



The Cairde Connection

“Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!”

Irish Cultural Center at
Elms College

Volume 8 & Issue 3

January, 2008

Coming events offer variety with Irish films and Tea Party

We will host our Irish film series on four consecutive Wednesdays beginning in late January, 2008. Heather Lowe has chosen the films and will introduce each before the showing. They include drama, documentaries, comedy, and fantasy – something for everyone. Come for the films and enjoy green popcorn and Irish soda bread. In your last issue of the *Cairde Connection* we included a flyer with details on the movies. The films are:

January 30 *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*;

February 6 *The Story of the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem*; and *Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem: Reunion Concert*;

February 13 *Killinaskully, Season 3: The Sports Day* and *Southpaw* ;
February 20 *Darby O’Gill and the Little People*.

All films will be shown in the Elms

College Alumnae Library Theater at 7:00 p. m.

On Sunday, March 2 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Mary Dooley Campus Center dining hall we will host our Irish Tea Party. Mary Franz will again serve as emcee and she will feature her friends with talents in music, dancing and singing. It is a not-to-be missed event.

The winners of the middle school essay contest will read their papers and receive their money prizes. And, of course, we’ll serve tea and Irish breads, scones and cookies.

Last year in the St. Patrick’s we used a jaunting cart, belonging to Tim Allen, a long time member of the Irish Cultural Center Board. It was purchased by his grandfather Peter Hogan over fifty years ago. We are beginning plans for the 2008 parade on March 30. If you wish to join a committee to organize our contingent, or perhaps, build a float, call the Center.

Congratulations, Ann Gibbons

We offer our congratulations to the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade Committee Grand Marshall, Ann Gibbons. We’ll proudly march behind you, Ann, in the parade. You honor the Irish, the City of Holyoke, your family, the Elms College and the Irish Cultural Center.

Member dues

Happy New Year! Another year begins and we thank all those who renewed their membership by sending in their dues for 2008. If you have not as yet paid, we ask you to do so at your earliest convenience.

As you read this newsletter and perhaps, review older newsletters from the Center, you know how active the organization is. And you also know that we offer many programs free, asking only for a donation from the people who attend. We rely on our faithful dues-paying members.

Contest essays received and under review

Over fifty essays are under review for the middle school essay contest. Students wrote on the contributions of Irish immigrants to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Schools participating include: Granby Jr. High, Holy Cross, Springfield, St. Agnes, Dalton, Nessacus Regional Middle School, Dalton, White Brook Middle School, Easthampton. The winning students will receive notice at the end of this month. Notices will also be sent to the schools.

Among the immigrants chosen are: John Boyle O’Reilly, Patrick Collins, Patrick Kennedy, and Mary Kenney O’Sullivan.

We are planning to offer a June bus trip to the National Archives, Pittsfield and the Berkshire Athenaeum Pittsfield Public Library to help folks in researching family roots. Both locations have extensive resources for genealogy study. If interested in joining us, call or email the Center.



Children perform at the Christmas celebration

We began the holiday season with our ninth annual Christmas with an Irish Touch in early December. We welcomed about 200 to the liturgy, presided over by Msgr. Chris Connelly in Our Lady's Chapel. Kathleen Gilhooly and Our Lady of Hope Folk group led the hymns and sang some of the parts of the Mass in Irish.

George Bresnahan and Tom Moriarty did the readings in English and Irish and we all joined in praying the Our Father as *Gaeilge*. Bob and Meghan Sullivan assisted the priest on the altar. After Mass we gathered in the dining hall for the reception and entertainment. Kelly Lowe O'Sullivan emceed the event, calling on readers and sing-

ers who shared Irish Christmas stories and songs. The program began with music played by the Corner Boys. The audience joined in as Kathleen Gilhooly led in singing *Silent Night* and Mike Rancitelli in *Christmas in Killarney*.

The performance by the children from The Celtic Adventures for Kids who sang, played their tin whistles and danced was particularly well-received.



Above left clock wise: Patrick and John Leahy; Patrick Sullivan and daughters MaryKate and Molly bring forward the gifts at Mass; three children ready to play; The Corner Boys entertain.

Play, lectures and concert entertain

We have striven to provide the variety in our programs that we promised in our last newsletter. And we had just that. We hosted two lectures, a play and a concert, all reasonably well-attended.

In late November and early December we hosted lectures by a couple from Dublin. Sean Ó Duíll delighted about fifty people in his talk on the death and burial customs based on the interviews of children in the 1930s by the Folklore Commission. In her lecture to about forty interested people Eileen Ó Duíll explained how to go about researching Irish family members, as well as giving valuable information on the major Dublin repositories. In November we hosted the Pilgrim

Soul Productions' of Hugh Leonard's play *Love in the Title* and directed by founder, Matt Carr. The small, but enthusiastic audience praised the playwright for his writing and the actresses for their performances.

A bus full of happy concert goers traveled to UMASS Amherst to attend the Cherish the Ladies in concert. The next day Sister Kathleen Kirley, speaking for those who had attended the performance emailed Joan Madden, the leader of the group to praise the concert, "One thing that impressed me so much was that it

really was a Christmas Concert!!! The Christmas carols were interspersed with the Irish music and dance as naturally as breathing... so natural ... the way prayer is meant to be. Thanks for a great evening." Joanie replied, "Thanks so much Sister and Merry Christmas again—so glad you enjoyed the show!!!"

Right: bus riders anticipate the Cherish the Ladies concert in the Fine Arts Center



Items of interest here and elsewhere

John Boyle O'Reilly: January 18 Bachelor's supper: call Steve McGirr at 374-9213; Irish History Round Table monthly on the second Saturday at noon; Boyle web site: www.jbo-club.com.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians: Dan Curran's Irish Night, Saturday, March 1; Communion breakfast,

Sunday, March 16.

St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Holyoke: Parade will take place on March 30, 2008. Grand Marshall Ann Gibbons will be honored at a reception on January 18: tickets \$36 include a meal and cash bar: call Peter Krisak at 467-2452.

January 13 O'Connell Award winner will be announced;

January 20 Gallivan Award winner. February 9 St. Patrick's Award Night; February 23 The Grand Colleen Coronation Ball.

www.newsite.holyokestpatricparade.com.

Sons of Erin: Music by Jimmy McArdle January 25, February 22, and March 7. www.sonsoferin.com.

Westfield WinterGreen Days March 1-31 www.westfieldonweekends.org

January 23 at 7:00 pm in the Library Theatre Elms Professor Robert King will show the film of the Druid stage production of Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*



Ireland trip continued from page 4

On the return trip, we stopped at Standun's in Spiddal, one of the favorite shops to buy Irish woolens. Diana bought the most beautiful blue Irish knit sweater; we couldn't stop complimenting how beautiful she looked in it. It was a perfect buy! It was our last night in Galway and we celebrated with dinner at Moran's on the Weir, a short distance away in Kilcolgan. It was an early night for most of us; the next day would be a big day as we continued our journey on to beautiful Dingle!

To be continued...in Part II in an upcoming newsletter

An bhfuil Gaeilge agat? By Chip Costello

You have seen the commercials on television and on billboards asking "Got milk?" What I am asking in the title is "Got Irish?" or more literally, "Is the Irish at you?"

The answer "Tá" or "It is" for those who have taken any of our Irish classes at the Center. Last Fall, we had a successful introductory class with participants from as far away as Brattleboro, VT and Windsor, CT. Our immediate and advanced classes had the opportunity to meet with Sean O'Duill, an Irish language teacher

from Dublin, and Michael Carney, a native of the Blasket Islands. The students had the wonderful opportunity to listen to and speak Irish with these two fluent Irish speakers. Because of the members' interest in the language, the Center will continue to find opportunities to sponsor classes, speakers, as well as an Irish language day in June.

If you are interested in learning more about our Irish language classes, please contact Sister Judy at 265 - 2537. Tá fáilte roimh chuille dhuine! (All are welcome!)



Michael Carney and Sean Ó Duill converse in Irish one evening in the Center. While visiting the area for several months Sean also joined a small group of language students working on their skills.

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ICC Calendar of events

Ongoing: Language groups meet weekly: beginners, intermediate, conversation, advanced

Genealogy volunteer
Ed Callahan (413) 527-5091 or email at eastgram@aol.com

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Sun. 3rd Sunday of each month, except March: Irish Music Seisiún, 1:00-4:00 pm
Dooley Campus Center, dining hall annex (note the change of venue): January 20, February 17, April 20, May 25, June 22. Musicians

of all skill levels and audience welcome

Wednesday, January 23, 7:00 pm Professor Robert King will show the film of the Druid stage production of Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*

Wednesday, January 30, February 6, 13, 20 7:00 p.m. Winter Film Series, Alumnae Library Theater

Sun, March 2, 2:00 pm Irish Tea Party in Dooley Campus Center Dining Hall

Sunday, March 30 St. Patrick's Parade

Sunday April 13, 2:00 pm book reading and signing of *A Journey into Ireland's Literary Revival* with R. Todd Felton

TBA June Irish Language Day

TBA June bus trip to National Archives, Pittsfield and Berkshire Athenaeum Pittsfield Public Library for genealogy study



We mourn the loss of recently deceased members: Ed Casey and Peg Cahill. Ed offered his musical talents and donated his harp to the Center. The harp is over one hundred years old—one of our treasures. Peg rode on the jaunting cart in the St. Patrick Parade in March, 2007 with her friends Mike Quirk and Finn Murray. Our sympathy to family and friends. We offer condolences to Sister Judith Kappenman whose brother Jim died at the end of December.