



Celtic Women International

Quarterly Newsletter

www.celticwomen.org

P.O. Box 58, Butler, WI 53007

Winter 2008

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all,

Our Irish members will claim this holiday but St Patrick sent his monks to all the Celtic lands and his influence has carried through the ages. I am visiting NZ as I write this and it is amazing and wonderful to see the Celtic Diaspora throughout the world - you could not miss the Celtic motifs in the Lord of the Rings. Think of Brigid this February and plan to join your Celtic cousins in celebrating her and/or St Pat.

Slainte,
Mary McGough Schultze

Upcoming Events

Feb 19 – Chicago Branch *Third Tuesday* meeting at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. 7-9.

March 17 – Sheboygan branch will meet at 11am at the corner of Eastern Ave. and Highland Ave for the annual Irishman's Walk in Plymouth. We will proceed to 52 Stafford for a shot of whiskey and an Irish lunch or dinner.

Late March (date TBA) – CWI's Women's History Month program. Watch for details.

April 15 – Chicago Branch *Third Tuesday* meeting at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. 7-9.

****2008 CWI Spring Gathering** April 25-27**

This is a weekend to leave your cares behind, relax and laugh. This year our weekend getaway takes us to the delightful Sheboygan/Plymouth, WI. area.

We have a block of rooms at Plymouth Inn reserved for \$85/night for single or double. Call 1-888-779-5623 for reservations, and reference Celtic Women International.

Some of us are planning to attend a Maya Angelou speaking engagement on Sat. April 26. Tickets are \$59. If you would like to attend, contact the Kohler Foundation 920-458-1972.

*****More details soon!*****

Remember to send your dues,
still a bargain at \$25 per year!

Other Celtic Events

Feb 1-3 – Courage, Midwifing Wisdom Brigit Festival, Brescia University College, 1285 Western Road, London, Ontario Canada www.brescia.uwo.ca

Feb 29 - March 1 – Celebrate St. David's Day by listening to 30 hours of Welsh music! To listen live online please visit www.radioirft.com

March 7 – Family Fun Night including Leahy's Luck, Ulster Project Milwaukee, Mt. Mary College, \$5. Contact: 414-479-9064 or tgillick@gmail.com 5-10pm

March 29 – SWAN Day (Support Women Artists Now Day) is a new international holiday that celebrates women artists. More details will be available at <http://www.womenarts.org/swan>.

March 30 – "My Life is a Song" A Jamie O'Reilly concert at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox, Chicago. For more information 773-282-2035.

August 28-31 – "The North American Festival of Wales" a four day festival featuring prominent Welsh speakers, Welsh film festival, Welsh musical talent, and much more. For more information: www.wngga.org

September 2-7 – Dehwelans - the third homecoming for descendants of the Cornish diaspora, will be held at the stunning historic harbour town of Looe on the south Cornish coast. For information www.dehwelanskernow.com

September 5-7 The second "Feile Fidelma" an international gathering of enthusiasts of Sr. Fidelma Mysteries, in Cashel Co. Tipperary, Ireland. For more information: www.cashelartsfest.com or www.sisterfidelma.com

Where in the World is the CWI Tartan?

How I ended up in Ireland this past summer meeting lots of Kelly relatives for the first time.

submitted by Betty Kelly Gavitt

When my cousin Mary and I decided to attend my niece's graduation from the University of St. Andrews in St. Andrews, Scotland (yes, the same St. Andrews that is the birthplace of golf), we thought it would be fun to include a side trip to Ireland to spend time with our many Irish relatives. Only her mother and my father came to the United States. Our Uncle Tom, Aunt Aggie, and Uncle Sonny had stayed in Knocklonogad, County Carlow, Ireland and raised their families there.



Cousin Mary, cousin John Keating, me

We met in Dublin (Mary lives on the East Coast, I'm from the midwest), picked up our rental car and headed for Carlow Town. I won't spend time telling you about our drive to Carlow – let it suffice that we laughed most of the way. Remember that we were driving on the wrong side of the road, on the wrong side of the car.....

The next day our cousin Jimmy and his wife Josephine, "home" visiting from England where they've lived for 50 years, became our tour guides. I had not met Jimmy until this moment and instantly felt comfortable with him. He took us to every place that we could remember either of our parents ever mentioning. This was very special for us as we would never have been able to find any of these places on our own. He asked if we would like to see the house where our

grandmother had been born. We both yelled YES at the same time. A bit later we found ourselves at the Keating house which is in excellent condition and currently occupied by our grandmother's great nephew, John Keating. John and his wife greeted us and invited us in for tea. We declined as we were on our way to lunch. Instead, we stood in his front yard and talked for about an hour. Part of the way through our conversation, cousin Mary and I realized that John was our second cousin – someone we had not known existed.



Me and Cousins Jimmy and Mary at our family house in Knocklonogad, County Carlow

Each day of our 4 days in Carlow we met more relatives – many first cousins – and visited with them in their homes. On our last night, cousin Jimmy and his sister, cousin, Lil organized a family dinner. We had 11 first cousins, including me, and 5 spouses at dinner. Every one of our cousins living in the area attended. We were missing two cousins, one who lives quite a distance in Ireland and one who lives in England. It was one of the best days of my life. I heard many stories from cousin Pat about my dad as a young man in Ireland. Pat had heard the stories from his dad, Uncle Tom, and I had never heard any of them, of course. What parent tells their children about the trouble they had gotten into as a young person? The other exciting thing was to see all of the family traits, such as facial expressions, movements, and the many other things that we have in common. If I hadn't already believed in family genes, seeing all of my relatives at this dinner would have convinced me. It should be noted, however, that all of the Irish relatives tell me that I don't look like the Kellys from Knocklonogad. They say I look like the Kellys from Ballymartin. The Ballymartin Kellys are the descendants of my great uncle Moses Kelly. Who knew?

It was very difficult to leave all of these new "friends". Each one was a wonderful person and I wish we lived closer. I would love to spend lots of time with each of them.



The Kelly Family (as organized as we can get)!

News from the Local Branches

SHEBOYGAN

submitted by Mary Kunert, CWI Board Member
920-893-5139, mary.kunert@gmail.com

Our Christmas meeting was both pitiful and marvelous. It was pitiful because a big winter storm kept most people from attending, But those that did attend, (four CWI members) and about a dozen from the public were treated to a musical program of Native American Flute and Tin Whistle music along with a description of each instrument and piece. AND a mini lesson for us all.

Our next gathering is to be at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center at 518 Water St. Sheboygan Falls, WI . The number there is 920-467-4667 if you need it. We are going to meet at 11:00AM. Order food from a local eatery and share our Irish or Celtic backgrounds. And Beth Dipple will introduce us to the Research Center and the tools there for searching.

Our third gathering will be on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. We will march as a group in the Irishman's Walk in Plymouth.

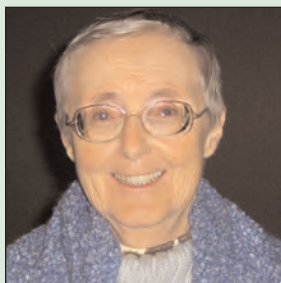
Happy New Year and Slan

CHICAGO

December While we didn't have a meeting in December, we had a strong presence at the Irish American Center's Holiday Bazaar spreading information about CWI. We debuted our new CWI tote bag samples, and displayed our new CWI sweatshirt. We met some wonderfully interesting other Celtic women, and hope to welcome them to our upcoming spring meetings.

We also hosted the intermission of Jamie O'Reilly's beautiful Christmas concert at the IAHC. Quoting one member of the audience, "I don't know what this is about, but I was told I had to go." He and his wife thoroughly enjoyed the show, as Jamie, joined by her daughter Meg O'Reilly Amandes and accompanied by Paul Amandes on classical guitar, Kelvin Lin on violin, Al Ehrich on base, her sister Katrina O'Reilly-Greene on the piano, and Bob Weber on cello, performed Michael Smith's "Gift of the Magi" production for the first half of the concert and Irish Christmas carols for the second. Attendees were delighted with the homemade desserts supplied and served by CWI members.

January The ever amazing Brigid O'Malley presented a unique program on graphology – the study of handwriting – and analyzed the writing of famous Irish writers. By analyzing a person's writing, a behavioral profile can be determined to gain insight into



physical, mental, and emotional states of the writer. Handwriting reveals the essentials of personality and character.

February Dr. Lawrence J. McCaffrey will return to present a program on his research into the upward mobility of the Irish, and how women steered their families from the city to life in suburbia.

Tartan news

In addition to our scarves and vests, which can be ordered on our website www.celticwomen.org, some of our members have been using our tartan in creative ways. If you are interested in a jacket or tote, please contact the members directly for ordering information. The jackets and totes are \$35 plus shipping.

We are always looking for creative uses for our tartan. If you have an idea for a product, but can't imagine producing it, let us know. We'll see if we can match up ideas with craftswomen and artists.



Jackets: for more information contact Mary Kunert in our Sheboygan branch mary.kunert@gmail.com.

Totes: for more information contact Chris Wolff in our Chicago branch cwolff823@sbcglobal.net.



And keep watching our website and newsletters for more tartan news.

Celtic Quills

Owen Neill, Canada's Poet Of The Wolf

Written by Carole Walsh

I would like to introduce my fellow Celts to the poetry of Owen Neill, who is also known as Canada's Poet Of The Wolf. Owen has released a heart warming and soul touching CD of his latest poetry entitled *Circles In The Sand*. This latest collection is a journey through his life, with all the longing and tenderness of romantic love, as well as a deep love of family, nature and place. The soft background music was composed by his son Jeff, a member and manager of the band Streetheart. Owen is the son of an Irish immigrant from the Glens of Antrim and he grew up in the northern parts of Ontario Canada listening to the Legends and music of 'The Old Country'. It is not surprising therefore that he speaks with soft lilting Irish tones.

In the course of his career as an Arts and English teacher in Ontario one of his students was Bill Lishman, whose story many of you may know from the early 1990's movie 'Fly Away Home'. Owen was an active member of the team Bill gathered together when training Canada Geese to follow him as he flew South in an ultralight airplane. A man of many parts Owen drew the illustrations in the book that accompanies the CD for those who like to read along with the Poet. He has travelled across Canada and to Ireland bringing his Wolf Program to classrooms and groups with an interest in wolves. He also runs workshops on writing poetry which are informative and inspiring. I highly recommend this Irish Bard to my fellow Celts. As William Butler Yeats wrote "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire".

Owen R. Neill Anthologies:

And Other Travels (Moonstone Press, 1988)

Coastlines (Whiterock & Surrey Writers Group, 1990)

The Twenty Year Itch (Hope Writers Guild, 1994)

Between Cultures (Third Eye Publications/League of Canadian Poets, 1995)

Hawthorn, Hearts, Holograms: Twoard the Millennium (Third Eye Publications, 1996)

Falling for Snow (Red Deer Press, 2003)

Translation: Galileo Magazine 1996, Argentina (poem: *The Appletrees*)

Other Books:

What I Meant to Say; Eye of the Wolf; She Said He Said,;She Said He Said: Act Two, Scene Two; High Tide Moon Tide; Six Windows of the Giant; It's About Time: Poems Over the Shoulder; My Wild Colonials; Under Moonleaves; and Gone to Gossamer.

Available from wolfspoet@hotmail.com

CELTIC WOMEN

by Owen Neill, dedicated to Celtic Women International

Mother of stars on earth
through eyes of glowing children
goes westward to happier isles
emerald rains for loving
sparks of silver on tongues
goddess touches on heros
gold of kingships invested
pages in books forever

Voices of women now holy
croon softly through history's tomes
first sounds of evolution
then peace pause gives remembrance,
Music is blood magic
gift goddess founded in love
and we her acolytes
ageless now in gratitude.

Words for the New Year

by Mary Kunert

Wars **start**.

Does **peace** start too?

Children play outside in the **frigid** air

Making **Snowballs** to use for fights

Or roll until they are big enough

To build a fort or a snowman.

It's a **New Year**

Let all its weapons be snowmen or forts.

Fragments, a book of poems by Mary Kunert is available for \$7. including postage and handling. Contact her at mary.kunert@gmail.com or 920-892-5139.

Websites you may want to visit

www.wolfspoet.com

www.jesjams.com/dove2.html Peace necklace featuring a charm designed by Jen Delyth (www.kelticdesigns.com), proceeds going to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

www.fiddlersretreat.com Irish music and culture holiday, Co. Tipperary, Ireland

www.myspace.com/jamieoreillymusic

www.kingarthurflour.com

Feature

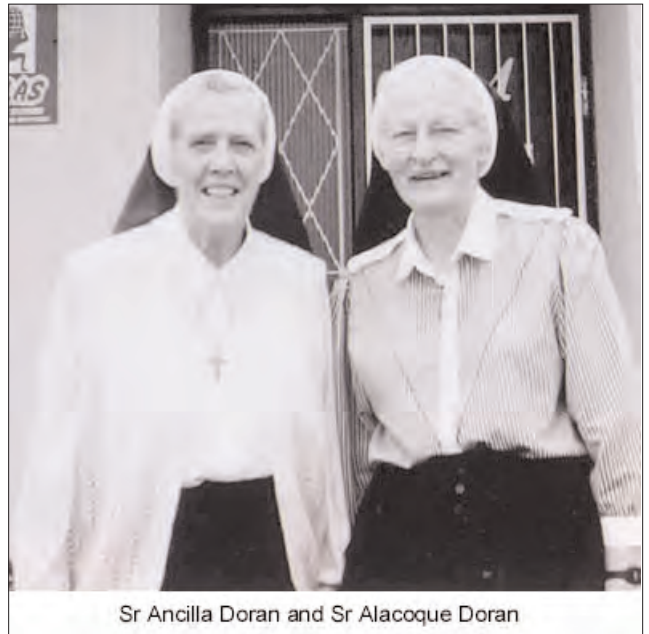
Submitted by Maureen Smith

I received a call from Maureen "Mo" Foster about her recent trip to South Africa to visit her aunts, both members of the Missionary Sisters of the Assumption. These two wonderful Irish women have devoted their entire lives to helping the poor in South Africa.

By the time we had finished our conversation, I knew that this was a story that CWI members would really love to hear. These are truly very special Celtic women.

SR ANCILLA DORAN attended Loughinisland Primary School and then attended High School at Assumption Convent, Ballynahinch. In January 1955 she joined the Missionary Sisters of the Assumption in Ballynahinch as a postulant. Six months later she sailed for South Africa. She took vows in 1957 and then trained as a nurse, going on to include training in maternity and intensive care.

Sr Ancilla's first assignment was to open a clinic in the new township of Joza in Grahamstown. Conditions were very poor. Most people were unemployed. There was a lot of sickness, TB etc and the clinic was always crowded. Most mothers gave birth at home and often did not even have clothes for the poor new baby. Ancilla always had her own supply at hand. She gave great time and attention to teaching the mothers hygiene and how to care for the baby and visited them daily for two weeks after the birth. This was mostly on foot, for although she had a little car, the roads were un-tarred and sometimes did not even exist.



Sr Ancilla Doran and Sr Alacoque Doran

After a few years in the clinic she was transferred to a new hospital in Nigeria, where she was when the Biafran War broke out. There were only two religious sisters running the hospital with lay staff. The second sister, Sr. Mel, got very ill and had to be flown to Ireland. Ancilla was the only sister at the hospital when it was taken over by the military. It became overcrowded – four patients to a bed: two in bed and two under. They had eight theatres at the hospital and sometimes after a bombing raid on a nearby market, the theatres would be going day and night. Eventually all the missionaries had to leave this area. After a short stay in Ireland, Ancilla returned to South Africa for another year of training.

In the early seventies a convent and hospital were opened in Zambia and Ancilla went there to help set up. She then took up a post in Malawi where a convent and clinic had to be built. She saw this project through and was matron there for twelve years. When she came back to South Africa again, she took a post as matron of a Catholic hospital in Johannesburg. She was at this stage a member of the general council of the congregation.

After a few more years of clinic work, she moved out of nursing and pioneered AIDS prevention education in the North Eastern Transvaal for eight years. She brought in a team from Kenya to train people in "Education for Life", a programme begun in Uganda where it helped cut the infection rate from 1 in 33 to 1 in 3.

She then came to Port Elizabeth to care for her frail and dying sisters. She was wonderful at this work. After five years, she finally left nursing and is now involved in prison ministry and pastoral hospital ministry with a focus on oncology patients. Sr. Ancilla is now 75 years old, having spent her entire adult life working in South Africa.

continued on page 6

Race for Relief
Saturday, March 1, 2008
4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

The event will include a wonderful buffet, entertainment, raffles, silent auction, Jewel-Osco Shop and Share Day, and more. Busses to the event will be available from different sites around the Chicago area. Information about the Race for Relief fundraiser and other efforts to support these wonderful women can be found at www.raceforrelief.org.

Feature *continued*

SR ALAOCQUE DORAN was educated at Loughinisland Primary School and attended High School at Assumption Convent Ballynahinch. In January 1954 she joined the Missionary Sisters of the Assumption as a postulant and six months later sailed for South Africa. After taking vows, she trained as a teacher.

Her first post was at St Augustine's Boys' School in Port Elizabeth. This was a government school but the majority were Catholic. At this stage, South Africa was bringing in people from all over Europe and even South America for skilled and even unskilled labor, (even though there were millions in the country who could have been trained to do this work). Consequently, St Augustine's was always crowded with the sons of the immigrants. At times, Sr. Alacoque had up to fifteen different nationalities in the class, many could not speak a word of English.

After ten years in St Augustine's. Sr. Alacoque moved to Somerset East, a town about two hundred miles inland from Port Elizabeth. Here she was principal of St Teresa's. When training as a teacher, Sr. Alacoque learned Afrikaans and taught it as a second language in Port Elizabeth. In Somerset East everything was in Afrikaans. St Teresa's was also a government-aided Catholic school. The greater majority of the pupils were very poor. Many parents were unemployed as there was no industry in the town. For the most needy, the school provided soup and bread every day. At seven in the morning, Sr. Alacoque would put two massive pots on paraffin stoves. By eleven o'clock hot soup was ready.

The school premises were too small with only ten classrooms therefore, an afternoon shift was necessary. At 12.30 a whole consignment of pupils and teachers began their day's work and school ended at 5.00 p.m. For twenty years Sr. Alacoque was at school every day from 7.30 a.m. to 5.00p.m. Then a miracle happened and permission was given for the school to take back its property that had been expropriated for housing and at last a new school could be built. The lovely school was built on donations from all over the world and the hard work of parents and teachers. When the new school was opened in 1990 an English medium stream was introduced and this became very popular with the Xhosa-speaking pupils as well as the black pupils. The standard of work had always been very high in the school, and pupils succeeded as a result of this strong foundation.

In June 2001 Sr. Alacoque retired from teaching at age 65. She is now fully dedicated to AIDS prevention education. The infection rate in the Eastern Cape is as high as 1 in 3 or 4. She, too, has spent her life in service in South Africa.

Maureen Foster returned from her visit to South Africa, determined that she would find a way to help these wonderful women, along with the other Missionary Sisters of the Assumption. She has planned a major fundraiser for March 1 at Hawthorne Race Track in Stickney/Cicero, Illinois.

Spring 2008 Women's History Month Project Women in the White City Kickoff

We are planning an event that includes elements that will start women looking at the women in their own families and working toward a major project for March 2009.

We would like to include one or two speakers and a few workshops that inspire members to research and record their own family stories throughout the year. We are hoping to gather many stories that can be included in a major program about the Strong Women in Our Lives in March 2009.

The workshops will give us ideas about different ways to record our stories - researching, writing, other media (such as scrapbooking, powerpoint presentations, online photobooks).

We have tentatively scheduled this event for March 30 in the afternoon, with a break for dinner. There is a Jamie O'Reilly concert that evening at the Irish American Heritage Center, for those interested.

If you have any suggestions for speakers and/or workshops, please contact us at editor@celticwomen.org

.....we'll keep you posted

Celtic Kitchens

IRISH BROWN BREAD

submitted by Mary Kunert

2 cups wheat flour

2 tbs. white sugar

2 cups white flour

2 tbs.. brown sugar

1 tsp. salt

2 cups buttermilk

1 tsp. baking soda

Sieve the dry ingredients into a large bowl. Scoop up handfuls of the dry ingredients and allow to drop back into the bowl to aerate the mixture. **(Very Important!)**

Add enough buttermilk to make a soft dough. Work quickly as the buttermilk and soda are working. Knead the dough lightly. Keep flouring hand to keep dough from sticking. **Too much kneading will toughen, too little it won't rise.**

Form a round loaf about as thick as your fist. Place on a lightly floured baking sheet or stone and cut a cross across the top with a floured knife.

Bake at the top of a preheated oven. 450 Degrees for 35 to 40 minutes. The loaf will sound hollow when rapped on the bottom.

Wrap immediately in a clean tea towel to stop the crust from hardening.

Raisins can be added if you like.

This bread does dry out rather quickly but freshens nicely if toasted.

Keep our newsletter exceptional by contributing!

We would love to include your stories, poems, pictures, recipes, Celtic links, favorites and any upcoming Celtic events! E-mail your items to editor@celtic-women.org

Our spring issue is scheduled to be out in early May 2008.
Please submit items by April 15.

Celtic Women International Membership

CWI memberships run from January through December each year. Annual dues are \$25.

CWI membership:

- ◆ helps support a world-wide network connecting you with other women interested in Celtic culture.
- ◆ provides an opportunity to share in CWI's mission - to honor, celebrate and promote Celtic women and their heritage.
- ◆ makes you eligible for an elected office and serve on committees.
- ◆ entitles you to participate in our own private CWI Yahoo Group and communicate with other CWI members on an informal, yet private and secure basis.
- ◆ receive quarterly CWI newsletters.
- ◆ automatically makes you a member of any local CWI Branch in your area.
- ◆ makes you a member of a global community of Celtic women

To join, complete and return the membership form included with this newsletter along with your \$25 dues.

The membership form can also be downloaded from our website – www.celticwomen.org and click on Membership on the sidebar menu.

CWI Yahoo Group

DO YOU YAHOO? Or want to know how? It's easy to join the CWI Yahoo group - just follow these easy steps....

To create an account: Go to the CWI website (www.celtic-women.org), select "Yahoo Group" from the sidebar menu, and then Login to the Celtic Women International Yahoo Group.

In the light gray box on the right hand side, select Sign Up under "Don't have a Yahoo! ID". Complete the next screen.

Once you have created your account: Go back to the CWI Yahoo page and click the bright blue Join This Group box. Once you have been "accepted" into the group (takes a few days), you will be able to return to the CWI Yahoo page and read or post messages. You can also choose to receive newly posted messages by e-mail, so you don't have to return to the CWI Yahoo website unless you want to post new messages.

The next time you return: Login to the group at the top of the screen "Sign In" using your e-mail address or user-name and password that you selected when creating your Yahoo account.

2007 CWI Board of Directors

Rosemary Baumann Milwaukee, WI baumann@merr.com <i>Treasurer</i> <i>Membership, Nominating</i>	Gail McAleese Milwaukee, WI mcaleese@merr.com <i>Treasurer</i> <i>Membership</i>	Mary McGough Schultze Michigan mms2770@yahoo.com <i>President</i> <i>Executive, By-Laws</i>
Patti Garrity Oconomowoc, WI garrity@mailbag.com <i>Finance</i>	Dianne McCarty Aurora, IL Dianne.K.McCarty@wheaton.edu <i>Vice President</i>	Maureen Smith Chicago, IL msmith@luc.edu <i>Executive, Publications, Website</i>
Betty Gavitt Chicago, IL bgavitt159@sbcglobal.net <i>Spring Gathering</i>	Kate Herman Plymouth, WI kaherman@lsol.net	Mary Kunert Plymouth, WI mary.kunert@gmail.com
Emily Isakson Milwaukee, WI traveleremi@yahoo.com <i>Secretary, Board Development</i>	Jamie O'Reilly Chicago, IL jamiejoan@aol.com	Anne McCaffrey Gurnee, IL annemccaffrey@comcast.net

CWI By-Laws provide for a Board of up to 12 members. We welcome volunteers on the various CWI committees. Contact any of the Board to express your interest in serving.



Celtic Women International, Ltd.

P.O. Box 58, Butler, WI 53007

2008 MEMBERSHIP

Our mission is to honor, celebrate and promote Celtic Women and their heritage.

First Name _____ MI _____ Last _____

Address 1 _____ Address 2 _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Date Joined _____

2008 Membership Dues in US or Canadian Dollars (USD/CAD) or equivalent:

Canadian members may pay in Canadian Dollars. All others should pay in US Dollars or the equivalent exchange rate of their currency.

Select One:

- One-Year Regular Membership.....\$25.00 USD/CAD
- Five-Year Regular Membership.....\$100.00 USD/CAD
- Student Membership.....\$10.00 USD/CAD
- Combination Membership:
- Charter + Regular..... \$25 or \$100 USD/CAD
- Honorary + Regular..... \$25 or \$100 USD/CAD

Amount Paid: _____

Additional Tax-Exempt Donation..... Donation: _____

Personal Profile (optional)

Select one or more that are part of your Celtic Heritage:

- Brittany Cornwall Galicia Ireland
- Isle of Man Scotland Wales Other

Specify: _____

Select one or more areas of interest:

- Visual Arts Music Authors
- Theater History Storytelling
- Games/Sports Genealogy Languages
- Culinary/Cooking Other _____

Privacy Policy: Celtic Women International guarantees that it will not give nor sell your contact information to any other member or organization except with your express written permission. Please indicate that you grant or withhold your permission by selecting the appropriate choice below and providing your signature:

- I decline. Please keep my membership information confidential.
- I grant permission for CWI to share information with other CWI members.
- I grant permission for CWI to send its Newsletters and other information to me electronically (Email required above).

Signature _____

Date _____