

buffalo **IRISH** times

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FEBRUARY 2024

BUFFALO IRISH TIMES IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE IRISH CONSULATE.

LIAM T. KNOTT GRAND MARSHAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH ON DELAWARE AVENUE AT 2PM

By UIAA

What a great day for our community! The 2024 Saint Patrick's Day Parade will be held right on the feast day of Saint Patrick, Sunday, March 17th on Delaware Avenue in Buffalo. The United Irish American Association (UIAA) has elected Liam T Knott as Grand Marshal 2024 for this once in a lifetime honor.

The day will begin with Mass at Saint Joseph's Cathedral at 10:30AM. Mass will be concelebrated by Bishop Michael Fisher and the UIAA chaplain Fr. David Richards, all are welcome. Parade participants will begin formation around the McKinley Monument in front of City Hall. At 2PM the Parade will step off on Delaware Avenue and proceed north on Delaware to North Street.

Liam T Knott is a graduate of Canisius High School, Canisius College and UB School of Medicine. He is a General and Bariatric Surgeon with UBMD Surgery practicing at ECMC and Kenmore Mercy Hospitals. Liam's Irish history began with his maternal grandparents, the late Thomas and Eileen Courtney both born in County Kerry, Ireland. The Grand Marshal started work on the Parade as a teenager, working in the line up area. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the UIAA in 2008. The Saint Patrick's Day Parade has always been a family event for Liam. His grandfather Thomas V Courtney was grand marshal in 1962, his mother, Brigid in 1981 and his uncle, John P Courtney in 2002.

As Grand Marshal, Liam has tapped his brother Michael Knott and his sister Breda Knott to be his deputy marshals. A contingent of family and friends will be marching led by Liam's dad, Timothy Knott and his sister-in-law, Carleen (McCarthy) Knott.

This year the Parade is dedicated to the memory of Michael W Roberts. Mike was a hard-working, longtime member of the UIAA Executive Committee, Grand Marshal in 1995. Mike also came from a family very active in the

Parade. His parents the late John and Mary Roberts were Grand Marshals in 1970 and 1987. Mike's wife Susan A (nee Terranova) and his daughter Maria will be leading the family group in his honor.

For more information groups interested in participating in this



year's Parade may visit us online at www.BuffaloStPatricksDayParade.com or email to uiaaStPatrickParade@gmail.com or telephone at 716-875-0282. UIAA Executive Committee members are also available on Sunday afternoons at 3PM at Buffalo Irish Center, 245 Abbott Road.

BUFFALO IRISH TIMES

245 ABBOTT ROAD | BUFFALO, NY 14220

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The Buffalo Irish Times welcomes letters or articles from readers. Submissions must be typed in a Macintosh or PC compatible format, and be no more than 500 words. Include your name, address and phone number with your submission. Material may be subject to condensation. Opinion letters are welcomed, however all submissions must include the authors name and contact information. We reserve the right to reject any submission. Submissions or submitted photographs will only be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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 LETTER FROM THE EDITOR...

beannachtaí!

It has been a very busy year for the Buffalo Irish Center. The Buffalo Irish Times is back and plans to have 5 issues/yr. It will be sent to all GAAA members and posted on the Buffalo Irish Center website. The Buffalo Irish Festival was a mighty success and the plans for 2024 started the day after the 2023 festival ended.

Here we are with the High Holy Days fast approaching. The Shamrock Run is usually the kick off for the St Patrick's Season.

The next big event is the Civic Luncheon at the Irish Center on Friday before Buffalo's two St Patrick's Day parades on Saturday and Sunday. This takes training and endurance to get through three days of celebration. Monday and Tuesday will be rest days for me.

Don't forget to stop at the Irish Center on St Patrick's Weekend; there will be entertainment on Friday, Saturday and especially Sunday after the parade!

lá sona naomh Pádraig,

Kevin J. O'Brien, Editor

EASTER BUNNY COMING TO THE IRISH CENTER



By St Patrick's Irish American Club

Have breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 23rd at 10AM! Enjoy pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee, tea and lots of treats. Don't wait in line at the malls, have pancakes and take your own pictures at the Buffalo Irish Center. Coloring contest, great decorations and fun for all is waiting for you to hop in for a seat with your family. Reservations are required and tables of 10 or more must be prepaid.

Call or email early for reservations or more information, this event often fills the Emerald Room to capacity. Call 716-649-9537 or email StPatsCub@gmail.com for more information.



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

GUINNESS TOAST

Friday, February 16th

6 pm - 11 pm



Admission \$10

Free Glass Etching 6 - 8 pm



LIVE MUSIC BY:

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THE IRISH TWEEDS

3 PARTS WHISKEY

Traditional

Irish Dance by:

Rince na Tiarna

&

Harris-Grieco

Performance by:

Erie County Sheriff's

Pipes & Drums



Planning has begun for the 2024 Buffalo Irish Festival. Save the Date:

July 26-28, 2024 on Buffalo's Outer Harbor - Lakeside Lawn.

Our thanks go out to the Committee above for all thier hard work!

DAUGHTERS OF ERIN



Buffalo, NY



Upcoming Shows

February 16 – The Great Guinness Toast at the Buffalo Irish Center.
Bands on two stages all night. Event 6:00-11:00.
Our set is in the Pub at 7:15 (3 piece) \$10 Cover

March 15 – Hamburg Tap Room, 7:00-10:00 (3 Piece)

March 16 – First Ward Parade Day, The Buffalo Irish Center,
Emerald Room 2:30- 6:00 (5 Piece) \$10 Cover

March 17 – Downtown Parade Day, Twentieth Century Club
(private party), Buffalo 12:00-2:00

Happy St. Patrick's! Party well and safely!
Slainte!

THE DAUGHTERS OF ERIN

By Meme Riedy

Happy New Year! This promises to be a busy year for the Daughters of Erin. We are proud to announce the Tara Award will be presented to Pat Connolly at the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick on Saturday March 2. This award is the highest honor presented to a member who exemplifies the ideals of the organization, such as promoting the organization, takes part in Catholic action, one who fosters Americanism and promotes Irish Culture. Pat has been a member for many years and is very deserving of this accolade. We also congratulate George McKee, chosen for the Knights of Equity Irishman of the Year. He is an important part of the Irish Center, always volunteering and working behind the scenes at every event.

We are also getting ready for the Guinness Toast on February 16th, there will be music, food, split club, basket raffles and much more. Plan to join us for a great night!

March is always busy as there are numerous events to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, this year falling on Sunday March 17th. We will march with dignity down Delaware Avenue, rain, shine, or snow!

If you are Irish, Catholic and want to know more about the Daughters of Erin, we meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm, except for July and August, at the Buffalo Irish Center. Come join us

Have a great Spring!!!

Buffalo Irish Center



Lenten Dinner Schedule

Feb. 14th Ash Wednesday 4:00pm
Full Friday Menu & table service

Feb. 16th (Guinness Toast) 4:00pm
Fenian Fish Fry, Fried Shrimp & Concession Menu
No table service this night

Feb. 23rd ~ March 8th 4:00pm
Full Friday Menu, table service in Pub & Claddagh Room

March 15th (St. Patrick's Weekend)
Fenian Fish Fry, Fried Shrimp & Concession Menu
No table service this night

March 22nd & 29th 4:00pm
Full Friday Menu, table service in Pub & Claddagh Room

Comhaltas North America Convention

4-7 April 2024 ↻ Buffalo, NY

Music and Dance Weekend

Four céilí bands:

Joanie Madden All Stars

The Connacht Band

The Drumlin Céilí Band

Ena O'Brien and the Canadian All Stars

with

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lighthouse photo by Mike Shriver





The 2024 CCE North American Celebration

April 4-7, 2024 Buffalo Hyatt Regency

CCECONVENTION.COM

Support Irish Culture

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann(CCE) has chosen to hold our annual North American Provincial Celebration of Irish Traditional Music and

Culture at the Hyatt in Buffalo April 4-7, 2024. The gathering will offer three days of instruction in music, song, dance, and language for as many as 400 attendees from all corners of the United States and Canada... This event is the premier traditional Irish music happening in North America.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCÉ), is worldwide the largest all volunteer organization involved in the preservation, development and promotion of Irish Traditional music, song, dance, and language. Volunteers of all ages make up our movement. From beginnings in Ireland 1951, we have grown to 430 Branches in 18 countries on 4 continents.

Main Stage Sponsor - \$4,000 includes stage signage, notice on key materials, full page ad in journal, banquet tickets and seating with VIPs, or day pass.

Banquet Sponsor - \$3,500 includes notice on key materials, full page ad in journal, banquet tickets and seating with VIPs, or day pass.

Youth program Sponsor - \$1,500 includes workshop signage, full page ad in journal

Ceili Sponsor- \$1,200 includes stage signage, full page ad in the journal and tickets to the ceili

Journal(Full pages are 8.5 x 11) All ads in PDF format please

- Back Cover - \$750
- Inside back Cover - \$600
- Inside front Cover - \$600
- Inside front Right -\$500
- Full page - \$400
- Half page - \$250
- Quarter page \$150
- Line listing \$50 (includes listing of Business name, address, and web page)

Special Events Program - \$1,500 includes location signage and full page in journal.

Workshops Sponsor- \$500 includes location signage and half page in journal.

We are eager to discuss other opportunities that will meet supporters' goals.

Name: _____

Sponsor level: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Checks should be payable to Martin Wynne Branch CCE, Inc. and should be mailed to Mike & Chris Hoke 8195 Old South Hill Rd Holland Patent, NY 13354. Ads should be in PDF format and emailed to Hoke84@gmail.com. We are a 501, (C) 3 IRS Not for profit organization. Thank you!

RINCE NA TIARNA IRISH DANCE

A snowstorm is not going to stop the Rince na Tiarna Irish dancers from dancing! Teachers had just started a 7 day challenge with students when suddenly, a snowstorm dumped over four feet of snow, causing all classes to be cancelled for close to a week. But that didn't slow dancers down! The challenge consisted of things like 'teach a family member the jig' and wear bills or bandits colors to practice. Dancers submitted videos and pictures, and 7 winners were chosen from all the dancers that participated. Congrats to all!


Rince Na Tiarna is looking forward to the busy months ahead, starting with the annual Guinness Toast at the Irish Center on February 16th. This event is also the kick off to our busy holiday season of performances and parades. We are looking forward to working with Explore & More to teach students Irish dance as well as some Irish traditions. Those sessions will take place the first 2 Saturdays in March. We will also be dancing at the halftime of the UB Bulls game on March 9th. But our favorite place to dance is always the Buffalo Irish Center, where family and friends will be celebrating St Patrick's Day!

There is "no rest for the weary " as 10 dancers will head to Glasgow, Scotland the week after St Patrick's Day to compete at the World Championships. It will be a very exciting week of watching dancers from over 40 countries and 300 dance schools, compete. Congratulations to Mary Kay Heneghan who was chosen to head marketing and PR for An Comisiun Le Rince Gaelacha for their two flagship events, the All Ireland and the World Championships.

Our next "Get Jiggy" mini-session will take place in mid-February for any child 4 and up that would like to learn some Irish dance! Go to www.irishdancewny.com or email rincenatiarna@gmail.com for more information.

We wish everyone a fun filled, fantastic St Patrick's season and are keeping fingers and toes crossed for great weather!



Winter storm can't stop her 
@rincenatiarna





GEORGE McKEE

I am incredibly honored that the Knights of Equity, Court 5 chose me as this year's "Irishman of the Year"! I am proud to say that I grew up in South Buffalo. My childhood was spent hanging at Cazenovia Park, playing baseball, and learning to swim at the Cazenovia pool. I joined the Y.M.C.A (which is now the Buffalo Irish Center) in my preteens. I spent lots of time there at summer camps and joined the swim team. It was my home away from home. I lived on Burch Avenue during my teens and graduated from West Seneca High school. I played on many sports teams. After high school, I enlisted in the U.S Navy, spent 4 years and was honorably discharged. My wife Karen and I have been married for going on 53 years. We have three daughters and four grandchildren. I retired from the construction field after 35 years. After my retirement, I worked at Home Depot as a kitchen designer and left there to work for Buffalo Energy, LLC. I got involved with the Buffalo Irish Center when my wife Karen joined the Daughters of Erin. Karen was recruited by the DOE after we ran into the Breidensteins (who we have known for many, many years!), the Sommers and Ellen Kuhlewind at the Buffalo Irish Festival the year that it was at Canalside. Since then, I have met so many wonderful people who have become good friends. The Buffalo Irish Center is a wonderful place! I have really enjoyed volunteering and helping wherever and whenever possible. I especially relish being the 50/50 roving ticket seller for "Under the Tent" at the B.I.C. in the summer. Thank you very much to the Knights of Equity, Court 5 for this award.



Meet Board Member Jack. Jack Feccio has been a member of the Irish Center Board of Directors since 1989. Jack served as chairman of the board from 1991-1996, and has dedicated many years to serving the Irish community and Buffalo Irish Center. He's been a longstanding member of the Knights of Equity, serving as Worthy Sir Knight for the organization, Jack and his wife, Maureen, organized and operated the Belfast Summer Relief Program, which brought children from Northern Ireland to Buffalo for the summer. Their dedication to the Belfast Summer Relief helped countless children escape the troubles for a short period of time each summer. Jack also helped to establish the Irish Center's library with former board member & chairman, John Carney. We thank Jack for his service to the Buffalo Irish Center.

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LAOH BEGINS ANOTHER YEAR



LAOH install 2024 officers

Submitted by Joyce Burke

Hello from the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians/LAOH! We are off to a great start in 2024, installing our new officers with 2 dozen members present, a record for this century. We also had the pleasure of inducting a new member, and we continue welcome all who are interested. We took this opportunity to support the Buffalo Irish Center/BIC, as a thanks for hosting our meetings and to ensure their continued presence in our community, by including in our celebration a delicious BIC buffet dinner of roast beef sandwiches, fries and salad. It was great to see the Irish Center full on a Tuesday evening in January, including Corn Hole, Trivia, and a sizable, friendly presence around the bar.

Our first donation of 2024 is to the Response to Love Center, located at 130 Kosciuszko St in Buffalo. Their mission statement: Inspired by our faith and inclusive of all, Response to Love Center improves lives across our community by addressing basic human needs and providing a pathway to self-sufficiency. Over the last 30 years it has grown from a food pantry to offering a much wider variety of human services, education, advocacy, and spiritual enrichment. Like St Brigid, the team at the Response to Love Center listens to the needs of those at their door and do all they can to provide it. Please consider including this worthy organization in your donations this year.

The Columban Sisters, supported nationally and locally by the LAOH, have officially kicked off their 100th anniversary year. Celebrations will include the Buffalo Irish Festival mass on 7/28 and a mass at their Silver Creek chapel on their actual 9/29 anniversary date. Please continue to

include the dear sisters and all their missions across the world in your prayers.

Look for the LAOH in the Irish Center's new pamphlet to be available soon: 'A division of a national organization with a motto of Friendship, Unity and Chirstian Charity, we share the same philosophy of kindness & generosity, while making new friends and sharing fun times. Through our fundraising we are able to donate thousands annually to local charities in the city of Buffalo and surrounding area. A small but mighty group, we meet monthly at BIC.' Does it make you want to join us? We look forward to seeing you!



Meet Erik Bohlen. Erik currently works for Medical Answering Services, LLC and is a Board Consultant at the Buffalo Irish Center. Erik's appreciation of the rich culture of Ireland was strengthened at the National University of Ireland at Galway when he was a student in the study

abroad program at St. Bonaventure University.

Known for his service to the community, Erik brings his expertise in fundraising and coordinating community events to the Buffalo Irish Center. He is working with the Board to raise awareness of the Irish Center's mission and facilitate partnerships with organizations throughout the community. Erik's ability to unite people in achieving a common goal has benefited so many members of our community. He credits his colleagues, friends and family members for these fine accomplishments and we thank him for his service.



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

**Buffalo Irish Center
245 Abbott Road, Buffalo**

Contact
Kathleen McLuckie
716 228-3363
For Information

CELTIC ANGELS CELEBRATE ST BRIGID



Angels Caroling at Dawn's Candy Shack

By Joyce Burke

Hello from the Celtic Angels Youth Choir! We generally practice the 2nd Thursday of each month at Folksy House in Clarence and welcome new members. In January we had to reschedule, first to accommodate post-Christmas family gatherings then again due to a snowstorm. We made the best of it and turned our late January practice into a celebration of St Brigid's Day with songs and stories. St. Brigid never turned anyone away that came to her door. She angered her father more than once by

giving away their possessions to meet a stranger's need, but in the end, he forgave her and even converted to Christianity at the very end of his life. St. Patrick's success in the conversion of Ireland was in part because he encouraged the Irish people to continue their traditional holidays and celebrations but now infuse them with Christianity, reclaiming them for God. St Brigid's Day is a good example, celebrated alongside the ancient holiday Imbolc that marks the halfway point between the winter solstice and the

spring equinox. As Clare Maloney writes in We Sing a Song to Brigid: 'In wells, and streams and fields of the green, St Brigid's blessings flow'. The Angels are pleased to be able to help this year in establishing a new annual St Brigid's Day event at the Irish center the first weekend of February. We expect the 2024 kickoff event will be small, but hope as word gets out it will grow with each passing year to become a tradition for many families. Look for pictures of this year's event in the next issue of the Irish Times!



Meet Board Member Gary. Gary Holzerland began his association with the Buffalo Irish Center 35 years ago, when his daughter, Erin, began dancing for the Woodgate School of Irish Dance and he became involved with the Irish Cultural and Folk Arts Association. Presently, Gary belongs to the Knights of Equity and served in many officer roles including as Worthy Sir Knight. Gary helped to establish and run Thursday Under the Tent at the BIC and has been on the board since 2012. Gary's commitment to the Irish Culture in WNY extends to his family membership in the Town O'Tonawanda Irish American Club where he was recently named President of that organization. We thank Gary for his continued service to the Buffalo Irish Center.





www.TaraGiftShoppe.com 250 Abbott Rd Buffalo, NY 14220

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY MASS MARCH 16TH

By Saint Patrick's Irish American Club

In Ireland, the original celebration of Saint Patrick's Day was truly a religious Holy Day. The main event was attending Mass in honor of Ireland's patron saint, Saint Patrick's Irish American Club is proud to continue this tradition here in Buffalo. Please join us on Saturday, March 16th. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Fred Bette SSJ at 10:30 in our home, the Buffalo Irish Center. Kindred will be providing music.

The Buffalo Irish Center will hold their annual traditional Irish breakfast immediately following Mass in the Emerald Room. Contact the Buffalo Irish Center or Tara Gift Shoppe for tickets; they are pre-sale only.



Meet Board Member Karen. She has been on the BIC Board of Directors for just over 2 years. Karen has been a member of the Daughters of Erin, Court 5, for the last 8 years. During those years, she has held various seats on their Board of Directors. She was also the

recording secretary for the National Daughters of Erin for the last 2 years.

Karen's volunteerism at the BIC has included helping man the tables for basket raffle ticket sales and 50/50 tickets sales at lots of events.

She has been the coordinator for the Shop South Buffalo event at the BIC for the last two years as well.

Karen is responsible for creating and sending the BIC weekly emails to all GAAA members. She also orders and sells the Buffalo Irish Center wearables at various BIC events, including having a booth at the "Under the Tent" summer concert series every Thursday in June and July.

Karen is always ready and willing to jump in and help with all events at the BIC. Being a part of the BIC has been extremely rewarding to her. We thank Karen for everything!



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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



Buffalo
Fenians GAA



Meet Buddy. Buddy (James) has been bartending at the Irish Center for 30+ years. Over his many years at the center he has covered many shifts, but currently you can find him every Saturday night behind the bar. He has put in countless hours of volunteering for the

benefit of the Irish Center. He was born and raised in South Buffalo. From his 30 years of bartending, Buddy could tell stories from the days of way back to all the way to the present time from knowing the old timers, their kids, and now grandkids. Come have a pint with Buddy every Saturday!



Bring your friends
Test your knowledge & have fun!
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Meet Board Member Skip. Ken (Skip) Sommer has been on the GAAA (Buffalo Irish Center) Board of Directors since 2015. Skip regularly helps with building maintenance and repairs. He is the Worthy Sir Knight of the Buffalo chapter

of the Knights of Equity. Skip has been a lifelong supporter of the Buffalo Irish Center. He currently serves as the board's vice chairman. Thank you Skip for everything!



Music Hall of Fame inductee, is best known as the bass player for the popular 1960's band The Tweeds who had the regional hit "A Thing of the Past" recorded at Decca studios in New York City. Over time, Brian and Jim met fiddle player Zoë Buck at the Glen Park Tavern sessions and eventually asked her to add her talents the band.

Rosewood Bridge volunteered to play for the first Buffalo Irish Festival raffle party in 2022 and wanted a bigger sound for the event so they invited musician friends Peter DiGioia and Michael Frey to join them for the gig. Peter joined on drums and Michael, one of Brian's closest friends since high school, added his skills on electric guitar into the mix. Peter is well known in Buffalo for playing in numerous bands, most notably Transition, Forgotten Dreams, and the Peter Dee Band. The addition of Peter on drums and Michael on electric guitar along with their additional lead and backing vocals created a fuller sound allowing more classic and Celtic rock to be added to the folk repertoire. Based on Jim's past history with the Tweeds rock band the raffle benefit band jokingly took the name "The Irish Tweeds" and people loved it. The Irish Tweeds played the raffle benefit again in 2023 as well as last year's Thursday under the Tent Irish Hooley at the Buffalo Irish Center.

The name Irish Tweeds stuck and so it was decided to retire the Rosewood Bridge name and use Irish Tweeds full time for both the three-piece configuration and for the larger five-piece band. Quigley said, "The name change is exciting, it kind of reinvigorates us and we are working on adding a lot of new material. Zoë will be singing both backup and lead on more songs and we are adding new some new twists to old favorites. And it is always extra fun when Pete and Frey join us on stage."

The Irish Tweeds are heading into Kirk McWhorter's West Highland Studios to record their first album in March but before then you can catch them at the Buffalo Irish Center on February 16 for the Great Guinness Toast, Hamburg Brewing on March 15, and back at the Irish Center March 16 with the full five-piece band after the First Ward Parade. For info on the band watch their website at irishtweedsband.com or follow them on Facebook.

IRISH TWEEDS

By Brian Quigley

There's a new/old band in town. Rosewood Bridge, longtime staple of the Buffalo Irish music scene, has decided to become The Irish Tweeds! Current Rosewood Bridge members Brian Quigley, Jim Dunnigan, and Zoë Buck make up the core of The Irish Tweeds and will continue as a three-piece group under the new name. Drummer Pete DiGioia and electric guitarist Michael Frey will join them for larger events.

The Irish Tweeds is the latest in a 20-year run of musical projects by Brian Quigley. He initially formed The Dustmen with Russ Scinta, Harry Linton, Liz Scinta (now Mills) and Ray Szyplman (RIP) in the early 2000's. After a successful run and two albums, the Dustmen eventually retired the name and Brian and Russ started Rosewood Bridge intending go a more traditional folk music route while still playing much of their Irish catalogue. Over that time Jim Dunnigan began sitting in on bass and when Russ retired, Jim and Brian kept Rosewood Bridge going as a duo. Jim, a Buffalo

GRAND MARSHAL, SHARON GRANDE, TO BE CELEBRATED AT THE “OLD NEIGHBORHOOD” ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE

By Denise Pikuzinski

FUNDRAISER PARTY ON MARCH 8, 2024

The Valley Community Association (VCA) is excited to announce that Sharon Grande, will lead the 29th Annual Old Neighborhood St. Patrick’s Day Parade through the historic Valley and Old First Ward neighborhoods as Grand Marshal on March 16, 2024. Sharon will be celebrated for her dedication and service to the community during a pre-parade fundraiser party on Friday, March 8th.

Sharon Grande is known to all as a devoted family member, extraordinary friend 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 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 & Buffalo Public School #39 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.

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

(continued page 15)



VALLEY
Community Association since 1969

2024
“OLD NEIGHBORHOOD”
ST. PATRICK’S DAY
PARADE

Grand Marshal
Sharon Grande



Memorials:
Trisha Hiller, Mark Hillery, Joan Mazur, Pat McGinty, Jimmy Sumbrum

Fundraiser Fri., March 8th 6-10 pm	Parade March 16th Kicks off at 12 pm
Live Music by “3 Parts Whiskey”	Hooley
TICKETS \$20	1-5 pm Live Music by “The Reardon and Garvey Band”
PRESALE OR AT THE DOOR	
93 Leddy Street, Buffalo, NY 14210	
www.thevalleycenter.com (716) 823-4707, ext. 2	



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.

The VCA will officially announce the Grand Marshal at the pre-parade fundraiser party during a brief ceremony on March 8, 2024 from 6-10 PM. The public is invited to join the celebration at the Valley Community Center, located at 93 Leddy St Buffalo NY 14210. Tickets are \$20 and include admission, water, and soda. Canned beer, wine, seltzer, and food will also be available for sale. Guests will enjoy live Irish music by 3 Parts Whiskey.

The ceremony will also honor five individuals who passed away recently and were very involved in the Old Neighborhood. The memorial dedications will recognize the following: Patricia "Trisha" Hiller, a long time Valley volunteer and First Ward resident, Mark Hillery, a former Buffalo Fire Department Chief, Joan Mazur, a long time Valley Community Center and Old Neighborhood St. Patrick's Day Parade volunteer, Patrick McGinty, one of the original the Old Neighborhood parade.

The 29th Annual Old Neighborhood St. Patrick's Day Parade will kick off at 12 PM on March 16, 2024. Immediately following the parade will be the traditional grand Irish "Hooley" featuring live music by "The Reardon and Garvey Band" as well as plenty of food and drink.

The "Hooley" runs from 1pm-5pm at the Valley Community Center. Guests can purchase food and drink tickets at the Community Center.

For more information about any of the Valley's St. Patrick's Day festivities, call Denise at 716-823-4707 ext.2 or check out the Valley Community Center on Facebook or Instagram.

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www.fdpipes.com



buffalo fenians
BUFFALO'S GAELIC ATHLETIC CLUB



FOUR IRISH AUTHORS AT THE BUFFALO IRISH CENTER

Saturday, March 2, 2024 from noon to 5:00 pm, join Irish authors Jeanne Crane, Rosanne Higgins, Michael McCarthy, and Sinead Tyrone as they present their books for sale in the GAAA Library. Each author will also offer a fifteen-minute presentation on an aspect of Irish culture.

At 12:15, Sinead Tyrone will welcome attendees to the event, and will speak of the importance of maintaining our Irish culture and history. At 1:15, Jeanne Crane will take you on a Walk with Brigid through Kildare. At 2:15, Rosanne Higgins will talk about Irish Inmates at the Erie County Poorhouse. At 3:15, Michael McCarthy will discuss the Peter Robinson Settlement Project of 1823 and 1825.

Jeanne Crane specializes in travel fiction. Her books *Amidst the Stones of Celtic Ireland* and *Celtic Spirit – Journey to the Heart* take fictional Americans to places in Ireland where they are moved, often transformed, by the power, beauty and magic of their experiences. She also writes a weekly blog on Celtic wisdom and Celtic lands. Rosanne Higgins is an anthropologist, lecturer

and writer. In addition to presenting research at scholarly conferences, Dr. Higgins also lectures locally. Her novels (among them, *Orphans and Inmates*, *A Whisper of Bones*, and *The Girl on the Shore*) combine her love of history with her deep desire to tell tales inspired by the stories she's uncovered.

Michael McCarthy is a retired police investigator and retired director of safety and Security. He is also Past President of the Irish American Cultural Institute (Rochester Chapter). He has four historical novels: *From Cork to the New World*, *The Flight of the Wretched*, *The Children of Michigan Street* and *The London Years of Stephen Hopkins*.

Sinead Tyrone is a Western New York author who combines her love of travel, music and photography with her passion for telling stories. Her books include *Walking Through The Mist*, *Crossing The Lough Between*, and *Playing Each Other Home*. She also hosts a monthly poetry event in Williamsville.

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Meet Board Member Randy. Randy has been a board member since 2010 and served as treasurer and vice chairman of the board before becoming acting chairman in August 2022. Randy served as chairman of the board for 2023. Randy became involved with the Irish Center while his daughter, Maggie, danced for Rince na Tiarna. Randy along with his wife, Janet, are longtime members of the Irish Cultural and Folk Art Association of WNY, where he serves as chairman. We thank Randy for all he does for the Buffalo Irish Center!

UNITED IRISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION



Follow our parade on



@bflostpatricks

www.buffalostpatricksdaysparade.com

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

PAT CONNOLLY TO RECEIVE TARA AWARD

The Daughters of Erin are pleased to announce that Patricia Connolly has been chosen to receive the Tara Award, the highest award given to a member. She will receive this award at the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Dinner on Saturday March 2nd.

Patricia Ellen Connolly was born and raised in South Buffalo. Her father, Patrick Maloney, came from County Clare and her mother, Margaret McGorty, came from County Caven. Pat is the youngest of six children, Sister Sally Maloney, Rosemary Drumm, Beatrice Sear, Michael Maloney, and Father Tom Maloney. She attended Holy Family School, Mt. Mercy

Academy and Rosary Hill College. While growing up, Pat's home was full of Irish music played on their victrola. She loved to dance and sing all the old Irish tunes. Pat was a member of the Nora Quealy Irish dance school, the first in Buffalo along with Mary Breen Heneghan. They enjoyed performing the traditional Irish dances in the Buffalo area and even traveled to Florida to put on shows there. Her daughter and granddaughters have continued the tradition of step dancing with Rince na Tiarna.

Pat married Jim Connolly in 1968 at Holy Family church. Her brother, Fr. Tom Maloney, officiated, his first time administering the rite of marriage, having been just ordained a priest. They have been married for 55 years and have four children, Colleen, twins Shawn and Kevin, and Brian. Three of their children live in the

(continued page 18)



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BUFFALO IRISH CENTER
245 Abbott Road
Buffalo, New York

THURSDAY NIGHT 7:30



area, Kevin resides in London. Jim and Pat have been blessed with twelve grandchildren rounding out a family that is very proud of their Irish heritage.

The Connolly's have enjoyed many trips to Ireland where they have many cousins all over the island. Both Brian and Shawn spent college semesters in Ireland, studying the culture and getting to know their relatives. Fr. Tom has officiated at some of the cousins' weddings and one of Pat's grandsons was baptized in the family church in Ireland.

Before raising her family, Pat worked at New York Telephone Company in Buffalo. Years later, she worked at Mercy Hospital and for Erie County as a Legislative assistant. She was involved with the Franciscan Center serving on its board of directors. She was also on the Board of Directors at the Botanical Gardens serving on its Education Committee.

Jim and Pat are members of St. Bernadette's Parish where Pat serves as a Eucharistic minister and a member of the Women's Discussion Group, Parish Neighbors Group and sings in the parish's Resurrection Choir.

Pat has been active at St. Francis High School since 1986 where she worked in the main office and was director of transportation for ten years. She was active in the Parent's Guild and remains a member of the Alumni Parents group. She and Jim are past co-chairs of the school's annual Justinian fundraising goals.

She has been a member of the Daughters of Erin for 16 years and has worked at Bingo, Thursday Nights under the Tent, Daughters of Erin booth at the Irish Festival and volunteers with the group at St. Luke's Mission of Mercy and South Buffalo Community Table. She also organizes the annual Christmas giving of gifts for the Buffalo Psychiatric Center. One of her fondest memories was serving on the committee for the beautiful mural on the outside wall of the Buffalo Irish Center, working on a committee with Mary Heneghan and Barbara Clark Kuzina to raise funds and put the ideas together.

Pat has memories of going to Irish dances at the Irish Club at Main and Riley in Buffalo with Mary Quigley Lawn and Cathy Carey.

Patricia Maloney Connolly truly exemplifies the requirements for the Tara Award, which are, "One who promotes the organization, assists the Knights of Equity in their endeavors, takes part in Catholic action, fosters Americanism, and promotes Irish Culture. A truly giving person, this testimonial to her is richly deserved.



Traditional Irish Dance Classes

825-6700 675-8785

Mary Kay Heneghan, A.D.C.R.G.

Buffalo / Erie / Williamsville / East Aurora / Kenmore / Lockport

www.rincenatiarna.com

St. Pat's Irish American Club

MEETINGS:

1st Friday of the Month at 7:30 pm

New Members Welcome!

For Information:

CALL KATHY MASTERSON

716-826-0828



Meet Board Member Maggie. Maggie is the newest member of the Buffalo Irish Center board, having joined the Board in October 2023. Maggie has spent countless hours at the Center, with family for events and holidays, as an Irish dancer with Rince Na Tiarna, and supporting the clubs that preserve Irish heritage in WNY. She now serves as the Membership Chair for the GAAA, is a member of the St. Pat's Club, and has been a board member of the Buffalo Irish Festival since its revival in 2022. Thank you Maggie!

ST. PATRICK JOSEPH DYNGUS DAY PARTY

SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH 2024

OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Mark your calendar, the Buffalo Irish Center Will again host the 25th. Annual St. Patrick Joseph Dyngus Day tri-ethnic celebration; our gala event. Is set for Sunday, March 24t, 2024. Only in America...and only in Buffalo can you participate in the ethnic celebratory triumvirate that turns the crusty month of March into the sweet promise of spring. Join us, at the Buffalo Irish Center, where you can move from one ethnic celebration to another simply by walking from one room to the next.

You can bid "Arrivederci Roma" and leave the rich Italian and Italian-American sounds of "The Formula Band" to rock with the Celtic beat of "Emerald Isle". You can Polka to the awesome Polka band brought back from last year "The Seven Polka Band" and then change countries again (without aid of passport or Euros.) Food, drink, music, dance and most importantly the company of friends promise to make this year's celebration an event to remember.

The original intent of this spectacular tri-ethnic event was to celebrate and honor the dominant ethnic groups of our city, Irish, Polish & Italian.

Three rooms, three bands and three different ways to have fun.

This is the party where we celebrate the three high holy days of March, St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day and Dyngus Day.

If you've never been to this event before you will be in for an afternoon and evening's fun filled excitement. Singers, dancers, pipers and great entertainment.

Genuine ethnic food and drink will be made available throughout the day-Corned beef, Italian and Polish sausage, Pierogis, Pasta and Guinness-all at reasonable prices.

This will be the 25th. year that this party will be held, and it continues to grow bigger and better each year.

So come join us and learn to do a Polka or a Tarantella or a Jig and have the time of your life.

All COVID protocols will be observed for this event.

This event is sponsored By

The Buffalo Irish Center

The Polka Boosters of WNY

The Federation of Italian American Societies of WNY

Time:

Sunday, March 24, 2024.
3:00PM. till 7:00 PM.

Location:

The Buffalo Irish Center
245 Abbott Rd. Rd.
Buffalo, NY 14220

Ticket prices:

\$10.00 in advance \$12.00 at the door.
Sorry no will calls.

For ticket information call:

Dan & Carol McCue 834-7664

Joyce Czarnecki 741-3001

Teresa Marcello 668-9451

The Tara Gift Shoppe 825-6700



HARRIS-GRIECO ACADEMY AND BUFFALO IRISH DANCE PARENTS ORGANIZATION

By Kristin Wells

It's almost our favorite time of year and the Harris-Grieco Academy and the Buffalo Irish Dance Parents Organization are busy preparing! Before we plunge into everything St. Patrick's we would like to congratulate our newest Open Champion dancer, Sophia Morin! We are so proud of Sophia and the Morin family's hard work and dedication. Welcome to champs, Sophia! With the New Year the parents tried something new, too! Parents (and some grandparents and aunts!) were able to brave the cold temperatures and heavy snow to work the La Nova stand at the January 15th Buffalo Bills playoff game. It was a long but very successful day with proceeds going to our dance families.

February will take two of our dancers, Reagan Luck and Brynn Berry, to Killarney for the All Ireland Championships. Clearly the focal point of the trip will be Irish Dance; however Reagan and Brynn will also be spending time sightseeing and soaking in some Irish culture firsthand while overseas. The Parents Organization asked Reagan (age 13) and Brynn (age 10) to write a few words about their experience. Here's what they had to say: "Hey, it's Reagan and Brynn here! We were given the opportunity to attend All-Irelands this February to compete internationally. We have been preparing and working our butts off for this competition. We have practices almost every day to prepare. We are so excited to compete internationally for the first time and represent Harris-Grieco. We are almost 3 weeks out and it's go time; we have put in extra class time to make sure everything looks great. We want to thank our teachers Ms. Jenn and Mrs. Rachael for

allowing us to go and pushing us to be the best we can possibly be. Also a huge thank you to our moms for letting us go, bringing us to class and for supporting us."

While the Lucks, Berrys and Griecos are in Ireland, Jennifer Mammoliti and the Harris-Grieco show team will be performing at the Guinness Toast on February 16th at the Buffalo Irish Center. Dancers from our littlest beginners to most experienced champions will be putting on a show to kick off the St. Patrick's season. We can't wait to celebrate at this fun event and hope to see you all there.

Show team practices are in full swing. Throughout the St. Patrick's season dancers will be performing all around Western NY at schools, nursing homes, private parties, corporate events, bars and restaurants. Here are just

(continued page 21)



Shamrock Run 2023

RACE DAY: Saturday March 2 2023

Tentative Start Time 12:00pm

Distance: 8K (4.97 miles)

USATF Certified Course
Results from www.score-this.com

REGISTRATION

Registration packets can be downloaded or picked up in person.
Please call for an appointment to submit your registration and pay in person.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

N/A

REGULAR REGISTRATION

\$35 (virtual)/\$40(in-person)

LATE REGISTRATION (Same Day)

\$40/\$45

****NO REFUNDS will be given, as the Shamrock Run is a fundraiser for the OFW Community Center. Thank you for your understanding.****



SOLD OUT 2023 Shamrock Run Garment



a few of the upcoming shows you can enjoy our dancers at:

-Platters Chocolates in North Tonawanda on Saturday, March 9th (11:00 am)

-Buffalo Irish Center March 15th (4:30 pm), 16th (4:30 pm) and St. Patrick's Day (7:30 pm)

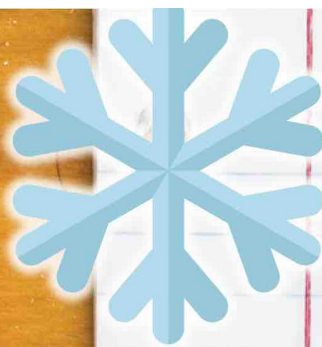
-Fattey Beer Company in Kenmore on Friday, March 15th (6:30 pm)

-Fattey Beer Company in Orchard Park on Saturday, March 16th (7:30 pm)

-New York Beer Project in Lockport on St. Patrick's Day (6:00 pm)

Our full schedule will be coming soon on our social media. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram! And of course we will see you at the Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade! Looking for memorable entertainment at your next event? Our dancers have charmed crowds all over WNY at venues big and small. Donations are accepted through our 501(c)(3) parent organization and are tax deductible with all proceeds benefiting Irish dance students and cultural events here in the Buffalo Area. For more information or to book a show, please visit www.buffaloirishdance.com or contact Erin Mansour, Booking coordinator, at buffaloirishdanceshows@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for updates from Ireland and Scotland (World Irish Dance Championships in Glasgow!). Wishing you all a Happy St. Patrick's season!



FREE AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAMS

**AT DOG EARS BOOKSTORE & LITERARY ARTS CENTER
688 ABBOTT RD. S. BUFFALO, NY (near Mercy Hospital)
For more info please contact Tom @ 716-341-3465**

- Programming will begin on **Tuesday, February 6th and will conclude on Thursday, May 23rd.**
- All sessions will be held from 3:30pm-5:30pm and are limited to 20 students per day.
- All sessions will be taught by literacy specialists and New York State Certified English Language Arts teachers.
- Three different days of programming will be offered by grade group, each day will target different skills.
 - + **Tuesdays will feature programming for youth in 3rd and 4th grades,**
 - + **Wednesdays will be targeted towards youth in 5th-6th grades.**
 - + **Thursdays will feature programming for youth in 7th-8th graders.**
 - + **There will be an opportunity to attend multiple days depending on capacity.**

Tuesday sessions for 3rd-4th graders will feature a guided book club where youth will learn tips and strategies on how to become better readers in a fun and interactive way.

On Wednesdays, 5th-6th graders will take part in Reader & Writer Workshops where they will read different short stories and learn strategies on how to become a short story author themselves. Special presentations will also be scheduled.

Thursdays for 7th and 8th graders include STEM projects where students will get interactive experiences and do hands on experiments that broaden the scope of traditional learning.

All sessions include homework prep and will include ELA and language based games and fun activities.

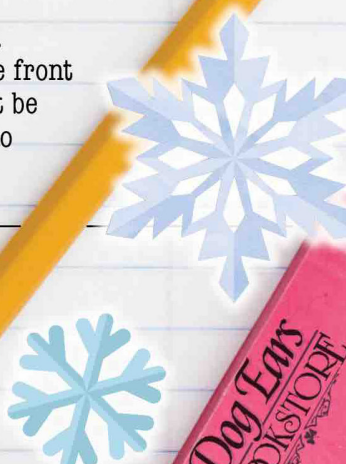
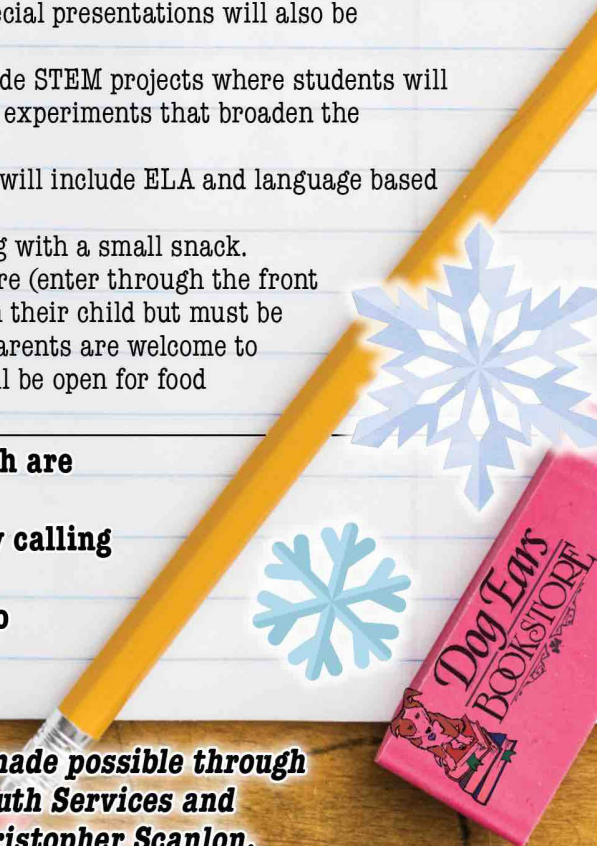
All class materials will be provided along with a small snack. Sessions will be held upstairs of the bookstore (enter through the front entrance). Adults do not need to attend with their child but must be mindful of the drop off and pick up times. Parents are welcome to wait for their children in the Café, which will be open for food and beverage purchases.

Pre-registration is required and youth are expected to attend each week.

Parents can sign up their children by calling the Bookstore at 716-823-2665.

When signing up, please make sure to indicate which day your child will be attending.

The free after school program is made possible through funding from Erie County Youth Services and South District Councilman Christopher Scanlon.



BUFFALO IRISH DANCE PARENTS ORGANIZATION

The Buffalo Irish Dance Parents Organization is thrilled to share that we are the recent recipient of a \$2,000 Give for Greatness Grant from Arts Services Inc. This grant was designed to provide general operating support to small nonprofit arts and culture organizations in WNY to help build their internal capacity. Thank you @asiwny for supporting our goals to better serve our community!!

For more information about ASI, please visit www.asiwny.org and follow ASI's Facebook page and Instagram (Arts Services Inc. - ASI)

Buffalo Irish Center

245 Abbott Road
Buffalo, NY 14220
716.825.9535

Always open to the Public!

Tuesday 5:00pm – Closing
Wednesday 5:00pm – Closing
Thursday 5:00pm – Closing
Friday 4:00pm – Closing
Saturday 2:00pm – Closing

Hope to see you there!

www.buffaloirishcenter.com



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Meet Board Member Michael. Michael has been involved in the center since the opening day, whether it's setting up, breaking down, or cleaning up after events. This was from being the son of father, Patrick (Paddy) O'Sullivan, one of the center's first bartenders.

A member of the St. Pat's Club, you can find him in the kitchen making pancakes for their Easter and Halloween events. In 2020, he was awarded their Unsung Hero award.

He is a member of the Knights of Equity and the United Irish American Association, serving as their Grand Marshal for the 2006 St. Patrick's Day parade.

In the summer you will often see him watering the flowers he planted in the boxes outside the center. We thank Michael for everything!



ST. PATRICK'S IRISH AMERICAN CLUB NEWS

By Marian Betrus

The St. Patrick's Irish American Club is sponsoring two events at the Buffalo Irish Center in March 2024. The St. Patrick's Day Mass will take place on Saturday March 16, 2024, at 10:30 AM in the Emerald Room. Father David Richards will be the celebrant and Kindred will provide the music. The traditional celebration of St. Patrick's Day Mass has been sponsored by the St. Pat's for many years. After the Mass, the Irish Center will again sponsor the traditional Irish breakfast. Tickets for the breakfast are available through the Irish Center.

A contingent of St. Pat's members and their family and friends will march in the United Irish American Association parade on March 17, 2024. Those who wish to march with the club should meet on Delaware Avenue near the McKinley circle. One of the members of the group will have the St. Pat's banner visible so group knows where to organize. The parade starts at 2:00 PM.



On Saturday, March 23, 2024, the St. Pat's will sponsor the Easter Bunny breakfast for children in the Emerald Room. The price of tickets will be \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children from 3 to 12 and children under three are free. Breakfast is from 10 AM to 12:00 PM and will include pancakes with real maple syrup, sausages, treats for the children and coffee, tea, and juice. The Easter Bunny will be attending the event and parents are welcome to take photos of their children with the Easter Bunny. Because of the popularity of this event, reservations are required. For parties of ten or more people, payment is necessary prior to the event to ensure your reservation. You can make your reservations, by contacting Marian Betrus at atbetrusm@msn.com. In addition to the delicious breakfast and the

Easter Bunny, see how the St. Pat's members have decorated the Emerald Room for the children and parents' enjoyment.

The St. Pat's will again sponsor a Children's Costume Halloween party on Saturday October 19, 2024.

The St. Pat's has a change in representation to the Board of Directors to the Irish Center. Margaret McGrath has retired from the board after years of service as representative from the St. Pat's The Club would like to thank Margaret for her dedication and years of service. The St. Pat's nominated Maggie Shea to replace Margaret. The St. Pat's would like to congratulate Maggie on her appointment to the board as the St. Pat's newest representative.