

buffalo **IRISH** times

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APRIL 2024

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THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY UIAA PARADE



This year's 82nd Edition of the Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade was another great success. The fact that it landed on St. Patrick's Day was a huge part of that success along with great weather and amazing participation. This year's parade was led by Grand Marshal Dr. Liam Knott and his family deputies; followed by Bishop Michael Fisher and the family of Michael W Roberts, whom the parade was dedicated to for 2024.

We had six divisions marching proudly up Delaware Ave with over 1400 marchers in total. There were 70 different units overall. They ranged from first responders to various Irish clubs and dancers, marching bands to local bands, and the Irish Setters to local TV personalities. We had something for everyone with each group showing their pride in their Irish

heritage and St Patrick.

This year's event was also "Live Streamed" on WKBW Channel 7 from the corner of Delaware and Tupper. It went out to over 36,000 people who could not come out and watch the parade live. People tuned in from Florida, New Mexico, Puerto Rico and even overseas to witness one of the biggest St Patrick's Day Parades in the country. We thank Channel 7 for their involvement and hope to add them as an annual partner in years to come. You can still go to their website and watch the parade if you didn't catch it the first time.

WATCH: Buffalo's St. Patrick's Day Parade takes over Delaware Avenue (wkbw.com)

As always, we would like to send a special

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thanks to all the volunteers who help plan and organize the parade each year. From the UIAA Committee to the Division Marshals and all of the local government departments that make the parade possible and safe.

We also want to shout out to all the gracious sponsors and donors to the parade. None of this would be possible without their support. A list of sponsors and donors can be found on our website (www.buffalostpatricksdaysparade.com). Please look them up and support each of them when ever you can.

Each year we love to acknowledge those who stood out in the parade and went the extra mile. We have top notch judges from the NY-Penn Judging Association on the reviewing stand to look for these shining stars. We held a trophy ceremony at the Buffalo Irish Center April 7th to highlight these groups and present them with a unique trophy to celebrate their efforts.

The following is a list of this year's winning entries:

- ▶ Bishop Fisher Trophy Best Theme Float Rince na Tiarna
- ▶ Best Non-Theme Float Iron Workers Local #6
- ▶ Best High School Band Niagara Falls Wolverines
- ▶ Best Pipe Band Greater Buffalo Firefighters Pipes & Drums
- ▶ Best Marching Unit Blackthorn Club
- ▶ Best Women's Marching Unit Daughters of Erin
- ▶ Best Youth Marching Unit St Mark's School
- ▶ Best Color Guard Unit US Border Patrol
- ▶ Best First Responders Marching Unit New York State Police
- ▶ Best Military Unit 82nd Airborne Division Assn
- ▶ Best Labor Marching Unit Local #41, International Brotherhood of Electrical workers
- ▶ Best Animal Marching Unit City of Buffalo Animal Shelter

We look forward to start planning for the March 16th, 2025 parade, which we hope to make even better.

Please follow us online www.buffalostpatricksdaysparade.com or through our social media sites like Instagram or Facebook for our summer events that help raise money to support this all volunteer organization.

Thank you,

The United Irish American Association



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Located In The Buffalo Irish Center

Contact Tom Lambert (716) 796-7687



Ireland

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR...

beannachtaí!

This was a busy High Holy Days for me this year. With St. Patrick's Day falling on a Sunday and kicking the weekend off with the Buffalo Irish Center Civic Luncheon on Friday.

The Old Neighborhood St. Patrick's Day crowd may have been the LARGEST I can remember. I was at the parade at my designated spot before the 10:30 AM the closing of South Park Avenue. This was the start of a long day with several invites to St. Patrick's Day parties following the parade. We couldn't make them all but did our best.

The Delaware Avenue parade was another cold day and started early with Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral celebrated by Most Rev. Michael W. Fisher. Grand Marshal Liam Knot, MD and his family proudly walked down Delaware Avenue. All the planning and hard work of the UIAA committee made for a parade that went off without a hitch!

I want to mention the Buffalo Irish Festival Committee started meeting since last summer as soon as the festival was over and there are plans set for a 2024 Buffalo Irish Festival. Check out the FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/BuffaloIrishFestival> Come join us and be a volunteer at the festival and have a lot of Irish Fun.

Don't forget to stop at the Irish Center there are some great events planned in the next month!

Slan,
Kevin J. O'Brien, Editor



OLD FIRST WARD ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



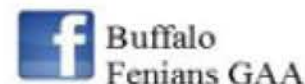
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Upcoming Events at Buffalo Irish Center:

Table Quiz – January 26, March 23, May 18, July 20, September 21, November 16 & December 21 — all at 7:30 p.m.

Paul Mulcaire, Chair – (716) 491-5435
www.buffalofenians.com



GRAND MARSHAL SHARON GRANDE

by Terry Schuta

As we try to articulate the attributes of Sharon Grande, it is easy to find similarities she shares with a patron saint of Ireland, Saint Brigid. Saint Brigid's trademarks include a concern for others, generosity in times of need, and never being self-centered as she does good deeds. That is Sharon. Strong willed and smart, open hearted and a giving soul, that is Sharon. Not only was Saint Brigid kind and compassionate she was very fond of a good party, knowing the importance of family, friends, and strangers to gather, that is Sharon. As Saint Brigid did, Sharon has earned the title of a Strong Irish Woman. She is direct, confident, and outgoing. She has made sure she has accomplished her goals personally and professionally even through some challenging times. She serves as an inspiration to those around her.

Sharon Grande is known to all as a devoted family member, extraordinary friend and tried and true community member. A dedicated daughter of Bill and Pat (nee Canty) Patterson she was raised with her siblings Mark, Paul, Kathy, Carolyn and Linda at 116 South Street on the other side of the tracks, in the Old First Ward. Sharon plans to return to 116 South Street as the reconstruction of the family homestead is in the works. Sharon is also close to her cousins by the dozens from both the Patterson and Canty extended families. She enjoys a steadfast relationship with her in-laws and is especially close to her father-in-law Robert Grande.

Sharon attended OLPH Elementary, St. Bridgid's Elementary, Baker Victory High School, and was a graduate of Buffalo State College with a B.S. in Social Work. Upon graduation. Sharon pursued a career as a Buffalo Police Officer, a career she retired from after serving our city for 28 years. In 1986, Sharon became the wife of a legendary and endeared Old First Ward resident, Buffalo Firefighter, Bruce Grande. Together they were the proudest parents of Caitlyn and Bobby. Caitlyn resides in New Jersey with her husband Nick, and their two daughters Peyton

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Grand Marshal Sharon Grande pictured with her sisters.
Kathy Granville, Sharon Grande, Linda McDonald, Caroline McDonald

“Sharon Grande was this year’s Grand Marshall for the Old Neighborhood parade. Years of hard volunteer work within the neighborhood and the parade itself, she humbly accepted the great honor to Head the Parade on March 16th. Sharon happily walked with her family, son Bobby, daughter Caitlyn, son in law Nick and two granddaughters Peyton and Kennedy, along with a large group of close friends and Family. In true Sharon fashion, she was excited to share the honor of Grand Marshall on her late husband Bruce’s birthday, March 16th.”



KNIGHTS OF EQUITY Court 5 “Buffalo’s Oldest Irish Club”

Worthy Sir KnightKen “Skip” Sommer
Worthy Vice Sir Knight Gary Holzerland
Worthy Recording Secretary Pat Gorman

Trustees

J. Fecio J. Boyle C. McSwain P. McCann R. Bruning

and Kennedy. Sharon loves visiting, Caitlyn, Nick, and her two beautiful granddaughters regularly. Bobby is a police officer in the City of Buffalo and is following his mom and dad's example of community service.

Sharon is a tireless volunteer. After the diagnosis of Cystic Fibrosis for their son, Bruce and Sharon got to work to raise funds in support of a cure. Joining forces with Sara and Mickey Hart, the Shamrock City Jam became a well-known event raising tens of thousands of dollars for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Family and friends wholeheartedly provided support, making this event possible for several years. Sharon is always eager to help and support benefits for friends and family experiencing difficulties.

Sharon took volunteering to the next level upon retirement. She has volunteered at the Shamrock Run and OLPH Church for years. She currently helps OLPH as a rectory cleaner and fundraiser on the window restoration campaign. As a dedicated volunteer at the Valley Community Association, she is invaluable. Her work includes volunteering for the golf tournament, Christmas Toy Drive, Senior Visits, Tewksbury Family Brunches, Riverfest Park events, and served as the former Parade Marshall of Division 1 of the Old Neighborhood Parade. She is a phone call away whenever needed. Sharon is also a member of the Blarney Castle Ladies Club and the Bison City Rod and Gun Club. Sharon is always available to help others and it is not unusual

for Sharon to assist taking people, close friends, or new acquaintances to appointments if they are in need of transportation or anything else.

Sharon does not like acknowledgement or attention on her. In true Sharon fashion, she is excited to share the honor of Grand Marshall on her late husband Bruce's birthday, March 16th. Sharon gathered with Bruce's friends to celebrate his birthday every year, and this year they will continue the tradition walking alongside Sharon. Bruce will be smiling down, and we hope he blesses us with good weather.

Sharon represents the best qualities of those raised in the Old First Ward and this honor is fitting for a strong Irish Woman.

You are invited to join the

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245 Abbott Road
Buffalo, New York

THURSDAY NIGHT 7:30



MARCHING WITH “DIGNITY” DOWN DELAWARE AVENUE

By Kathleen McDonald Shanahan

On parade day, the Daughters of Erin assemble at the Buffalo Irish Center to don our DOE sashes and derby hats. We all help each other secure sashes with pins and our hats with whatever we think may hold them in place to prevent them from blowing down Delaware Avenue when the winds prevail. With green scarves in place, sashes and hats secured, and white gloves on our hands, we boarded our bus for the ride to the parade route. As we get our DOE Banner positioned and our American and Irish flags holders in place, we line up behind them to march as perfect ladies in “dignity” smiling and waving to the crowds.

About a quarter of a mile into our one mile walk the “shenanigans” begin. There were DOE’s performing the “royal” wave, singing, Irish dancing, jumping for joy, and answering the call to sit “on the couch”.

There is no doubt, this group of ladies know how to “march in dignity” while creating an afternoon of fun and laughter.



REVIEW OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

The Tavern area was dimly lit and comfortable. The tables were all taken, filled with smiling patrons. The crowd is three-deep, at the long mahogany bar. The skirl of the bag-pipes, in the back room, is bleating out "Danny Boy." The crowd sways back and forth, with the rhythm of the music, careful not to go too far in the extremity of the swing. Balance becomes an issue, during a long afternoon. After a few pints of Guinness, the warming smile of the celebrants is loosely, but permanently, plastered in place. It is St. Patrick's Day.

Hundreds of years and hundreds of family members and friends are remembered on this day. Any number of tales are shared, recounting the foolish antics of Aunt Bridgett or Uncle Pat, when they became lubricated late in the day. At the time, gales of laughter accompanied their silliness. Now, they but bring a winsome smile, of a long-remembered loved one, not now among us. It is a day for both celebrating and remembering.

At some point, an offering

of Irish Turkey and barley sandwiches (corned beef and cabbage with green beer) will be served up. It doesn't matter that the native Irish never partook of such food. The current crop of Hibernian Americans do, and ascribe the practice to them.

Drifting through reveries, of the misty and ancient Isle of Ireland, evokes a nostalgic yearning to go back and visit the "Old Sod." Most of us have been here in America so long that we couldn't find a relative in Ireland if we tried. Still, the attraction of being "from there" holds sway.

Occasionally a toe-tapping "IRA fight song" like the "Black Velvet Band" or "The wild Colonial Boy" will get the audience clapping and cheering. The "Fields of Athenry," a lament for those sent off in transportation to Australia, will get them teared up. The audience is highly attuned to the music at these events. The conversation gets louder and the laughing harder. The stories become more exaggerated and the conversation more explicit. The stories get bigger and the listeners both more appreciative and more skeptical. Sure, the lads

know a "gobshite" when they hear one. The odd pol wanders through the crowd, backslapping with abandon and trying his best to speak with a brogue. (ditto from the previous sentence.)

On Sunday, was the massive production of "the Parade" down the various Main Streets. Marching bands, religious groups, and smiling Irish Organizations, will walk and wave to the assembled crowd of green-clad and colored watchers. The athletic young Irish Step Dancers will prance and entertain all assembled, with their colorful costumes and elegant dancing. The Lord preserve us. Were we ever that young? Smiles will abound. It is the annual celebration of Saint Patrick and everyone is invited to join in.

And with my latest glass, I offer up my favorite Irish Toast to all for a wonderful celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

May the Good Lord bless those who love us.

And those who don't, may he turn their hearts.

And if he can't turn their hearts, may he turn their ankles.

So that we will know the rascals by their limping.

Happy St. Patrick's Day, y'all

Joseph Xavier Martin

U.I.A.A.
SAINT PATRICK'S PARADE
PATIO PARTY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND, 2024
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JIM WANNEMACHER 716-510-6263
RYAN JOHNSON 716-597-9858
DAN O'SULLIVAN 716-598-4505

U.I.A.A. ST. PATRICK'S PARADE PATIO PARTY

For those looking for a way to support the Parade in the summer months, we would love to invite you to our "PATIO PARTY" at Charlies Boat Yard, 1111 Fuhrmann Blvd, Buffalo, NY 14203.

We pick a Thursday each August to hang out on the patio at Charlie's to raise money and catch up with our Irish community

For more information go to our website or contact the folks list on our poster seen here. <https://www.facebook.com/BFLOStPatricks>

UIAA BUFFALO ST PATRICK'S DAY



GOLF TOURNEY

FRIDAY, JULY 26th, 2024

2 MAN 9 HOLE SCRAMBLE - 1PM SHOTGUN START

SOUTH PARK GOLF COURSE

2441 South Park Ave, Buffalo, NY 14220

TICKETS: \$60

AFTER PARTY TO FOLLOW AT HOPPERS RUSH INN

2104 Seneca St. Buffalo NY, 14220

TICKETS: \$25 PER PERSON PARTY ONLY - INCLUDES FOOD, DRINK, PRIZES,

CONTACT DAN O'SULLIVAN 716-598-4505 - RICK O'SULLIVAN 716-208-3056
OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

UIAA GOLF TOURNEY

For the Golfers out there, we invite you to attend our Annual UIAA Golf Tournament.

A great way to support the Buffalo St Patrick's Day Parade, and spend an afternoon hacking around South Park Lake. Following there will be a get together afterwards at Hoppers Rush Inn. Reserve your slot today. See poster below for details. Or head to Hoppers or our website to sign up. Hope to see you there. All proceeds support the running of the Buffalo St Patrick's Day Parade.

Dog Ears BOOKSTORE

SIX-WEEK WRITERS' WORKSHOP TO BEGIN APRIL 18 AT DOG EARS BOOKSTORE

A new six-week session of a Writers' Workshop for adults is slated at Dog Ears Bookstore & Café, 688 Abbott Road, Buffalo. Classes will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. beginning Thursday, April 18.

All participants will present current writing efforts that will be gently critiqued. Light refreshments are included, and the cost is \$75 for all six meetings.

To register for the Writers' Workshop, which continues on April 25 and May 2, 9, 16 and 23, please call the bookstore at 823-2665 or email John Schreier at jmarkschrei@aol.com. For more information on Dog Ears Bookstore, please visit <http://dogearsbookstore.org>. You can also follow Dog Ears Bookstore on Facebook for frequent updates.



THE HARRIS-GRIECO ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE AND BUFFALO IRISH DANCE PARENTS ORGANIZATION



The Harris-Grieco Academy of Irish Dance and Buffalo Irish Dance Parents Organization have enjoyed their busiest time of year. Several of our proud parents captured these photos from The All Ireland Championships (held in February in Killarney, Ireland) and The World Irish Dance Championships (held in March in Glasgow, UK). St. Patrick's show team season was an absolute blast and included local news appearances, Green Beer Sunday festivities in the City of Tonawanda and performances in nursing homes, schools, pubs, bars, chocolate factories and other Western New York establishments. It was an honor to bring smiles and merriment to our community. The dancers, teachers and parents all marched (and danced!) down Delaware Avenue in the Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade. The weather was even mostly decent and the icing on the cake was the cute corgis marching right behind us in this

(continued page 10)

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The Harris-Grieco Academy of Irish Dance and Buffalo Irish Dance Parents Organization performed for long time supporter of Irish culture in Buffalo, Charles McSwain.

time-honored Buffalo tradition. There was only a brief break before dancers representing Harris-Grieco traveled to Pittsburgh for the West Virginia and Bell Feiseanna. It was a memorable “double-feis” weekend full of hard work, fun and many medals. We are looking forward to our spring and summer activities including Spring Mini Session for those brand new to Irish Dance, The Kenmore Tonawanda Memorial Day Parade and more. Information on mini sessions, enrollment and show booking is available at www.buffaloirishdance.com



FRIDAY MAY 31 2024

BUFFALO RIVERWORKS

DOORS: 4:30PM

FIGHTS: 6PM

BRIDGES BEYOND BOXING PRESENTS:

IRELAND VS BUFFALO

THE BATTLE OF BUFFALO



WWW.BUFFALORIVERWORKS.COM



IRISH CLASSICAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS ARTHUR MILLER'S THE PRICE— DISCOVER THE HIDDEN COSTS

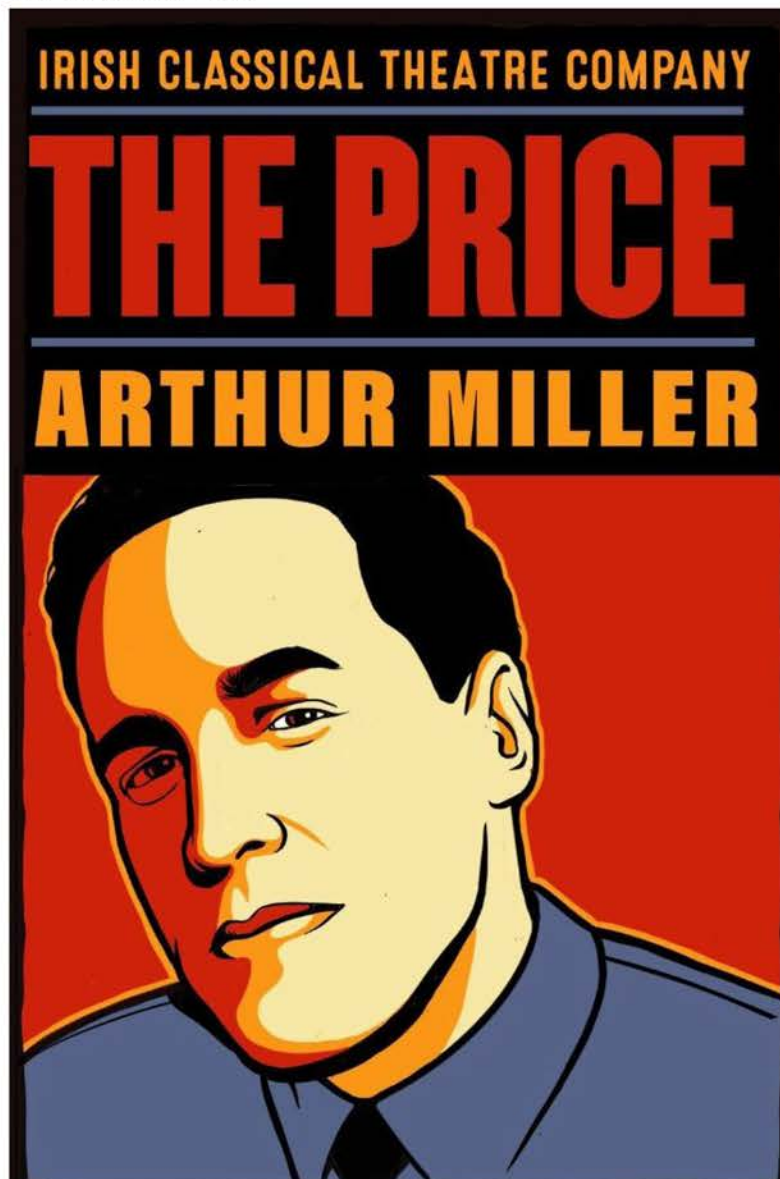
BUFFALO, NY –Irish Classical Theatre Company (ICTC) proudly announces the eagerly anticipated production of Arthur Miller's compelling drama *The Price*, set to captivate audiences from April 19th through May 12th, 2024.

The Price delves into the complexities of family relationships and personal responsibility against the backdrop of 1968 New York City. Estranged brothers Victor and Walter Franz reunite after 30 years to sell their parents' estate. As they sift through the remnants of their past, they confront long-buried emotions, grapple with their divergent life choices, and ultimately reckon with the price they have paid for their decisions. Tensions rise as old wounds are reopened, revealing the deep-seated regrets, resentments, and unfulfilled dreams that have shaped their lives.

Director Fortunato Pezzimenti guides audiences through Miller's incisive dialogue and nuanced characterizations, *The Price* offers a poignant exploration of the human condition, highlighting the enduring power of family bonds and the consequences of the choices we make.

In addition to the main production, ICTC offers a series of additional programming events, including pay-what-you-will performances, a Speaker Series featuring Dramaturg E.L. Hohn, community matinees, and an open-captioned performance, ensuring accessibility and engagement for all theatergoers.

The Irish Classical Theatre Company's production of *The Price* showcases the exceptional talents of seasoned performers: Ben Michael



Moran as Victor Franz, Kate LoConti Alcocer as Esther Franz, Tom Loughlin as Gregory Solomon, and Todd Benzin as Walter Franz.

The Price will be performing Friday, April 19, 2024 through Sunday, May 12, 2024. Curtain times are 7:30pm for Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; 3pm Saturday Matinees; and 2pm Sundays. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased online at www.irishclassical.com, by phone at 716-853-4282 or in person at the ICTC Box Office. See Box Office hours on ICTC's website.

Join us as we uncover the layers of Arthur Miller's timeless masterpiece and embark on a journey through the tumultuous era of 1968.

RINCE NA TIARNA IRISH DANCE

What a whirlwind Spring it has been! We started of the month of March getting ready for our most fun time of year, St. Patrick's Day. With 90 shows, 3 parades and countless TV/radio interviews, the dancers of Rince Na Tiarna were kept very busy. We were thrilled to dance at the halftime of the UB Bulls game, as well as throughout the evening at the Rochester Amerks game. RNT won BEST FLOAT in the downtown Buffalo parade and BEST DANCER SCHOOL in the Rochester parade! We also danced for several libraries, hospitals, senior centers and restaurants, but our favorite place to always dance, is the Buffalo Irish Center! It is the dancers 'home away from home' and they are thrilled to bring family and friends to the building, not only watch them perform, but also enjoy great food, music and more.

Four days after the festivities, 10 of the Rince Na Tiarna dancers headed off to Scotland with teachers Mary Kay Heneghan and Kevinah Dargan to compete at the 2024 World Championships. Talk about "no rest for the weary!" The dancers did a phenomenal job with almost everyone recalling and top results in several age groups. After so much hard work, the families then headed to sightsee in Glasgow, Edinburg and the Highlands of Scotland. It was a trip that families made amazing memories while sharing their incredible talent and love for Irish dance.

Back home here in WNY, dancers continued to do performances were thrilled to meet the Lord Mayor of Belfast while he was here visiting. We are also looking forward to participating in the Irish Echo Awards banquet being held at the

(continued page 14)



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September
14 & 15

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2024 Schedule, Tickets & Craic:

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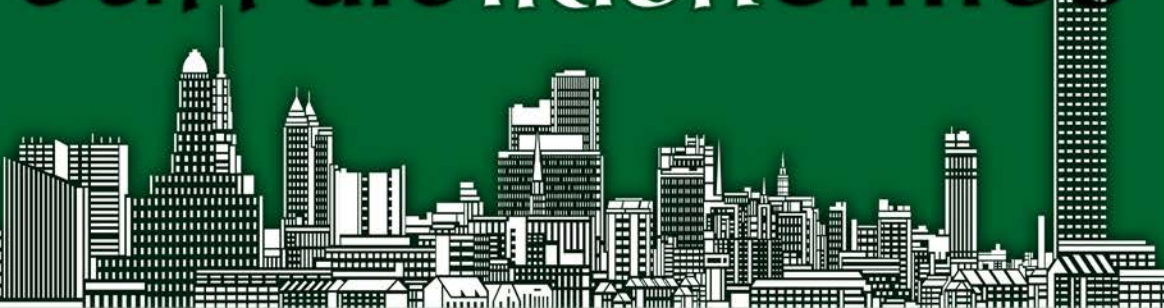
Buffalo Convention Center in late April. And of course, dancers are practicing away for the busy feis season that is right around the corner! The Buffalo Feis, now renamed the "Mary C Heneghan Buffalo Feis" will be taking place on June 1st at the Hamburg Fairgrounds. The feis will have categories from "First Feis" to "Future Champions" along with competitions in art, music and soda bread!

Dancers are continuing to fundraise for the National Championships which are being held in Grapevine, TX this year from June 30th - July 5th. If you are interested in donating to help defray the costs for these dancers, or for the school in general, please email: irishdancewny@gmail.com

Finally, congratulations to the Heneghan family on having the part of Abbott Rd in front of the Irish Center, renamed to the Mary Heneghan Way. It is a well deserved honor for a woman who worked tirelessly promoting Irish culture and South Buffalo. She is greatly missed by the families of RNT, but dancers are happy to glance out the window of the dance room to see that sign with her name on it.



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Please email submissions to buffaloirishtimes@gmail.com.

Opinions expressed in this paper reflect those of the authors and or subjects interviewed and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors and staff of the Buffalo Irish Times or the Gaelic American Athletic Association, its Board or membership.

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A Poem Dedicated to
**MY GREAT UNCLE
 JOHN JOSEPH
 "EXILE" MCBRIDE**

By Michael McBride, Rochester NY

I recently wrote a poem in honor of my great uncle, who I had never met. Infact, I never knew that he existed, until two years ago, while doing my DNA. I wrote the following poem, and read it at his grave site, after I discovered where his missing remains were buried. Perhaps Exile could hear the poem from Heaven, where he finally experienced long awaited freedom. This was what he had devoted his entire life, fighting to achieve for Ireland.

The Irishman's name,
 Was Exile McBride.
 He fought for his county,
 With great Irish pride.
 He'd never back down,
 From the British, so cruel.
 They took Ireland's land,
 To govern and rule.
 The British had ruled,
 With an strong iron fist.
 Human rights violations,
 There was such a long list.
 There was no food to eat,
 Hardly any land to farm.
 Challenging the British,
 Would bring them much harm.
 The poverty was awful,
 The British didn't care,
 Much sickness and disease,
 Was seen everywhere.
 The potatoes had fungus,
 Their main staple to eat,
 The children had no shoes,
 They walked in bare feet.
 Exile had lived in a tiny shack,

(continued page 16)


Without windows, just a door.
 He and his family had no beds,
 They slept right on the floor.
 After a failed rebellion,
 Exile escaped to the U.S.A.,
 Knowing that if caught,
 He'd be jailed without delay.
 The Famine was horrendous,
 Creating a national panic.
 The Irish fled on coffin ships,
 Some sank in the Atlantic.
 He soon gained recognition,
 Telling America the shame,
 Now a human rights crusader,
 He'd developed quite a name.
 Roosevelt and McKinley,
 They gave him much support,
 Cleveland, Taft and Harrison,
 His work they did exhort.
 Freedom for his homeland,
 Was Exile's lifelong quest.
 This passionate crusader,
 Would give his very best.
 Exile wouldn't stop fighting,
 While his homeland was dying.
 His work would never cease,
 Until the Irish flag was flying.

LORD MAYOR OF BELFAST, RYAN MURPHY VISITS BUFFALO IRISH CENTER

Senator Tim Kennedy hosted a complimentary special meet & greet with Lord Mayor of Belfast, Ryan Murphy Friday April 5, 2024 at the BUFFALO IRISH CENTER 245 Abbott Road, Buffalo, NY




Pictured with the Lord Mayor are Buffalo Irish Center - chairman Tim Flanagan, vice chairman Skip Sommer, board member Gary Holzerland, & NYS Senator Tim Kennedy.



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www.buffalostpatricksdayparade.com

Honoring Saint Patrick and the Irish contributions to Buffalo and building our country since 1940!

COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN

("Society of the musicians of Ireland")

"In the Irish language, "Comhaltas" emerges as a profound expression of unity and cooperation. Loosely translating to co-fostorage, it also embodies the essence of kinship. At its heart, Comhaltas is a powerful reminder that our greatest achievements are often reached not in isolation but through collective effort and mutual support.

Comhaltas speaks to the deep-seated belief in the strength of unity, the idea that together, we can face challenges more effectively, celebrate joys more fully, and achieve objectives more successfully. It underscores the importance of fostering connections, of building a sense of family not just among those related by blood, but among all who share a common purpose or goal.

In a world where individual pursuits often overshadow collective well-being, Comhaltas invites us to reconsider our priorities. It calls us to act in the spirit of co-fostorage, to extend our hands in kinship beyond our immediate circles, and to engage with our communities with an open heart and a willingness to support and uplift one another."

Owen and Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin

We would like to thank all those who came out 4-7 April 2024 to volunteer, to learn, to teach, to sing, to dance, to play, to speak our common tongue. You made this Comhaltas weekend a smashing success in the true spirit of COMHALTAS.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh!



The Best Kept Secret in Buffalo!
Exile McBride
Buffalo's Irish Freedom Fighter
Discovered through DNA!







CCE
North
American
Provincial
Convention
April 4-7 2024
Buffalo NY

The Northeast Region
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THE DAUGHTERS OF ERIN

By Meme Riedy

With the High Holy Days behind us, we are looking forward to upcoming events. The Calendar Luncheon, our largest fundraiser, is set for Saturday May 4th at the Buffalo Irish Center. there will be a basket



raffle, split club, gift card raffle, spring floral baskets with each guest receiving a favor, delicious lunch, dessert, and a guaranteed fun afternoon.

The Friendly Sons dinner was held on

Saturday March 2nd and Patricia Connolly received the Tara Award; the highest honor presented to a member of the Daughters of Erin. This year the Irishman of the Year award was presented to George McKee. Scholarships were awarded to four deserving high school seniors based on scholastic, as well as extracurricular activities and Irish Culture. Best of luck to all as they will begin college in the fall.

The Knights of Equity and Daughters of Erin will have the Memorial Mass for deceased members prior to our May meeting celebrated by our chaplain, Fr. Bill Quinlivan.

We are also gearing up for the Buffalo Irish Festival on July 26th to July 28th at the Outer Harbor featuring food, music, dance, Irish Culture and much more. Mark your calendars!

Have a great spring.



John Schmitt of Los Angeles, California came home to Buffalo to perform at the Buffalo Irish Center.

John is a teacher, musician, actor, writer and soon to be father. He is the Great Grandson of Daniel Neylan and Anne Moroney both of Miltown Malbay, County Clare, Ireland who both immigrated to Buffalo in the early 1900's to Buffalo, NY where they married in Buffalo and raised their family in South Buffalo at St. Monica's Parish.

The event was well attended by a large crown of John's cousins.

THE IRISH-AMERICANS

Joseph Xavier Martin

For most of my life, I have identified myself with the label “Irish -American.” It didn’t matter that almost all of my ancestors had arrived in this great republic before the American Civil War. We were raised in the ethnic enclave of South Buffalo that identified itself first with the traditions and mores of the misty Isle of Eire.

The Catholic Nuns, from the Order of the Sisters of Mercy, taught us to sing “Galway Bay,” “Danny Boy” and other lilting ditties that our own had brought across the ocean with them. In the surrounding community, our friends, family and neighbors taught us the words to “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling,” “McNamara’s Band,” “Four Leaf Clover” and other songs, composed by Americans, to celebrate the annual celebration of St. Patrick’s Day on March 17th.

Great parades streaming down Main Street in Buffalo, and smaller ones in the First ward and The Valley, brought out a veritable horde of green -clad Irish Americans, celebrating their ethnic heritage. Wearing Green in Ireland had been outlawed by the British. It was thought too nationalistic and smacking of rebellion. Here, we wore the green as a badge of identity. Afterward, most of us found refuge, in snug taverns that served up Irish Turkey (Corned Beef and cabbage) and Barley sandwiches. (beer) We marched in the parade, sang lustily and became for a brief time, “more Irish than the Irish.”

(Hiberniores ipsis Hibernis) It is a Latin phrase meaning, “More Irish Than the Irish themselves.” The term was originally coined to describe the invading the Norman Gentry, like Richard De Clare (Strongbow), who had invaded Eire in the 12th Century. The Normans had been invited by one of the warring Irish Kings, to reassert his territorial claims.

Unfortunately, the Normans didn’t leave for seven hundred years. After a few generations, the invading Normans slowly assimilated into



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the surrounding cultural ethos of the Gaels, until they themselves became the Irish. It is a familiar cultural dynamic amidst nations that had been over-run and occupied by a different culture. In Quebec City, you find its citizens “more French than the French.” In the Falkland Islands and small towns like Niagara on The Lake, Canada, you find its citizens “More English than the English.”

It wasn’t until later in life, that I came to realize that though we shared an ancient and honorable heritage with our Celtic kin, we were in fact indelibly “Irish Americans,” first and foremost. Most of the songs that we sang on St. Patrick’s Day were composed by Americans. Corned Beef and Cabbage had developed as a tradition among the immigrant Irish in New York City, who shared tenements with Jewish Immigrants. Both peoples were dirt-poor and ate the tougher cuts of beef available, adding cabbage, carrots and the ubiquitous potato in a wholesome stew. The beef had been preserved by “corning.” It is a means of using salt crystals to preserve the tougher cuts of beef for long periods. The process had come to fore in the commerce of sailing ships on the Atlantic, who needed a food stuff for their crews, that could be preserved for the long periods of time in an extended voyage.

The native Irish were not beef eaters like the

British. Those native Gaels, fortunate enough to afford a bit of meat in their diets, ate bacon and lamb, when they were flush. Most of our own got by with brown bread, a bit of cheese and milk, if the family owned a cow, and of course potatoes that the British had introduced into our diets in the 1700’s. Few of our own ate the bounty of the seas and rivers. That delicacy belonged to the Landlords. A hangman’s noose awaited the arrested poacher.

In spite of all these geographical and historic contradictions, we still thought of ourselves as “Irish.” It wasn’t until we started to cross the Canadian Border, and had to identify ourselves as Americans, that we gave any thoughts to the seeming duality of our identity.

Irish Independence and the ensuing Irish Civil War, along with the “troubles,” of the sixties through nineties, gave us pause to think more of the complexities of the native land of our ancestors. All of these facts were an overlay, to the history of our immediate ancestors with all of the rich and diverse history of our own, living in the United States.

And though we are all very proud of our Celtic ancestry, I think first now of myself as “American.” And the colorful phrase “Erin Go Bragh” is always followed by me with a solemn one, “God Bless America.”

25TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK ST. JOSEPH AND DYNGUS TRI-ETHNIC CELEBRATION

By Dan McCue

The 25th. Annual St. Patrick Joseph Dyngus tri-ethnic celebration was held again at the Buffalo Irish Center on March 24th. And as is the tradition, we celebrate and honor the high holy days of March, St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day and Dyngus Day. Honoring the Irish, Italian and Polish Community of Buffalo.

The crowd this year was record breaking. The traditionally costumed dancers put on a dazzling display of Polkas, Jigs and Tarantellas.

The Claddagh room housed the Polka band "The Seven" the Emerald room featured The Formula Band, an incredibly talented purveyor of perennial Italian favorites and the bar featured the Emerald Isle Celtic band that kept the crowd clapping and dancing the entire night.

As is custom, the opening ceremonies start with a prayer. A prayer written especially for this party.

*MAY THE ROAD RISE UP TO MEET US LORD,
MAY THE WIND BE AT OUR BACK.*

*MAY THE GALES ACROSS LAKE ERIE EASE UP ON THEIR ATTACK.
AND AS THE SCENT OF SPRING DRAWS NEAR, AND FLOWERS DO RENEW,
ST. PATRICK AND HIS THIRSTY LADS MARCH DOWN THE AVENUE.*

*SURE'AN DON'T FORGET ST. JOSEPH,
THE PATRON OF THE JUST,
WHO LEADS US THROUGH OUR LENTAN FAST
HIS TABLE IS A MUST.*

*AND AS GOOD FRIDAY ROLLS AROUND
AND FEASTING IS THE TARGET,
THE FINEST FOODS IN ALL THE LAND ARE AT THE BROADWAY MARKET.*

*AND SINCE THIS IS THE AREA WHERE BROTHERHOOD
WE FIND OUR SAINTS ENCROACHING ON EACH OTHERS HALLOWED
GROUNDS.*

*ST. JOE WAS SEEN AT CHOPIN SINGING OUT SOME RONDOS.
ST. STAN SHOWED UP AT THE BLACKTHORN PUB,
ST. PATRICK AT DITONDO'S*

*AND NOW THAT WINTERS OVER LORD,
THIS PRAYER I OFFER TO YA,
ON BENDED KNEE , WE SAY TO THEE-*

BEGORRAH, CIAO, DZIENKUWA!!!!

Then as each countries anthems are sung their respective flags are brought forward and displayed. Then a national folk dance Is performed.

This year the Irish anthem was performed beautifully by Kate Schroeder both in Gaelic and then in English. This followed with an Irish Jig from the Rince Na Tirana dancers.

Food, music, bagpipes and lots of colorful costumes filled the halls with laughter and camaraderie celebrating the beginning of a new spring season.

The event will continue next year always the Sunday after the parade.



LENT, A SPECIAL TIME OF GIVING FOR THE DAUGHTERS OF ERIN

By Kathleen McDonald Shanahan

It is a privilege to volunteer at the South Buffalo Community Table as a group on a regular basis. We learned that the Table needed tuna fish and soup broth for some of the meals they serve to their clients in the community and decided to host a donation within the DOE for these food items. A request went out in the February DOE newsletter and the DOE responded in kind, bringing both tuna and soup broth to our February and March meetings.

We also received a request to repeat our Easter “flash mob” for the children’s Easter breakfast hosted by the St. Pat’s Club. The ladies were happy to put on their finest Easter Bonnets and fill baskets up once again with candy to pass out to the children while singing “Here Comes Peter Cotton Tail”.

The dynamic DOE, always in action!



St. Pat's Irish American Club

MEETINGS:
1st Friday of the Month at 7:30 pm

New Members Welcome!

For Information:
CALL KATHY MASTERSON
716-326-0328

ST. PATRICK'S IRISH AMERICAN CLUB NEWS

The St. Patrick's Irish American Club sponsored two events in March 2024. Our traditional St. Patrick's Day Mass took place on Saturday March 16, 2024, in the Emerald Room. Over 125 members and guests attended the Mass. The celebrant was Father Fred Betti, S.J. Kindred provided the music. The Irish Center sponsored breakfast took place immediately after the Mass. Those who chose to purchase tickets to the breakfast were treated to a traditional Irish breakfast catered by Tom Gang and company.

The week following St. Patrick's Day, we transitioned to our Easter event. Our club sponsored Pancake breakfast with the Easter Bunny took place in the Emerald Room on March 23, 2024. The event was a sellout and we had over forty families and 230 adults and children attending the party. The Easter Bunny took photos with the children and provided each child with an Easter treat. The Daughters of Erin joined the party and added to the festivities handing out treats and providing Easter themed entertainment. Thanks to all of our members who volunteered and our guests who made this event a success for our club. Special thanks to Kevin Post and Dennis Long again for graciously volunteering to set up their blow-up decorations for the event and to the Daughters of Erin who joined in our festivities. Our next club event will take place on Saturday October 19, 2024, when we will host our annual children's Halloween Costume party.



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