



Irish American Society of County Will

Volume 27 Issue2

February 2008



The Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society performed in the Entertainment tent for Manhattan Irish Fest XIII

Manhattan Irish Fest XIV

Plans have been finalized for Manhattan Irish Fest XIV. For those of us who might be a little weak in roman numerals, that is Irish Fest # 14. The doors open at 6:00 pm Friday, February 29th. Entertainment will begin at 7:00 with John Condron & Brendan Loughrey performing. The heated main tent will have Budweiser products and Guinness, of course.

Saturday, the festivities begin with a Mass at St. Joseph's Church at 9:00 am. Although that is after 3:00 in Dublin, it does not count towards fulfilling your obligation. Step dancers from The Sullivan School and the World

Academy will be lead into the church by pipers from the Emerald Society, Shannon Rovers and the Tunes of Glory.

The parade will start at 11:00 am from Thelma Street, and proceed west down North Street, to State street, past the reviewing stand in front of the village hall and end at the Anna McDonald Elementary School. This year, Ronald McDonald and Jammer will join three pipe bands, two schools of Irish dance, a team of Irish Draught Horses, Connemara Ponies, and six breeds of Irish dogs. (continued on p 2.)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Advertisers	4
Check Please	2
Cultural Affairs	3
Officers & Board	2
Other Festivities	2
The Toast	2

Dates to Remember

Feb 18– Mon- Board Meeting
Feb 29-Fri-Irish Fest !
Mar 1—Sat—Irish Fest !
Mar — No Board Meeting
Mar 15—Sat—4:30 Mass
Apr 21 Mon— Board Meeting
May 19 Mon—Board Meeting
June 16 Mon—Board Meeting
July 21 Mon—Board Meeting
Aug 18 Mon—Board Meeting
Sept 15 Mon—Board Meeting
Oct 20 Mon— Board Meeting
Nov 17 Mon—Board Meeting
Dec 15Mon—Board Meeting
Board meetings are held at the Joliet Elks Lodge I-55 and Jefferson Sts in Joliet (Shorewood)

The Toast

When the IASCW began operating the Manhattan Irish Fest three years ago, one 'improvement' to the existing activities was to encourage a competition for "Toasting the Fest".

The Irish are known for their gift of Blarney, so it is only natural that a competition be held to bring out this inborn gift of eloquence. Competitions were held at various locales throughout the County, and the winners gave their toast in the main entertainment tent on Saturday evening.

This year, the locations for the toast are at The Galway Tribes in Frankfort on Feb 2 at 8:00 pm. Charleston's Pub in New Lenox will hold theirs at 10:00 the same evening. Fritz's in Manhattan will hold their toast on Saturday February 9. McBrody's Pub in Joliet will have a toast competition February 14th at 11:00pm, The Chicago Street Bar & Grill will hold the toast competition on Feb 15 at 10:30pm. Prizes will be furnished by City Beverage. The winner of the toast at each pub will then present theirs at the Fest. Kevin Hegarty won the competition in 2006, and Sean Mojzisz won it last year. Come to the fest to hear this year's winner! (related story on p 2.)

Mass

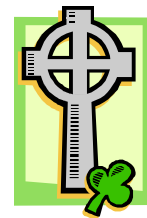
This year, the Society's Festival of Faith, our annual St Patrick's Celebration will take on a little different look. At the invitation of Fr Peter G. Jankowski, the pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Joliet, our Festival of Faith will be transferred to Saturday March 15, at the 4:30 Mass. The Gifts of wheat, turf and potatoes and the Poem "I am Patrick", will keep our traditions alive.

Immediately after the Mass, members are invited to St Patrick's Gym for a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner, and a cash bar.

After the supper, attendees can view the ever-popular Late Night Catechism. Advance tickets for the performance are a must. Please call St Patrick's Parish office for more information at 815.727.4746

Alice Malloy and Nancy O'Connell have worked closely with the parish to orchestrate the Society's participation in event. The Keigher Academy of Irish Dance, bagpipers, good food, fellowship and top quality entertainment promise a great evening. With all this event has to offer, a large turn out from the Society is anticipated.

St Patrick's Church, 710 W Marion St, one of the oldest parishes in the county, is located at the corner of Willow and Marion Avenues on Joliet's near west side. For more information on the Mass, contact Nancy O'Connell at 815.744.1460.



Websites:
CountyWillIrish.net
ManhattanIrishfest.com

Contain the updates of the Society's Activities and Festival.

**2007-2008
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Manhattan Irish Fest XIV (continued from p1.)

After the Parade, people make their way over to the Manhattan Central Park. The entertainment tent opens at Noon. Buttons are required to be purchased to gain admittance. The cost is \$ 6.00 in advance, or \$7.00 at the gate. This year, the Kid's Games area will feature a "Pot of Gold" coin hunt, Sack races, Inflatable (weather permitting) and Arcade Style Games.

Although not finalized at the time of publication, the Manhattan Shamrocks will play the Louisville (KY) rugby football club. The Manhattan Morigans will also play a competition.

Scheduled to perform are some perennial favorites like Freshwater, and Finbar McCarthy. The Ploughboys, Brendan Loughrey, John Condron and the Will County Irish Brigade and others will round out the weekend's performers.

This year, the Grand Marshalls of the Festival are the Gallagher Brothers, Ken, Dave and Rick. Kenny Gallagher, founded of the original Manhattan Landmark, Gallagher's Pub. Brother David, owns a Business in town and just recently retired from the Manhattan Village Board, after many years of service. Youngest brother, Rick, owns and operates the Bit o' Blarney Pub in Manhattan. All three have been long time members of the Society, and true supporters of the Society's activities.

The Toast

Kevin Hegarty won the Irish Fest Toast competition in 2006, and Sean Mojzis won it last year. Come to the Fest to hear this year's winner!

Here is Kevin's toast, delivered at the 2006 Manhattan Irish Fest:



Bless this pub oh god we pray
Keep it open night and day
Bless the lager and the stout
By the bottle pour it out

Bless me when the goings hard
And reinstate me when I'm barred
Bless us all now come what may
Staggering home at the end of the day

Bless the people here within
Give them tonic with their gin
Bless the bar hands either sex
Keep them free from bouncing checks

Bless the heroes of Ireland, Plunkett, Pearse and Tone
And to the English that killed them I say Poag me Hone
Bless Donegal, my fathers home and native land
May he be remembered for bringing over the Hegarty clan

Bless the whiskey cold or hot
Whether I've paid for it or not
Slow me up on rum and coke
When you find I'm getting broke

And Bless Manhattan with its Walsh's, Doyle's and Fitz's
And may the Guinness flow freely here at Fritz's
Give the girls and guys rugby teams my very best

God Bless everyone this Irish Fest



Other Irish Festivities

Looking for something else to do during the High Holy Days ? The following events will give you a many options to celebrate our heritage.

South Side Irish Parade— Sunday March 9. Begins at 11:00. Started in 1979, the parade runs down Western Avenue about 95th to past 111th. See www.southsideirishparade.org

Downtown Chicago Irish Parade. Saturday March 15th beginning at noon. Columbus Drive at Balbo going north to Monroe. The river is dyed green, the best place to view it is at Wacker and Michigan. Sponsored by local 130 of the Plumbers Union.

Naperville Irish Parade, Saturday March 15 beginning at 10:00am. The parade begins at Naperville North High School, and goes south on Mill Street to City Hall. For more information visit www.wsirish.org

Lemont St Patrick's Day Parade March 18. Stephen St. Downtown, beginning at 1:00

Galway Tribes, Frankfort, has entertainment for the entire week preceding St Pats Day. Entertainment Wed 3/12—Brendan Loughrey; Thu 3/13—Rob& Kelly; 3/14 Aidan O'Toole; 3/15 dancers, pipers singers from 1:00pm till ??; Sun 3/16 Brendan Loughrey; Mon, 3/17 Dancers, pipers, Larkin & Moran, 3 Men in Kilts. See TheGalwayTribes.com for details.

Check Please

Over the last few years, WTTW in Chicago has created a show called *Check Please*. This month, The Galway Tribes in Frankfort will be one of the featured restaurants on the show. Manhattan Architect Andrew Partak nominated the restaurant, and it was accepted.

The pub's owner, Niall Freyne, made sure the crew and patrons had a good time, with Brendan Loughrey, Marty Connolly and Mike O'Brien holding a session during the filming. Great Food, and a Perfectly Poured Pint round out the wonderful evening. Watch for the show which airs on Friday evenings.

Jan 2008

Dear Members:

The following questionnaire arose from a meeting of our Cultural Affairs Committee. Many members wondered where in Ireland member’s ancestors came from. In an effort to recognize all of the Counties we represent, we ask that you answer the questionnaire, either on line, or by mail. This information will then be used to organize general meetings.

These meetings will recognize a specific county in Ireland, highlighting the music and history from that area. If possible, we may have various authors speak who are acquainted with that area of Ireland. This daunting task can only begin with your co-operation and input.

I hope that you are as excited as I am to learn our Irish History, and how it applies to our own members. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

You can do this on line by going to www.countywillirish.net/survey

Sheila M. Corrigan
IASCW President

Contact:

Phone 815.727.0994

Mail: 2411 Suffolk Ln

Joliet IL 60433

eMail: irish.miss@sbcglobal.net



Tear off and return

Member Name: _____

Your Ancestor’s Relation _____

Origin: County _____

Town _____

Ancestor’s Occupation or Trade _____

Why did they settle in Will County ? _____

Are you aware of any author or musician from that area ? _____

On a separate note, what activities or functions would you like to see the Society involved in ?

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