

*Irish Cultural Center's  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



**RAFFLE**



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*1<sup>st</sup> Place Prize*

**WINS THIS TRIP FOR 2**

*(OR \$4,000 Cash Prize)*

**11-Day Escorted Tour to Ireland**

*Featuring the East & West Coasts & Northern Ireland!  
Scenic tour including Westport, Sligo, Donegal, Derry, Belfast,  
The Boyne Valley, Dublin...and more!*

**ICC TOUR SEPTEMBER 4-14, 2010**

**LIMITED to ONLY 200 Tickets!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Prize \$500**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Prize \$100**

*(Drawing: Irish Tea, March 7, 2010)*

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**CALL KATHY for Tickets & More Info at (413) 536-9709**

Visit our Website: [www.IRISH-CAIRDE.ORG](http://www.IRISH-CAIRDE.ORG)

Call (413) 265-2537



**P**ictured above is Peter Quinn who will deliver the George Kennedy lecture on Sunday, October 11 at the 11:30 a.m. brunch. He is author of both fiction and non fiction. He studied the Irish immigrant experience in New York in *Looking for Jimmy: A Search for Irish America*. He also wrote *How the Irish Invented Slang: The Secret Language of the Crossroads*. His novels are *Banished Children of Eve: A Novel of Civil War New York* and *Hour of the Cat*. He is a frequent contributor to Irish American newspapers.

## Bus trips offer entertainment and good experiences

**D**uring the last several months two bus trips traveled to opposite ends of the turnpike, one to attend a play and the other to pursue genealogy research. Twenty-eight participants had a dinner theater experience in Worcester on May 3 when they saw the Pilgrim Souls Production of "Stones in His Pockets." After the performance they enjoyed a buffet dinner served in the Hall. While dining, they were treated to a group of Irish musicians who conducted a session.

Another group traveled to the National Archives, Pittsfield on Saturday, May 16, to pursue research to discover their family heritage. The Archives include items from every branch of the Federal government: immigration records, national census records, naturalization records,

passenger arrival records, Civil War and military records and post office records. At lunch time they enjoyed a deli lunch while sharing with the others from the Irish Cultural Center the progress of their work.

Plan to join us for another dinner theater experience in Worcester Sunday, November 15 for "Big Maggie" by John B. Keane on November 15, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. After the play we will share another delicious buffet meal in the Hall Pub. Tickets, which are \$70 for members, \$75 for non-members, include the play, buffet, bus and driver's gratuity. Seats are limited; to reserve tickets, notify the Center by October 23 to guarantee a seat. Reservations are accepted with full payment; we have a no refund policy.

The bus will leave the Elms parking

lot on the corner of Springfield and Fairview streets at the Gaylord Building at 12:30 p.m. and return to Chicopee about 6:30 p.m. The buffet menu includes: chicken picatta, egg plant lasagna (vegetarian), salad, garlic bread, and a dessert table.

On March 10, 2010 the Irish Cultural Center will sponsor a bus trip to the UMass Fine Arts Concert Hall to hear the 6-time Grammy Award winning, *Chieftains and Patty Maloney* in concert. There will also be a special pre-performance Irish Celebration in the lobby. The cost includes transportation, driver's tip, and concert ticket. Members: \$45, Non-Members: \$49 and Kids: \$35 (17 and under). Full payment is required at time of reservation. No refunds. (Makes for Great Christmas Gifts!) Sure to be a Sold Out event!

## Come visit Ireland with us on our fifth Journey of a Soul By Kathy Gallivan

The Irish Cultural Center is excited to sponsor its 5<sup>th</sup> Custom Tour to Ireland September 4-14, 2010. This 11-day scenic tour will take us to spectacular new places that we haven't been to before—where they say "it's different up here"!

Touring the West and East coasts and Northern Ireland, we will stay in Westport, with multiple-night stays in Donegal, Derry, Belfast, and Dublin.

We will tour the majestic Slieve League Cliffs (believed to be the tallest sea cliffs in Europe), visit W. B. Yeat's grave in County Sligo in the shadows of Benbulbin, tour the Belleek Pottery factory, Donegal (home of Magee Tweeds), Omagh where we will visit the Ulster American Folk Park (*one of the finest living historic museums in Ireland*), embark on a guided walking tour (with a local guide) of the historic Derry City walls, tour the scenic Inishowen Peninsula, and visit Giants Causeway.

We'll then proceed along the An-

trim coast to tour the beautiful Nine Glens of Antrim before reaching Belfast City. In Belfast, a local guide will take us on a tour into the sectarian areas including Falls Road, Shankill, the Peace Wall and also a visit to the Titanic Quarter.

As we head toward Dublin we will stop in the Boyne Valley for a guided visit of the megalithic passage tomb of Newgrange (*built around 3200 BC—older than the Egyptian Pyramids and Stonehenge!*)

We will end our tour with two nights in Dublin's fair city with an opportunity to visit its famous historic sites like Kilmainham Jail and the Guinness Storehouse (*celebrating 250 years!*), with free time to explore Dublin or visit Trinity College and the Book of Kells.

Come and find out more about this "one-of-a-kind" tour at our next Information Session—scheduled for Sunday, October 18, 2009, 2:00 p.m., Alumni Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), Dooley Campus Center, Elms College. Slide presentation and re-



freshments. A deposit of \$300 will be taken to reserve your spot—SURE TO BE A SELLOUT! For more information about the tour or the raffle call Kathy at (413) 536-9709.

*"There Are No Strangers Here, Only Friends We Have Yet to Meet" (Yeats)*

### INFORMATION SESSION!

Sunday, October 18,  
2009 – 2:00 p.m.

**Come and hear more about  
Our Next "Journey of the  
Soul" Tour to Ireland!  
East, West Coasts  
and Northern Ireland!**



**Pictured: above Peace Statue in Derry: Hands Across the Divide; below Giants Causeway, County Antrim**

## Blasket islander to be awarded honorary Doctor of Celtic Studies

Blasket Islander Michael Carney is headed to Ireland where he will receive on September 21 an honorary Doctor of Celtic Studies from the University of Ireland, Maynooth at the Blasket Center, Dunquin.

Carney, when announcing this presentation said, "It (receiving notice of the honor) was a total surprise. I don't expect or look for recognition. I do everything I do because I like to do it and I enjoy it." But he is excited and pleased at this announcement.

He never lost his first language and uses and promotes it whenever and wherever he can, both in speaking and writing. He has been involved in

an amazing number of activities to promote Irish culture and the Irish language since leaving the island at the age of 16.

While living and working in Dublin as a young man, he became a Gaelic League member; he wrote articles in Irish for the Irish Press and for the Kerryman.

Once he moved to Springfield in 1948 he continued his involvement in promoting Irish culture and the language. He became an active member of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club. Ten years ago he became a member of the Irish Cultural Center when it was founded. He taught the Irish language at Commerce High School for ten years.

But what he is proudest of all he has done is his committee work in promoting the Blasket Island as a heritage site, and through years of diligent work, his plan has reached fruition. He has designed and will bring with him to the Blasket Center in Dunquin a plaque that reads: *In loving memory of all the people of this island.*

*May they rest in peace for the likes of them will not be again.*

Tom Moriarty said, "It is particularly a great honor for Michael because of the close association with Maynooth of the Irish scholar from the Kerry Gaeltacht, An tAthair Pádraig Ó Finnachta.

## Reunion brings together Blasket islanders

By Ted Creedon

Five of the ten living people who were born on the Great Blasket gathered beneath a sculpture of writer Tomás Ó Criomhthain at the Blasket Centre in Dun Chaoin in July.

There are only ten people alive today who were born on the Great Blasket island and five of them paid a visit to the Blasket Centre in Dún Chaoin.

The catalyst for the get-together was the arrival of Máirín Ní Chearna Osky from Springfield, Massachusetts, who was spending a week with relatives in West Kerry.

She was born into a large family on the island in 1928 but when her mother died at a young age Máirín was sent to live with an aunt near Ballyferriter.

She spent her summers on the island with the rest of the family and loved gathering dillisk.

"We had a cow and a donkey and my father had a few sheep but he was mostly a fisherman. We didn't have a lot of meat in our diet. Sometimes we

had no bread and had to eat potatoes three times a day. I used to collect dillisk on the strand and the rocks and one day I fell in the ocean. I couldn't swim and went down twice and was nearly drowned but my brother Mike came along and saved me," she told The Kerryman.

Mike Kearney emigrated to Springfield in 1948 and Máirín followed shortly after and has been living there for most of her life since.

Other islanders who gathered in the Blasket Centre were Máirín Dunleavy Boland, Niamh Ní Chriomhthain Uí Laoithe, Nell Bean Uí Shé and Pádraig Ó Catháin.

While there, they were interviewed by Micheál Ó Sé for Radio na Gaeltachta and spent an hour recalling life on the island.

The reunion was organised by Blasket Centre Director Micheál de Mordha and Tralee man Edward Fitzgerald who has been a friend to the islanders for many years.



**Pictured from left: Niamh Ní Criomhthain Uí Laoithe, Mairin Dunleavy Boland, Mairin Ní Chearna Osky, Nell Bean Uí Shé and Pádraig Ó Catháin.**

**Photo by Ted Creedon**

## Camp mixes education and fun to produce happy children

By Sister Judith Kappenman

In a recent newsletter edition, I included several recipes for Irish breads, scones and other dishes. Now I share the ingredients for the best Celtic Camp anywhere. Begin with about 50 young people from the age of 6 to 14 eager to learn about the Irish culture and heritage, add talented and experienced teachers, stir in teenagers willing to assist as junior counselors, and a few adult volunteers, and you have the main ingredients.

The teachers for 2009 provided the meat: Irish language, Tom Moriarty; dance, Mary Ellen O'Brien and Kerri Sullivan; music, Terry Ezold; arts and crafts, Martha Franz; Irish literature and story telling, Anita Moore; and outdoor games, Erin Mulvagh.

The junior counselors added other ingredients: Nora Bond, Martin Boyle, Cassidy Cunningham, Caroline Heafey, Alexis Lussier, Ben Martin, Brianne O'Shea, and Mackenzie Russell-Masterson.

Adult volunteers Marian Callahan, Mary Ellen Lowney, and Kelly O'Sullivan came every day to add still more ingredients.

Place all of the above, adults, teens and campers in several Elms classrooms, on the stage of Veritas Auditorium and in the Keating Quad in order to offer a variety of activities: stir gently until all ingredients are completely blended.

Add a dash of fun, mostly good summer weather and a daily swim in the Maguire pool. Let it all simmer for 5 days. On the last day, family and



friends are welcomed to see and hear the product: clever arts and crafts projects, the use of the Irish language in song and words, the singing of Irish songs, the playing of the tin whistle, and the dancing of jigs and reels.

The children have learned about Irish culture and have made new friends; parents and grandparents are pleased and proud; the very tired teachers know they have accomplished a great deal in one short week. We offer an incredibly quick and easy recipe for happy children in a fun, learning experience.

All the credit for this recipe belongs to Mary Ellen O'Brien who created the formula in 2001 and has

coordinated the program over the years.

Kathy Martin whose two sons who have come for many of the years of the camp said, "It's the only camp they attend in the summer when they rise early." Christine Gray-Mullen whose three children attended for the first time said that the children were anxious on Monday because they didn't know anyone, but they quickly adapted because of the welcoming atmosphere. On the last day she enthused, "What a wonderful experience this has been! My children have a better understanding of their heritage and had a wonderful time making new friends."

We'll do it all over again for the 10th time in July 2010, we promise.

