

Slighe nan Gaidheal
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 www.slighe.com



Slighe nan Gaidheal's Board of Directors Election Is Coming Up!

Slighe nan Gaidheal, but you must be at least eight-
 teen years of age.

To learn more about the position, the election process,
 or to receive the Candidate Statement Guidelines,
 please feel free to contact me, or any current/past
 Board member. Candidate statements of up to 250
 words are due to the Elections Chairperson on or
 before September 23, 2013. Candidate statements that
 do not meet the Candidate Statement Guidelines will
 be rejected, so please send in your statement well in
 advance of the deadline.

REMINDER—outgoing Board members who wish
 to stand for re-election must also submit candidate
 statements.

Sincerely,
 George Young
 Elections Chairperson
 253.432.1570
 Oldhiker50@aol.com

Dear Friends of Slighe nan Gaidheal,

It is almost time to elect three directors to each serve
 a three-year term on Slighe nan Gaidheal's nine-
 member Board. As usual, the election results will
 be announced during the Annual General Meeting,
 on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at the Kenmore
 Community Club, 7304 NE 175th St., Kenmore, WA
 98028.

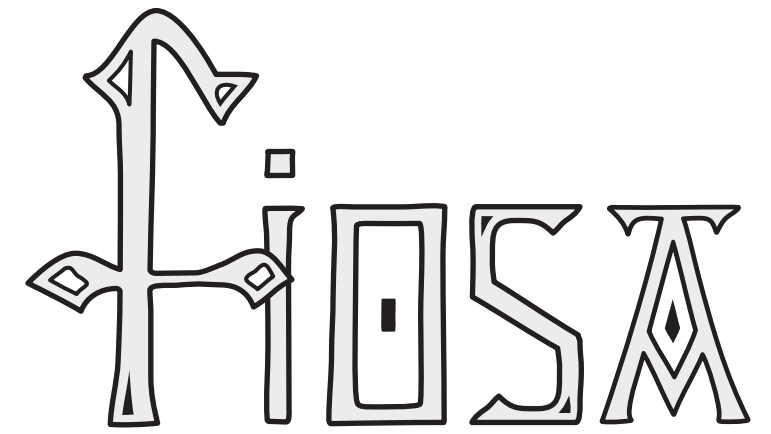
Becoming a Director of the organization gives you an
 opportunity to take a direct hand in helping to build
 organizational infrastructure and plan activities that
 fulfill Slighe nan Gaidheal's mission. That mission
 is "to teach and disseminate to the general public
 the Scottish Gaelic language in its contemporary and
 historical context through classes, performances, and
 the encouragement of its routine use."

Do you have ideas that will help Slighe nan Gaidheal
 fulfill its mission? We would love to have you join
 the Board! Please consider standing for election this
 fall. Candidates are not required to be members of



I AM
 BRADAN

Quarterly newsletter of Slighe nan Gaidheal



Seattle's Gaelic society

An Samhradh No. 2, 2013

Waulking at the Shepherds' Extravaganza

by Penny DeGraff

Members of Seirm presented a *luadh* or waulking
 demonstration on April 20th at the Puyallup Spring
 Fair as part of the Shepherds' Extravaganza.



Shepherds' Extravaganza Waulking Demo: Heidi Buschmann, Nan Pardeu,
 Nancy Neveln, and Jennifer McClure watch as weaver Pat Pietsch makes
 some adjustments to the cloth she wove for the waulking. Photo from video
 by Dale DeGraff.

The Shepherds' Extravaganza is an annual sheep,
 wool, and craft show sponsored by Western
 Washington Sheep and Fleece Shows, Inc. The orga-
 nization's purpose is to promote both the sheep and
 wool industries. The show features many education-
 al workshops and demonstrations, ranging from rais-
 ing and shearing sheep to the process of making
 wool into cloth to the creation of crafts and clothing
 from the finished cloth.

Spinner and weaver Pat Pietsch wove ten yards of
 brightly colored woolen cloth with various shades
 of orange, brown, gold, and red for us to waulk.
 The cloth was a true labor of love. Shepherd and
 workshop organizer Amy Wolf raised and sheared
 the sheep to provide the fleece that Pat carded, dyed,
 and spun into yarn before weaving the cloth. Once
 we finished waulking the cloth, Pat planned to cut it

into shorter lengths to make a variety of lap blankets
 for nursing home residents.

Slighe nan Gaidheal has a long history of preserving
 waulking songs and associated traditions. Seirm
 has sung waulking songs over cloth somewhere in
 Western Washington at least once a year since our
 first waulking, held at the Weaving Works in Seattle
 in October of 1995. As any of our singers will attest,
 singing a waulking song in rhythm while beating the
 wet cloth on a table gives one a whole new perspec-
 tive and tactile experience. That experience is a key to
 the function, rhythm, and phrasing of waulking songs
 as actual work songs.

We were absolutely delighted when piper and long-
 time supporter Colin MacRae first introduced us to
 Pat Pietsch ten years ago and helped us tap into the
 local fiber arts community, a group who also seek to
 preserve ancient traditions.

For additional pictures of the waulking, check out
 the Shepherds' Extravaganza 2013 photo gallery at
<http://www.shepherds-extravaganza.com>.



The Puyallup Spring Fair crowd watches as the group sings a rousing
 waulking song and beats the cloth on the table with great vigor. L to R:
 Nan Pardeu, Nancy Neveln, Jennifer McClure, Jim McKnight, and Carmen
 Mettler. Photo taken from video by Dale DeGraff.

Slighe nan Gaidheal's Board of Directors



Kate Freeburg
President
katefreeburg@slighe.com
Group 2 | term expires 2013



Rich Hill
Vice President
richardhill@slighe.com
Group 1 | term expires 2015



Miriah Hetherington
Treasurer
miriahhetherington@slighe.com
Group 2 | term expires 2013



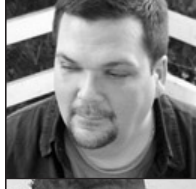
George Christensen
Secretary
georgechristensen@slighe.com
Group 3 | term expires 2014



Geoff Sammons
Gaelic Education Officer
geoff@slighe.com
Group 3 | term expires 2014



Position Vacant
Director
Group 2 | term expires 2013



Seumas Gagne
Director
seumasgagne@slighe.com
Group 1 | term expires 2015



Penny McLeod DeGraff
Director
penny@slighe.com
Group 3 | term expires 2014



Stacey Giermann
Director
staceygiermann@slighe.com
Group 1 | term expires 2015

Publication Information

Am Bradan Fiosa is produced on a quarterly basis for the members of Slighe nan Gaidheal by the Communications Committee and additional contributors.
Co-Editors: Nan Pardew & Anne Paulsen
Layout: Linda Henry

Contributors to this issue: Kate Freeburg, Penny and Dale DeGraff, Seumas Gagne, Gary Ingle, Ted Neveln, Geoffrey Sammons, George Young, and Eileen Warr-Marti

Mission Statement: The mission of *Am Bradan Fiosa* is to provide the membership of Slighe nan Gaidheal with news and information about upcoming events and items of interest to Gaelic language learners, and to document the life of our community.

Slighe nan Gaidheal members and supporters are welcome to submit items for publication in *Am Bradan Fiosa* that are Gaelic-related and meet its editorial guidelines. Publication of such contributions does not imply endorsement of programs or events that are not sponsored by Slighe nan Gaidheal.

Next Publication deadline: September 15, 2013

President's Column

I hope this finds everyone healthy. We have had a busy spring including workshops with Wendy MacIsaac and Mary Jane Lamond, a waulking demonstration as part of the Shepherds' Extravaganza at the Puyallup Spring Fair, Seirm's Spring Concert and Dance, Seirm's performance at Folklife in Seattle, and the graduation of three of our members from the Zero to Gaelic (Z2G) program. With summer upon us, we have upcoming performances by Seirm at the Scottish Highland Games in Mt. Vernon and Enumclaw, and the Slighe nan Gaidheal Tent at the Games in Enumclaw. I hope we will see you there.

An excerpt from a post on Facebook by Seumas Gagne on April 17, 2013: "Sixteen years ago today we filed with the State of Washington." We have come a long way over those sixteen years. We now have a formalized three-year Gaelic Education program with Z2G. We have a solid music group in Seirm that successfully participated and competed in several *mòdan* and has presented a wonderful concert each year. We have added a Parents and Children's group to our programs. We have a successful Féis program. As an organization, we should be proud of what we have accomplished to this point. I would love to hear from you as to what you would like to see added or expanded to help our organization continue to grow. You can e-mail me at katefreeburg@slighe.com

Kate Freeburg
President



Seirm's band plays some tunes at the annual Seirm Spring Concert and Dance May 18th. L to R: Nan Pardew, Sally Verrinder, Sharman Smith, Miranda Marti, Seumas Gagne, Eileen Warr-Marti, Margaret Salmi, Jason Kies, Penny McLeod DeGraff, Ron Johnson

Another Season of Zero to Gaelic Ends, the Next is on the Horizon!

by Geoffrey Sammons

The ninth season of Zero to Gaelic (Z2G) concluded in May. We graduated three students at the Gaelic Intensive Day: David MacDonald, James McFarland and Beth Tibbetts. *Meal ur naidheachd! Tha fios againn gum bi sibh a' dèanamh mòran spòrs ann an Ceum Suas!*



This year's three Z2G graduates flanked by SnG President Kate Freeburg on the left and SnG Gaelic Education Chair Geoffrey Sammons on the right. Photo by Seumas Gagne.

The ninth season was our best-attended in the history of Zero to Gaelic. We hope to continue this trend in our EXPANDED tenth season! With a new venue and SIX Gaelic Intensive Days planned, there is room for you! Persons with any level of Gaelic have a home in Z2G. **Pre-registration closes September 20th.** To facilitate our planning, we ask all participants to pre-register. Please contact the Gaelic Education Committee at slighe.com if you have any questions about registering for the upcoming season of Zero to Gaelic. *Tapadh leibh agus suas leis a' Ghàidhlig!*



Time to let loose and dance! Seirm plays some jigs as Marie Salmi and her beau from England take their turn at spinning through the Strip the Willow set.



Seirm's singers perform a lively set of puirt-a-beul at the Spring Concert. L to R: Mary Fears, Carmen Mettler, Peggy Mundy, Nan Pardew, Nancy Neveln, Beth Tibbetts, Jennifer McClure, Chas Talbot, Ginny Byrnes-McKnight, Margaret Salmi, Penny McLeod DeGraff, and Heidi Buschmann



Everyone joins together to sing the traditional Chì Mi Na Mòrbheanna at the end of the céilidh.

All Spring Concert photos by Dale DeGraff.

Notes from a Learner

by Ted Neveln

An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (ACGA) has a Mòd each year in Ligonier Pennsylvania, but they also host a Mail-In Mòd (*Co-fharpais Air Astar*). I have participated in the Mail-In Mòd at several levels, getting gradually more advanced. They have multiple competitions and I have always chosen Prose. The requirements vary with the level. At the Advanced Level, which is not the highest one, I read about one-and-a-half pages of *Gàidhlig*, read the *Gàidhlig* onto a cassette tape, and translated it into English.

I won first place for prose last Summer, but I don't know how stiff my competition was. Competitors self-select their level of competition. After competing as a beginner once or twice, I decided to push myself to the next level. The most recent story was an excerpt detailing the adventures of a cat walking along the beach. The previous year, it was a story about the origins of the Fairies. I am always in over my head, but when I have to write out and repeat phrases and words, they become harder to forget. For me, that is the only reason to participate.

With the guidance of Gary Ingle, we have worked our way through several novels in *Gàidhlig*. As I mentioned in an earlier issue of *Am Bradan Fiosa*, my favorite novel so far is a satiric comic novel for young people called *Cleas Sgathain* by Màiri Anna NicDhòmhnaill. My second-favorite is *Samhraidhean Diomhair* by Catriona Lexy Caimbeul. *Samhraidhean Diomhair* starts in the present and follows the diverse lives of a group of young adults, leaving the reader to wonder what they could possibly have in common; later chapters go back earlier and earlier in time and reveal more and more about how their lives are intertwined and blighted by a common secret. It's melodramatic and would make a good stage play. Actually, it has been made into a stage play that was recently performed in *Gàidhlig*.

I recently got one of Ms. Caimbeul's books for children that I was able to read on my own, with help from a dictionary. Caimbeul must have grown up on the cartoons of Charles Addams and Edward Gorey, because she has quite a taste for the macabre. *Sgeulachdan Eaglach Feagalach* is a collection of short stories that detail the awful fates of awful children—you'd think that a Highland child would know better than to mess with creatures from the Other World

like witches and fairies and trolls and talking butterflies, but no-o-o-o, not these little brats. Every other page is illustrated and the text is in color. Where the predominant emotion in *Samhraidhean Diomhair* is pity, in *Sgeulachdan Eaglach Feagalach*, it is evil glee. Oh, and for one final twist, the awfulest brat of all is actually a grown-up. Neither of these books are in the Slighe nan Gaidheal library, but they are available from Gaelic Books Council, Sìol, and maybe even local bookstores.

Samhraidhean Diomhair by Catriona Lexy Caimbeul, 172 pages, ISBN: 9781900901314

Sgeulachdan Eaglach Feagalach by Catriona Lexy Caimbeul, Clàr, 2009, 80 pages, ISBN: 9780861523368

Tha mi ag èirigh 's a' gearain 's a' cagnadh an arain.
"I am awake and complaining and chewing bread."
Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh #327

The Slighe nan Gaidheal library has far more books than are visible in the carrying case that is brought to GIDs. Many books, alas, are packed in cardboard boxes in the Slighe locker, and some are sitting in people's homes waiting their turn to get a ride in the carrying case.

A catalog of the Slighe nan Gaidheal library is available for browsing in PDF format at http://www.slighe.com/book_shelf/109.pdf.

If you are a member of Slighe nan Gaidheal, you may check out books from the Slighe nan Gaidheal library. Someday, we will use bar-coding. For the time being, there are two cards in each book. To check out a book, write your name and contact information on both cards. One card goes to Ted Neveln and the other stays with the book as a reminder to the borrower. Anyone who wants to volunteer or donate a book about or in Gaelic should send an e-mail to library@slighe.com. The Library Committee is headed by Chas Talbot.

New Editor for *Am Bradan Fiosa*

Please join me in welcoming Anne Paulsen, the new editor for ABF.

We are co-editing this issue, and Anne will take over as *Am Bradan Fiosa's* editor starting with the September issue. Although I will miss hearing from ABF's contributors and getting first look at all the copy, I'm pleased to be able to leave ABF in Anne's very capable hands.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the editor of *Am Bradan Fiosa* for the past 13-and-a-half years. I wish Anne all the best!

—Nan Pardew

In Memoriam: Carlos de la Vega (June 6, 1956-March 28, 2013)

by Penny DeGraff and Nan Pardew

Am Bradan Fiosa is sad to report that Carlos de la Vega passed away on March 28th, while recovering from injuries received when he was struck by a car last January.

Carlos was a proud member of the Clan Baird Society and a long-time supporter of Slighe nan Gaidheal. He attended several Féisean, including Féis Shiàtail 2002 and 2004, and helped staff the Slighe nan Gaidheal tent at the Bellingham and Skagit Valley Highland Games. Carlos was a staunch supporter, not only of SnG, but of the Bellingham and



Committee Chair Directory

Awards

vacant

Communications

Seumas Gagne | seumasgagne@slighe.com

Development

vacant

Féis Seattle

Stacey Giermann | staceygiermann@slighe.com

Rich Hill | richardhill@slighe.com

Gaelic Education

Geoff Sammons | geoff@slighe.com

Library and Archives

vacant

Parents and Children

Judith Cummings | judith@slighe.com

Gaelic Music

Penny McLeod DeGraff | penny@slighe.com

Seumas Gagne | seumasgagne@slighe.com

Skagit Valley Highland Games, assisting with the Bellingham Highland Games organization's Burns Dinner and the St. Patrick's Day parade, staffing the Clan Baird tent, and assisting at any other clan tent as needed. Carlos was also an emerging harp player notable for his support of the harp tents at both Highland Games. Kathie Hardy and Becky Fox, organizers of the harp tents at these Highland Games, remember of Carlos that he came to the Games no matter what, even if it meant walking or taking the bus. Although a beginner, he always participated in the Harp Circles and would play *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* on his Triplett Zephyr harp. Kathie and Becky held a memorial for Carlos in the harp tent at the Bellingham Highland Games on June 1st, 2013. All of the harpers joined together to play *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* in his honor.

Kathie Hardy played the harp at his memorial service in April. She was very touched by how many people attended and how many heartfelt memories they shared about Carlos during the more-than-two-hour service.

Lift a glass, sing a chorus or two of *Mairi's Wedding* (Carlos's favorite Gaelic song), or play *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* in honor of Carlos de la Vega. He will be missed.

“Mo Dhachaidh Anns a’ Chòmhnard” le “taibhs”

O chionn beagan tha mi air a bhith a’ smaointinn air mo shinsearan agus laithean mo bhreith is m’àraich. Is e na thug sin orm gun tàinig mi air duine no dhà a tha eòlach air an àm ‘s air muinntir an àite far an robh mi a’ fuireach nuair a bha mi òg.

Nuair bha mi anns an sgoil ann an Kansas, aig aois aona bhliadhna deug, bha mi ann an clas le tidsear air leth. B’e aon de na rudan neo-àbhaisteach a thug e oirnn, gu robh sinn uile, gach aon na aonar, ri seinn òran ro na h-oileanaich eile. A chionn ‘s gu robh mise dìreach air Òran Oifigeil Stàit Kansas a ionnsachadh (ann an clas riatanach, Eachdraidh Kansas) roghnaich mi an t-òran sin.

Rud eile a thug sin nam chuimhne an-dràsda, tha mi air cluinntinn gu bheil an t-òran mór-chòrdte ann an Innis-Tìle, ann an cumadh an teanga sin tha fhios, agus tha mi air a sheinn uair no dhà san teanga sin ‘s mi a’ dol a chéilidh air cairdean an-seo ann an Seattle.

Mar sin, seo dhuibh an t-Òran Oifigeil Kansas ann an cumadh Gàidhlig. Tha mi cinnteach gum bi sibh ga aithneachadh, agus gur aithne dhuibh am fonn a tha a’ dol ris:

“Mo Dhachaidh Anns a’ Chòmhnard”

1.
Gun gabhainn-se tàmh
Ann an còmhnard nan damh,
Is am fiadh ‘s an gobh’r-fhiadhaich ri cluich,
Far nach cluinnear do ghnàth
Facal gruamach neo-bhlàth,
Is na speuran gun sgòth là is oidhch’.

Séist:
Dachaidh, rainse mo ghràidh,
Tha na féidh ‘s an gobh’r-fhiadhaich ri cluich,
Far nach cluinnear do ghnàth
Facal gruamach neo-bhlàth,
Is na speuran gun sgòth là is oidhch’.

2.
Na dailthean fo bhlàth
Anns an duthaich cho geal,
Agus ‘s math leam an guilbneach ‘s a ghoir,
Na stallachan bàna,
Na còmhnardan farsaing’,
‘S na buabhaill a’ ruith mar is còir.
[séist]

3.
‘S mi tric anns a’ chiaradh
‘S na reultan a’ nochdadh

Nam mìltean, ‘s a’ boillsgeadh san iar,
A’ smaointinn seo shios
Ann an aisling, am biodh
An glòir-san cho mór ri ar tìr.
[séist]

Facal no dhà mu na beathaich anns an òran:

Is e an gobhar-fhiadhaich, no “antalop gobhlan-adharcach,” *Antilocapra Americana*. Is e am buabhall *Bison bison bison*, buabhall Ameireaganach a’ chòmhnard. Aig tòiseach an XIXmh linn bha an dara cuid *Bison bison* agus *Antilocapra* a’ ruith anns na Còmhnardan Móra Ameireaganaich nam milleanan. An-diugh chan eil ach ceudan de *Bhison bison* a’ ruith far an robh 50-70 milleanan o chionn 200 bliadhna; tha treud no dhà air an cumail a-steach air fearann priobhaid-each an-siud ‘s an-seo ann an Kansas.

Bison bison bison
Photo credit: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Americanbison.jpg>



Mar an ceudna chan ann an-diugh ach mu thuaiream 200-250 *Antilocapra* anns an stàit. Eadhon nuair a bha mi-fhìn òg, agus an teaghlach a’ draibheadh a-null ‘s a-nall eadar Kansas agus Seattle, chithinn ceudan is ceudan de dh’*Antilocapra* a’ fuireach ‘s a’ feurach ‘s a’ laighe ‘s a’ ruith saor anns a’ chòmhnard; ach tha iad gann an-dràsda. Is beathach boidheach an gobhar-fhiadhaich gobhlan-adharcach, gu h-àraidh nuair chi thu iad a’ ruith ‘s a’ leum; is esan aon de na beathaich as luaithe, agus as eireachdala, a tha beò air an talamh gu lèir.



Antilocapra Americana
Photo credit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Antilocapra_americana.jpg

Is e *Numenius americanus* a tha ann an guilbneach an òrain. Tha iad pailt fhathast air feadh Ameireaga an Iar, fiú ann an Kansas.

Numenius americanus
Photo credit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Long-billed_Curllew_by_Dan_Panamo.jpg



Calendar of Events

For the most up-to-date and complete information, always check www.slighe.com/calendar.php

- Saturday, July 13**
11:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Seirm at the Skagit Valley Highland Games | Seirm will be appearing at the harp tent at 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Come stop by for fun tunes and songs!
Location: Edgewater Park, 600 Behrens Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA
- Sunday, July 14**
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Gaelic Education Committee Monthly Meeting | Come join the committee as we design and produce the Zero to Gaelic program.
Location: A private home; e-mail postmaster@slighe.com for details
- Sunday, July 21**
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting | Members welcome with prior notice.
Location: A private home; e-mail postmaster@slighe.com for details
- Fri-Sun, July 26-28**
Slighe nan Gaidheal at the Pacific Northwest Highland Games | We depend on our volunteers to make this a great event for the future of Gaelic in the Pacific Northwest. Please contact the Board to volunteer.
Location: Enumclaw Expo Center, 45224 284th Ave. SE, Enumclaw, WA
- Saturday, July 27**
11:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Seirm at the Pacific Northwest Highland Games | Seirm will be appearing at the harp tent at 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM, and at the Slighe nan Gaidheal booth as well at 2:00 PM! Come stop by for fun tunes and songs!
Location: Enumclaw Expo Center, 45224 284th Ave. SE, Enumclaw, WA
- Sunday, Aug. 11**
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting | Members welcome with prior notice.
Location: A private home; e-mail postmaster@slighe.com for details
- Sunday, Aug. 18**
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Gaelic Education Committee Monthly Meeting | Come join the committee as we design and produce the Zero to Gaelic program.
Location: A private home; e-mail postmaster@slighe.com for details
- Sunday, Sept. 8**
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting | Members welcome with prior notice.
Location: A private home; e-mail postmaster@slighe.com for details
- Sunday, Sept. 22**
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Gaelic Education Committee Monthly Meeting | Come join the committee as we design and produce the Zero to Gaelic program.
Location: A private home; e-mail postmaster@slighe.com for details
- Saturday, Oct. 5**
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Zero to Gaelic Intensive Day 1 | Time for a new year of Zero to Gaelic to begin! A new group of Gaelic adventurers will start on their way.
Location: Lake City Presbyterian Church, 3841 NE 123rd St., Seattle, WA



Seirm performs at Folklife May 25th in the Seattle Center House Theatre.

Photo from video by Dale DeGraff