



The Cairde Connection

“Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!”

Irish Cultural Center at
Elms College

Volume 8 & Issue 4

March 2008

Events offer variety with Irish language day, bus trips and more

In the coming months we host programs that offer something for everyone: a parade, book reading and signing, bus trip to Worcester to attend a play, Irish language day-long workshop, bus trip to National Archives for genealogy workshop, and of course, Celtic Adventures for Kids in July.

The Elms College and the Irish cultural Center will join the Chicopee contingent to march behind Tom Moriarty, chosen this year as Chicopee Parade Marshall. We hope members, as well as students, join us to walk the parade route on March 30.

On April 13 we welcome R. Todd Felton who will read from his book *A Journey into Ireland's Literary Revival*. His book will be available for sale at \$21.95.

We have organized a bus to attend the Pilgrim Souls Production of the play, *The Loves of Cass McGuire* by Brian Friel on May 9 at the Worcester Hibernians. Tickets are \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members. Those of us who attended the group's production of *Love in the Title* in November at the Elms know the high quality of their performance. Places are limited, so reserve your ticket as soon as possible.

We'll host our popular Irish language day on June 7 with teachers on each level: beginners, intermediate and advanced. It is a day to immerse oneself in the language. Details are in the planning stage as of this writing. We'll perhaps have speakers and/or a film, and of course, a session to end the day.

On June 21 we are hosting a bus trip to the National Archives, Pittsfield to help folks in researching family roots. You'll learn what resources are available for genealogy research. If interested in joining us, call or email the Center to reserve a place. We will have lunch at the Dakota Restaurant before returning to Chicopee. The price of the ticket, \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members, includes the meal.

From July 28-August 1 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm we will sponsor Celtic Adventures for Kids. Children in grades one through nine will spend a week learning all things Irish: singing, dancing, speaking the Irish language, hearing the stories of heroes and legendary figures, playing the tin whistle and enjoying arts and craft projects. In addition, they play sports and swim daily in the Maguire Pool. Mary Ellen O'Brien both directs the program and teaches Irish dance. The other teachers are: Mike Rancitelli, Julia Campbell, Kathleen Gilhooly, Anita Taylor, and Beth Hawley.

In addition to the scheduled programs as listed here, we offer language classes throughout the Elms school calendar. Several groups meet weekly to hone their skills in conversation and translation.

A group of musicians meet once a month for the joy of playing Irish music. Musicians and audience members alike are always welcome to join them. Ed Callahan, volunteer is always ready to help anyone who wants to pursue genealogy research. He can give advice on the best place to find your ancestors, whether in the United States or in Ireland.

Congratulations, Tom Moriarty

We congratulate the Chicopee's Parade Marshall, Tom Moriarty. A long time history professor at the Elms College, he is honored for his "demonstrated leadership as an advocate for promoting a cultural, social and educational appreciation of the Irish culture."

Tom was one of three people (along with Elms then-president Kathleen Keating, SSJ, and Sean Cabillane) who founded the Irish Cultural Center, and served as its first director. He is currently on the board and teaches non-credit Irish language courses at the Elms.

He received the Ambassador of Ireland Award from the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee in 2001.

Parade marchers wanted for Holyoke

Please join in the line of march with the Irish Cultural Center behind our banner in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. We'll wear our green Irish Cultural Center windbreakers or Irish sweaters and dark skirts or trousers.

Since the Parade is on March 30, we hope that the warmer weather will have arrived. We'll meet at 10:30 am in the Kmart parking lot and are looking for a good contingent of marchers. Call or email the Center to let us know that you'll join us.

The Irish Cultural Center, founded in 1999, strives to “keep the Irish arts alive.”

The Irish Cultural Center...

- Serves as a public forum for events, including lectures, musical presentations, films and exhibits
- Promotes ties between the Center and educational organizations in Ireland, especially with the Basket Cultural Center
- Serves as an academic link with Irish American social organizations in Western New England.

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Center to attend Culture Day at State House

The Irish Cultural Center will join other Irish organizations, including cultural, social and business groups working in Massachusetts with an exhibit at the Massachusetts State House, Boston on March 13 from 12 noon to 5 pm. Hosted by The Irish Cultural Centre, Canton, the day is an opportunity to showcase the contributions the Irish are making in the Commonwealth. Programming Director at the Canton Centre, Mary Swanton, sees the event as a way to let the public, as well as our legislators, know that the “Irish are about more than pubs, pints and parades.”

Over thirty participants will exhibit in the Great Hall. Other highlights include a JFK exhibit and artists, including the Aisling Gallery, Mary McSweeney and sculp-

tor Vincent Crotty in Doric Hall. Open to the public, the day begins in the Senate Chamber with a proclamation followed by a reception in the Representatives Lounge. The Grand Staircase will feature performances by dancers and musicians throughout the afternoon; recurring visual presentations will take place in Senate Room 202: Boston Irish Film Festival, Green Mile Documentary, Story Telling Documentary.

The day will conclude with a reception hosted by the President of the Senate Therese Murray, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Salvatore DiMasi and the Consul General of Ireland, David Barry. The day offers an opportunity to meet many people from Irish organizations and to make new friends.

Cúpla Focail (A Couple of Words)

"Smidirín" (pronounced smid-er-ee-nee) is a commonly used Irish word meaning "small bits." Do you know the English translation? I'll give you a hint. It sounds a lot like its English counterpart - smithereens!

Several words in the English language are most likely derived from Irish. Let's try "baile tí mor" (pronounced baleh-tee-more). Those words are very closely associated with the largest city in Maryland - Baltimore. It means town or place of the big house.

One of my favorite examples of Irish words becoming part of English is "caip báis" (pronounced cahp bash). It means cap of death. As you might imagine, the death cap was worn by one facing his end for some transgression. We know the derivation of the English word as kibosh. Someone put the kibosh on that project at work. Knowing something about the "death cap," I have a better appreciation for that word now.

How about the Irish words "go leor" (pronounced gah -lyore)? I am sure you are probably catching on to this now. The meaning of the words in Irish is "plenty of." Red Sox fans galore will attend the home opener.

We'll end with two Irish words "slua" pronounced (slew-ah) and "sean tí" pronounced (shan-tee). Slua means large crowd and has become slew in English while "sean tí" means old house and has become shanty.

Developing a deeper understanding of our English language requires an appreciation of the Irish language's contributions. Keep your ears open; you will hear additional examples.

Thanks to Kathleen Gilhooly for gathering several of these examples.

Popular film series draws audience

Heather Lowe hosted another highly successful film series in January and February. Audiences ranged from about forty at the showing of the postponed one to standing room only at the first movie. We attracted a younger crowd with the showing of *Darby O'Gill and the Little People*. Perhaps because the film was scheduled for school vacation, some parents brought their children to see this delightful Disney classic. And as promised, we had something to please everyone. We showed a serious and intense movie about the history of The Troubles. We had a change of pace with the music of the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem. And sports enthusiasts enjoyed the film about the Irish itinerant boxer. Thank you, Heather, for another great series. And thanks for the green popcorn and the Irish bread. Heather promised that she'll prepare a fall film series, so watch for the announcement of dates and titles of the films.

Irish Studies Minor lecture series announced for the Fall

Watch for details for our Fall Irish lecture studies. The several Elms College professors, all involved in the Irish Studies Minor program plan a lecture series. Professors Damien Murray, Laura McNeil, Robert King and Tom Cerasulo of the history and English departments will participate. Classes offered in the Irish Studies program include: American Irish, Modern Britain, Modern Irish Drama, Northern Ireland, the Irish-American Urban

Experience. Courses are available to non traditional students for audit by contacting the Elms registrar at 265-2314. Cost is half price \$230 per credit plus \$20 registration fee. Seniors pay \$100 plus the \$20 registration fee. Check the Elms web site www.elms.edu for times and dates of the classes. In addition, Tom Moriarty will teach in one of the planned June mini-courses, entitled Ireland Before and After Patrick.

Ed's Corner: Ed Callahan

Who am I? That is the age old question. Here is the answer! Well, not quite, but here is a part of the answer. We are all products of our environment and our own family background. We can begin to understand ourselves by learning about our ancestry and the historical context of our ancestors.

How does one begin? One small step at a time. Get a notebook and reserve it for your genealogy research. Get templates of genealogy charts.

Where does one search? Start with your own family: parents, grandparents, older relatives all have some knowledge in their memory banks about your family background. They are usually eager to share this information with you.

Main sources of information are the local city and town clerks who have the records for births, marriages and deaths for anyone in their jurisdiction. Many libraries have census records for their towns, as well as other sources like city directories that go back many years. Some have genealogy sections that one can access. Research librarians are valuable resources that are only too willing to help you.

Items of interest here and elsewhere

John Boyle O'Reilly Club: Irish History Round Table monthly on the second Saturday at noon; Boyle web site: www.jbo-club.com.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians: March 16, Communion Breakfast after 8:00 am Mass at St. Jerome's Church; speaker Michael Burke; tickets adults \$14 adults, children \$7.50; March 31 quilt raffle drawing. Call Paula at 534-3697 for tickets.

St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Holyoke: Parade March 30, 2008. March 9, 2 pm Love In at The Warehouse? Tickets \$17.50; March 26, 7 pm Ireland As You Like It raffle at JPs Restaurant; series of events on March 29, 12 noon Mummers Parade at Veterans Park; 4:30 pm JFK Wreath Laying Ceremony; 5:30 Bishop's Mass, St. Jerome

Church

www.newsite.holyokestpatrickparade.com.

Sons of Erin: March 7, 6-10 pm music with Jimmy McArdle; March 9, 9-11 am Annie's Brunch; March 14, 6-10 pm music by Dan Ringrose; March 17, noon-8 pm music by Brian Russell; March 22, 6-10 pm music by Billy Egan; April 11, 6-10 pm music by Dan Ringrose; April 13, 9-11 am Annie's Brunch; April 26, 8 pm-midnight music by the Heals. www.sonsoferin.com.

Westfield WinterGreen Days March 8, 7 pm Mic Finnerty and the Tinkers with McDermott Academy Dancers at Shaker Country Club, tickets \$10; March 15, 8 pm Zoe Darrow and the Fiddleheads at Westfield Woman's Club, tickets \$10 www.westfieldonweekends.org

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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

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): April 20, May 25, June 22. Musicians of all skill levels and audience welcome

Sunday, March 30 Holyoke 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

Friday, May 9 Worcester bus trip to attend *The Loves of Cass McGuire* Tickets: \$40 for members, \$45 for non members

June 7 Irish Language Day
Watch for further details

June 21 genealogy work-

*May you have warm words on a cold evening,
A full moon on a dark night
And a smooth road all the way to your door.*

shop bus trip to National Archives, Pittsfield

July 28-August 1 Celtic Adventures for Kids

TBA Fall lecture series

TBA Fall film series

December Christmas with an Irish Touch



We extend our sympathy to members:
Gail Flanagan on the death of her brother;
Judy Kennedy whose young nephew died recently;
Fran Hennessey on the loss of his mother in law