



Nuacht

The Newsletter of The Irish Club of Alaska

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The Irish Club of Alaska Carries On

The ICA Board of Directors held their first virtual meeting in a Zoom room on Saturday, April 4, 2020. The question of the hour was what the next few months were going to hold for us now that our plans for getting together physically have been either postponed or canceled.

- How can we use technology to continue hosting an event every month?
 - Virtual events
 - House concerts (we need to identify a good app that permits performing together while we're in separate locations)
 - We might include a virtual Happy Hour or High Tea while we enjoy the music or spoken word.
 - Mystery Night (we would have to figure out how to be in teams that can still interact with each other)
 - Sessions (again, need to find a good app)
 - Lessons/coaching: cooking, singing, Irish language, etc.
 - Monthly Song Circle
 - Can we have a virtual Galway Days Irish Festival?
 - The same music, classes, etc. that were part of last year's event?
 - Vendors?
 - Coordinate with artists' own web sites?
- Should we have a virtual Annual Meeting? If so when?

The Board needs to know YOUR IDEAS/THOUGHTS/SUGGESTIONS for ways we can continue with the Club mission and purpose until the pandemic eases its grip on our community. Please email akirishcommunication@gmail.com or go to the ICA web site and click on the Contact Us link. You can comment on the ideas listed above, or

you can share what you've been learning about how we can stay together alone. You can also volunteer to help with any of the activities.

Are Your Dues Due?

[from Kate O'Dell] I know you're raising an eyebrow or two at a request for money, particularly if you don't have income at this time. Nevertheless, this is a reminder that, now when we need them most, very few of the ways we maintain communication and contact with each other are free. (If you would like to know more about the budget, you can email our Treasurer Tom Brooks - irishclubak@gmail.com)

A membership form is included on the last page of this newsletter. Please contact me (Kate, at ks57deweese@gmail.com) if you want to chat about renewing your membership during these times when your "discretionary funds" budget category may be low or empty.

If you receive your newsletter by the U. S. Postal Service, you will see your membership year on the address label. Those who receive their communication by email will see a note from me that their dues are due. If you don't see that personal note, you're good, and Go Raibh Maith Agat!

Help Us Honor Our Founders

The Irish Club web site now has a Founders Page

<http://www.irishalaska.org/founders-page.html>

On this page we hope to have photos and short biographies of all those who organized the Irish American Claddagh Society in 1985 and kept it a strong presence in Anchorage throughout the years.

If you knew one of our founding members, please send your reminiscences (and photos) to the Irish Club's email or U.S. Postal Service address.

Did You Know...?

Pati Thomas received an article from a friend in Albuquerque, NM with the headline "Irish Ancestors Helped Shape Albuquerque History": Emerald Isle Culture Still Prominent Today." The Irish American Society of New Mexico, which is based in Albuquerque, boasts about 300 members and promotes Irish heritage through regular programs and events. President Eliza Dowling

notes that “The only requirement [for membership in the Society] is that your check clears the bank. You just have to like things Irish.”

According to Dowling, “The Irish had a large part in the founding of Albuquerque.” Among the names of those who figure prominently in New Mexico history is Billy the Kid, the son of an Irish mother, who brought him and his brother to Santa Fe. “In addition to his outlaw legacy in New Mexico, the Kid participated in the state’s Lincoln County War.”

from the **tundra thistle**

Newsletter of the Alaskan Scottish Club

2020 Alaska Scottish Highland Games

The ASC Board of Directors and Executive Director are closely monitoring the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation being felt around the world along with the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), and City of Palmer. The safety and well-being of our community during this event is our most important responsibility!

Our Games planning committee is busy planning this year’s 39th annual Alaska Scottish Highland Games (ASHG) to ensure its success and safety to the community. As part of the planning, we are in close contact with local officials as the situation evolves to ensure we are well prepared to support our community. As of today, we anticipate the ASHG will go on as planned as we see this event being a welcomed community event as restrictions are lifted and our state and country begin to heal. We are working on measures so, if the date needs to be changed, we will be prepared for the change.

The Board of Directors will be meeting via Zoom, Monday, May 18th and it will be during at that meeting that any changes will happen. As this unprecedented situation continues to evolve, we will post updates on our website and social media to ensure that everyone is being kept up to date.

If you have any questions, please contact our Executive Director, Jeni McDaniel directly. She can be reached at 602-359-4893 or ahsgcoordinator@gmail.com

An Easter message from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to the Irish at home and abroad: *"The Irish community abroad, which extends to some 75 million in its widest definition, is a community united by its roots to Ireland, but also by these shared values that our Irishness embodies. Sabina and I would like to convey the sympathy and solidarity of the Irish people at home to our wider global family, as we share together in our different places a response to this challenging crisis."*

Easter in Ireland

In her book *The Festive Foods of Ireland*, Darina Allen describes The Stations, "an age-old tradition in Ireland which is still very much alive."

It dates back to Penal times when religious persecution forbade Catholic priests to say Mass. They went into hiding, and Mass was often said rather furtively on Mass rocks in the woods or in people's houses.

Nowadays in country areas people take turns every few years to have Mass said in their home for neighbours, friends, and relatives from several townlands within the parish...It is considered a great honour to be the chosen household, and preparations are started months in advance...

After Mass the next person to have the Stations would be decided upon and the dues would be collected. The priests would then sit down in the parlour with the assembled company to a breakfast feast of porridge with thick cream followed by a lavish fry-up served with a mountain of buttered toast, soda bread and copious cups of strong tea.

The Breakfast might include any or all of the following:

- ❖ Back bacon rashers, green or smoked
- ❖ Streaky bacon rashers, green or smoked
- ❖ Pork sausages
- ❖ Tomatoes
- ❖ Slices of white and black pudding
- ❖ Free range eggs
- ❖ Wild mushrooms (if you can get them)
- ❖ Soda bread and toast

An *Ulster fry* would include fried potato bread (fadge), and very delicious it is, too.

Beannachtaí na Cásca
Happy Easter

Chag Pesach Sameach!
Happy Passover

Irish Club of Alaska Calendar

Event	Day/Time	Location
Song Circle	Usually the last Saturday of every month	Email ICA for date/time and virtual meeting log-in information

For a full calendar of events and details, go to the Irish Club web site (www.irishalaska.org)

Irish Club of Alaska

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USPS address: ICA, P.O. Box 241854, Anchorage, AK 99524-1854

Board of Directors

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Vice President: Dawn Berg
Treasurer: Tom Brooks
Secretary: Claire Wilson

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If you're using Zoom for your online meetings, go to <http://www.EFF.org> for information on how to harden your Zoom settings to protect your privacy and avoid trolls.



The Irish Club of Alaska

New and Renewing Membership

Date _____ 1 year 3 years 5 years

___ New Member ___ This payment will
expire _____

If you get your newsletter by email, membership is \$20 per year, \$45 for 3 years, and \$75 for 5 years. **NOTE:** If you wish to receive your newsletter by US Postal Service, please pay an extra \$5 per year.

Name(s) _____

Other members at this address _____

Address _____

Phone numbers _____ (home)

_____ (work)

_____ (mobile)

E-mail address _____

To which address do you want your newsletter mailed? _____ USPS mail
_____ email

You may mail a check or money order with this form to:

ICA
P.O. Box 241854
Anchorage, AK 99524-1854

I am (we are) **volunteering** to help with the work of an Event or Standing Committee (check all that apply)

_____ ICA Board of Directors _____ Membership _____ Program

_____ Finance _____ Auditing _____ Scholarships and Awards

_____ Galway Days Irish Festival