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Subject: CHA - October News

From: Celtic Heritage Alliance &lt;info@newportcelticfestival.com&gt;

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## October Newsletter

### GOURD-EOUS AUTUMN COLORS

October is my favorite month - not just because I was born in October, but because its a time of harvest, family, celebration and reflection on the year's events. Plus, the Celtic New Year is also widely celebrated on, what is now called, Halloween.

At the Celtic Heritage Alliance ("CHA"), we have a lot to celebrate this year and we'd like to brag a little bit about where we came from and where we are now.

In April 2010, when our organizers began the journey of starting the first-ever Celtic Festival & Highland Games on the Oregon coast, we had no idea where that path would lead us.

We developed our strategic plan and, when some would say "you can't do all of those things," we said "why not?" and we did it anyway!

Since that time, over four years ago, we have garnered over **1,900 [Facebook](#) fans** (and growing), and 67% of them are ladies - must be the men in kilts!

We are "friended", follwed and "tweeted" by supporters in the U.K., Canada, Ireland, France, Germany, Spain, Australia, Italy and many more countries internationally (**29 countries in all**). Of course our neighboring communities and states which encompass our definition of the PNW (OR, WA, AK, ID, CA) are all in the mix as well with others watching us on the fringes.

### MEASURING OUR MILESTONES

In October 2012 - The *Celtic Heritage Alliance* joined 17 fellow Lincoln County charitable non-profit organizations as members of the [Oregon Cultural Trust](#)

which includes only 1,300 organizations which sustain, develop, and participate in arts, heritage and humanities. We remain one of only two Celtic festivals in the state to be included in this membership.

Our annual festival budget runs about \$15-\$20k a year (net), and we have made the most of our \$5,000 annual advertising budget, (made possible by grants from the *Destination Newport Committee*). We may be small in size, but we have achieved great strides in garnering support through unpaid articles, radio, and television coverage which serve to promote CHA's major event, the annual **Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games**.

These articles were sought by editors and published locally in locally run publications like the *Oregon Coast TODAY* and *Oregon Coast Magazine* simply because they wanted to see us succeed.

Since then we have been interviewed twice for **Celtic Life International**; a Canadian publication whose magazine covers include famous faces like, *The Irish Rovers*, *George Clooney*, and *Ewan MacGregor* - and which advertises in *Scotland Magazine*.

This time, in mid-September, it was London calling!

We were one of only five Highland Games events in the world to be showcased in the **London Telegraph's online article** geared toward expatriots of the U.K. - along with our "sister festival" **The Celtic Classic** in Bethlehem, PA. We are proud to say we have been published internationally!

But wait, there's more!

Yet another feather in our proverbial cap is soon to be published.

In June 2013, we were contacted by the *Art Institute of Chicago* and were invited to participate in a **research project** with a focus on the current situation of culturally specific (ethnic) arts organizations in the U.S. and Canada, with an intent to lead to increased knowledge and support for these organizations. We were happy to oblige.

Many arts organizations were contacted and participated in the research. In July 2014, we were notified that the results of the surveys have been compiled and a draft book entitled ***Figuring the Plural*** will be published after all reviews and edits have been completed. Their goal is to have it available to the public by December 2014 and we look forward to seeing the results and how it changes the landscape of support for non-profits like ours which tend to be overlooked in terms of their true value.

We are truly proud to to have come so far in our journey to, not only create events which represent, promote, and preserve Celtic culture, but to have been able to

represent the seven Celtic nations in such a way that we have sent a message to others that culture is not simply an intangible sense of personhood; rather, it is a culmination of all of the things which people are infused with. Something which makes them unique and the same all at once. It is food, and art, and dance, and sport, and language, and music, and human interaction (and so much more) which bring us into our own culture - and it should be recognized, and supported, and cultivated as such.

Cultural awareness is so much more than a festival!

If you would like to **JOIN US** as we continue our path of success, we always have the need for additional **volunteers** (either year-round or during specific events).

Curious? Just visit our [Volunteer Page](#) for a quick overview of available positions.

You can also contact our Volunteer Team Leader at [volunteer@newportcelticfestival.com](mailto:volunteer@newportcelticfestival.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR VACANCIES

If you have experience or a strong interest in helping further our cultural mission, we invite you to become a member of our Board of Directors.

Upcoming **Board of Director vacancies** will include the position of President, Vice President & Treasurer. Interested parties should send a **Letter of Interest** by **October 15, 2014** explaining why they are interested and what qualifications they have to fulfill the position. One mandatory annual meeting is required (Around October 31/November 1).

Letters of Interest should be e-mailed to [info@newportcelticfestival.com](mailto:info@newportcelticfestival.com) or by regular mail to: CHA - PO Box 504 - Newport, OR 97365.

## OCTOBER CELTIC HERITAGE & TRADITIONAL CELEBRATIONS

- October 4th - [Golden Spurtle Porridge Making Championships](#) (Scotland)
- October 16th - [Belfast Festival at Queen's](#) (N. Ireland)
- October 25th - [Conwy Feast](#) (Wales)
- October 26th - [Galway Races](#) (Ireland)
- October 29th - [Isle of Film](#) (Isle of Man)
- October 31st - Halloween or Celtic New Year's Eve

## CHARITABLE GIVING

Did you know there are now several ways to support CHA? Now you can show your support through sponsorship, volunteerism, and charitable donations to our 501(c) 3 charitable organization including shopping at Fred Meyer, [AMAZON.com](http://AMAZON.com) or

purchasing our official gear on eBay! [Click here](#) to see all the ways you can help!

We appreciate your continuing support for the Celtic Heritage Alliance!

Until next time...

**Belinda Goody**

President, Celtic Heritage Alliance &  
Executive Director of the Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games  
[belinda@newportcelticfestival.com](mailto:belinda@newportcelticfestival.com)



## About Us

Celtic Heritage Alliance, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization formed in July 2011 by the group of small business owners who organized the 2011 Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games and who share a common interest in their Celtic heritage.

CHA's mission is to promote and preserve Celtic culture and heritage through creation and development of Celtic cultural events, activities, and programs which facilitate education, workshops, musical performances and traditional competitions which include athletics, music and dance.

Since the inaugural festival, CHA has hosted the following events in the local community:

- October 2011 - Halloween Ceili by the Sea
- January 2012 - Robert Burns Supper
- March 2012 - St. Patrick's House Concert featuring BUA
- April 2012 - Promotion of National Tartan Day
- June 2012 - Celtic Festival & Highland Games (2nd Annual)
- November 2012 - Harvest by the Sea Concert
- January 2013 - Robert Burns Supper (2nd Annual)
- March 2013 - Shamrock Supper
- June 2013 - Celtic Festival & Highland Games (3rd Annual)

- October 2013 - Presentation: Genealogical Histories, Clans & Families
- November 2013 - Harvest by the Sea Ceili & Concert
- January 2014 - Robert Burns Supper (3rd Annual)
- March 2014 - Shamrock Supper (2nd Annual)
- June 2014 - Celtic Festival & Highland Games (4th Annual)

Long-term goals include the formation of our own community bagpipe band and procuring Celtic dance instruction where anyone can learn, become proficient, and perform at our annual festival and year-round outreach events.

If you would like to support us through volunteerism, sponsorship, or donations, we always welcome any means of allowing our mission to grow and our Celtic community to thrive.

Matching donations through the Oregon Cultural Trust are also appreciated.

**[Donate Now!](#)**

[Click Here](#) for Contact Information

**Celtic Heritage Alliance, Inc.**  
a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Corporation



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