



# The Cairde Connection

“Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!”

Irish Cultural Center at  
Elms College

Volume 11 & Issue 1

September 2009

## You are invited to our 10th anniversary celebration; Come to one or all of the events

Please accept our invitation to attend some or all of the events in celebration of our 10th anniversary on the weekend of October 9-11, 2009. We know you'll be delighted with we have prepared. The centerpiece is a concert with the Makem and Spain Brothers performing at the Warehouse?, Holyoke on Saturday at 7:30 pm. Tickets for \$35 which includes admission and a corned beef sandwich can be purchased by calling the Center. To reserve a table of 10, call the Center because advanced tickets are required for a reserved table.

The Makem brothers, Shane, Conor and Rory were born in Drogheda, County Meath and continue the lineage of Irish music dynasties, begun by their grandmother, Sarah Makem. Their father, Tommy Makem helped to bring Irish music out of the corner and into the international spotlight. The Spain brothers, Mickey and Liam, learned Irish songs at their father's knee as well.

On Friday we ask you in join us in welcoming artist Vincent Crotty from 4-6 p.m. in the Borgia Gallery for his opening: Recent Paintings: Images of the Blasket Island, Ireland and Beyond. Immediately following the opening, a group of musicians will present a session in the Dooley Campus Center Dining Hall from 6-10 p.m. They love an audience and also invite anyone who wants to join in the music making (including the voice.) Dancers from the McDermott School will perform too. If you wish, you may purchase snacks and/or supper from Aramark Food Service.



Beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday we will offer workshops in Berchmans Hall: Gaelic games, Irish language, bodhran and bones, Irish genealogy, Irish dancing; Heather Lowe will also host a series of films in the Alumnae Library Theater at the same time.

We invite you to join us on Sunday for Liturgy in Our Lady's chapel at 10:30 a.m. with Monsignor Christopher Connelly; the readings and sung parts of the Mass will be in Irish. Immediately following we invite you join us for brunch in the Dooley Campus Center Dining Hall where we will honor the three founders of the Center: Sr. Kathleen Keating, Tom Moriarty, and Sean Cahillane. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Novelist and essayist Peter Quinn will address the topic *Unremembered and Unforgotten: Irish America and the Great Hunger* in the Kennedy lecture. Under a separate mailing you will receive a signup sheet for all of the weekend activities. Please complete and return to us with your check as soon as possible. We look forward to having you share in this momentous occasion of “keeping the Irish arts alive” for ten years. Thanks for your part in supporting 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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**291 Springfield Street**

**Chicopee, MA 01013**

**265-2537 irishcenter@elms.edu**

**www.irish-cairde.org**

## Fall and new year events highlighted

From Sept 18-October 4 we will have an exhibit in the Young Building at the Big E in West Springfield where we will showcase our programs and events, as well as have information on the Elms College and its programs. We'll also give assistance to some of the Dingle merchants. Please stop by to say “Hello” and then visit the Dingle merchants to admire their wares.

On October, 18 we will host an information session for Journey of the Soul September 4-14, 2010. See details on page 3.

We offer another opportunity for a dinner/theater experience in Worcester on Sunday, November 15 for a matinee performance. Pilgrim Souls Production is presenting “Big Maggie” by John B. Keane. See details on page 4.

Be sure to save the date: Saturday, December 12 for our annual Christmas with an Irish Touch. Monsignor Christopher Connelly will preside at the liturgy at 4 p.m. in Our Lady's Chapel with readings done in Irish, as well as the sung parts of the Mass. Immediately following we will offer refreshments and entertainment in the Dooley Campus Center Dining Hall. We will highlight some of the children

who participated in Celtic Adventures for Kids in July. They will sing, play the tin whistle and dance as part of the entertainment.

One of our most popular events, we host this unique program for the 11th time. The event is free but we will accept free will donations.

Save the dates of Wednesday, January 27, February 3, 10, and 17 for our annual film series at 7 p.m. in the Alumnae Library Theater. Host Heather Lowe promises another great list of movies with perhaps a classic, or a new release. She always gives us a great variety of Irish films to enjoy.

In February with a date to be determined we will host Kevin O'Hara who will read from his new book, Lucky Irish Lad. We're in for a treat, having hosted him for a reading of his first book the Last of the Donkey Pilgrims.

On Sunday March 7 we are planning the Irish Tea Party which will include the drawing of the raffle with the prize a trip for 2 to Ireland with the Journey of the Soul 2010.

Still in the planning stages is an evening with Sr. Ruth McGoldrick who will offer a program of Celtic spirituality.

## Sympathy and prayers requested

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of member Lawrence Gormally who died recently.

We extend our sympathy to Mary Ellen O'Brien on the death of her brother, Kevin Russell; Helen O'Sullivan on the death of her

brother, Patrick Lynch; Dorothy Tuttle on the death of her brother John.

We ask for continued prayers of healing for Martin Kearney, Gerry Callahan, Mike Rancitelli, Sr. Eleanor Dooley Olivia Brooks, and Liz Daly of Dingle Crystal.

## Why Bother to Learn Irish? By Gerald Costello

My friends and family often ask me why I spend time learning the Irish Language. In fact, some of my friends were not aware that there is an Irish Language. Even in Ireland, where there has been a recent, renewed interest in the language, there are many who still find the language inscrutable or remember it as an impediment to passing exams or getting a governmental job. For an interesting and funny view of the language in Ireland, go to YouTube and watch a video entitled “Yu Ming Is Ainm Dom.”

There is a great essay – “A Dangerous Silence” – by Neasa Ni Chinneide that helps to answer the question why we should consider spending time learning this rich language. She quotes the poet Michael Hartnett, “It (English) may be a good language for the market ... But we can use Irish for a different set of purposes, to affirm important parts of who we were and might be.” That’s it! That’s why I spend the time taking classes, going to Ballyferriter, attend-

ing language weekends, listening to Radio na Gaeltachta, watching RTE, observing a 1911 Kerry Census that shows my great grandparents as Irish speakers only.

The language serves as a tie to their history as well as a means to connect with others who share the same interest in Irish culture and history.

Aside from personal reasons that you may have for learning the language, there are several other reasons listed on [www.gaeltalk.net](http://www.gaeltalk.net). Let me cite a few that they have noted.

1. It’s the national language of Ireland.
2. There is a dramatic increase in the number of speakers.
3. The language is in the mass media including Radio na Gaeltachta and Teilifis na Gaeilge (TG4).
4. There are numerous websites offering instruction.
5. It is a source of meaning for Irish surnames, personal names,

and place names as we have noted in other articles.

The most important reason to learn the language is that it’s fun! It is a great opportunity to meet new people. I was returning from a business trip last month and saw a young lady boarding the plane with her red Irish passport. I should have at least let her stow her bags before asking the only question that mattered to me at that moment “An bhfuil Gaeilge agat?” (Do you have the Irish?)

As she headed to the back of the plane, she said that she did and was visiting some relatives before heading back to Dublin. This was “as Gaeilge” of course. The passenger next to me shifted in his seat a bit stiffly, but I had just met one of the cousins and used the language. What a great day!

If any of these reasons to learn the language is compelling to you, then join us in the beginning class which is starting up on September 14. You never know what cousin you will meet.

## John Johnson’s gift application for January Irish classes

### 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: ICC, Sons of Erin, John Boyle O’Reilly, AOH

Why would you like to study the Irish language?

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

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Our Lady of the Elms

**Phone: 413-265-2537  
Email: [irishcenter@elms.edu](mailto:irishcenter@elms.edu)  
[www.irish-cairde.org](http://www.irish-cairde.org)**

## ICC Calendar of events

**Ongoing: Language** groups meet weekly: beginners, intermediate, conversation, advanced. Call the registrar at 265-2314 for fall classes that begin on Sept 14-15. **tenth anniversary** (See details on page 1)

**Genealogy volunteer** Ed Callahan (413) 527-5091 email [eastgram@aol.com](mailto:eastgram@aol.com)

**3rd Sunday** of each month, except March: Irish Music Seisiún, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Doolley Campus Center, dining hall annex

**Sept 18-October 4**  
Big E exhibit and information

**October 9-11**  
a weekend of events for our

**October 18**, 2 p.m. Information session Journey of the Soul 2010

**November 15**  
Bus trip to Worcester for the play Big Maggie

**December 12** 4 p.m.  
Christmas with an Irish Touch

**Jan 27-Feb 3, 10, 17**  
Film series

**TBA Feb** Kevin O'Hara book reading his second book, Lucky Irish Lad

**Mar 7** Tea Party (includes raffle drawing)

**March 10** The Chieftains at UMass, Amherst

**March 21** Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade

**TBA March** an evening of Celtic Spirituality with Sr. Ruth McGoldrick

**April 24** Wine Tasting with an Irish Accent to raise funds for the Irish Studies Minor program

**July 26-30** Celtic Adventures for Kids

**September 4-14** Journey of the Soul

## Other events of interest

**John Boyle O'Reilly**  
Oct 4 Monthly breakfast returns  
Oct 10 Holiday craft Fair  
Contact Gloria 5195126 for more information  
Oct 10 Gaelic Garlic Night II. Dinner with Pat Tobin contact Jim or Tom Feeley  
Nov 7 Comedy night  
Round Table discussion on the 2nd Saturday of each month  
[www.jbo-club.com](http://www.jbo-club.com)

**Sons of Erin**  
[www.sonsoferin.com](http://www.sonsoferin.com)

**AOH**