

All Slighe nan Gaidheal memberships expire on October 31, so please remember to renew your membership. Individual renew-als are \$25, Family renewals are \$35, or buy a Silver membership for \$125 and don't worry about renewing for 6 years! Even better, you can get a Gold membership for \$250 for 12 years. Please in-clude any new contact information with your renewal. Member-ship forms are available from the Web site [www.slighe.com](http://www.slighe.com) / or by phoning (206) 903-9452.

## Remember to Renew!

### Slighe nan Gaidheal

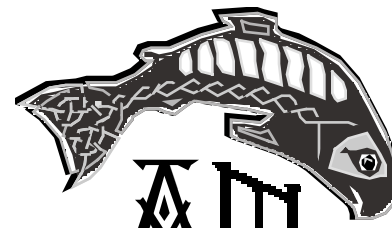
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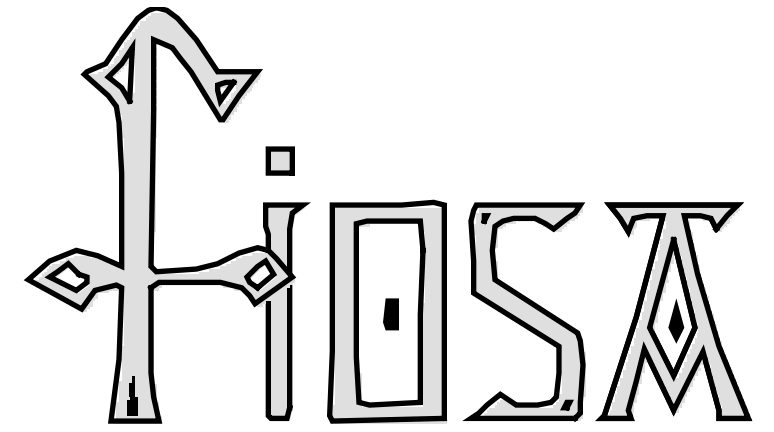


Seattle's Gaelic language  
& cultural society



# AM BRADAN

Quarterly newsletter of Slighe nan Gaidheal



Seattle's Gaelic society

am Foghar No. 4, 2000

### Member Survey Deadline Extended!

At our last Board meeting, we went over the results from the Member Survey that was sent out with the last newsletter, and were disappointed to see that only twelve of you responded! We have decided to extend the deadline. Please complete your surveys and bring them with you to the Annual General Meeting. Results will be published in a future issue of ABF and on our Web site. Tapadh leibh!

### Seachdain ann an Ceap Breatainn le Pandora NicPhàdraig

Gaelic edited by Gary Ingle

Ma bhitheas cothram agaibh, feumaidh sibh a' dol a Cheap Breatainn. Bha cothrom agamsa ri dhol do Cholaisde na Gàidhlig am bliadhna, agus nach do chòrd e rium gu mór! Tha bòidhchead Cheap Breatainn ainmeil, agus tha luchd Cheap Breatainn ceart cho aoidheil ri luchd na Gaidhealtachd. Chan eil fhios agam carson, ach cha robh sùil agam idir uiread de dhaoine na Gàidhlig fhaighinn. Bha mi uabhasach toilichte Gàidhlig a chluinntinn air gach taobh nuair a ràinig mi Eilean na Nollaig. Bha Còisir Ghàidhlig Bhancoubhair a' dèanamh cuirm-ciùil ann comhla ri Buddy MacMhaighstir. Agus air Disath-airne, bha Féis a' Mhòid ann aig Colaisde na Gàidhlig far an robh leasanan ciùil agus leasanan Gàidhlig fad an latha. Dh'ionnsaich Catrìona NicIomhair Parsons agus Aonghas MacLeòid Gàidhlig agus òrain Gàidhlig, agus dh'ionnsaich Màiri Sinead NicDhòmhnaill mu dannsa-ceumaidh, agus dh'ionnsaich Iain Mór Mac-Illeathain mu piobaireachd, agus bha luadh ann cuideachd.

Thòisich leasanan aig a' Cholaisde aig 9 'sa mhadainn Diluain, as deigh a' chruinneachaidh far an do dh'ionnsaich sinn Urnaigh ar n-Athar agus O Chanada. Bha sluagh 'san leasan bhòdhran agam, ach dh'ionnsaich sinn móran fad an seachdain. Chòrd leasanan Gàidhlig rium gu mór oir bha Catrìona fhìn a' teagasg. B' e dannsa-ceumaidh a' chuspair a b' fheàrr leam, agus fhuair mi pail-teas cleachdaidh gach feasgar.

Bha bana-Shiàtalach eile ann ('s e Jan Strolle an t-ainm a th'oirre), agus thachair sinn ri duine eile a bha airson a' dol dha na dannsaichean. B' e Barbara 's Chris 's Kevin 's Pòl na h-ainmean. Fad an t-Samhraidh ann an Ceap Breatainn tha dannsa ann gach feasgar ann am baile sam bith, agus bha sinne ann gach feasgar an seachdain a bha sinn comhladh! Bha e miorbhaileach an dannsa a' ruigsinn agus bitheadh duine sam bith ann a sheinn air an fhidheall — bha Jerry Holland ann, bha Ashley MacIsaac ann, bha Kinnon Beaton ann! Agus duine eile cuideachd air nach eil fios aig an t-saoghal.

Cha b' e na dannsaichean an aon rud a bha a' tachairt idir; bha cuirmean-ciùil ann gach feasgar cuideachd. Dimàirt bha piobairean bho gach cearnaidh Chanada air an ard-ùrlar ann an Eilean na Nollaig. Rinn Buddy MacMhaighstir cuirm-ciùil air Diciadain aig a' Cholaisde. Bha luadh ann Diardaoin ann an see Cape Breatainn on page 3

## Féis Shiàtail 2000 Awards of Fabulousness by Pandora Fitzpatrick

...the envelope please...

On June 10, 2000, the Féis Committee (Kathryn Cole, Cuini Mack, Rich Hill and Pandora Fitzpatrick) presented the Féis Shiàtail 2000 Awards of Fabulousness. Awards were presented to all volunteers and hosts who worked together to make the Feis a success. Thank you, everyone, for participating!

Volunteers: **Neacal MacIain Corff** - For spreading good energy, and for best assembly of tartan-covered tushes, **Uilleam & Caitlín nan Eala** - Best last-minute reinforcements, **Diannag Moss** - Best stabilizing influence, **Bob Zawalich** - "Boba Fett" of the heather, **Sile Nic an t-Sealgair** - Best storytelling liaison and evangelist, **Peitean MacFhraing** - Chief schmoozer and boozier, **Gary Ingle** - Best faculty stunt-double and ambiance engineer, **Kathi McKenzie** - Best use of "got it covered," **Ceataidh Ruadh** - Best provisioner of birthday cake and best use of blue makeup, **Sandaidh Gilliam** - Best classroom architect and liaison to luchd Gàidhlig Bhancoubhair, **Sharron Gunn & Nancy Ingle** - Best marquee window display artists, **Nanag & Ted Neveln** - Best broad-band volunteer support, **Chas Talbot** - Best-equipped tool belt, **Andrew Wyllie** - Best shiny new face, **Erynn Laurie** - Smoothest operation, **Moon** - Best non-member volunteer, **Nan Pardew** - Best at magically & will-

### Publication Information

Am Bradan Fiosa is produced on a quarterly basis for the members of Slighe nan Gaidheal by the Publications Committee and additional contributors.

Editor Nan Pardew  
Layout Seumas Gagne

Contributors to this issue: Pandora Fitzpatrick, Nancy Neveln, Ted Neveln

If you would like to work on the Publications Committee, please contact Seumas at (206) 297-8398 or via e-mail at [seumasg@home.com](mailto:seumasg@home.com)

Next Publication deadline: December 15th, 2000

ingly appearing when needed, **Gof Friseal & Adam Robins** - Favorite willing men from Oregon, **Sgillín & Dale Degraff** - For setting the "Degraff Standard," **Cuini Mack** - Favorite sigh of relief, **Siùcar Cummings** - The Dale Show, **Annag-Màiri Lundeen** - Best caterer commander and refreshment roundup, **Deborah Raynes** - Best dresser of way-out-of-town wedding guests, **Daphne Monary** - Best alien make-up and best use of glitter, **Dale Degraff** - Best Féis.net administration, **Sinead Webster** - Best Virgo Action Girl, **Seumas Gagne** - For most hours of sleep lost for the cause, **Catriona Cól** - For making Town Hall into "Saoghal Slighe"

Box Office staff: Gaylord Stewart, Nanag & Ted Neveln, Jason Guel, Sgillín NicLeòid Degraff, Ceataidh Ruadh, Joe Banks, Dave Patterson, Kevin McKenzie, Siubhan LaFrance - House Manager, Mike Mack - Box Office Accountant

Faculty Hosts, for providing stellar hospitality to our instructors: Nicholas Corff & Roxanne Trott, Siùcar Cummings, Sgillín NicLeòid & Dale Degraff, Ceataidh Ruadh, Iain O'Dalaidh, Cil Pierce, Brian & Caitlín Stinson, Cherie Trebon, Sue Truman

## Flora MacNeil Has Released a New Album! reviewed by Pandora Fitzpatrick

*Orain Floraidh*, produced by Robin Morton for the Temple Records label, includes a wonderful selection of Gaelic songs. Flora's daughter, Maggie MacInnes, joins her on harp and vocals. When Flora released *Craobh nan Ubhal* twenty years ago, professionally produced recordings of Gaelic song were few and far between. Since then, many other musicians and tradition bearers have followed in Flora's footsteps to record Gaelic music. The pure quality of Flora's voice is a joy to hear and her Gaelic is very easy for learners to understand. I recommend purchasing the album directly from Temple's US partner, Rounder Records (call 1-800-ROUNDER or go to [http://harp.rounder.com/rounder/catalog/byartist/m/macneil\\_flora/](http://harp.rounder.com/rounder/catalog/byartist/m/macneil_flora/)).

Track listing:

A Mhic Iain 'Ic Sheumais (Son of John, Son of James)  
Gaoil ise Gaoil i, Nach Gorach mi Gad Chaoineadh (How Foolish of Me to Cry for You)  
Nuair a Ràinig mi'm Baile (When I Got to the Village)  
Fhir an Leadain Thlath (Lad of Lovely Hair)  
A' Bhean Iadach (The Jealous Woman)  
Siuthadaibh a Mhnathan (Oh Women with Vigour)  
Mo Bhean Chomain (My Woman with No Obligation)  
Tòiseach na Traghaidh (Beginning of the Ebb Tide)  
Alasdair Oig 'ic 'ic Neacail (Young Alasdair Nicolson)  
Seathan MacRìgh Eireann (Seathan—Son of the King of Ireland)  
Nighean Donn Nan Gobhar (Brown-Haired Maid of the Goats)  
Mo Dhomhnullan Fhéin (My Own Donald)

### Cànan nan Eòin le Nanag Nevlín

Dh'innis Sharron Gunn dhuinn, aig an fhéille Folklife, gur e a' ghàidhlig cànan cheart nan eòin. Gu dé an t-aobhar air sin? Uill, éisdibh rium.

An toiseach, coisichidh an gille-Brìghde air fad na traghaidh, 's a' sgreuchadh am measg nan tonn, "Bidh glic! Bidh glic!" Gu dé tha fios aige mu bheatha? Dé 'n seòrsa gliocais a th'aige dhuinn?

Agus an uairsin, tha creutair seòlta ann am beul-aithris air feadh an t-saoghail. Có esan? 'S e feanag a mheallas gach sluagh, is nì i gràgail ìseal, "Gòrach! Gòrach!" Có air a bhith gòrach? Sinne neo i-fhéin? Ach, có-dhiù neo có-dhé...

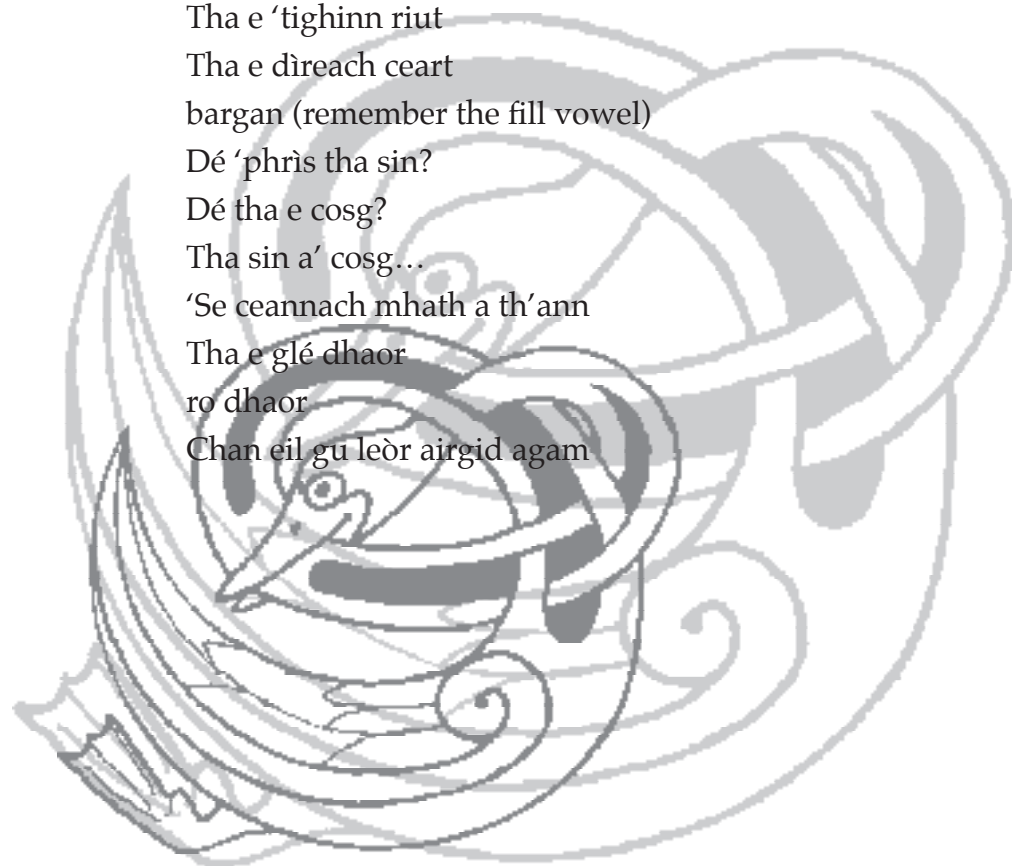
Nise, smaoinich air an dreathan-donn. 'S ann càirdeil caidreamhach a tha e. Bheir e cuireadh do dh'eun sam bith an t-sluaigh aige ann an guth bìogail, "Thig a-seo! Thig a-seo!" Bu thoil leis a bhith a' fuireach an còmhnaidh còmhlà ri feadhainn eile.

Dé do bheachd-sa air sin? A bheil a' ghàidhlig cànan cheart nan eòin? (Móran taing do Sharron airson an sgeul bheag dhà-chànanach seo.)

## Gaelic for Shoppers by Ted Nevln

It can be inconvenient to go shopping and have a clerk overhear what you are saying about the merchandise to your spouse. A bit of Gàidhlig can be quite useful. The following phrases come from *Everyday Gaelic* by Morag MacNeill, and there are many more in the book. Other useful phrases can be found in Chapters 12 and 13 of *Teach Yourself Gaelic*.

Cheap/dear	saor/daor
a purchase	ceannach
the price	a' phrìs
useful	feumail
suitable	freagarrach/iomchaidh
I want	Tha mi ag iarraidh
I like this	'S toil leam seo
That's no good	Chan fhiach sin
I'm not too fond of this one	Chan eil mi ro mhath air an fhear seo
I'd prefer...	B'fheàrr leam
I can't make up my mind	Tha mi eadar dà bheachd
Which is best?	Cò fear as fheàrr?
What do you think of it?	Dé do bheachd air?
It suits you	Tha e 'tighinn riut
It's just right	Tha e dìreach ceart
a bargain	bargan (remember the fill vowel)
What price is that?	Dé 'phrìs tha sin?
What does it cost?	Dé tha e cosg?
That costs...	Tha sin a' cosg...
It's a good buy	'Se ceannach mhath a th'ann
It's very expensive	Tha e glé dhaor
too expensive	ro dhaor
I haven't enough money	Chan eil gu leòr airgid agam



continued from front page

Cala Margaree. Dh'ionnsaich Catriona puirt-á-beul feasgar Dihaoine. Disathairne bha leasan agus cuirmean-ciùil ann aig a' Cholaisde aig Cruinneachadh Fidhlearean Cheap Breatainn agus ann an Eilean na Nollaig aig Féis an Eilein.

Agus air feasgar Diardaoin, bha cuirm-ciùil aig na h-oileanaich. Chuir sinn ainm oirnn 'san leasan bhòdhran agam: Bad-Ass Bòdhran-aholics. Agus nach do ghabh sinn spòrs a' cluich air na bhòdhran-an le attitude! A thaobh tachartasan eile ionmholta bha na pìoba-human agus moladh na Guinness (mar a mholas iad an tagais) ann.

Bha mi brònach gu dearbh a falbh. Ach tillidh mi an ath bhliadhna gun teagamh sam bith!

## (English version) A Week in Cape Breton by Pandora Fitzpatrick

If you have the opportunity, go to Cape Breton. I had the opportunity to go to the Gaelic College this year, and didn't I just love it! The beauty of Cape Breton is famous, and the Capers are as hospitable as the Highlanders. I wasn't expecting to find so many Gaelic speakers. I was incredibly happy to hear Gaelic on all sides when I reached Christmas Island. (The Vancouver Gaelic Choir was performing there with Buddy MacMaster.) On Saturday, the Gaelic College hosted Féis a' Mhòid, with Gaelic language and song classes all day. Catriona Parsons and Angus MacLeod taught Gaelic and song, Mary Janet MacDonald gave a lecture on the history of the Cape Breton step-dance revival, John MacLean discussed Gaelic piping, and there was a milling frolic as well.

Classes started at the Gaelic College at 9 AM Monday, after the assembly where we learned the Lord's Prayer and "O Canada" in Gaelic. My bòdhran class was huge, but we learned plenty throughout the week. I very much enjoyed my Gaelic classes, since Catriona herself was teaching. Step-dance was my favorite subject, and I got plenty of opportunity to practice each evening. Jan Strolle of Seattle was also there, and we met Barbara, Chris, Kevin and Paul, who also wanted to go to the square dances. All summer in Cape Breton, there's a dance each evening in a different town, and every evening of the week that we were there, we were at the dances! It was amazing to arrive at a dance and find Jerry Holland, Ashley MacIsaac, Kinnon Beaton, or other fiddlers just as good, but unknown outside Cape Breton.

The dances weren't the only game in town either; most nights, some town hosts a concert or some other activity. On Tuesday, pipers from all over Canada performed at Christmas Island. Buddy MacMaster played a long concert Wednesday at the Gaelic College. Every Thursday there's a milling frolic in Margaree Harbour. Catriona taught a puirt-á-beul workshop Friday. And on Saturday, there were classes and concerts at the Gaelic College at the Cape Breton Fiddlers' Festival and at Féis an Eilein in Christmas Island.

Thursday night the Gaelic College students put on a recital. My bòdhran class named ourselves the Bad-Ass Bòdhran-aholics. We had such a good time playing our bòdhran set with attitude! Other highlights include the human bagpipe and the fiddlers' toast to the Guinness (well, the pipers toast the haggis...).

I was sad indeed to leave. But I will return next year, without a doubt!

## November Intensive Day with Instructor Maureen Lyon

Your Gaelic Education Committee, under the able leadership of Gaelic Education Officer Rich Hill, has been busy planning a full year of Gaelic Intensive Days and Activity Days. The first Intensive will be on Saturday, November 11, at the Queen Anne Masonic Center. Note that it will be a little different than those we have had for the last year or so. We are returning to the full day, rather than afternoon only, class schedule — we want to get a real workout from our visiting native speaker, Maureen Lyon! Also, this language intensive will be primarily for intermediate and advanced students. (Our next intensive will be for beginners only!) However, we would be delighted to have beginning students join us for video lessons in the afternoon, and for a tea and Gaelic song circle to which all are welcome.

The tuition for the entire day, including all activities, is \$25 general, \$20 members. For afternoon activities only (Beginners' Session and/or Song Circle) the fee is \$10 general, \$7 members. For the ceilidh only, we ask a donation of \$3.

For more information, please contact Diane Moss at (206) 542-6034 or by e-mail at [zawamoss@seanet.com](mailto:zawamoss@seanet.com). Hope to see you there!

## (English version) The Language of Birds by Nancy Nevln

Sharron Gunn told us, at the Folklife festival, that the Gaelic is the true language of birds. And what is the reason for this? Well, listen to me.

To begin with, the oyster-catcher walks along the beach, screeching among the waves: "Be wise! Be wise!" What knowledge does it have about life? What sort of wisdom does it have for us?

And then there is a cunning creature in folklore around the world. Who is he? It is the crow who tricks each people, and it makes a low croak: "Foolish! Foolish!" Who has been foolish? Us or itself? But, anyway...

Now, think about the wren. It's friendly and sociable. It gives out an invitation to any bird of its tribe in a chirping voice: "Come here! Come here!" It prefers to live always with others.

What is your opinion about this? Is Gaelic the true language of birds? (Many thanks to Sharron for this small bilingual story.)

## The schedule is as follows:

9-10 AM	Registration and coffee/tea hour
10-Noon	Language Session 1 (intermediate/advanced)
Noon-1	Lunch hour (bring a sack lunch and join the Gaelic conversation table)
1-2 PM	Language Session 2 (intermediate/advanced)
2-4 PM	Language Session 3 (intermediate/advanced)
2-4 PM	Beginners' Session: Speaking Our Language video lessons
4-6 PM	Tea and Gaelic Song Circle (bring your favorite song to sing and share)
6-8 PM	Pot luck dinner (check out the new Gaelic Culture and Conversation group)
8-Close	Ceilidh (bring songs, stories, instruments, and treats)

## Calendar of Events

Nov 11	Gaelic Intensive for Intermediate & Advanced Learners. See the notice in this newsletter for details.
Dec 9	Board retreat. Followed by Formal Holiday Ceilidh at 8:00 PM (dress in your finest holiday garb, bring your favorite holiday refreshments, spend the evening in holiday revelry). \$5 members & invited guests.
Jan 6	<i>Seirm</i> presents it's first Winter Holiday Concert. 8:00PM. Location, ticket prices and availability TBA.
Jan 13	Slighe nan Gaidheal goes to the movies! Our first activity day after the holidays will be an opportunity to watch some Gaelic & Scottish movies. ( <i>The Blood is Strong, As an Eilein, Na Eilthirich</i> , etc.) \$7 non-members/\$5 members, BYO popcorn. Followed by potluck dinner & ceilidh, as usual.
Feb 10	Gaelic Intensive for Beginning Learners. Instructor(s) TBA. Registration 9-10 AM, Class 10 AM-Noon, Lunch Noon-1 PM, Class 1-2 PM, Break 2-2:15 PM, Class 2:15-4 PM, Tea 4-4:30 PM, Song Circle 4:30-6 PM, Potluck Dinner 6-8 PM, Ceilidh 8 PM. Registration is \$25 non-members/\$20 members for all classes, song circle & ceilidh, \$7 non-members/\$5 members song circle only, \$5 ceilidh (members & invited guests).
Mar 10	Cultural Activity Day. We hope to have Mary Kelly and Dennis King back to share their expertise on the relationships of Scottish and Irish Gaelic. Exact schedule & cost TBA. Followed by potluck dinner & ceilidh, as usual.
Apr 14	Gaelic Intensive & Mod Preparation. Instructor(s) TBA. Registration 9-10 AM, Class 10 AM-Noon, Lunch Noon-1 PM, Class 1-2 PM, Break 2-2:15 PM, Class 2:15-4 PM, Tea 4-4:30 PM, Song Circle 4:30-6 PM, Potluck Dinner 6-8 PM, Ceilidh 8 PM. Registration is \$25 non-members/\$20 members for all classes, song circle & ceilidh, \$7 non-members/\$5 members song circle only, \$5 ceilidh (members & invited guests). For the ceilidh, we invite Mod competitors to perform.
May 8-12	Mod Vancouver. For more information, contact Maureen Lyon via e-mail at <a href="mailto:muirneag@istar.ca">muirneag@istar.ca</a> or via phone at (604) 536-1367.
Jun 9	Cultural Activity Day. Step dance, social dances, waulking, maybe more—tell us what YOU want! Exact schedule & cost TBA. Followed by potluck dinner & ceilidh, as usual.
Jul 28-29	PNW Highland Games in Enumclaw
Aug 17-19	Gaelic Camp. Schedule, location, instructors, cost TBA
Sep 8	Gaelic Intensive for Beginning Learners. Instructor(s) TBA. Registration 9-10 AM, Class 10 AM-Noon, Lunch Noon-1 PM, Class 1-2 PM, Break 2-2:15 PM, Class 2:15-4 PM, Tea 4-4:30 PM, Song Circle 4:30-6 PM, Potluck Dinner 6-8 PM, Ceilidh 8 PM. Registration is \$25 non-members/\$20 members for all classes, song circle & ceilidh, \$7 non-members/\$5 members song circle only, \$5 ceilidh (members & invited guests).