



# The Cairde Connection

*"Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!"*

Irish Cultural Center at  
Elms College

Volume 11 & Issue 5

May 2010

## Come Celebrate Irish language by Gerald Costello

The Irish Cultural Center's fifth annual Lá Gaeilge will be held on Saturday, June 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Over the years, participants have attended from throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. Children, students, and adults are all welcome. This year's program will feature language classes, workshops, singing, and a lecture on the state of the Irish language in Ireland today.

If you are curious about learning the language or want to improve upon the skills you presently have, then there will be classes designed to meet your needs. Four levels - those with no Irish; those who have had some instruction; those who can converse for five to ten minutes; and those who are advanced- will be offered by our experienced faculty. Classes will be designed to encourage you to use as much Irish as you can.

In addition to the language classes, there will be three workshops. The first will be a drama workshop facilitated by Kathleen Gilhooly. Last year's workshop was a great success and enjoyed by all participants. The second workshop will be on Irish



**Kate Chadbourne will teach a language class and a singing workshop.**



## Deirdre Ni Fhalluin will speak at the June 5 event.

dance. If learning a language seems to generate two left feet for you, then Erin Mulvagh's workshop will work to make you into a confident, capable Irish set dancer. The final workshop will focus on singing Irish Language songs. Kate Chadbourne, whose Ph. D. from Harvard is in Celtic languages and literatures, will facilitate this workshop. This is the second Lá Gaeilge that Kate has attended, and she is widely admired for her enthusiasm, charisma, and warmth. You will not want to miss her session.

We are especially privileged to welcome Deirdre Ní Fhallúin, the Vice - Consul from the Irish Consulate in Boston, to attend the day's activities. She is a native of Leixlip, County Kildare and was educated at Dublin City University. She earned her finance degree through the medium of the Irish language. Deirdre's presentation on the state of the language in Ireland will be delivered in Irish and English. The Irish Cultural Center is fortunate to receive this type of ongoing support from the Boston Consulate.

Bí linn. Join us on June 5th so we can continue the great tradition of using this rich language. As the old proverb reminds us : Labhair í agus mairfidh sí! (Speak it and it will live!) The cost for the day includes lunch - \$40 for members, \$50 for non members, and \$10 for children and students through

## Wine tasting tickets

Join us for a fun evening on May 7. Call today to order your \$30 ticket for the Wine Tasting with an Irish Accent. Enjoy the beverages provided by Damien Collins of Lighthouse Liquors in Chicopee and East Longmeadow. Enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Aramark Food Service of Elms College with a pasta dish, salad, breads, as well as a fruit and cheese tray.



**Good food and beverages brought together friends: Joyce Bosworth, Heather Lowe and Kelly O'Sullivan at the event in 2008.**

eighteen years of age. You can download the application from our website [www. irish-cairde.org](http://www.irish-cairde.org), or you can call Sister Judy at 265- 2537 to reserve a spot. Hope to see you all there for a great day of entertainment.

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 Blasket 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**

## Summer camp introduces children to Irish culture and arts

**C**eltic Adventures for Kids (grades 1-9) is scheduled for July 26-30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The children take daily classes in Irish dance, music, language, stories and arts and crafts. They will also swim daily in the Maguire Pool.

For ten years, under the able leadership of Mary Ellen O'Brien, the camp has yearly welcomed fifty young people to “keep the Irish arts alive.”

The cost for the week is \$200 with a \$20 discount for Irish Cultural Center members, as well as a \$20 discount for an additional child from the same family. A non-refundable

\$50 deposit is due June 4 with final payment due July 9.

Teachers: dance Kerri Sullivan; music Ellen Redman; language Kathleen Gilhooly; literature/story telling Anita Moore; arts and crafts Martha Franz; outdoor games Erin Mulvagh.

We hope to have guests teach some sessions. In the past, guests have included Mike Carney teaching Gaelic football; Tim Donoghue, Terry Ezold, Bill Dempsey, Father Fran Reilly, all giving demonstrations and tips in music, and Joan Ryan who taught the children Irish knitting.

## Notes of interest

**T**he Center boasts a new computer on which is downloaded Rosetta Stone for the learning of the Irish language. A member will prepare directions for using the program and establish a schedule for its availability. Call or email the Center if you are interested in making use of this wonderful asset.

Congratulations to Bill Dempsey for the honor received on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of H.L. Dempsey Company.

Several of us attended the unveiling of the Belfast mural at UMass, Amherst. The two Belfast muralists who had been on opposite sides during “The Troubles,” Danny Devenny and Mark Ervine, explained how they wanted to join in the effort to help their communities “root out the evil of sectarianism.”

Hundreds of people—students, peace-makers, artists, and ICC board member, Kathy Gallivan,

helped to complete this third mural that the two have produced.

Dean John Mullin praised the work of Professor Leah Wing of the Legal Studies Department for coordinating the event series. Students we met, understood that the project promotes both harmony and creativity.

**We send our thanks to Michael Lonergan at the Irish Consulate, Boston for funding the lectures by Sister Ruth McGoldrick and Catherine Shannon as well as the book reading by Kevin O'Hara.**

## Note of Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Margaret Stasiowski whose Paul son died recently.

Keep in prayer all those who are ill or in treatment: George Bresnahan, Mary Campbell, Judith Riordan.

## Photography exhibit project By Judith Kappenman

Chip Costello and I were privileged to accompany photographer, John Minihan for three days while he took photos of eight elder Irish immigrants. The Center was included in the project “To Love Two Countries.”

What a delight to accompany the photographer! What a delight to meet these wonderful immigrants and to hear parts of their stories! We spent time with John, watched him at his work and saw how greatly he is committed to this project.

Our first visit took us to the Oski home in Springfield where we enjoyed a visit and he took photos of Maureen Carney Oski and Michael Carney, both of County Kerry, and Maureen Carney, County Roscommon.

Next we visited the Springfield home of Joseph Campbell, County Armagh, again where we received a warm welcome. We traveled to Northampton, the home of Tim and Kath-

leen Garvey Sullivan, County Kerry, where we felt at home.

We went to Mont Marie, Holyoke, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph, where John took several photos of Sister Mary Magdalen Ward, County Leitrim – some with African artifacts. (Sister worked in Africa for six years in Tanzania and Kenya.)

We drove to Easthampton to meet Frank MacAvin, County Dublin and his wife Judy, again receiving a warm welcome and a cup of tea. Since Frank had worked thirty years at the Log Cabin in Holyoke he chose the restaurant for the background.

At the Log Cabin we met Barbara Griffin, manager who introduced us to co-owner and chef, Michael Corduff, originally from Ballyferriter. She gave us tickets to an Irish dinner and Tony Kenney show that evening. So Frank and his party of four and our party of four (with the addition of Tom Moriarty) enjoyed a delightful evening of food and entertainment.

Because local color is important to John, each of the three days of his stay in the area, we stopped for photos. In Springfield, he took pictures at O’Brien’s Corner and the John Boyle O’Reilly Club. He visited our Center in Chicopee and took photos of our Basket exhibit. We stopped at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Northampton where he photographed several tombstones of Irish immigrants, some of which listed the county of origin. We drove through Holyoke for photos of Irish pubs.

After the photographer finished taking pictures from throughout New England, he returned to Ireland to develop the photos and choose the best ones for display. The exhibit will take place at Boston College in the fall. In the meantime, Rachael Gilkey of the Irish Arts Center, New York plans to visit each of the subjects and take an oral history.

Watch for the date of the exhibit.

## A Tragedy off the Cohasset coast By Mary Ellen Lowney

They were 100-plus Irish immigrants sailing the Atlantic Ocean hoping to find a better life in America. Just yards off the coast of Cohasset, a storm struck, breaking the Brig St. John to bits and killing nearly all on board.

The fateful October day of 1849, came vividly to life on April 24, when Catherine Shannon detailed her research on the sinking of the famine ship. Her hour-long talk drew 40 people who were interested in Irish history, boating history and/or immigration struggles; most were moved hearing the story.

Shannon’s illustrated presentation included pictures of news accounts of the tragedy, along with buildings and scenes from the town, whose resi-

dents came out in the storm to help. Shannon said there was no passenger list found for the ship that set sail from Galway on September 5, but it is known that 99 passengers from County Galway and County Clare and crewmembers died. She believes that many more likely died – unofficial estimates put the total passenger count as high as 165. Most of the 13 survivors returned to Ireland. Entire families were lost.

The ship was built in the mid-1830s, used primarily to carry lumber (and possibly contraband) from New Brunswick to Ireland. The ship made the 31-day trip without trouble until the end. When they rounded Cape Cod, Captain Tony Kennelly told passengers it would be their last night on

board. Many had family in Boston waiting for them.

By early morning, winds were roaring and the ship foundered in the harbor. The ship blew into the Minot Lighthouse and then was completely broken apart on the rocks. Just a handful of survivors clung to pieces of the ship and made it to shore.

Wealthy Galway merchant and landowner, Henry Comerford bought the Brig St. John in 1848, used it to aid the massive immigration movement, spurred on by the famine taking hold in his native country.

Shannon detailed the heroic efforts of the townspeople to help the survivors and bury the dead. The tragedy resulted in the first Roman Catholic Mass being said in the town by a priest who came in from a nearby parish.

**Journey of the Soul**  
**10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOUR TO IRELAND**  
**East and West Coasts and Northern Ireland**  
**INFORMATION SESSION, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 6:30 P.M.**

The Irish Cultural Center at Elms College is sponsoring a “one-of-a-kind” custom tour to Ireland: designed exclusively for the organization’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This is a new and special 11-day Journey of the Soul tour to the east and west coasts and Northern Ireland that will take place from September 4-14, 2010.

Tour Ireland’s magnificent coastline, visit historic and legendary attractions as you discover the charm of its people and experience ancient and modern Ireland. The tour includes visits to Westport, Sligo, Donegal, Omagh, Derry, Inishowen Peninsula, Antrim Coast, Belfast, Boyne Valley and Dublin! Come and hear about this exciting tour at a one-hour slide presentation. We will serve light refreshments and accept deposits.

We will meet in the Fontbonne Room of the Dooley Campus Center at 6:30 p.m.. The cost of the tour is \$2,349 per person/double occupancy and includes superior first class hotel accommodations, RT air fare on Aer Lingus, 16 meals, admission to attractions, hotel tips & taxes, RT bus from Elms College to Logan Airport and is fully escorted from beginning to end. For more information call Kathy Gallivan at (413) 536-9709 or visit our website at [www.Irish-Cairde.org](http://www.Irish-Cairde.org).

## Spring sees successful events at Elms College

Spring offered us a full schedule of events celebrating Ireland’s patron, St. Patrick. The highlight was the Tea Party where about 200 people enjoyed the music of the Healys and John Tabb while enjoying light refreshments.

Kathy Gallivan drew the winners of the \$50 raffle:

1st: Ron Kirschbaum of Suffield, CT;  
 2nd: Lori Merlino of Texas;  
 3rd: Mary Troy of Springfield.

Sister Judy announced the winners of the essay contest: Mary Brouder of Holy Trinity, Greenfield; Richard Del Valle of Jabish Brook Middle School, Belchertown and Joshua Kisselbrock of St. Agnes, Dalton.

Later in the month Kevin O’Hara delighted about 100 folks while reading from his book “A Lucky Irish Lad.” He also shared pictures of Ireland, many of them taken while writing his first book, “Last of the Donkey Pilgrims.”

The sun shone on the streets of Holyoke on March 21 and gave the event the best weather for the Parade. The three founders of the Center, Sister Kathleen Keating, Tom Moriarty and Sean Cahillane rode in a Cadillac driven by Bruce Fitzgerald.

John Baker and his son Craig proudly carried the banner and the rest of us marched along.

A bus full of people enjoyed a delightful evening on March 10 at the Chieftains concert at the Fine Arts Center, UMass, Amherst. The musicians, singers, dancers all charmed the audience. Previous to the show, Kathy Gallivan of the Irish Cultural Center hosted the reception in the lobby. The McDermott Dancers entertained those who had gathered to attend the performance.



**Pictured left: the Healys and John Tabb at the Irish Tea; above: Richard Del Valle, Mary Brouder and Joshua Kisselbrock.**

## Parade goes show Irish pride



Pictured clockwise from the top left: the founders –Tom Moriarty, Sr. Kathleen Keating, and Sean Cahillane are ready to ride in style with Bruce Fitzgerald behind the wheel; Elms students, Michelle Condon and Ben Masse join the ICC group; Ed Franz and honoree Mary Franz march with the Springfield contingent; Marlene Curran, Judy Fletcher and honoree Ann Gibbons ride with the Holyoke group; Sr. Kathleen waves to the crowd; Joyce Bosworth and Kathy Gallivan wave at the onlookers; Craig Baker and John Baker are ready to lead the Irish Cultural Center contingent.



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## **ICC Calendar of events**

**Ongoing: Language** groups meet weekly: Intro Irish 1 & 2, Intermediate 1 & 2, Irish Study Group. Classes offered each semester; call the Graduate Office at 265-2218.

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

**May 7, 6-8 p.m.** Wine Tasting with an Irish Accent—fundraiser for the Irish Studies Minor program, Dooley Campus Center dining hall

**May 19, 6:30 p.m.** Journey of the Soul Information session, Fontbonne Room, Dooley Campus Center

**June 5, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
Lá Gaeilge day-long language workshop.

**July 26-30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** Celtic Adventures for Kids summer camp

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

**September 15, 22, 29, 7 p.m.**  
fall film series, Alum Library Theater

**September 17-October 2**  
Exhibit at the Big E, WS

**December 4** Christmas with an Irish Touch

**January 26, Feb 3, 9, 16, 7 p.m.**  
winter film series Alum Library Theater

**March 6** Irish Tea

## **EVENTS OF INTEREST**

The local Irish organizations have events throughout the year. Check out their programs on their web sites.

**AOH**  
2nd Annual Summer Picnic—Hibernian Style. June 26 at 6:30 p.m. entertainment by Jim O'Connor & the Boston Blackthorne Band. Adults \$12, children \$8.  
[www.AOH-Holyoke.com](http://www.AOH-Holyoke.com)

**John Boyle O'Reilly Club**  
[www.jbo-club.com](http://www.jbo-club.com)

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

**St. Patrick's Parade Committee**  
[www.holyokestpatricksparade.com](http://www.holyokestpatricksparade.com)