



# Nuacht

## The Newsletter of The Irish Club of Alaska

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***For our October event, the Irish Club of Alaska will join with The Celtic Community of Alaska in celebrating the turning of the year.***

## **Samhain 2020**

**Theme of the night will be: "Renewal"**

**Join us by Zoom on Friday, October 30th, at 7 pm!**  
**[Click here to register for free!](#)**

### **Performers scheduled to appear:**

Alaska Fire Circus (fire jugglers & dancers)

Amelia Hogan, singer

Lisa Maloney and the Richardsons (barrel dance and music)

Dixine Schiavi will teach a Breton dance ('An Dro') around the fire.

### **Planned activities:**

- ❖ The old and new fires.
- ❖ Wheel of the Year: Learn the seasonal holidays and play a game to collect the Symbols. Enter your card (digitally) to be entered in a drawing!
- ❖ Fire ceremony
- ❖ Auld Lang Syne.

You can relax and just watch the event, or you can join the festivities with us from the safety of your home.



**Samhain** is a religious festival originating from an ancient Celtic spiritual tradition. In modern times, Samhain (a Gaelic word pronounced "sow'-win") is usually celebrated from October 31 to November 1, that is, from dusk to dusk). It is a time to welcome in the harvest and usher in "the dark half of the year."

Celebrants believe that the barriers between the physical world and the spirit world break down during Samhain, allowing more interaction between humans and denizens of the Otherworld.

One of the most popular Samhain stories told during the festival was of "The Second Battle of Mag Tuired," which portrays the final conflict between the Celtic pantheon known as the Tuatha de Danann and evil oppressors known as the Fomor. The myths state that the battle unfolded over the period of Samhain.

One of the most famous Samhain-related stories is "The Adventures of Nera," in which the hero Nera encounters a corpse and fairies, and enters into the Otherworld.

Samhain figured into the adventures of mythological Celtic hero Fionn mac Cumhaill when he faced the fire-breathing underworld dweller Aillen, who would burn down the Hall of Tara every Samhain.

Samhain also figures into another Fionn mac Cumhaill legend, where the hero is sent to the Land Beneath the Wave. As well as taking place on Samhain, it features descriptions of the hero's holiday gatherings.

In her book, *The Festive Food of Ireland*, Darina Allen describes the Samhain feast of her childhood as "huge plates of colcannon...with a pool of melted butter in the center...slices of warm apple cake fresh from the oven with cream and soft brown sugar...and barmbrack, a traditional fruit bread with a ring hidden in it. Everyone longed for the ring, which meant certain marriage before the year ended even if you were only five!"

***Oíche Shamhna Shona Daoibh*** (EE-hyeh HOW-nuh HUN-uh DEE-iv)



“I feel the nights stretching away  
thousands long behind the days  
till they reach the darkness where  
all of me is ancestor.”

– Annie Finch, *Spells: New and Selected Poems*



“Samhain is the threshold to the Season of Death.  
The fertile fields of summer give way to the bare forests of autumn. As crops slowly die  
and winter takes over, the cycle of life is once again approaching  
a renewal.”

– Dacha Avelin

## Support the Irish Club of Alaska

The Irish Club of Alaska provides our community with quality musical performances, learning opportunities and cultural experiences that create a window into Ireland and Irish-America.

Through our explorations of Irish music, dance, history, language, film, literature and culinary arts we offer Alaskans, including our children and youth, a greater understanding and appreciation of the Irish contribution to world culture. We employ the talents of local performers, artists, and enthusiasts to create our interactive offerings, while interfacing with other Celtic arts and educational organizations in our locale.

You can support ICA in several ways. Go to <http://www.irishalaska.org/product.html> for information.

- Become a member.
- Donate to the Club or for a specific event/activity.
- Register for the upcoming Half-Pats concert and workshop with Sky Kelsey

From *The Tundra Thistle...*

2021 Alaskan Men in Kilts Calendar Nominations

Nominations are still open for few good men in Kilts to be featured in the Scottish Club's Alaska Men in Kilts Calendar for 2021. We are fortunate to have a professional photographer who has generously volunteered her time and talent to make these kilted men look their best! We not only want to show off our fabulous kilted Men, but we also want to show off our beautiful state and what makes each man Alaska tough! So, if you know an Alaskan man who is willing to throw on their kilt and smile for a camera, send their contact information our way. We want to feature different aspects of our Club and Games, so we are looking for Pipers, Drummers, Athletes, Beer or Scotch Drinkers, Blacksmiths, Bearded Men, etc. You get the idea! These calendars will be an entertaining fundraiser for the Scottish Club and will be available to purchase around our St. Andrews night event in November. Just in time for the perfect Christmas gift for your kilt loving friends!

## Irish Club of Alaska Calendar

Event	Day/Time	Location
<b>Samhain 2020</b>	Friday, October 30 7:00 pm	Virtual – <a href="#">Click here to register for free!</a>
<b>Song Circle</b>	The last Saturday of the month	Watch for email from ICA for date/time and virtual meeting log-in information or call Kate O'Dell (see below)
<b>Irish Club of Alaska Board Meeting</b>	Friday, October 16 7:00 pm	This meeting is in a Zoom room. If you would like to sit in, contact President Peggy Monaghan at one of the email addresses below.

For a full calendar of events and details, go to the **Irish Club web site** ([www.irishalaska.org](http://www.irishalaska.org))

### Irish Club of Alaska

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### Board of Directors

President: Peggy Monaghan  
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 (Note: If I don't answer my phone during election season, please leave a message.)

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