



The Cairde Connection

"Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!"

Irish Cultural Center at
Elms College

Volume 11 & Issue 2

November 2009

Center celebrates a wonderful milestone; diverse activities attract wide range of folks by Sr. Judith Kappenman

What a great celebration we had for our 10th anniversary! All of our expectations for attendance and quality of the events were reached and even exceeded. Congratulations to the committee who worked on all the details! And thanks to all who attended or supported us in any way.

We began our festivities on Friday when a large and happy crowd welcomed artist Vincent Crotty at his art opening; they admired his work and visited friends. Some people had come to view the Blasket paintings specifically and were delighted at what they saw. Irish musicians Tim Donoghue, Ralph Len and Terry Ezold entertained during the opening, providing a musical background and a blending of the arts.

Then many of these people and others gathered in the annex to enjoy a session where a group of about 12 musicians played for several hours. They stopped about 7 p.m. for a dance demonstration from the McDermott School of Irish Dance, directed by Maureen McDermott Ziskowsk; then, the musicians returned.

The next day we had a change of pace with hands-on activities when we offered a program of workshops and films. About 100 participants had enthusiastic responses to the presenters: Mike Carney and Eamon Burke of Gaelic games, Mary McShane of Irish language, Steve Brown of bodhran and bones, Judy Lucey of Irish genealogy, and Maureen Ziskowski of Irish dancing. At the same time Heather Lowe hosted a series of films.

Continued on page 5



Pictured above: Speaker, Peter Quinn; Founders, Sean Cahillane, Sister Kathleen Keating and Tom Moriarty were honored at the brunch with lifetime memberships.

Below: Committee members: Sr. Judith Kappenman, Tim Allen, Sr. Kathleen Keating, Kelly O'Sullivan, Jean Brigham, Heather Lowe, Paula Dugan, Ann Lowe, Tom Moriarty, Kathy Riordan, Mary Lynch, Chip Costello, and Kathy Gallivan. Not pictured: Fran Hennessey.



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.

Director:

Judith Kappenman, SSJ, Chicopee

Board of Directors

Officers:

Chip Costello, E Longmeadow

Jerry Donovan, Springfield

Kevin Taugher, So Hadley

Kathleen Riordan, Springfield

Joyce Bosworth, Longmeadow

Marian Callahan, W Springfield

Dennis Egan, Longmeadow

Kathryn Gallivan, So Hadley

Fran Hennessey, Springfield

James Hoar, Holyoke

Robert Loughrey, Holyoke

Ann Lowe, Holyoke

Mary Ellen Lowney, Chicopee

Kathleen Lynch, Chicopee

Ben Masse, Chicopee

Dan McCavick, Holyoke

Damien Murray, Chicopee

Mary Ellen O'Brien, Springfield

Kelly O'Sullivan, Westfield

Jim Sheehan, Holyoke

Jessica Wisniowski, Westfield

291 Springfield Street

Chicopee, MA 01013

265-2537 irishcenter@elms.edu

Upcoming events highlighted

Kathy Gallivan will host an information session on the Journey of the Soul trip scheduled for September 4-14, 2010 on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 2 p.m. in the Alumni Room in the Dooley Campus Center. This is the trip you don't want to miss. Additional information on page 3.

On Saturday, December 12 we will offer our 11th annual Christmas with an Irish Touch. At the liturgy, Monsignor Christopher Connelly will preside, music will be led by the Our Lady of Hope Folk Group and the readings will be offered in Irish.

Immediately following we will have 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. This unique program is one of our most popular. 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.

Sympathy and prayers requested

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of member Rev David Joyce on the death of his uncle, Rev George Joyce; and Tim Donoghue on the death of his father John.

We ask for continued prayers of

On Tuesday, February 23 at 7 p.m. 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*, and at a second appearance he shared some of his experiences of growing up in a Irish Catholic home in Pittsfield.

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 on the 2010 Journey of the Soul.

On Wednesday March 10 we will host a bus trip to UMass Fine Arts Center to attend a concert by the Chieftains. See details on page 6.

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

We'll be marching in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on March 21. We are in need of a flatbed and truck for our float. Contact John Baker at johnisirish@msn.com if you can help.

We have set May 7 for our 2nd Wine Tasting with an Irish Accent to raise funds for the Elms College Irish Studies Minor program.

healing for Bishop Joseph Maguire, Charley Allen, Kevin Taugher, Bob Loughrey, Martin Kearney, Gerry Callahan, Mike Rancitelli, Sr. Eleanor Dooley, Margaret Stasiowski, Teresa Harris, Olivia Brooks, and Liz Daly of Dingle Crystal.

**JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT
"JOURNEY OF THE SOUL" TOUR
INFORMATION SESSION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009**

The Irish Cultural Center at Elms College is sponsoring its 5th Custom Tour to Ireland for its 10th Anniversary Celebration. This *New & Special 11-Day* "Journey of the Soul" tour to **Ireland (September 4-14, 2010)** will be to the East and West Coasts and Northern Ireland! Includes Westport, Donegal, Derry, Belfast, Dublin and so much more!

We are excited to announce that we have secured a great price for this tour of \$2,349 per person sharing a room! (Land and Airfare) All of our hotels are centrally located and are Superior First Class, 4-star hotels. All attractions and Sixteen meals are included. This price also includes round-trip transportation from Elms College to Logan airport.

Come and find out more about this "one-of-a-kind" tour at our next **INFORMATION SESSION to be held on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009 AT 2:00 P.M.**, Alumni Room (2nd Floor), Dooley Campus Center, Elms College, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee. One-hour slide presentation and refreshments. (Non-refundable Deposits of \$300 will be taken to reserve your spot. First come, first served. Space is limited). For more information about the tour call Kathy Gallivan at (413) 536-9709 or visit our website at www.Irish-Cairde.org.



**Pictures from the route:
Hunger Striker Bobby Sands mural
- Belfast
Half Penny Bridge-Dublin
Dunluce Castle along the Antrim
Coast**

Michael Carney, robed in academic garb, looks toward his island home after receiving his honorary doctoral degree in Celtic Studies from National University of Ireland, Maynooth. We'll include an article about Michael in the next issue.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the ICC—A Happy Event By Sr. Kathleen Keating, SSJ

Serving on the Tenth Anniversary Committee of the Irish Cultural Center at the Elms involved hard work but also some delightful Irish laughter and engaging conversations. As the year of preparation progressed it was so gratifying to see the ideas unfold around much discussion and final consensus. The record of attendance at the meetings was phenomenal. Each person took on particular tasks and implemented them in a responsible fashion. The best part was to see the committee members coalesce at the end and generously help each other out so that the events of the week-end proceeded smoothly and successfully. Many committee members enlisted friends, board members and members of the Center who happily

volunteered to help make the whole event a celebratory occasion.

I write about the committee because its manner of functioning is pretty much characteristic of the way the Irish Cultural Center has operated over the past ten years.

Process is as important as the product. Participation has been the hallmark. All ideas are welcome. People may be drawn to the mission of 'keeping the Irish Arts alive' but at its best the Center offers more--a spirit of community, development of friendships, and enjoyment of sharing a heritage we all hold in common. The best hope for the future is that this spirit endures and the quality programming continues in a light-hearted manner without the organization falling into traps of pet-

tiness, opportunism or a need to control.

So I thank the committee members, Tim Allen, Jean Brigham, Chip Costello, Paula Dugan, Kathy Gullivan, Fran Hennessey, Sr. Judy Kappenman, Ann Lowe, Heather Lowe, Mary Lynch, Tom Moriarty, Kelly O'Sullivan and Kathleen Riordan, not just for the hard work and enthusiasm but for their spirit of collaboration.

On a personal note I also want to express my appreciation to the Irish Cultural Center Board for the meaningful award given to me as a founder. I rejoice in all that has happened and for the people who have been and are now involved in continuing its success.



Pictured clockwise from upper left: Irish language presenter Mary McShane talks to a participant; artist Vincent Crotty and Sr. Kathleen Keating pose in front of one of his paintings; musicians Tim Donoghue, Terry Ezold and Ralph Len play during the art exhibit.

Center celebrates a milestone continued from page 1

Some responses to the workshops: Wonderful day in small snippets! Over and above my wildest dreams. Participants had high praise for the high quality of the presenters and only wished that the sessions could be longer.

On Saturday evening about 300 enjoyed the Makem and Spain Brothers concert at the Wherehouse? in Holyoke. A festive atmosphere prevailed as attendees ate a delicious corned beef sandwich and listened, clapped and sang along with the music. After the intermission, the Center offered its own entertainment when Tom Moriarty gave a tribute to Tommy Makem by singing *The Bard of Armagh*.

Sunday morning almost 150 attended the Liturgy of Thanksgiving presided over by Monsignor Christopher Connelly, who in his homily reflected on the first reading which



praises the value of pursuing wisdom. He said that because the Irish Cultural Center has lasted for ten years it has proved how truly valuable the organization is for preserving and celebrating our Irish heritage.

After Mass the group made its way to the Dooley Campus Center to share brunch. Aramark Food service catered a breakfast menu of wide variety.

Sister Kathleen Keating began the program by blessing the food. Novelist and essayist Peter Quinn addressed the topic *Unremembered and Unforgotten: Irish America and the Great Hunger* in the Kennedy lecture. In his talk on Irish immigrants after the Great Hunger, his theme centered on the fact that like with so many tragedies, the Irish-Americans refused to talk about the Great Hunger. That silence should not happen again. He referred specifically to the Church sex abuse scandal.

The president of the board, Chip Costello honored the three founders of the Center: Sr. Kathleen Keating, Tom Moriarty, and Sean Cahillane by presenting each with a plaque and naming them lifetime members.

The weekend's celebrations were over but the memories will last. See you at the 20th!



Pictured from the top clockwise: McDermott Dancers perform on Saturday; Heather Lowe poses in front of her display highlighting the Saturday films; Steve Brown teaches the playing of the bodhran; Tom Moriarty, Tim Allen, Peter Quinn and Sean Cahillane pause before entering the Dooley Dining Hall on Sunday.



*Irish Cultural Center's
10th Anniversary*



\$50 Donation

1st 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!

2nd Place Prize \$500

3rd Place Prize \$100

(Drawing: Irish Tea, March 7, 2010)

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

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

Visit our Website: www.IRISH-CAIRDE.ORG

Call (413) 265-2537

**Buy a raffle ticket; it makes
a great holiday gift.**

DISCLAIMER FOR RAFFLE: A minimum of 116 raffle tickets must be sold by February 1, 2010. If not, the drawing will be cancelled and money returned. If a minimum of 20 people is not met for the tour, the tour will be cancelled and the 1st place winner will receive the \$4000 cash prize. Tour is for 2 people/sharing room. Tour meals—15 meals will be provided. Irish driver/guide's gratuity, optional tours, travel protection/insurance and taxes or fees not mentioned are NOT included.

The Irish Cultural Center or Celtic Tours reserves the right to make changes to the itinerary. Decision to accept the "tour" prize must be in writing by the 1st place winner no later than May 15, 2010. Otherwise, the winner will receive the \$4000 cash prize. ALL APPLICABLE STATE/LOCAL/FEDERAL TAXES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WINNERS. Winners do NOT have to be present at the drawing to win. One name per ticket.



**Carol Byrnes and Ann Lowe
serve the sandwiches at the
Makem and Spain concert.**



The Chieftains'' are Coming!



The Heart & Soul of Traditional Irish Music''

Six Time Grammy Award Winners!

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 10, 2010

UMass Fine Arts Center

Bus from Elms College

\$45.50 Members

\$49.50 Non-members

Kids: \$35 (17 and younger)

(Price Includes Bus, Driver's Tip, Concert)

Makes for Great Christmas Gifts!

ALSO

Includes a Pre-performance

Irish Celebration in the

Fine Arts Center Lobby!

Watch our Website for Details

www.Irish-Cairde.org

The Seanfhocal as Mirror By Gerald Costello

One of the first things we do in the introductory Irish language class is to talk to the students about the Irish seanfhocal (pronounced shahn-a-cal). The seanfhocal, or old word, is a proverb or aphorism that sums up various human characteristics or truisms of our lives and nature. Aside from the difficulty of attempting to pronounce letter combinations that are challenging as well as unusual to our eyes and mouths, the student learns some things about the structure of sentences and other grammatical principles.

I was looking at my notes the other day from my Ballyferriter experience two summers ago and found two seanfhocals. For two weeks we had had perfect weather; however, there was one day that was black and foreboding. The rain was coming down horizontally from what I recall. I know what our teacher was thinking as she started the class with the se-

anhfocal: "Níl luibh ná leigheas in aghaidh an bhais." This means "There is neither herb nor cure against death." I am certain that we can all put our interpretation on this, but I see it as there are some inevitabilities that you cannot change. The sun was out the next day.

The other seanfhocal I found from that trip was written on the back of a bar receipt. We had spent the day hiking the Blasket Island. Our guide was an intrepid Gaeilgeoir, and I remembered him eating what appeared to be mussels gleaned from some rocks. I asked him what he was eating. He responded not directly but with a seanfhocal: "Seachain tigh an tabhairne nó bairnigh is beatha duit." He was laughing good-naturedly. I guess he knew that our group studied during the day but put equal efforts in at the local pubs during the evening.

The translation means: "Stay away from the pub, or you will have to live on limpets." We understood the seanfhocal; it didn't change the behavior. The dried, curled receipt tells the story.

The seanfhocal is a great tool to learn about the language as well as about yourself and others. In a broader sense, it instructs on the conventional wisdom of the Irish people, promotes opportunities for the learner to appreciate one's heritage, and provides the context for additional conversation with fellow language learners.

Don't forget that we will be starting new classes at the ICC in January. If you take the class, I think you will have fun. When you are out shoveling the snow, you can practice the first seanfhocal that you will have learned: "Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste, ná Béarla cliste." "Broken Irish is better than clever English." See you then.

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**

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
College of
Our Lady of the Elms

**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 that begin on Sept 14-15.

Genealogy volunteer
Ed Callahan (413) 527-5091 email eastgram@aol.com

December 6, 2 p.m.
Information session for the Journey of the Soul 2010

December 12, 4 p.m.
Christmas with an Irish Touch: Liturgy in Our Lady's Chapel followed by light refreshments and entertainment in the Dooley Campus center dining hall

Jan 27-Feb 3, 10, 17, 7 p.m.
Film series: Alumnae Library Theater

Feb 23, 7 p.m. Kevin O'Hara book

reading from his book, *Lucky Irish Lad*

Mar 7, 2 p.m. Tea Party (includes raffle drawing)

March 10 The Chieftains at UMass, Amherst bus trip

March 21 Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade

TBA March an Evening of Celtic Spirituality with Sr. Ruth McGoldrick

May 7 Wine Tasting with an Irish Accent fundraiser for the Irish Studies Minor program

July 26-30 Celtic Adventures for Kids summer camp

September 4-14 Journey of the Soul

EVENTS OF INTEREST

AOH

Dec 7 Adult Christmas Party
Dec 13 Children's Christmas Party
Dec 18-19 Brightside Angels sale

John Boyle O'Reilly

Nov 7 Comedy night
Nov 14 and Dec 12 Round Table
Dec 18 Bachelor's Supper
Dec 19 Christmas Party
www.jbo-club.com

Sons of Erin

Nov 8 and Dec 6 Annie's brunch
Nov 22 Vendor's Fair Dec 19 Christmas Party
www.sonsoferin.com

Pilgrim Soul Productions at

Worcester Hibernian Cultural Centre *Big Maggie* November 6, 7, 13, 14 at 7:30 p.m., November 15 at 2 p.m.
Call 508 523-3773