



# The Cairde Connection

*"Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!"*

Irish Cultural Center at  
Elms College

Volume 11 & Issue 1

September 2010

## Welcome to Maitiú de Hal, Fulbright language teacher

The Elms College will welcome Donegal native and Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, Maitiú de Hal to the campus in September. He will teach a 3-credit Irish language course, as well as 2 non-credit Irish language courses in conjunction with the Irish Cultural Center each semester.

Maitiú will also take two Elms College courses. We hope to involve him in the Irish community by inviting him to our events, as well as introducing him

to the local organizations and local music sessions. We know he will receive a warm welcome from all of you.

If you haven't signed up for the language classes yet, you had best do it immediately. Classes are filling up quickly. On page 5 you will find the form to apply for the Johnson grant for either of the non-credit courses. There is no better time to take the class than now.

Contact the Center to make an appointment to use the Rosetta Stone program to learn the Irish language on the computer.

You can read information on additional fall programs on page 2. We hope to see you at some or all of our events. We try to schedule events that would attract all kinds of audiences.

Included in our fall schedule we have the Irish film series, a lecture on an important historical figure, and a film and talk on some of the extraordinary figures, who passed through the same classrooms of St. Columb's, Derry.

Sr. Judy will read from her newly published biography of her grandfather, the son of Irish immigrants. Watch for further details on a proposed trip to the University of Massachusetts for a Mary Black concert.

## Fall events include annual member brunch

We invite you to attend our Annual Member Brunch on Sunday, October 17 with guest speaker, Quinnipiac president Dr. John L. Lahey talking about the Great Hunger. Save the date and watch for further details. We'll gather at the Yankee Pedlar on Northampton Street, Holyoke at 10 a.m.

The Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee honored Lahey with the Ambassador's Award in March 2010. He said he was happy to accept the award because it offered an opportunity to talk about the Great Hunger, which killed about 1.5 million people and forced another 2 million to flee Ireland.

At the university for over 22 years, Lahey developed a collection of art, books, and educational material on the Great Hunger. These materials are housed in the Lender Family Special Collection Room, An Gorta Mor, in the Arnold Bernhard library. The collection is the largest of its kind in the world devoted solely to Ireland's



### Great Hunger.

Lahey grew up in a primarily Irish and Jewish neighborhood in the Bronx and heard little of the famine. In the early 1990s he read a book by Christine Kinnealy and developed an interest in the tragedy called the Great Hunger. Lahey said, "I'm an educator. And the more the truth can be known the better people can make intelligent decisions.

We will also highlight the programs of the past year, including our successful 10th anniversary celebration of October 2009.

## Note of Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Margaret Donovan; to Gary Shea on the death of his son Michael; to Tim Allen on the death of his father Charley.

Keep in prayer all those who are ill or in treatment.

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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**291 Springfield Street**

**Chicopee, MA 01013**

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

**www.irish-cairde.org**

## Fall activities offer trip to Ireland, films, lectures and book reading

On September 4 a group travels to Ireland for an 11-day tour with Celtic Tours under the leadership of Kathy Gallivan and Joyce Bosworth.

We'll have an exhibit at the Big E in the Young Building from September 17-October 3. If you visit the Fair, stop in and say hello. And be sure you visit the Dingle merchants who will sell their wares.

On Tuesday, October 5 at 7 p.m. Professor William Matthews from the University of Massachusetts will give a lecture on “The Life and Times of Michael Collins: an Irish Patriot.” Mathews holds both American and Irish citizenship. His mother came to America in the late 1920s from County Cavan. His father is a second generation Irish-American whose family immigrated to the United States from County Cork.

Matthews, a veteran of Vietnam is interested in the issues of guerilla warfare. He has studied documents at the Military Archives in Dublin, focusing on the War of Independence, and in the National Library where he examined material related to the Rising of 1916.

On Sunday October 24 at 2 p.m. Judith Kappenman will read from her book “to Dakota and Back the Story of an Orphan Train Rider.” The biography of her grandfather, John Donahue, chronicles his life from South Boston to South Dakota where he worked on a farm as an indentured servant.

On Sunday, November 7 at 2 p.m. we welcome Maurice Fitzpatrick who will show the documentary “The Boys of St. Columb's” and talk about his book based on the interviews he conducted of former students, including John Hume, Seamus Heaney, Phil Coulter, and Bishop Edward Daly.

Fitzpatrick is professor at Keio University, National University in the Department of Science and Technology. He earned his bachelors in English and Philosophy and Masters in Literature from Trinity College, Dublin and an additional Masters in literature from Senshu University, Japan.

The films, talks and book reading are scheduled for the Alumnae Library Theater.

#### ITEMS FOR SALE:

\$3 TOG BOG E cling decals (or 2 for \$5)

\$10 women's key lime green v-neck t-shirt,

\$13 forest green unisex polo

*Both shirt items are in small, medium, large, extra large; embroidered with a shamrock and the words Irish Cultural Center at Elms College*

\$5 green tote bag, silkscreened with logo, slogan “Keeping the Irish arts alive” and “Cairde of the Irish Cultural Center at Elms College”

### Irish film series

Alumnae Library Theater at Elms College  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

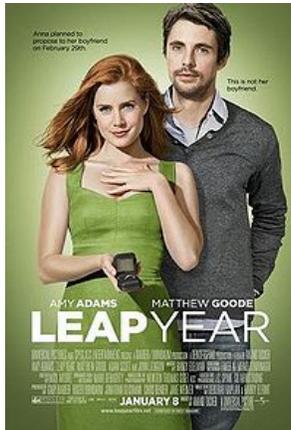


15 **Waveriders**  
Documentary on surfer George Freeth

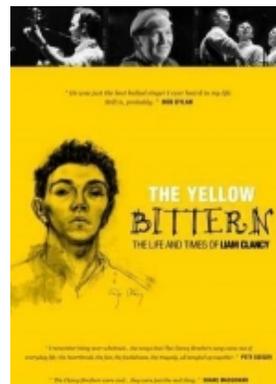
### September

- 15 **Waveriders**
- 22 **Leap Year**
- 29 **The Yellow Bittern: the Life and Times of Liam Clancy**

**All films are free and open to the public;  
refreshments will be served.  
Free will donations accepted.**



22 **Leap Year**  
Romance



29 **The Yellow Bittern: the Life and Times of Liam Clancy**  
Documentary on the "best ballad singer"



## Life Stories project

Mary Ellen O'Brien will begin the Life Stories project in the fall, so we remind you to look for documents, such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, baptismal records, passports, citizenship papers, etc. We will ask you to send copies or allow us to copy them for you. We would also like the names of people who have immigrated or their children who would be willing to be interviewed.

### Cream Scones (recipe from Tess Collins of Northampton)

**2 c. flour, ¼ c. sugar, 1 t. baking powder, ½ t. salt  
1 ¼ c. heavy cream, 2 T. butter**

**Sift dry ingredients. Add cream and butter. Mix lightly.  
Knead 6 – 7 times.**

**Flatten into circle about 10 inches across.**

**Brush with melted butter, sprinkle with sugar.**

**Cut into 10 wedges.**

**Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes.**

## Johnson's gift promotes the Irish language

**H**ave you always wanted to learn the Irish language and not taken advantage of opportunities offered? Now is the time to pursue that interest with the teacher from Ireland, thanks to the Fulbright.

John Johnson was a man devoted to the Irish Language, well-known to the people at the Sons of Erin. He also wanted others to have the same opportunity to enjoy and learn

about the distinctiveness of this Gaelic language. When he died several years ago, his family suggested that gifts be given to the Irish Cultural Center for the study of the language.

We established the fund and since that time have offered awards to those who apply for a grant. In order to be considered for the award, we ask that the applicant

complete a written application explaining why the course would be valuable to him/her. Completed applications must be received immediately to qualify for the courses for the fall sessions. The classes begin September 14 and 15. If you are interested in contributing to this fund to help sustain it, please contact Sr. Judy (413) 265-2537.

### IRISH LANGUAGE AWARD APPLICATION

Complete and mail to the Irish Cultural Center, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer the following questions; use the reverse or additional paper, if necessary.**

Circle the organizations of which you are a member: Irish Cultural Center, Sons of Erin, John Boyle O'Reilly, Ancient Order of Hibernians

Why would you like to study the Irish language?

## Learning the fun way at Celtic Adventures for Kids

During the last week of July, 41 youngsters enjoyed lessons on all things Irish from enthusiastic teachers and workshop leaders under the leadership of Mary Ellen O'Brien. Parents all agree that the camp is excellent and would encourage us to expand the program to two weeks as well as have it run later each day.

One parent said that she "was amazed at how much my daughter learned in a week, especially the Irish language." Another parent said that her daughter "spoke more words in Irish after one week than she ever had after three years of French."

The program builds cultural awareness in the children in a fun team-building way. Children form friendships during the week and look forward to seeing these friends, especially since it's the week when they get to go to "college."



**Pictured clockwise beginning above: music teacher Ellen Redman learns the Irish blessing with the children (off camera is Mike Rancitelli); practicing the tin whistle before the show; Mike Carney teaches Gaelic football; language class; dancers show their style; two smiling singers; Tom Feeley oversees the road bowling workshop.**



**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](mailto:irishcenter@elms.edu)  
[www.irish-cairde.org](http://www.irish-cairde.org)**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## ICC Calendar of events

**Ongoing: Language** groups meet weekly: 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)

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

**September 15, 22, 29, 7 p.m.**  
fall film series, Alum Library Theater  
See details on page 3.

**September 17-October 3**  
Exhibit at the Big E, WS

**October 5, 7 p.m.**  
"Michael Collins" Lecture by William Matthews

**October 17, Yankee Pedlar  
10 a.m.** Annual Brunch: speaker  
Dr. John Lahey

**October 24, 2 p.m.** book reading  
"To Dakota and Back" by Judith  
Kappenman

**November 7, 2 p.m.** lecture and  
film "The Boys of St. Columb's" by  
Maurice Fitzpatrick

**November 12** bus trip to UMass  
Fine Arts Center to Mary Black con-  
cert

**December 4** Christmas with an  
Irish Touch

**January 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 7 p.m.**  
winter film series Alum Library  
Theater

**March 6 Irish Ceili**

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

Check out the programs on these web sites.

**AOH**  
[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)

Springfield St. Patrick's Parade Committee holds its annual ziti and chicken dinner with door prizes and raffles on Thursday, September 9 at 6:30 p. m. at the Boyle. Tickets: \$10. Call Peg at 733-0200 or Ann at (860) 741-6210 or the Hungry Hill Center at 733-9411.