



The Cairde Connection

“Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!”

Irish Cultural Center at
Elms College

Volume 9 & Issue 4

March 2009

10th Anniversary Celebration offers concert, workshops, films and more: keeping the Irish arts alive

A committee has been meeting monthly to plan our 10th anniversary celebration on the Columbus Day weekend from October 9-11, 2009. For the centerpiece we have scheduled a Makem and Spain Brothers concert on Saturday at the Warehouse?, Holyoke. We hope many will join us as we all rejoice in this organization that has been “keeping the Irish arts alive” since 1999 (and even for a few years leading up to the official opening.)

On Sunday we will celebrate liturgy in Our Lady’s Chapel with readings and parts of the Mass in Irish, followed by brunch in the dining room with guest speaker, author Peter Quinn.

During the day on Saturday we’ll offer several activities, including workshops and films. Workshops may include

dance, knitting, language, cooking, and learning the bodhran. Heather Lowe is also preparing a great film list for viewing.

Vincent Crotty will have an art exhibit in Borgia Gallery, Dooley Campus Center during October with the opening planned for Friday. *Ireland of the Welcomes* magazine highlighted his Blasket Island collection recently, but this artist from Kanturk, County Cork has also focused on other areas of Ireland, and he will display paintings from all of his work.

We will have a major raffle, with a prize being two tickets to our Fall 2010 Ireland tour or \$4000 in cash.

We’ll include further details on all events in the next edition of this newsletter. We need volunteers, so, if interested, call us to get involved.

Spring events offer variety

Join us on March 8, 2:00 p.m. at our Tea Party where we celebrate St. Patrick with music, song and dance. Mary Franz, our emcee, promises a good program with wonderful surprises. We’ll serve refreshments and have a raffle. We’ll also award the middle school essay contest prizes.

+We hope many will join us to march behind Elms freshman, Dave Peters, as he leads us by playing the bagpipes in the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade. Join us as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary Year.

+In April, over 40 folks will set forth for Ireland on a Journey of the Soul.

+On May 3 a bus will head down the Pike to Worcester to attend the

Pilgrim Souls Production of *Stones in his Pockets* by Marie Jones. Following the play and before returning to Chicopee, we’ll share a buffet of chicken picatta, eggplant lasagna, salad, garlic bread, desserts. The ticket price of \$65 for members and \$70 for non-members includes bus, driver’s tip, play and dinner. Contact us by March 30 to reserve a seat.

+On May 16, we offer a bus trip to the National Archives in Pittsfield to pursue research. The price of \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members includes the bus, driver’s tip and a boxed lunch. Don’t miss this opportunity; reserve your place soon.

+The language committee has set June 6 for an Irish language immersion day.

Generous donors prove belief in Center

Thank you to all our faithful members who renewed for 2009. New lifetime members are Gerald Costello, East Longmeadow and Mary Quigley, Longmeadow. They join: John Davis and Stephen Davis, Longmeadow; Francis and Jeanne Feeney, Wilbraham; Joe and Deborah Loughrey, Columbus, Indiana; Joseph Lucia, West Springfield; Michael Quirk, Chicopee; Gay Reilly, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. We list two patrons for 2009: Tim and Mary Allen and Delores Costello, Springfield. If you have not responded with your dues as yet, we have included a member form on page 6.

Winning essays

At our tea party on March 8 we’ll interrupt the music to honor the three middle school essay contest winners: Mary Kate Sullivan 8th grader at Holy Cross School, Springfield; Kaitlyn Amuso 8th grader, St. Agnes School, Dalton; and Byron Bixler 8th grader, Holy Cross School, Springfield.

In their essays they discussed the idea that countries experiencing religious conflicts could follow Northern Ireland’s path to peace. The three will receive their money prizes, and the first place student will read her essay. In its eighth year of the writing contest, we received over fifty entries from several schools in the area.

The essays are printed on pages 3-5 of this newsletter.

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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It’s that time of year by Gearoid MacOisdealbhaigh

At this time of year, I thought you might enjoy a few Irish expressions that you can use with your friends. With a bit of practice, you can be an expert!

Expression Translation

Pronunciation

**Sláinte !
Cheers or health!**

Slann-cheh

**Sláinte is táinte !
Health and wealth!**

slaan- cheh iss tan- cheh

**Is Éireannach mé
I'm an Irish person.**

iss air-in-ack may

**Pionta Guinness, le do thoil. pin-tah Guinness leh do hull
A pint of Guinness please.**

Have fun trying to use some of these expressions. If you would like to know how to say something in Irish, please email me at gearoidc51@hotmail.com. Remember, you can also try the language at our annual Lá Gaeilge on June 6th at the Center; save the date. Bain triail as - Try it.

Items of interest

The John Boyle O’Reilly Club:
March 17: Dan Ringrose 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm; The Cabeyns 8:00 pm and The Boyle Boys upstairs at 7:00 pm; Corned Beef Sandwiches available
Web site: www.jbo-club.com

Sons of Erin
Music March 13, 17, 22;
Annie’s Brunch March 15
Web site www.sonsoferin.com

St. Patrick’s Parade
March 21, 1:00 p.m. Road Race; register by March 19; March 22 St. Patrick’s Parade: meet at the Kmart on Northampton Street at 11:00 a.m. Parade begins at noon.
www.HolyokeStPatricksParade.com

Springfield Parade Committee
March 17 Liturgy at Our Lady of Hope Church; program at Springfield City Hall

Pilgrim Souls Production, May 1, 2, 8, 9, 8:00 pm, May 3, 2:00 pm:
Stones in his Pockets by Marie Jones

Ceilidh
Award-winning 23-year-old fiddler from Prince Edward Island, Cynthia MacLeod, will lead a Ceilidh with PEI guitarist Jon Matthews at the Chapel at Elms College, Thursday March 12, 2009 at 7 pm. Tickets for the Ceilidh are \$15/ adults; \$5/under 18. To purchase advance tickets, call 413-247-9426.

Northern Ireland's Path to Peace

by Mary Kate Sullivan

Ireland's path to peace dates to the year 1170. Ireland's trouble with England began over differences in religion, class and culture. Over the centuries, wars between Irish Catholics and the English monarch were common and caused great bloodshed. Ninety per cent of Ireland's land was owned by Protestants by 1649. Irish Catholics were forbidden to own property. Catholics opposed this division, and violence escalated. Irish Catholics living in Northern Ireland were discriminated against.

"The Troubles" was an event that lasted three decades from 1968 until 1998. It marked the beginning of the end of the control of Irish Catholics in Northern Ireland. The origins of the Troubles can be traced back to the formation of the Ulster Volunteer Force. It was a period of conflict involving Republican Loyalists, paramilitary organizations, political activists, civil rights groups and others in Northern Ireland. It was the result of discrimination against Irish Catholics by the Unionists' majority and Catholic Nationalists to British rule. The violence was characterized by the armed campaigns of paramilitary groups, including the provisional IRA campaign of 1969-1997, which was designed to end British rule in Northern Ireland and create a new united Ireland.

Three events stood out during this period that brought attention to the conflict and finally to the resolution. The first event, Bloody Sunday, took place on January 30, 1972 in Northern Ireland. A group of Irish protestors planned to go into Guildhall, but army barricades rerouted the march to Free Derry Corner. A group of teenagers broke through the barricades and marched into Guildhall. The teens provoked the British Army

to fight by throwing stones and insulting them. Thirteen people died and many others were injured. Since the IRA was unarmed, no one from the British army was injured.

Out of all this violence came a Nobel Peace Prize. Three children in the same family were killed in Anderstown when soldiers shot dead a car hijacker. Mariead Corrigan, an aunt of the victims, became one of the founders of the Women's Peace Movement, later known as the Peace People. Thousands attended the group's marches in Belfast and London. Corrigan and Betty Williams, a co-founder, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976.

A third notable action toward peace in Ireland was the Hunger Strike. This began on May 5, 1981 at Maze Prison in County Antrim. It evolved as prisoners refused to leave their cells and refused to wash. The Labour governments' decision to hold people without trial was another contributing factor. Anyone could be arrested without reason, and the Protestants made up most of the police force. Republican prisoners decided that one man each week would go on a hunger strike, which meant one man should die per week. Ten men died. Bobby Sands, elected to Parliament from prison, died for this cause.

Finally, Ireland's path to peace was realized when all parties began communicating. The Troubles were brought to an end by a peace process, which produced a document known as the Good Friday Agreement. The agreement included the declaration of cease fires by most paramilitary organizations, the reformation of the police and the withdrawal of army troops from the streets and sensitive border areas.

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England's Prime Minister Tony Blair, Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams and United States emissary, George Mitchell all worked together to achieve this important goal of peace. There are so many countries experiencing religious conflicts that can learn from Northern Ireland's path to peace. The conflicts are similar in that a group wants to control the religious practices of all. The unthinkable acts of violence result in no further control and only lead to more violence. The centuries of fighting in Northern Ireland caused senseless loss of life, and destroyed the quality of life for everyone involved. Iraq can end its war and come up with a peace agreement like the Good Friday agreement. The situation in Russia is similar to what occurred in Northern Ireland. The Russian government can bring peace by understanding and accepting the different religious values of all. Finally, there seems to be no resolution in sight for the dispute in the Middle East that dates back decades. It is unconscionable that the leaders of these countries cannot see the opportunities for peace by accepting all religions and faiths, and not viewing the religious differences as a threat.

First place winner of the middle school essay contest (Holy Cross School, Springfield, 8th grade teacher Phyllis Lund)

How countries experiencing religious conflicts can learn from Northern Ireland's path to peace by Kaitlyn Amuso

Do you know which countries have had religious conflict? Northern Ireland, Iraq, France, Sweden are among the many that have experienced that problem.

There are many causes to these religious conflicts. The most common is that people do not agree with what others want to do, or fear what might happen to them. Some other less common causes are that people have different ideas on what the religion is telling people to do, trivial disagreements, and leaders enforcing laws that some people do not follow correctly.

How do countries in these situations resolve the conflicts that have arisen? Sadly, some places have not yet resolved these conflicts, but others have made laws to stop the fighting. They try to make agreements with each other and try to reason with each other. Most of the ways to resolve conflicts are similar and sometimes do not work as well as people may want them to. On the other hand, sometimes they are successful and solve the conflict.

The conflict in Northern Ireland was between the Catholics and the Protestants. It came about because the Irish-Catholics desired complete independence from Great Britain, but the Irish-Protestants feared living in a country ruled by a Catholic majority and wanted to stay part of the United Kingdom. The British and the

All countries should try their hardest and put all their efforts into finding new ways to gain understanding and peace with each other.

Irish hammered out many acts and agreements to make peace between the two warring religions. Even with some of the acts and agreements, there was still some conflict. The "Good Friday Agreement" is an agreement that sets out a plan for developing government in Northern Ireland on a stable and inclusive basis and provides the creation of Human Rights and Equality commissions. The accord calls for Protestants to share with the Catholic minority, and gives the Republic of Ireland a voice in Northern Irish Affairs. In turn, Catholics are to suspend the goal of a united Ireland.

How can other countries learn from the Northern Ireland's path to peace? By making acts and agreements, Northern Ireland settled the conflict between the Catholics and the Protestants. All countries should be able to make some type of agreement to resolve the conflicts in their region or area. All countries should try their hardest and put all their efforts into finding new ways to gain understanding and peace with each other. All of the countries with religious conflicts can do the same thing as Northern Ireland and make acts

and agreements to settle the arguing and warring, and solve their problems.

Like Northern Ireland, Iraq has religious conflicts. Iraq is not much unlike Northern Ireland where religion is paraded as ethnicity and becomes a vehicle for communal rivalries. The game of numbers is in favor of the Shiites who make up 60 percent of the population. For this reason, they wholeheartedly embraced democracy. Disgruntled Sunnis, on the other hand, vested their fortunes in boycott and violence, hoping they would gain leverage in negotiating over the future. Iraq could look at what Northern Ireland did and try to make peace between the Sunnis and the Shiites. They could try to make agreements and find out ways to make things fair between the two disputing sides. To achieve this goal, they should try to use tolerance, patience, understanding, and willingness to listen to one another. All of these things can help to bring peace between two opposing sides.

Second Place
(St. Agnes School, Pittsfield, 8th grade teacher Ellen Conlon)

Éirinn go Brách !
Ireland forever!

ay-rin guh brawk

Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona duit
Happy St. Patrick's Day to you!

la ale-lah pawd-rig dit



How Thailand Can Learn from Northern Ireland’s Path to Peace by Byron Bixler

In this essay, I will discuss how Thailand can learn from Northern Ireland’s path to peace. Thailand is a country that has a 95% Buddhist population, and that percentage of Thailand is in conflict with the 5% of the Muslims that also live there. It took many years for Northern Ireland to achieve their main goal: peace. The feud in Northern Ireland has gone back many, many years, and that’s where my essay begins.

The conflict has gone back many years and contained much heated tension and hatred. In the beginning, Protestants controlled the government, and held many of the jobs, and the Catholics did not like it. They rebelled and started riots, strikes and marches (most marches were peaceful.) Protestants randomly killed Catholics and burned down their homes. Innocent people were killed every day, including children. In 1972, thousands of peaceful demonstrators walked the streets in Derry, when all of a sudden fourteen marchers were shot and killed by British military. Many others were wounded and injured. In 1981 a group of prisoners started a movement call the Hunger Strike. All of these events are a part of the long and violent war between the two religions, called the Troubles.

In Thailand, the fight is between Thailand’s Buddhists and Iraqi and Afghan Muslims. Once Thailand was a peaceful place of worship and prayers. But years ago The Buddhists were at-

tacked and overrun by Afghan and Iraqi Muslims. And similar to what happened in Ireland, violence erupted across the country, many of them centering in and around the capital city of Bangkok. These attacks on Buddhist monks and worshippers have scarred and disrupted the Buddhist community. There are numerous problems in Thailand currently, but let’s go back to Ireland near the end of the Troubles and the beginnings of peace.

A group of Catholics formed a society called Sinn Fein with Gerry Adams as president, and it was instrumental in some of the declarations and agreements made in Northern Ireland. Many other important parties and groups include: the Unionists, the Nationalists, the paramilitary organizations, the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic. They met frequently in the mid 1980s through the 1990s. They worked out, approved and signed a number of agreements and declarations. Among these are the following. The Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985 was signed by the governments of the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic. Ten years before this, a Constitutional Convention was convened to allow elected representatives from Northern Ireland to propose their own solution to end the fighting. James Prior proposed Rolling Devolution, which involved having an elected assembly and a committee system.

Other reforms included the European Charter on Human Rights, the Downing Street Declaration (the cease fire

of 1994) and the biggest – The Good Friday Agreement of 1998. Many important figures took part in these signings, including Gerry Adams, David Trimble, Mo Mowlam, James Prior, John Hume, James Molyneaux, Ian Paisley, Seamus Mallon, John Major, Roy Mason and Humphrey Atkins.

Today there is more peace in Northern Ireland than there was forty years ago. Even though there is still some violence, Catholics and Protestants are going to the same schools, and peace is starting to be achieved.

So, what can Thailand learn from all of this? A lot of things. One is patience. It took Ireland decades to settle and finalize a peace treaty. Another thing is understanding. The Catholics and Protestants had to compromise and understand a lot between them. Each side had to see what the other side was seeing and visualize what was going wrong and what absolutely had to be changed. The third thing that Thailand can learn from Northern Ireland is respect. The Buddhists and Muslims have to have and show respect for each other’s culture, religion and way of life. There is much that they can learn from Northern Ireland’s path to peace, and I hope that the very things needed for peace in Thailand that I outlined are carried out in the future.

Third Place
(Holy Cross School, Springfield,
8th grade teacher Phyllis Lund)

Try to answer these Irish riddles. Answers on page 8.

Neither fish nor flesh
Nor feathers nor bone
But still has fingers
And thumb of its own.

It was in the river but wasn’t drowned
It was in the grass but wasn’t cut
It was in the shop but wasn’t sold.

Two brothers we are, great burdens we bear
In which we are bitterly presses
The truth we do speak, we are full all the day
And empty when we go to rest.

Films are a continuing part of our programming

Since April 2008, I have written about the programs and events offered by the Center, focusing each issue on a different category: lectures, book readings, language opportunities, concerts, children's events, etc.

In this issue I will write about the plays and films we have sponsored. For the plays we traveled by bus: to New York to attend *Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley; Boston for the Abbey Players production of *The Playboy of the Western World* by John Millington Synge; and Worcester to the Pilgrim Souls Production of *The Loves of Cass McGuire* by Brian Friel.

In 2000 Vincent Dowling presented the play, *I Am of Ireland* by Edward Callan based on the writings of William Butler Yeats at the Elms. More recently, Pilgrim Souls Production of Worcester brought *Love in the Title* to the campus.

We had hosted films even before the official opening of the Center, most of them documentaries. Over the years some have attracted a larger audience than others, and all of them have proven highly successful. We have a loyal fan base that attends as many of our films as possible. How can you miss? The films are free, we serve green popcorn and Irish bread, and we

offer great entertainment.

Many were filmed in Ireland with Irish actors; they tell stories of a way of life dear to those who love Ireland, whether based on fact or fiction. Some of the settings include: Dublin, Belfast, Cong, County Mayo, Galway, Ennis, Wicklow, Kilkenny, Inch Beach, Dingle.

From 2001-2005, Sean Crane hosted a winter series by choosing the films, preparing an introduction and showing the films. Since 2006 Heather Lowe has taken over as the host.

Heather added a fall series over the past several years, often yoking two short films with similar themes: sports once and music another time. Those who have attended the events have seen classics, comedies, dramas, as well as films based on myths and on real events.

We have shown two films directed by John Ford: *The Quiet Man* and *The Informer*.

Prominent actors featured in the films include: David Kelly, Maureen O'Hara, Victor McLaglen, Liam Neeson, Daniel Day-Lewis, Pierce Brosnan, Aidan Quinn, Minnie Driver, Chris O'Donnell, Sinead Cusack, Gabriel Byrne, Colm Meaney.

We have shown films featuring the Travelers: *Southpaw*, a documentary of the boxer, Frankie Barrett and *Into the West*, a fantasy.

A partial listing of films:

New films: In America, Gangs of New York, Dancing at Lughnasa

Classics: The Quiet Man; The Informer; Darby O'Gill and the Little People

Comedies: Waking Ned Devine, Widow's Peak and The Matchmaker

Fantasy: Secret of Roan Inish and The Seventh Stream

Documentaries: Blasket Roots: American Dreams; the stories of Peig Sayers and Padraig Feirtear; Out of Ireland; The Emerald Diamond

Concerts: Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem: Reunion Concert; Absolutely Irish; Gaelic Storm

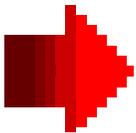
Films of the Troubles in Northern Ireland: The Maze, Bloody Sunday, Behind the Mask: IRA and Sinn Fein, Wind that Shakes the Barley.

Omagh, Hidden Agenda

Northern Ireland Peace Process: Endgame Part I and Part II

Stories based on fact: Michael Collins, A Love Divided, Evelyn

How many have you attended?



Do you need to renew your membership, or do you have a friend who would like to become a member? Cut out the form and return with your dues.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Individual membership enclosed of \$30.00 ____ Like to Volunteer? _____

Household membership enclosed of \$55.00 ____ Additional donation _____

Junior membership \$15 _____ Patron \$250 _____ Lifetime \$1,000 _____

County or town of origin in Ireland: _____

Dingle offers new experiences and surprises

By Tim Allen

We didn't really want to leave Ashford Castle. One night wasn't enough, but one night in a castle is definitely better than no nights in a castle. When will we stay in a castle again?

Our dinner left a little to be desired (too few choices), but breakfast was over the top with eggs, bacon, juice, oatmeal, cheeses, cold meats, breads, cheeses, fruits - unlimited, wonderful food. Did royalty eat like this?

We faced rain on this travel day.

Soon we were at the Cliffs of Moher, and Brendan O'Brien joined our trip there - just in time to see O'Brien's Tower. Now we were at full attendance. The restaurant and visitors' center at the Cliffs have been spiffed up, and there didn't seem to be as many outdoor vendors as I remember from days past. There also used to be a gift shop in O'Brien's Tower - now closed. The days of going to the Cliffs and looking at the people crawling on their stomachs to look down - those days are gone. Fences and barriers have been erected to keep more people from falling into the water 700 feet below. The Cliffs are getting 'Americanized'. But they are safer.

We had lunch at the Cliffs and then we continued on through the Burren to the Tarbert/ Killimer Ferry and to Dingle. This 7-hour drive continued for most of the day till we pulled into Dingle. The views hadn't been as spectacular as usual coming into Dingle, but maybe they'd improve in the next couple of days. At any rate, we moved into Benner's Hotel on Main Street. For me, staying here was new. I usually stayed out of town, and I had stayed at the Hotel Skellig previously, which is very near town but on the bay. Benner's is charming and a great place to stay.

We planned to stay three days in Dingle (everybody's favorite town, it seems) because most people have a connection or a memory here. This lacrosse crowd had no connections, no relatives, no history. I was hoping they would like it. We had scheduled some good activities.

After some memories were made at O'Flaherty's Pub on Monday night, on Tuesday we had the trip around Sleah Head and hopefully, out to the Blaskets. Unfortunately, it was pouring in the morning. (I think they might call it 'milling'). It wasn't looking good for a trip to the Blaskets.

But little did we know that 'the river that goes across the road' on the way to Sleah Head would be an absolute torrent. We were in a traffic jam. Cars were turning around. I got out to help the driver negotiate the bus. We were so close to the edge that some scared people requested to get off the bus, but that was impossible: the bus was up against the guardrail. Soon I re-boarded the bus and we approached the river.

A few minutes later we were through the flood. The bus was high enough to drive through two feet of rushing water, although I must admit I was very happy when we got past it. The thought of the bus sliding down into the sea had passed through my mind.

We visited the Basket Center and ate lunch. Then we were off to Mulcahy's Pottery and to the Museum in Ballyferriter, which is run by Danny's wife Maura. Danny was on the bus with us to share stories of the area. He was great company and we needed it this day.

That evening we had a planned dinner at Lord Baker's. Many of our

Irish friends attended and of course, most of our crew. About 30 of us met for dinner. After the day on Sleah Head, there were stories to tell and lives to appreciate.

At almost all of the tables, we had arranged for local Irish people to sit with our lacrosse people. So who was there? From Dingle: Fr. Pdraig O'Fiannachta (Fr. Fenton), Fran Ryan, Pdraig Lynch, Mags Riordan (also from Malawi, Africa), Danny and Maura Sheehy, Cait Looney from Tralee, Jim and Grainne O'Connell from Inch and Dublin, and Brenda Ní Shúilleabháin. Even Chip Costello, who was taking the language classes at Ballyferriter joined us.

Of course, the food was terrific and the hosting by John and Maureen Moriarty was first class. Fran Ryan had arranged for a local musician to play the bagpipes for us, and many of us modeled in the fashion show. It was great fun.

And then came the surprise. The lacrosse team and parents had a presentation to make. They had arranged to collect money in support of the work by Mags and her volunteers in Malawi.

This night of making new friendships with people from other countries, of laughing and conversing with new people, of eating and drinking in fine style, of feeling the warmth of humanity in a few square feet of Dingle - well there was more. The cherry on top was the presentation to Mags. She didn't know it was coming and was very taken with what had been done.

Over \$1500 had been raised for the people of Cape McClear, Malawi. The love in the room had extended around the world.

**Irish Cultural Center
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**Phone: 413-265-2537
Email: irishcenter@elms.edu
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.

Genealogy volunteer
Ed Callahan (413) 527-5091
email 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: Feb 15, Apr 19, May 17, Jun 21

March 8, 2:00 pm Irish Tea Party with entertainment and refreshments

March 22 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade; our marching contingent will meet in the Kmart parking lot at 11:00 a.m.

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

May 3 Worcester Pilgrim Souls bus trip (details on page 1—spaces limited). Register by the end of March

May 16 bus trip to Pittsfield National Archives

June 6 La Gaeilge (day-long language workshop)

July 27-31 Celtic Adventures for Kids week-long fun and learning experience

Sept 18-October 4
Big E exhibit and information; we'll need volunteers

October 9-11
a weekend of great events to celebrate our tenth anniversary

Answers to the riddles on page 5
Glove
Sun
Pair of boots

Congratulations to lifetime member, Joe Loughrey, this year's Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Kennedy Award winner

We offer our sympathy to Anita and Kelly Ann Moore on the death of their mother Dianne.

We mourn the loss of member, Nora Gormally and offer sympathy to her family.

Prayers requested: Jerry Callahan and Mike Rancitelli, both battling illness.