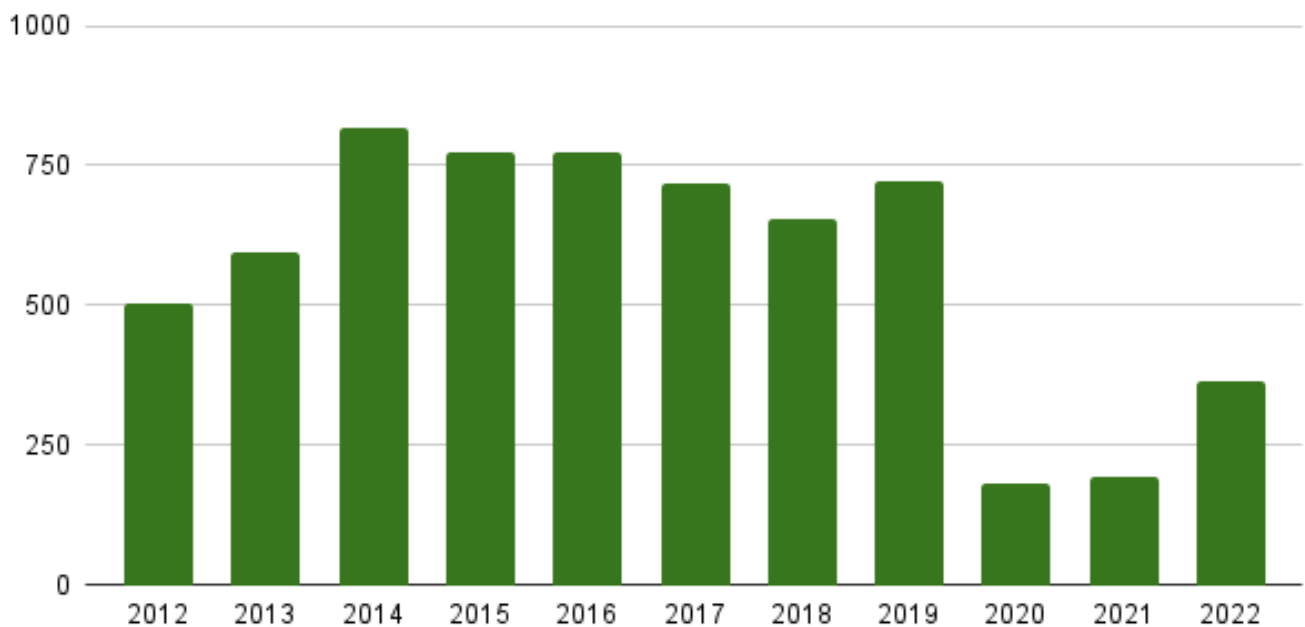
céili attendance summary

NOTE: Years 2020 through 2022, attendance was down due to Covid.

In 2021, we had a combination of virtual, outdoor and indoor céilis. It was a year of flexibility.

In 2022, due to Covid, céilis were cancelled in January and February. On March 2022, in-person céilis resumed.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	63	40	137	75	69	65	62	52	68	0	0
February	43	63	76	130	76	76	38	72	69	0	0
March	52	170	108	100	100	113	53	63	0	13	46
April	71	34	52	70	65	51	59	60	0	0	35
May	37	35	53	50	40	40	39	60	0	0	38
June	0	27	0	0	60	40	35	36	0	28	30
July	37	18	54	50	67	57	54	66	0	29	41
August	27	26	67	50	47	33	57	46	11	31	34
September	33	50	73	63	54	67	72	72	34	0	27
October	32	35	50	69	67	44	60	65	0	26	38
November	76	58	78	51	68	68	71	79	0	32	48
December	32	37	70	64	60	65	54	51	0	35	26
	503	593	818	772	773	719	654	722	182	194	363



year end treasurer's report

January through December 2022

income

Class Fees (entry/donations)	\$2,225.00
Ceilis (entry/donations)	\$3,599.80
Ceili Sponsorship	\$295.17
Silent Auction	\$0.00
Grants	\$7,178.00
Donations - General	\$1,030.53
Festival - Donations/Sponsorship	\$2,567.52
Festival	\$8,870.97
Honorarium - Demo	\$1,027.28
Membership	\$619.21
Book Donations	\$45.25
T-Shirts	\$112.02
Adjustment to account due to non-deposited check	\$72.00
Yachats House	\$855.43

Income Subtotal **\$28,498.18**

January 1st, 2022 Ckg Acct Balance \$10,054.63

Total Income **\$38,552.81**

expenses

Caller	\$725.00
Ceili Musicians	\$3,325.00
Ceili Sound	\$200.00
Walk About/Demo Musicians	\$750.00
Contracts (Festival, Posters, Website)	\$2,100.00
Festival	\$9,723.99
VFW - Rent	\$2,700.00
VFW - Annual Donation	\$0.00
Mileage Reimbursement - Chandlers	\$480.00
Administrative Fees	\$302.34
(USPS, DOJ, Secy of State, Website Domain Names)	
Insurance	\$2,256.00
Donations to other Non-Profits	\$222.00
(World Beat, Seanachai)	
More Ink - Ceili Posters, Qtr Sheets	\$321.77
Yachats House	\$1,372.41
KMUZ - Quarterly Underwriting	\$260.00

Total Expenses **\$24,738.51**

January 1st, 2023 Ckg Acct Balance \$13,814.30

Petty Cash Fund \$50.00

(14) Free Student and (9) Dance Cards Redeemed.
In-Kind Donations: General CVS + Festival (reported) \$4787.65

