



The Cairde Connection

"Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!"

Irish Cultural Center at
Elms College

Volume 9 & Issue 2

October 2008

Coming events: lectures, sessions and our own Christmas with an Irish Touch

In the next several months we host lectures, sessions and our popular Christmas program. On December 6 at 4:00 pm, Monsignor Christopher Connelly will preside at the traditional liturgy in Our Lady's Chapel. Immediately following we will invite all attendees to move to the Dooley Center dining hall where we will have an Irish Christmas celebration with music, song and dance. And, as always, refreshments. The event is free, but we will take a free will offering in the chapel at the offertory. We will have a 50/50 raffle at the reception.

The lecture series, The Ubiquity of Religion in Irish Studies Programs continued on October 28 with a talk by Peggy O'Brien, UMass professor

and author: "Poets on Pilgrimage: Lough Derg as an icon of Catholicism and Nationalism."

On November 23 Damien Murray will address the topic, "Either Ireland is right or Bolshevism is right: The Catholic Church and Irish American Nationalism after World War I." The lectures are funded by the Irish Consul, Boston.

The music session is now a regular feature on our calendar. A large group of local musicians, including some young people, gather on the third Sunday of each month in the dining hall annex of Dooley Campus Center. They love playing. They share their tunes with one another and any one who comes along to listen.

10th Anniversary

Keeping the Irish arts alive!
1999-2009

Save the dates

The 10th anniversary committee has set the weekend of October 9-11, 2009 to celebrate ten years of "keeping the Irish arts alive." We are planning activities that include the second annual wine tasting fundraiser, films, workshops (language, tin whistle, bodhran) and a concert. Plan on joining us for some or all of the events.

Great Blasket Island

Michael Carney and the other Blasket Islanders are happy to report that the Planning Board in Dublin has announced that the long awaited establishment of the island as a Heritage site is now official.

Plans include a new café and service building, as well as a new pier. The group has been working for this for many years and are delighted.

We will update you with more information in an upcoming issue.

Wine event raises money for Elms program

We are happy to announce a great success of the wine tasting event on Saturday, September 27. Not only did we have wonderful attendance, but we raised almost \$4000 for the Irish Studies Minor program. All guests enjoyed themselves as they sampled wines, beers, and hard ciders, and dined on

Dubliner Pasta and salad.

They had the opportunity to socialize and to meet the Elms students who studied in Ireland this June. The Irish Cultural Center supported this experience, and at the event the students shared their photos and study experiences.

We see study in Ireland as an integral component of the Irish Studies Minor. We are grateful to all those who supported us: sponsors, those who purchased tickets, raffle donors. But we are most grateful to Don Lavalley of Cabot Liquors who organized all the beverages with distributors, as well as setting up the tables; and to Scott Cyr and his staff of Aramark Food Service who provided the delicious meal that we shared.



Big E volunteers

Thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers, the Irish Cultural Center and the Elms College presented a good image at the Big E in September. We distributed information on both organizations and answered many questions.

We provided music with the children from the camp one evening, and musicians who gather monthly at the Elms for a session performed several times.

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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www.irish-cairde.org

Middle school essay contest announced

The Irish Cultural Center at Elms College announces its eighth annual writing contest for 7th and 8th grade students. Entrants are asked to write a two-page, typed, double-spaced essay. Address the topic: What can countries experiencing religious conflicts learn from Northern Ireland's path to peace. Students are asked to include - on a separate page - name, address, telephone, school, grade, teacher's name. In March prizes will be

awarded to the three best essays: \$100, \$75, \$50. Winners will read their essays on Sunday, March 8, 2009 at the Irish tea party held at Elms College in Chicopee from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Send entries to The Irish Cultural Center at Elms College by December 15, 2008.

Letters announcing the contest will be sent to local schools, as well as to the media.



Left: Damien Murray and Erin Mulvagh; right Caroline Murray and Ann Gibbons; page 1 Joyce Bosworth, Heather Lowe, and Kelly O'Sullivan

Items of interest

The John Boyle O'Reilly Club:

Nov 16 3:00 - 7:00 PM Support the Irish Programs Raffle. Proceeds go to keep the Irish Music programs on the radio on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$1ea or \$5 a book: Scholarship Committee bus trip to Irish Music and Arts Festival in Latham N.Y. \$55. Contact Alesia Barbaro 478-8611; Nov 30, Fall Fashion Show.

Web site: www.jbo-club.com

Ancient Order of Hibernians:

volunteers will sell Brightside Angels on Thursday and Friday, December 11 & 12, 5:30-9:30 at the Holyoke Mall; the AOH Irish Night Party, Saturday, February 28.

Check out the **Sons of Erin** web site for their calendar: www.sonsoferin.com

Pilgrim Souls Production,

Worcester present The Muesli Belt: Nov 7, 8, 14, 15 at 8pm and Nov 16 at 2pm

Magners Film Festival in Boston, Nov 13-24

IRISH LANGUAGE AWARD APPLICATION

Read the article below before completing the form.

Complete and mail to the Irish Cultural Center, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Answer the following questions; use additional paper, if necessary.

Circle the organizations of which you are a member: Irish Cultural Center, Sons of Erin, John Boyle O'Reilly, Ancient Order of Hibernians

Why would you like to study the Irish language?

Are you available to take an evening class? Which evening is most convenient?

John Johnson's gift promotes the language by Gearoid MacOisdealbhaigh

John Johnson was a man devoted to the Irish Language. In addition, he wanted to give others the same opportunity to enjoy and learn about the distinctiveness of this Gaelic language. When he died last spring, his family suggested that gifts be given to the Irish Cultural Center. Since we received donations in his memory, and his family wishes that the funds be used as awards for the Irish language courses offered through the Elms College and the Center, we are offering awards to those interested. In order to be considered for the

award, we ask that the applicant complete a written application explaining why the course would be valuable to him/her. Completed applications must be received by December 4, 2008 to qualify for the courses. Complete the above form. The selection and granting of the award(s) will be made in December 2008 for the spring semester that begins in late January 2009. If there is an unspent balance in the fund, it will be applied to future language courses. Interest in the language has grown over the years. At present, we have

two introductory classes, a sizeable intermediate group, and an advanced group. Throughout the years since the Center started in 1999, Irish language study has been a steady component in our programming. The ordinary cost of the class is \$150 or \$100 for members of the Center. If you have always wanted to know more about the language of your ancestors, this is a great opportunity to learn in a fun and relaxed setting. If you are interested in contributing to this fund to help sustain it, please contact Sr. Judy or Tom Moriarty.

**Irish Cultural Center
at Elms College
291 Springfield Street
Chicopee, MA 01013-2839**

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**Phone: 413-265-2537
Email: irishcenter@elms.edu
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ICC Calendar of events

Ongoing: Language groups meet weekly: beginners, intermediate, conversation, advanced. Call the registrar at 265-2314 for fall classes.

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

3rd Sunday of each month, except March: Irish Music Seisiún, 1:00-

4:00 p.m. Dooley Campus Center, dining hall annex:
Nov 16, Dec 21

Fall lecture series:

The Ubiquity of Religion in Irish Studies: Sun, 2:00 p.m.
Alum Library Theater
Nov 23 Damien Murray
Funded by the Irish Consul, Boston

December 6, Christmas with an Irish Touch:
Liturgy at 4 pm with enter-

tainment to follow

Jan 28, Feb 4, 11, 18

Film series

April 19-29, 2009

Journey of the Soul: Springtime in Ireland
Information session Nov 2, 2 pm, Fontbonne Room, Dooley Campus Center

July 27-31 Celtic Adventures for Kids

We offer our sympathy to Jim Hoar on the death of his nephew, Michael Hoar.

Congratulations to these priests on their 60th anniversary of ordination: Fr. Vincent O'Connor and Fr. Francis X. Sullivan, and to Rev. Mark Stelzer on his 25th anniversary of ordination! Best wishes and thank you for your service to the people of God!