



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

## NEWSLETTER

September 2017

### Next Meeting:

Come join us on September 10th at 3pm in the parlor room of St. Anthony's at 102 Lorenz Street as we kick off another year of Irish Cultural Society meetings! It is a potluck that day, so be ready to bring your "specialty" to share with fellow ICS members. We are planning on eating first; try to be on time so we can all enjoy a hot meal together. Then we will get down to the business of planning our coming year. This is our schedule of meetings for the 2017-8 year, and they are all on a second Sunday afternoon, unless otherwise noted:

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, October 8<sup>th</sup>, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> (first Sunday), December 10<sup>th</sup> (Christmas dinner), January 21<sup>st</sup> (third Sunday), February 11<sup>th</sup>, March – no meeting, April 8<sup>th</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

This year all monthly meetings are scheduled to be at St. Anthony's parlor room.

### Program:

Dr. Gerry Mulvey, from the Department of Meteorology at University of the Incarnate Word, has offered to do a program for us this month. It sounds intriguing! This from Gerry:

Avoca, the Lost City? Right here on the Headwaters at the University of the Incarnate Word land, a city was dreamed of and lost. Come and find out about that city and San Antonio. They were close but still far apart. The ruins may still exist closer than you think. Join us to explore the past and maybe resolved the mysteries hidden there.

### Birthday Wishes:

We have just a few ICS birthdays this month. Please give your good wishes to:

Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Bob Brannon and Barbara Brant

Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> Maureen O'Shea

### **Sunshine and Shadow:**

Over the summer hiatus, we lost two stalwart members of the ICS. Joe Ruffin left us in July. He and Eva were familiar faces at our monthly meetings for quite some time. We hope Eva will continue to join us at ICS get-togethers and events. Thanks to Lou for sending out the email alert, so that the ICS was well represented at the services to bid Joe goodbye.

John Gaines, a long time active member of the Irish Cultural Society has passed away. His funeral will be at St. Matthew's on Sept. 11th at 9:15am. Few details are available at this time. Lou will send an update when he gets more information. Many will remember John and his wife Doris. They were super active in nearly any activity we put on, especially Irish Heritage day. They hardly ever missed a meeting.

### **Membership:**

It is dues time again. We hope all of you will be renewing your membership because we like you and because we are looking forward to a great year. October 1st is the official renewal date and we would greatly appreciate everyone making an effort to mail your check at your earliest convenience or bring it to our September meeting. If none of your contact information has changed, you don't need to fill out a renewal form. We would like to have your birthday- month and date is all we need- so if we don't have it already, please send it with your check. If you are coming to the meeting, there will be a sheet provided for it at the sign up table.

We always need callers to remind our members as to the upcoming meeting or an untimely event like a death of a member or situations where an email might not be read in time. If you are currently a caller and are willing to continue, if you can no longer do this or if you would like to become a caller, please call Kay at 342-5334 or [kaygdelaney@gmail.com](mailto:kaygdelaney@gmail.com)

Our goal is to have all members who would like to attend meetings to be able to do so. We know transportation is a problem for some, and we have many volunteers who are more than happy to pick you up. When the caller calls, he/she will ask if you need a ride. Please don't hesitate to let them know that is the reason you do not come. Should they forget to ask, please let them know you need a ride. Hopefully a lack of transportation will be easily solved and we will try to fix you up with a volunteer in your area. Folks, if you are willing to give someone a ride, let Kay know so she can give that information to the callers.



## **WHO IS SISTER FIDELMA?**

Sister Fidelma is an Irish religieuse of the 7th century AD who is also a trained advocate of the ancient Irish law system of the time - the Laws of the Fenechus, popularly called the Brehon law system. She is the heroine-sleuth of a series of popular novels and short stories by author Peter Tremayne.

When the first stories began to appear, the UK *Book and Magazine Collector* prophesied: "Sister Fidelma promises to be one of the most intriguing new characters in 1990s detective fiction." They have been proved right and Sister Fidelma has now survived into a new decade with a still growing following. "Sister Fidelma is fast becoming a world ambassador for ancient Irish culture," says the *Irish Post*. The USA *Publishers Weekly* has called her: "A brilliant and beguiling heroine; immensely appealing..." And the *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* has said she is "One of the most interesting sleuths to come on the scene in recent years."

[sisterfidelma.com](http://sisterfidelma.com)

## **Sister Fidelma Society:**

As we gather on September 10th for our first meeting of the 2017-8 year, the International Sister Fidelma Society will be winding down from their 7th Biennial celebration of all things related to the Sister Fidelma books by Peter Tremayne. The gather is always held in Cashel, Ireland, which is the site for most of the books. In honor of that event, I will bring all of the Sister Fidelma books from the ICS library, to give you the convenience of checking out while at our meeting. There are 25 or 26 books from the series now available in the United States, and they are all available for checkout from the San Antonio Public Library. Virtually everything I know about Brehon Law I learned from the Sister Fidelma books! They were highly recommended by the Irish professor who spoke to us about Brehon Law at a meeting back in 2004. (I'm pretty sure that was the year.)

### **Brehon Law:**

Early Irish law, also called Brehon law, comprised the statutes which governed everyday life in Early Medieval Ireland. They were partially eclipsed by the Norman invasion of 1169, but underwent a resurgence from the 13th until the 17th centuries, over the majority of the island, survived into Early Modern Ireland in parallel with English law. Early Irish law was often, although not universally, referred to within the law texts as *Fenechas*, the law of the *Feni* or free men of Gaelic Ireland mixed with Christian influence and juristic innovation. These secular laws existed in parallel, and occasionally in conflict, with canon law throughout the early Christian period.

*wikipedia*

### **The Irish Wolfhound**



This towering testament to the canine species would make a highly imposing guard dog, except for the fact that their good nature often makes them friendly to strangers, even those with ignoble intentions.

This breed is extremely old; some suggest that it came to Ireland over 5,000 years ago. Irish Wolfhounds were once quite the menace on the battlefield. In recent centuries, however, their ferocity has subsided, leaving behind a big teddy-bear of a dog.

Sadly, this cuddly colossus has among the shortest of canine life expectancies. Many succumb to the ravaging effects of bone cancer.

*Irishcentral.com*