



The Cairde Connection

"Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!"

Irish Cultural Center at
Elms College

Volume 9 & Issue 5

May 2009

Events of May, June and July include bus trips, book reading, Irish language immersion and Celtic Adventures for Kids

A group will travel by bus on Sunday, May 3 to Worcester to attend the Pilgrim Souls Production of *Stones in his Pockets* at the Worcester Hibernians. Dinner will follow before the return to Chicopee.

On Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 pm in the Dooley Campus Center, Dublin novelist Ann O'Farrell will read from her books *Norah's Children* and *Michael* and talk about life in Ireland. We will serve tea and light refreshments.

Another group will travel on Saturday, May 16 to the National Archives, Pittsfield where participants will have an opportunity to research their ancestors. Jean Nudd, archivist, and several volunteers will be available to assist people in their search. We have included a registration form on page 6 of this newsletter: members \$40, non-members \$45. If interested, let us know by May 7.

The language committee has set Satur-

day, June 6 from 8:30 am-5:00 pm for the annual Irish language immersion day. Classes will be offered on several levels with three teachers from Cumann na Gaeilge in Boston and one from Daltai na Gaeilge in New York. Vice Consul, Deirdre Ní Fhallúin, who holds an advanced degree in the study of the language, will give a presentation on the state of the Irish language in Ireland. The day also includes workshops in dance, Irish lessons on the Internet, and Irish Drama. Call the Center for a registration form; fee \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members, \$10 for high school and college students to cover the cost of lunch.

We are now accepting registrations for Celtic Adventures for Kids program that runs from July 27-31 where the children will learn all things Irish. They will have workshops and/or classes from 9:00 am-3:00 pm daily. Kerri Sullivan will

teach dance; Terry Ezold will lead the singing and give lessons on how to play the tin whistle and the bodhran; Tom Moriarty will give lessons in the Irish language; Anita Taylor will share stories of legendary figures and heroes; Martha Franz will work with the children on arts and crafts projects. The children will swim daily in the Maguire Pool.

And they love it! Each year on the last day of the Celtic Adventures for Kids, they insist that "Next year, we're going to have the camp for two weeks."

Member dues

Thank you to all our faithful members who renewed for 2009. We list additional patrons for 2009: John and Sheila Flynn of Longmeadow. If you do not have a 2009 member card, we would happily receive your dues.

Journey of the Soul travelers set out for Ireland: April 19-29



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.

Director:

Judith Kappenman, SSJ, Chicopee

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Jessica Wisniowski, Westfield

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Marching proudly in the Parade

The sun shone brightly on Holyoke for the St. Patrick’s Parade on March 22, and so, even though the day was quite blustery, we proudly marched with our banner proclaiming our 10th anniversary celebration in October. A group of Elms students joined Irish Cultural Center members to march along the route as we promoted our Center, its history and programs.



Above: Elms students on the route;
Left:
Damien Murray, Chip Costello, Kathy Lynch, Mary Ellen Lowney and John Baker prepare to set out on the route

Items of interest

The John Boyle O’Reilly Club:

May 3 Murder Mystery Dinner; doors open at 5:00 pm with no tickets sold at the door. Call James 737-1706 or Tom 733-4746

June 26 Annual John Boyle/Sons of Erin Golf Tournament to be held at the Edgewood CC and hosted by the Sons this year. All proceeds to benefit the John Boyle Gaelic Games on TV from Ireland.

July 11 bus to New Britain Rock Cats

August 8 11th Annual Music Festival

Web site: www.jbo-club.com

Sons of Erin

May 16 Colleen Golf Scramble

June 21 30th Anniversary Party with the Wolfetones

August 1 9th Annual Pat Hurlly Open

Web site www.sonsoferin.com

McDermott Academy

May 30, 6 pm at Elms College dance recital “Evolution of Irish Dance” adults \$18 children \$10 mcdermottrecital2009@gmail.com

Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival

Saturday, July 18 at Look Park, Florence Cost \$15, children 6-12 \$5, children under 6 free. www.glasgowlands.org

Blackstone Valley Festival

Saturday, July 25 Indian Ranch, Webster www.blackstonevalleycelticfestival.com

Pilgrim Souls Production

Stones in his Pockets May 1, 2, 8, 9 at 7 pm, May 3 at 2 pm

The Amherst group spends a day in Dingle

by Tim Allen

The night at Lord Baker's Restaurant had been special. People from both countries visiting and eating together, great music and company and food, topped off by the gift to the people of Malawi. It was a better night than I had conceptualized – this group of people add the right touch to everything they do.

The next day was a full day in Dingle – unplanned. People were on their own to do as they chose. After the miserable rainy day on Tuesday, we were skeptical about Wednesday's weather for the planned hike up Mt. Brandon. But the weather in Ireland is as fickle as it is here in New England. We woke up to an absolutely glorious day.

A few took a freshwater fishing excursion. Some had shopping to do, or walking around the town, or lunch plans among family and friends. Some had visits to the Dingle library or golf. Would anyone go see Fungi, the Dingle Dolphin?

The day was perfect for hiking and I dropped off several hikers at the base of Mt. Brandon. Danny Sheehy had lent me his car. I believe seven of our crew joined Danny and Danny's sister for the hike. It was a difficult decision to not go with them, but I



Dingle visit

'Unbelievable.'
'Awesome.'
'Stunning beauty.'
'Incredible.'
'Great views.'
'Perfect day.'

felt some degree of responsibility and also great interest in taking care of the drop off and pick up, and spending time with Mary, and with Danny's mother Maire. I had lunch at Lord Baker's with Maire and with Fr. Pat and Mary. It was a great time.

In mid-afternoon I received a call from Danny that they would be hiking down on the Brandon Creek side. They did a point-to-point hike instead of a loop. I met them at Brandon Creek and got them back to the cars and back to Dingle. 'Unbelievable.' 'Awesome.' 'Stunning beauty.' 'Incredible.' 'Great views.' 'Perfect day.'

The descriptions were all superlatives. The hike had been 'off the charts'. But my favorite description was the one from Terry Aldrich, he who lives in Middlebury, Vermont and had lived in Alaska – both paradises for hikers. He described the experience, "That was the best hike of my life." Terry knows. On a perfect day in Ireland, with the mountains around you and the sea so close by and in full view, hiking is incredible. There are no trees to block your view. It's all yours. Needless to say, the hikers had a



good day. And so did everyone else. We topped off the day with a trip to Tralee to see a production by Siamsa Tire, the National Folk Theater of Ireland. The show that night was Oilean, which means 'island' in Irish. It was about the Blaskets, which we had not been able to visit due to the rains the day before. But we had visited the Blasket Center and the play illuminated the story of the people living on, and then, leaving of the island.

The next day we had to leave Dingle. Nobody really wanted to. Most of this group of travelers had never been to Dingle before but it had woven its magic. The whole visit to Dingle had been great – from staying at Benner's to eating at Lord Baker's to the gift to Malawi, the hike, the shopping, the whole deal.

After three days and nights in Dingle, we hopped on the bus mid-day on Thursday for the trip to Killarney for the last couple days of our trip. As we pulled out of town and Dingle was in our rear view mirror, so many had thoughts going through their mind. My favorite was expressed by Paige Diamond. "I'm coming back."

Pictured above: Dingle Town from the Pier; to the left: one of the children in the Siamsa Tire performance

Traveling to Ireland and searching for roots by Kathy Gallivan

Although my dad always instilled unending pride of being “Irish” in our household, it wasn’t until I was older that I wanted to know more about where my family came from and why they made that long journey from Ireland to Holyoke. Unfortunately, this burning desire to learn more didn’t peak until I reached my mid 30’s when dad and his brothers were no longer around to ask. Why didn’t I take the time to ask more questions? Why didn’t I pay more attention to dad’s stories? We were a very small family, not like the typical large Irish families that you hear about. My grandfather came to this country when he was a young boy with his widowed mother and younger brother. My dad was the “baby” son of three with a ten and twelve year difference in age from his older brothers. His mother died when he was only in his teens and his dad died when my father was in his mid-twenties—one year after he married mom and two years before I was born. So much of the history of our family and the stories that would have been handed down from the memories that dad and his older brothers might have had—are now gone.

I longed to travel to Ireland, to my ancestral home, to search for those roots and it wasn’t until the summer of 2001 that my wish came true. A tour was being offered through a local church and they were actually going to stay in the very town my grandfather was from—Killarney. Fortunately, before our departure, I was able to find my grandfather’s original baptismal certificate that said he was baptized in St. Mary’s Cathedral in Killarney. The Irish Cultural Center was newly formed at that time and I happened to catch a notice in the newspaper that they were

offering a talk on Irish Genealogy given by my John O’Connor from the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum in Springfield. Shortly after, I signed up for another of John’s classes in Springfield and with his help was able to find a name and address of a priest to write to at the cathedral and ask for help. The funny part is that my letter reached the church but followed the priest, Fr. T. Egan, to a retirement home. When he received my letter he graciously sent me a lovely note telling me he retired many years ago but was forwarding my request to the church in Killarney and asking the sacristan to help me out. I, in turn, received a wonderful response from the sacristan confirming the birth dates of both my grandfather and his brother and the township where they lived—AND the name of a possible relative to contact when I arrived in Killarney.

My arrival in Killarney reaped more than I ever expected. I was able to meet a “possible” relative who helped me continue my search and actually, on a subsequent trip, he and his wife drove me out to where my family homestead was once located. As I looked around the beautiful landscape I kept asking myself why they left, why did they want to leave such a lovely place—a place known as “heaven’s reflex.” I will continue my search for those answers—I want to know more--it is something I must do.



(St. Mary’s Cathedral*)

The most unforgettable moment of that visit was when I visited St. Mary’s Cathedral for the first time. As I walked to the other end of Killarney I saw this most amazingly beautiful cathedral (designed by the famous Pugin). There were people lined up all the way down the street, three and four deep, waiting to enter the church. I was told that it would be a busy weekend because the relics of St. Theresa of Lisieux were supposed to be there that week. I was going there for two reasons—to see the church where my grandfather was baptized and also to thank the sacristan who helped me. My timing was a little off, as I missed the sacristan by only a few minutes—he was off to the races in Galway! Another big event in Ireland! But what I wasn’t prepared for was the overwhelming spiritual feeling I had when I entered the Cathedral. You see, St. Theresa is also the patron saint of my own church at home—even to this day, just thinking about this beautiful, unexpected experience moves me emotionally. I wasn’t able to meet the sacristan that day but another man from the church embraced me and gave me a tour along with some interesting stories and showed me the old baptismal font that would have been used for my grandfather’s baptism in 1876. I couldn’t have been happier or have asked for more.

It was a beautiful sunny day as I took my time to walk back to my hotel in the center of town. I wanted to savor this moment--I was filled with the feeling that I was finally home—the feeling that only comes from a place that makes you feel like you belong.

Continued on page 7

Save the date!

The Irish Cultural Center
celebrates its



10th Anniversary
1999-2009



Friday—Sunday, October 9-11, 2009

Friday, October 9:

Vincent Crotty art exhibit opening with music
Evening Music Session

Saturday, October 10:

Day-long workshops and films
Makem and Spain Brothers concert

Sunday, October 11:

Liturgy in Our Lady's Chapel
Brunch with speaker, Peter Quinn
(novelist, essayist, Chairman of the Irish Echo)

Join us in the celebration

Connecting with Ireland and the Irish through visits and art

We are fortunate in having a wonderful connection with Ireland and the Irish, fostered by our initial impetus from the Blasket documentary. One of our special supporters is Michael de Mordha, director of the Blasket Center in Dunquin. He lists us as such on the Blasket brochure. Many of our members are Irish immigrants or first or second generation Irish Americans. Typical of these is Tom Moriarty, who is a first generation Irish American, and with relatives in Ireland, had an interest first in Irish history. Later he became involved in the Irish language. He has played an integral part in forging relationships with those who live across the pond. As the first director, he made many contacts. Ann-Gerard Flynn, the second director also had many connections, having lived in Ireland for six months.

At the opening of the Center a group from the Dingle Peninsula came to celebrate the new organization. They continue to be our friends: Michael de Mordha, Father Pat Fenton, Patrick Lynch, John Moriarty of Lord Baker's, Maura Sheehy who is director at the

Museum in Ballyferriter (and later through her, her husband, Danny Sheehy, poet, historian, language enthusiast), Diarmaid O Daláigh of Disear, Fionnán) hOgáin of Colaiste Ide.

Since 2000 a group of Dingle merchants have brought a bit of Ireland to the Big E in West Springfield at the annual Fair in the Young Building, housed in the replica of an Irish cottage with thatched roof. Here many of us have become involved with our Irish Cultural Center and Elms College exhibit, promoting our events and programs. Here we have made friends with so many people who return year after year: Mazz O'Flaherty, Mike O'Hare, Fran Ryan and the Brian de Staic merchants. Mags Riordan also brings her story of the work she is doing in Malawi, Africa with the Billy Riordan Memorial Trust she established in memory of her son who drowned in 1999 in the lake in the place he called "Paradise."

Another important factor is the travel to Ireland we have hosted since 2004. A key piece of the Jour-

ney of the Soul has been a visit to Dingle where we have renewed friendships and made new friends with so many. A group has just returned from the fourth trip we have offered.

Tim Allen who served as president for many years, also had connections with many Irish because of his frequent travels to the home of his ancestry, and he introduced them to the groups who joined him on a tour. We have hosted art exhibits in the Borgia Gallery almost every year since our founding. In October we will bring the art work of Vincent Crotty to the Borgia Gallery. He had shown a 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. He joins other artists and photographers who have displayed their work: artists Mary McSweeney, Mazz O'Flaherty, Olwen Dowling, and photographers Carol Shea and R. Todd Felton. Kathleen Walsh Buchanan displayed her prints of the Great Blasket Island in 2006.

Please register me for the National Archives Bus trip on Saturday, May 16, 2009

Name _____

Address: _____

E-MAIL Address: _____

Phone No.: _____ Member: \$40 _____ Non-Member: \$45 _____

Sandwich Choice: (choose one)

Turkey _____ Ham _____ Tuna _____ Roast Beef _____

(Special request for Vegetarian)

Please make checks out to the Irish Cultural Center at Elms College and mail to 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013

**Full Payment must be received to reserve your space
NO later than May 7, 2009**

(Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis)

Traditional Irish brown soda bread

Cut 3 tablespoons margarine or butter softened into 1 1/4 cup white flour, 1 1/4 cup whole wheat flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon salt until mixture resembles fine crumbs.

Add enough milk to make a soft dough.

Knead mixture on a floured surface until smooth.

Shape into a round cake and place on a greased cookie sheet or in a loaf tin.

Cut a deep cross on the bread with a floured knife and bake in a hot oven at 375 ° for 35 to 45 minutes.

Brush with margarine.

The cross represents the Trinity and is made to bless the bread so that none is wasted.

Irish bread recipe

Microwave 1 1/2 cup raisins moistened with a little water for 1 1/2 minutes to soften: drain, set aside to cool.

Combine 1 1/2 cup buttermilk, 2 tablespoons of melted butter or margarine, 1 slightly beaten egg, raisins and stir with a fork.

Combine 3 1/2 cups flour, 2/3 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon baking powder, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt. Mix for 2 minutes using a whisk. Add wet ingredients to the dry and mix with a fork till all is wet and combined.

Put into a loaf pan and baked at 350 ° for 45-50 minutes.



Corned beef

Put into a large pot 4 pounds flat cut corned beef with 2 large onions, one stuck with 6 cloves, 1 large sliced carrot, 1 teaspoon dry mustard powder, 1/2 teaspoon thyme, 1 tablespoon parsley. Cover with water and bring to the boil. Simmer gently for 2 1/2 hours or until tender. (If desired, cook cabbage, cut into wedges) in a separate pot using 3 cups of broth from the meat pot.



Sr. Judy, Chip Costello (pictured above) and Kathy Lynch took part in the Day of Irish Culture at the Massachusetts State House on March 18

Irish potato soup

Boil 6 medium sliced, peeled potatoes, 2 small chopped onions, 2 stalks chopped celery. Drain and mash, using an electric beater.

Add 1/2 stick butter, 2 cups milk, salt and pepper.

Heat mixture and add milk to the consistency wanted.

Add fresh chopped parsley

Traveling to Ireland Continued from page 4

Since that time, I have journeyed back to Ireland almost on a yearly basis. In late 2005, I was asked by the Irish Cultural Center if I would consider putting a tour together and have been involved doing that for our 2006, 2007 and 2009 tours. Every year we have gone we have had people searching and finding pieces of their roots and connecting with relatives. There isn't anything that warms my heart more than to see the excitement and smiles on the faces of those that

have also found their link to this beautiful, warm and friendly place that lies across the "pond"—a place that many of us can call home.

**St. Mary's Cathedral, Killarney, (officially known as the Catholic Church of St. Mary of the Assumption) was designed by Augustus Welby Pugin. Construction began in 1842, interrupted for five years due to the Great Famine, and finished in 1855. The total cost was £20,000 when completed and ready for worship.*

**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
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: May 17, Jun 21

May 3 bus trip to Worcester Pilgrim Souls to attend *Stones in his Pockets* by Marie Jones followed by dinner. Departure 12:30 pm with return by 6:30 pm. Members \$65, non-members \$70

May 13 7:00 pm 2nd floor of Dooley Campus Center book reading and signing with Ann O'Farrell, author of *Norah's Children* and *Michael*

May 16 bus trip to Pittsfield National Archives to pursue one's roots. Departure at 8:30 am with return

by 5:00 pm. Members \$40, non-members \$45

June 6 La Gaeilge (day-long language workshop: Irish lessons on several levels; workshops in dance, Irish lessons on the Internet, and Irish drama. Members \$35, non-members \$45, students \$10

July 27-31 Celtic Adventures for Kids week-long fun and learning experience. Call for a registration form or download from our website. \$200 (\$20 discount for members, \$20 discount for sibling)

Sept 18-October 4

Big E exhibit and information

October 9-11
a weekend of great events to celebrate our tenth anniversary See page 5.

Our sympathy to Kathleen McCarthy on the death of her brother Peter Lineen