



The Cairde Connection

“Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!”

Irish Cultural Center at
Elms College

Volume 8 & Issue 5

May 2008

Upcoming events offered by the Center

The John Boyle O’Reilly Club, in collaboration with the Irish Cultural Center will host a book reading by Andy Mendlowitz, author of *Ireland’s Professional Amateurs* Sunday, May 4, 2:00 p.m. The book reading will take place on Progress Avenue, Springfield. The author toured Ireland for eight months to observe and record the story of a sports season at its purest.

We will 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. In addition to two full length classes, we’ll host workshops in bodhran, dance and writing the old Irish script. Attendees will have the opportunity to view a film in Irish with English subtitles.

The price is \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members and \$10 for young people under age 18. Contact the Center for a registration form or download it from the web site.

On June 21 we are hosting a bus trip to the National Archives, Pittsfield to help folks to learn how to research family roots and 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 and make a stop at

the Prime Outlets, Lee before returning to Chicopee. The price of the ticket, \$45 for members and \$50 for others, includes the bus, driver’s tip and the meal. Admission to the Archives is free. Spaces are limited, so reserve early.

From July 28-August 1 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. we will sponsor Celtic Adventures for Kids. Children in grades one through nine will spend a week learning all things Irish. Children take courses in set dancing, music, Irish language, story telling, arts and crafts. They also have outdoor activities and swim in the Maguire Pool daily. Contact the Center for a registration form or download it from our web site.

www.irish-cairde.org

Elms offers lifelong learning mini-courses

Elms College will offer mini-courses for mature adults in June/July 2008. Professor Emeritus of History, Tom Moriarty will teach a course: Ireland Before and After Patrick on Mondays, June 2, 9, 23, 30, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

What was Ireland’s political and cultural life like before Patrick? What do we really know about Patrick and his missionary work in Ireland? What impact did Patrick have on the religion and culture of Ireland? Take Tom’s course and you’ll learn the answers to these questions and many more.

Cost is \$85 for registration. These courses are non-credit, with no tests or grades and are open to all inter-

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ested adults. There are no prerequisites. For some courses, readings may be suggested but are not required. All classes are held on the Elms College campus.

Other courses include: Why we Need the Mystics Today taught by Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies, Sr. Eleanor Dooley on Mondays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 1:00 –3:00 p.m.; The Sisters of St. Joseph: Past, Present, and Future with Sisters Eleanor Dooley, Mary Ferguson, Jane Morrissey, Kathleen Imbruno; An Oil Painting in 4 Weeks with Geri Brunell, Associate Professor of Art.

All courses are listed on the Elms College web site: www.elms.edu

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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Faithful members support Irish programs

We are happy to announce our newest lifetime member, Joseph Lucia of West Springfield. He joins a growing list of folks who have supported us with such a gift. Other lifetime members are: John Davis, Stephen Davis, Francis and Jeanne Feeney, Joe and Deborah Loughrey, Michael Quirk, Gay Reilly.

If you are reading this newsletter, you are more than likely a member. Hopefully, you have enjoyed some of our events. We ask you to bring friends to our programs and encourage them to become members too.

People join the Center and pay member dues for different reasons. Some enjoy attending our events and programs. Others are interested in learning the Irish language. Others come to learn about Irish

history, as well as the history of the Irish immigrants in Western Massachusetts. Others want to connect with people who are interested in the same topics. Still others want to understand their roots and the value of what the Irish have given to the world in culture and art.

Advantages of membership include receiving this newsletter and a discount at some of our events.

Steve Jablonski wrote that he appreciated the Center because it is an "opportunity for people of Irish descent to gather other than just during the month of March."

In addition to the programs we sponsor, we are proud of our center itself. If you have never visited us, consider doing that. We have a fine collection of framed photographs, art works, books, videos, and other Irish artifacts.

Items of interest here and elsewhere

The original "Dustmen" (Bo Fitzgerald, Jeff Sullivan, Bruce Fitzgerald, John Tabb and Tom Grassetti) will perform a Benefit Concert for John Jaskula. John is the son-in-law of Bruce Fitzgerald and was recently diagnosed with melanoma. The benefit will be held on Sunday May 25, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the John Boyle O'Reilly Club on Progress Ave Springfield. Cost is \$20 per person, \$30 per family and includes the entertainment, food and raffle. For tickets call Brian Ahern at 413-788-8571.

John Boyle O'Reilly Club: Irish History Round Table monthly on the second Saturday at noon; plans are underway to sign the main band for the Music Festival in August. Also plans are underway for the 3rd Annual Golf Challenge scheduled for

June 7 at the Westover Golf Course. It is a two member scramble with the Boyle against the Sons with dinner to follow at the Boyle. Proceeds to benefit the Gaelic games. Boyle web site: www.jbo-club.com

St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Holyoke announces that the annual elections will take place on Wednesday, May 21

www.newsline.holyokestpatrickparade.com.

Sons of Erin: Golf League starting; scholarships: 9 \$500, 2 \$750 and 3 \$1000. Events: music on May 9 Sweetwind 6-10 p.m. Mother's Day Brunch: May 11 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon \$5 adults (\$6 at the door) Kids \$3 (\$4 at the door) www.sonsoferin.com.

It's a language thing by Gearoid MacOisdealbhaigh

In the last newsletter, I wrote about several words that are derived from the Irish language and have since become part of our standard English vocabulary: caip báis (kibosh), slua (slew, crowd), sean tí(shanty), and go leor (galore).

Here are some additional words derived from the Irish that are now part of our vocabulary. Let's start with the Irish words "uisce beatha" (pronounced ish-keh bah-hah). The exact translation is water of life. This does not connote a religious sentiment but rather the common noun "whiskey". On the other hand, I suppose it depends on your point of view.

The word "slogan" that is often used in political or advertising campaigns

comes to us from the Irish. It is derived from the word slógán (pronounced slow-gahn). The word in Irish means battle cry. In this political season, I am sure we will be hearing an ever increasing number of slogans.

I had always heard of "longshoremen" but never really knew the word or exactly what it meant. I vaguely knew that these men worked on loading and unloading cargo from the docks. After all, I guess it is a long way from Northampton to New York. Yet, sure enough - there is an Irish language connection here. Long (pronounced long) means ship. The longshoremen - as they became known - did the tough work of loading and

unloading these ships.

"Your mother will be wailing like a banshee when she sees your final semester's report card." As you might suspect, the results were unfavorable. "Banshee" comes to us from the two Irish words bean sí (pronounced ban-she) which means fairy woman. The connotation in this setting is that the wailing is profound and almost from another world.

If you enjoy English words, the richness of some of their Irish origins, then pour yourself an uisce beatha, prepare for the slogans you will be hearing this Fall (presidential election?), and don't be surprised if you feel like running into the night screaming like a banshee.

Ed's Corner: Ed Callahan

Researching one's ancestry can be a confusing process at times. This past weekend, my wife's aunt was buried. In her obituary, which was written by a generation that did not know the older family members, one of her brother's was listed as Joseph. This was my wife's father John. He had a common Irish name of John Joseph at birth, but only used the middle name in his later years. If a later generation were to search for a birth record of Joseph, they would not find any such record.

Often in the records we use to perform our research there are such errors. We have to realize that it isn't always correct, just because it is written down somewhere. Census records are often incorrect as to names and especially ages. The census takers were appointed to the task of gathering

information about families. At times, when they could not contact anyone at home, they would gather the information from neighbors. This is sometimes how the ages of persons changed from one decade to another by several years either way, or the order of the children was reversed.

We have to ask ourselves who gave the information that is reported on birth, marriage and death records. The one most often incorrect is the death record, since the information is provided to the doctor or the funeral director by family members who may not even be blood relatives. A daughter-in-law may have been the caregiver for a person and she would not necessarily know of all the family history. Remember, even though it is in writing, it may not be Gospel. It ain't necessarily so!



Picture above: Tim Donoghue and Lynn Coakley; below with banner, Trudy Laramée, George Callahan, Sean Crane

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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 p.m. Dooley Campus Center, dining hall annex (note the change of venue): May 25, June 22. Musicians of all skill levels and audience welcome

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
See page 1

June 21 genealogy workshop bus trip to National Archives, Pittsfield. See page 1

July 28-August 1 Celtic Adventures for Kids
See page 1

September 12-28 Big E, West Springfield, exhibit

Fall lecture series: The Ubiquity of Religion in Irish Studies:

Sept 28 Tom Moriarty
Oct 26 Peggy O'Brien
Nov 23 Damien Murray
See page 3

Fall film series October 1, 8, 15
Watch for titles

December 6 Christmas with an Irish Touch

April 19-29, 2009 Journey of the Soul-Springtime in Ireland

Sale items available: short sleeved forest green polo shirts embossed with a shamrock and ICC for \$20: short sleeved women's lime green tee shirts embossed with a shamrock and ICC for \$15 and kelly green tote bags with our logo for \$5.

We offer prayers and condolences to: Mary Johnson Rogers on the death of her father, John Johnson; Jim Hoar of his sister Tessie; John Puffer of his mother Jane Puffer; Kateri Walsh her sister Rena.