



**Irish**  
CULTURAL SOCIETY  
OF SAN ANTONIO, INC.

**NEWSLETTER**

**April 2017**

**Next Meeting:**

The monthly meeting of the Irish Cultural Society will be held at St. Anthony de Padua's Parlor Room on April 9th, 2017. The business meeting will commence soon after 3pm, and the program will begin around 4pm. Please join us for a few hours of company, companionship, and an entertaining program.

**Program:**

April is National Poetry Month. In keeping with that theme, we will have our very own award-winning Nora Olivares presenting a program at our April meeting. Nora will share with us some of her current writing, as she prepares to have another book of her wonderful poems published. A poem she wrote and dedicated to her mother has already been in print and Nora will tell us about that. Time spent with Nora and her poetry can be an uplifting and thought provoking experience. Please don't miss this opportunity.

**Birthday Wishes:**

Be sure to wish a happy birthday to Joe Ruffin (10<sup>th</sup>), Tom Macken (19<sup>th</sup>), Patricia O'Connell (25<sup>th</sup>), and Becky Slattery Hood (26<sup>th</sup>).



### **San Antonio Gaelic Athletic Club:**

The Texas League season kicks off this Saturday, April 1st at Olmos Basin Park football field, 651 Devine Rd. Your hometown San Patricios will face off against the Houston Gaels. Please come out and support Gaelic sports in Texas. We have a great lineup of games that includes the debut of our growing SAGAC Ladies team. The day continues afterwards at Alamo Beer Hall 202 Lamar for post-game celebration. All are invited.

**Men's Gaelic Football 12:00pm**

**Ladies Gaelic Football 1:15pm**

**Hurling 2:15pm**

**Post-Game Party 4:00pm @ Alamo Beer Company.**

For those of you who haven't yet attended a game at Olmos Basin, it is situated at 651 Devine Street. I get onto Hildebrand Street going west, having exited 281, then take the first right hand turn. I follow Devine Street northwards, going under 281. A few streets further on and you'll see the park on the right hand side of the road. There's a parking lot right next to the playing fields. Bring a couple of lightweight lawn chairs with you, some sunscreen too, plus a cool drink, and you'll be set for an afternoon of fun, cheering on our teams!

If you're interested in watching their practices:

Football training is on Wednesday evenings at Olmos Basin rugby fields, under lights. 651 Devine Rd, 78212 at 6:30pm. This will change to Phil Hardberger Park as daylight gets longer.

Football training on Sunday mornings is at 11:30am at Phil Hardberger Park on the pitch behind the kids playground. 4401 NW Military Hwy, 78231.

Hurling practice generally happens before football on Sundays at Phil Hardberger Park, and start times vary from 10am to 10:30am.

Gaelic Football Games:

04/01/2017 SAGAC v Houston @ San Antonio

04/29/2017 SAGAC @ Austin

05/20/2017 SAGAC @ Dallas

06/17/2017 – 06/18/2017 Texas League Finals: San Antonio



The San Antonio Highland Games Association (SAHGA) would like to give a special thanks to all the volunteers, athletes, clans, vendors, and entertainers who made the 2016 games a success despite the threat of Scottish weather. Although the skies were cloudy, we had beautiful weather on Saturday and rain only for the first 45 minutes of the day Sunday.

We are pleased to announce that the 2017 Games will be held rain or shine on April 1 and 2, 2017 at the Helotes Fairgrounds, 12210 Leslie Road, Helotes, TX 78023!! Last year's use of the neighboring 4-H building for our Highland Dance competition and Scottish seminars was such a success we're using it again.

This 18th anniversary festival will be the host to a myriad of activities including traditional Scottish heavy athletics, Celtic dance and music performances, genealogy information in the Clan Village, children's activities in the Kid's Glen, Living History activities and seminars, parade of Scottish dogs, and sheep herding trials.

Join the San Antonio Highland Games Association and help make the 2017 San Antonio Games the premier Highland event in Texas.

### **Hours of Operation**

Saturday April 1, 9am to 7pm

Sunday April 2, 11am to 6pm

### **Ticket Prices**

Adults: \$11 per day

Seniors, Military, and Children (ages 2 - 12 years): \$6 per day

Children under 2 years: Free

## April - Aibreán

- April 1 - April Fool's Day - *La na nAmadain*
  - o 1943 - creation of the Office of Chief Herald of Ireland to replace Ulster King of Arms approved by Government of Ireland
- April -1914: Cumann na mBan founded
- April 4 -1774: death of Oliver Goldsmith
- April 8 - Gladstone introduces first Home Rule bill.
- April 10 -1966: Commemoration of 50th anniversary of Easter Rising begins
  - o 1998, Good Friday Agreement, signed in Belfast.
- April 11 -1951: Dr Noel Browne, resigns as Minister for Health over "mother-and-child" controversy
- April 13 -1742: world premiere of Handels Messiah in Dublin
  - o 1829 - Catholic Emancipation achieved
  - o 1906: birth of Samuel Beckett. Good Friday
- April 16 -1871: birth of John Millington Synge
- April 17 -1783: British Renunciation Act recognises Irish legislative independence
- April 18 - Feast of St Laserian, patron of Leighlin Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.
  - o 1949 - The Republic of Ireland Act comes into force.
- April 19 -1875: Charles Stewart Parnell elected MP for Meath
- April 20 -1912: death of Bram Stoker
  - o 1954 - Michael Manning becomes the last person to be executed in Ireland
  - o 1981 - Bobby Sands elected Sinn Fein MP, while on hunger strike
- April 21 -1916: Roger Casement lands at Banna Strand
- April 23 -1014: Battle of Clontarf and death of Brian Boru. High King of Ireland on Good Friday
- April 24 -1916: Start of the Easter Rising.
- April 28 -1958: Aer Lingus service to North America inaugurated
- April 29 -1916: Easter Rising ends with surrender
- April 30 -1994: First performance of Riverdance at Eurovision Song Contest