

buffalo irish times

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MAY 2023

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

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



By: UIAA

A Great Day for Buffalo and Western New York was celebrated with the 2023 Saint Patrick's Day Parade. It was a great family friendly day for Buffalo. Bishop Mike Fisher celebrated Mass at Saint Joseph's Cathedral with for the deceased members of the United Irish American Association to start the day.

It was a little chilly for the marchers but that didn't stop Grand Marshal Jim Wannemacher from enjoying the walk up Delaware Avenue with his family members as deputies. Jim chose his wife Lynn Wannemacher, Jim Ormond, Timothy Wannemacher, Patrick Wannemacher, Grace Wannemacher, Charlie Wannemacher and Melanie Ford as his deputies for this once in a lifetime honor.

This year the parade was dedicated to the memory of Margaret O'Sullivan. She was the daughter of the late Patrick O'Sullivan and Janet (Carlin) O'Sullivan. Margaret's daughter Heather Pascall-Nagy and Margaret's devoted companion, Peter Heffernan led the family marching in her honor. She had a very long history of enjoying and working on the Parade. We were very lucky to have Margaret as a Division Marshal coordinating Division 4 for many years, always willing to help where needed and always bringing that forever smile.

The theme of this year's parade was "Hail to St Patrick! God Bless America & our Troops! Thank you, Front Line Workers!"

The Awards Ceremony for the winning units judged by the NY-Penn Judging Association took place on Sunday, April 16, 2023 at the Buffalo Irish Center. The following is a list of this year's winning entries:

- Bishop Fisher Trophy Best Theme Float in memory of Margaret O'Sullivan: Rince na Tiarna
- Best Non-Theme Float in memory of Garry Johnson: Iron Workers Local #6
- Best High School Band in memory of John & Betty Mulvihill: Niagara Falls Wolverines
- Best Pipe Band in memory of Thomas & Eileen Courtney: Gordon Highlanders
- Best Men's Marching Unit in memory of Raymond & Catherine O'Brien: Blackthorn Club
- Best Women's Marching Unit in memory of Thomas & Carmel Johnson: Daughters of Erin
- Best Youth Marching Unit in memory of Thomas & Martha Harkin: Western NY Maritime Charter School
- Best Color Guard Unit in memory of Lt. Thomas Masterson: US Border Patrol
- Best First Responders Marching Unit in memory of Michael Roberts: Irish Professional Firefighters
- Best Military Unit in memory of Daniel Hannon: US Navy Seabees
- Best Labor Marching Unit in memory of Patrick Palladino: Buffalo Sewer Dept. - CWA 1186
- Best Animal Marching Unit in memory of Jerome & Marian Lyons: WNY Corgis

Please check out our website BuffaloStPatricksDayParade.com for information and an application to join us for the 2024 Saint Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 17th.

THE DOE FLASH MOB THE CHILDREN'S EASTER BREAKFAST

By Kathleen McDonald Shanahan

The BIC was filled with children eating pancakes and sausages, making Easter crafts and having their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny when members of the DOE, donned in Easter Bonnets and carrying baskets filled with Easter treats flash mobbed the breakfast singing "Easter Parade". When to our surprise and joy of not being booed or hit with a flying pancake the group sang "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" while handing out Easter treats to the children.

As we hopped out of the Emerald room we all agreed that we had as much fun as the children attending the breakfast did!



Back: Pat Sedoe, Patricia Wingate, Sue Brocken-shire, Mary Pat Lempko, June Brennan.

Front: Ellen Zawodzinski, Mary Ellen Reilly, Kathleen Shanahan, Peg Boorady, Mary Ellen Ulman.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH 2023 ♣ DELAWARE AVENUE, BUFFALO, NEW YORK



A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR...

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

The Old Neighborhood St. Patrick's Day may have been the windiest I can remember but the crowds made it enjoyable. I think the crowds were the largest I have ever witnessed. 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 James T. Wannemacher 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 2023 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

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BUFFALO IRISH FESTIVAL MEAT RAFFLE

Join us for a Meat Raffle fundraiser to benefit the Buffalo Irish Festival on Saturday, May 20. Doors open at 6 p.m. Raffle begins at 7 p.m. Reserve your table of 10 for \$80 or purchase individual tickets for \$10 each (plus Eventbrite fees). Admission includes beer, wine, pop, and desserts. Food will be available to purchase from the Buffalo Irish Center.

Tickets are online advance sale only, available to purchase at <http://bit.ly/3UdsGq7>. No tickets will be sold at the door. Seating is limited so get tickets while they last! Bring your dollar bills and a cooler for your winnings.

There will also be a Split Club, Basket Auction, and Special Raffle to win a cooler full of meat valued at \$200! Chances for the Special Raffle are \$5 each. Get a group of friends and neighbors together and be ready for a night of fun!

Questions? Text or call Judy Lubecki at 716-830-8881

2023 SOUTH BUFFALO IRISH FESTIVAL



KATE LOCONTI ALCOGER STEPS DOWN AS EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

LoConti Alcocer will transition to Advisory Director after July 31



BUFFALO, NY – The Irish Classical Theatre Company (ICTC) announced today that its Executive Artistic Director, Kate LoConti Alcocer, will be stepping down from the position at the end of the 2022-23 season due to family commitments. Her last day

will be July 31st, 2023. Kate has been an integral part of ICTC for many years and assumed the role of Executive Artistic Director in July 2020, following the retirement of co-founder and Artistic Director, Vincent O'Neill.

“It has been my honor to serve as Executive Artistic Director of Irish Classical,” LoConti Alcocer said. “I am immensely proud of what the Company has accomplished over these three years with the skill and talent of our Staff and Creative Professionals. I very much look forward to my new role at ICTC, and what the future holds.”

LoConti Alcocer will transition to the newly created role of ICTC Advisory Director next Season to continue supporting the company's initiatives on an as-needed basis, while continuing to share her creative talents onstage and as a director in the future.

“Kate has made extraordinary contributions to ICTC's success, and while we are saddened, we support and respect her decision,” said John Earshen, President of the ICTC Board of Trustees. “ICTC is committed to supporting Kate in her new endeavors, and we will continue to work closely with her to ensure a smooth transition.”

ICTC has begun the process for the new Artistic Director search, with details to be posted soon. During this time of transition, ICTC remains committed to maintaining high standards of production and supporting its staff and volunteers through the remainder of the 22/23 Season and looks forward to the newly announced 23/24 Season. The Board of Directors expresses its gratitude to Kate for her contributions and wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.

For more information about ICTC and its upcoming productions, visit www.irishclassical.com.



The 2023 South Buffalo Irish Festival will be held on Saturday, August 26th in Cazenovia Park. We are so excited to bring our headlining act, The Walker Roaders, to our neighborhood! James Fearnley, a co-founder and accordion player for The Pogues has teamed up with Flogging Molly co-founder and Grammy-Award-winning producer, Ted Hutt and Marc Orrell of the Dropkick Murphys to form The Walker Roaders. Their music interweaves the anthems of Celtic-Punk to the poetry of The Pogues. They're also joined by Kieran Mulroney on fiddle, Brad Wood on bass, and Bryan Head on drums. This is one you won't want to miss!

Join us for a day filled with live music, Irish Dancers, food by neighborhood restaurants, kid-friendly activities in our Kids Zone, traditional Irish music at our Trad Stage, and more while being immersed in Irish Culture! What sets The South Buffalo Irish Festival apart from so many other festivals like it is that admission is completely free and open to the public!

The South Buffalo Irish Festival is brought to you by South Buffalo Roots, a local non-profit. All funds raised at our event go directly back into the South Buffalo community in many ways. Last year we were able to donate to South Buffalo Community Table, Dog Ears Bookstore, Buffalo Refuse, Kids Escaping Drugs, 11 Day Power Play, Notre Dame Academy Sports Committee, Mt. Mercy Academy, Bishop Timon St. Jude, Olmsted Parks Conservancy, South Buffalo Baseball, Gaelic American Athletic Association, and many more!

We can't wait to see everyone on August 26th! Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @southbuffaloirishfestival for more lineup and real-time updates. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at southbuffaloirishfestival@gmail.com.

HIGH HOLY DAYS OF MARCH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY, ST. JOSEPH'S DAY AND DYNGUS DAY



Our 24th. Annual St. Patrick Joseph Dyngus Tri-Ethnic Fest was held on March 26th. at the Buffalo Irish Center.

The confluence of the three High Holy Days of March - St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day and Dyngus Day all celebrating the ethnic heritage of many Buffalonians.

The three rooms at the Center each had a different band. The Formula Band entertained in the Italian (Emerald Room), the Seven Polka Band graced the Claddagh Room and new this year in the bar we had the exciting Emerald Isle playing lots of Celtic favorites.

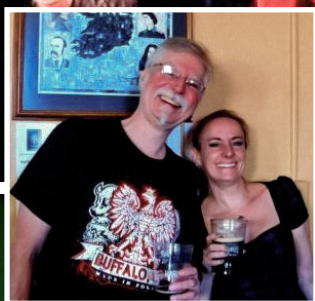
The event again this year had lots of traditional folk dancers in their native costumes.

The Rince Na Tiarna and Polish Heritage dancers graced the floor and put on quite a show to another sell out crowd.

The Channel 4 News crew showed up and took some great shots of the Center and all the festivities going on.

Next year will be the 25th. anniversary of the event and plans are now being made to put on quite an extravaganza.

The party is always the Sunday after the Parade. Come join us!



RINCE NA TIARNA

Spring has sprung, finally! The Rince Na Tiarna dancers had a fun filled month of March with three parades and over 70 performances! RNT won "Best in Show" at the Rochester Parade and "Best Float" in the downtown Buffalo parade. Dancers enjoyed performing for their schools and for local community organizations, but our most fun shows are always the ones at the Buffalo Irish Center. Huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to play music, announce, build floats and drive their busy dancers to shows.

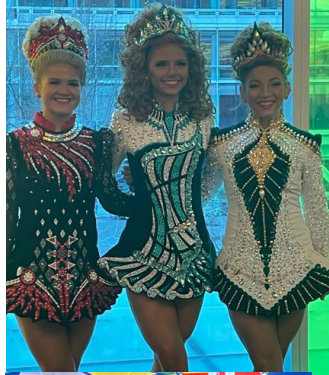
Without much time to spare, six RNT dancers headed off to the World Championships which were held in Montreal during Easter week. The dancers competed against the best in the world, including dancers from Ireland, England, Scotland, Australia, Netherlands, Japan as well as many other countries. Teachers and parents were so proud of all the Rince Na Tiarna dancers that represented Buffalo & USA.

Results were as follows:

- Ellie Pecor 6th in the world!!!
- Sean Ryan 16th
- Lochlan Davis 29th
- Mattie Pennington 32nd
- Addison Gerhardt 33rd
- Emerie Ficorilli

Dancers are back at class preparing for a busy feis season which kicks off at the end of April for most dancers. We are also looking forward to the Buffalo Feis on June 3rd where many of our newest dancers will be competing for the first time. To prepare these dancers, the 30th Annual Class Feis will be held on May 13th. This event helps train families on how a feis works as well as provides an opportunity for all dancers to show their family and friends how hard they have worked this year.

Rince Na Tiarna is accepting beginners into our youth and adult programs throughout the year. For more information, go to www.irishdancewny.com or email us.



This girl!
6th in the world 🌍



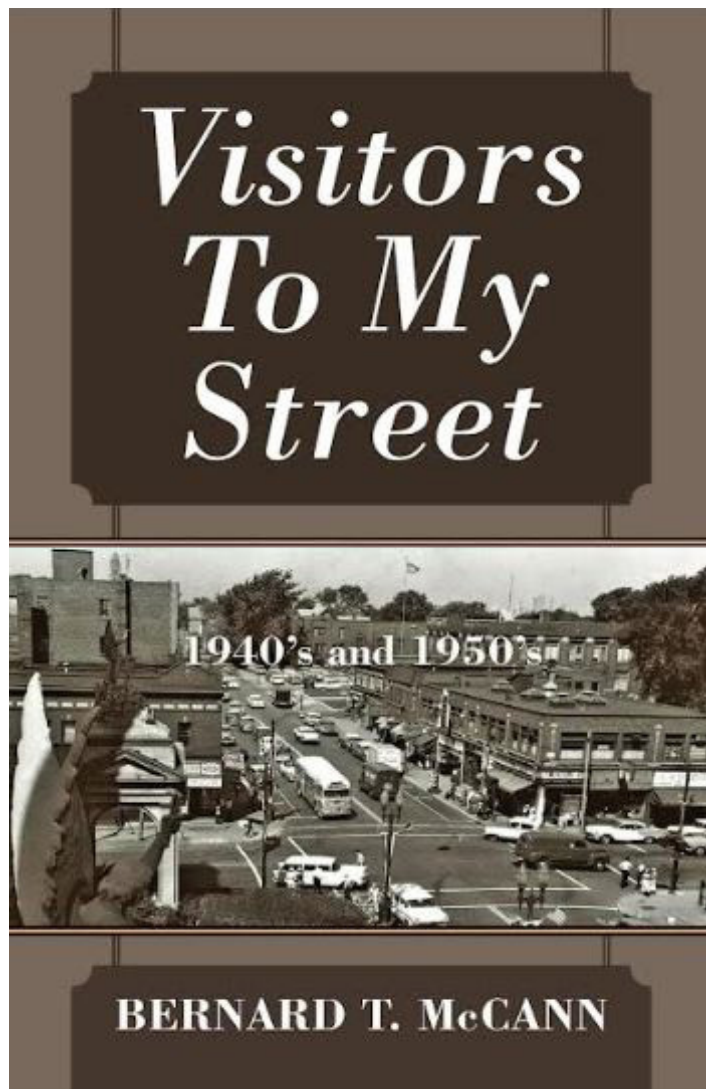

DOG EARS BOOKSTORE TO HOST LOCAL AUTHOR BERNARD McCANN

Bernard McCann, author of *Visitors To My Street*, will visit Dog Ears Bookstore & Café for a book-signing event from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 6. A nonprofit community bookstore, Dog Ears is located at 688 Abbott Road, Buffalo.

“The book sets forth stories of my early life in Lackawanna in the 1940s and 1950s,” said McCann. “The world was a very different place during that period. Many services, such as milk, eggs, bread and coal, were delivered right to your home. The number of young children on my street exploded as the Baby Boom was well underway. Life for kids was outside and they interacted with other kids. Games were plentiful and varied. Those of us from that era were the first to experience television and the last to enjoy radio programming. We were the first to fall under the spell of Rock and Roll and the last to still appreciate the Big Band sound. Take a step back in time as I share who and what visited my street, creating the rhythm of daily life in the immediate postwar period.”


A native of Lackawanna, McCann graduated cum laude from Niagara University in 1965 with a bachelor’s degree in history, and from Albany Law School with a J.D. in 1968. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army and later received a master’s degree in education from SUNY Albany in 1996. McCann practiced law for 28 years before beginning a 19-year career as a high school social studies teacher, and served one year as interim superintendent of schools. He was also an adjunct professor at both Canisius College and SUNY Plattsburgh. In addition to teaching, McCann served as a high school coach in multiple sports for over 30 years.

For more information on Dog Ears Bookstore, please visit dogearsbookstore.org or follow on Facebook for frequent updates.

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LAOH SPRING UPDATES

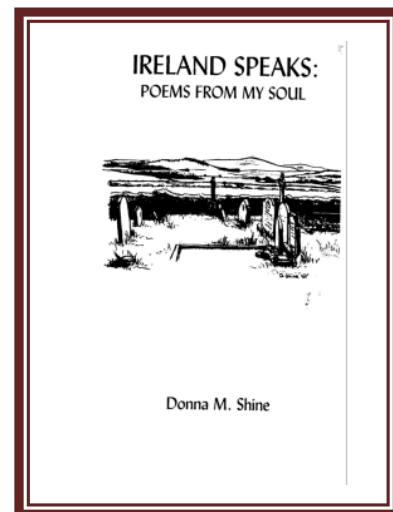
By Joyce Burke

Greetings from the Erie County Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians/LAOH! We have had a busy winter and spring. Bi-annually the national LAOH awards grants to worthy nonprofit organizations nominated by local divisions. This past year we worked with the South Buffalo Community Table to submit an application, and we are happy to announce that our application was accepted, granting the South Buffalo Community Table \$1000! Every penny will be put to good use, feeding the growing number of our Irish Center neighbors that are challenged daily with food insecurity as well as isolation. We hope you will join us in supporting The South Buffalo Community Table with your time and treasure.

Alternate years, the New York State LAOH awards similar smaller grants, with funds gathered from a combination of membership dues and fund-raising events. We have used what we learned from the national grant application process to dive into the NYS grant process - please wish us luck and we'll keep you posted. Locally, our LAOH is focused on charitable giving, but we are small in number. It's a blessing that we can leverage these national and state funds to help Western New York efforts.

We're looking forward to another successful Buffalo Irish Fest this summer. Please purchase your tickets early, consider volunteering, and encourage your favorite businesses to become a sponsor. See you there!

“...the magical journey to find my Irish ancestral grounds became the inspiration for IRELAND SPEAKS: Poems From My Soul.” Written, illustrated, published and signed by Donna M. Shine



\$13.00 (\$10 plus \$3 postage)

CONTACT:

Donna M. Shine

(716) 662-1164

Email: Dmshine@aol.com



Awarding \$1000 National LAOH grant to the South Buffalo Community Table



A CEILI DANCE TOOK OVER THE BIC WITH A ROAR AND A CROWD

By Kathleen M. Shanahan

If an outstanding Ceili dance includes talented musicians, energetic dancers, and an enthusiastically receptive audience, then on Saturday, April 22nd the Ceili dance at the Buffalo Irish Center scored a hat trick!

The Emerald room at the BIC was rocking with the Erie County Sheriff's Pipes and Drums as they opened the grand dance playing "Wearing of the Green" and "Scotland the Brave" for our opening dance the, Gay Gordan. Two of the most brilliant Ceili musicians in New York State, John Michael Ryan and Tim Ball took the stage next enchanting all the dancers with their reels, jigs, slides, and hornpipe tunes which kept the dancers feet moving as well as the audience's feet tapping.

Always the teacher, Katie Cunningham, called the Ceili dances, keeping all the dancers during the Walls of Limerick dancing their sevens to the appropriate wall instead of out the door or into each other and to say Ellen Scahill was at the top of her game would be an understatement as she tossed in some Irish humor regarding some of the elements of the Irish Set dances as she called them out. She also kept a fiery banter going with the musicians, making both the dancers and observers roar.

Irish Set dancing and Irish Ceili dancing are popular forms of Folk dancing in Ireland and are danced to Irish tunes. Set dances are done in groups of eight (full set) or four (half set). Ceili dances are based on hedges or pairs of lines and are round



dances, long line dances or quadrilles and have more the appearance associated with Irish step dance.

We are fortunate to have two very experienced and competent adult Irish dance teachers at the Buffalo Irish Center. Katie Cunningham teaches adult Irish step dance and adult Irish Ceili dance at the Buffalo Irish Center (see Buffalo Adult Irish Dancers Face Book page for information &

schedule) and Ellen Scahill teaches adult Irish Set dance at the Buffalo Irish Center Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM.

Three active groups within the Buffalo Irish Center, Buffalo Comhaltas, the Daughters of Erin and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians worked together hosting this dance and hope to see many more Ceili's at the BIC.



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 Buffalo
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THE DAUGHTERS OF ERIN MARCHING IN DIGNITY AT THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

By Kathleen McDonald Shanahan

The weather was cold, and the wind was blustery as the DOE lined up on Delaware Avenue to march in the 2023 Buffalo St. Patrick's Day parade. Proudly carrying the Daughters of Erin banner, the flag of Ireland and the American flag, over 25 DOE marched with dignity, accompanied by two DOE vehicles, while waving to all of the hardy spectators who lined the street to view the parade and cheer us on.

As we closed in on the parade finish line, we had many DOE dancing to the music all the way to the bus that was waiting to return us to the BIC.

We have high hopes of hearing that the spunky DOE march will net a marching award!



Daughters of Erin

Court 5



The Daughters of Erin is a philanthropic organization who promote Irish heritage and culture throughout the Buffalo, NY area as well as contributing to local charities and outreach programs through financial donations and service hours.

Monthly meetings and a variety of socials are held throughout the year.
New members are always welcome.

Contact: Kathleen McDonald Shanahan - President at 716 341 4931
Kathleen Leone - Financial Secretary at 702 327 4535

T I C K E T S

NOW ON SALE FOR 2023

BUFFALO IRISH FESTIVAL

This year's enhanced VIP experience includes admission for one person on one day of the festival, two free drinks, a Buffalo Irish Festival koozie and commemorative 20 oz. aluminum cup, access to an all-new exclusive VIP bar, premium bathrooms, and a preferred viewing section at the Main Stage.

Two entertainment stages will feature international, national, and local Irish musical acts including The Young Dubliners (Friday performance only), Tartan Terrors (Saturday performance only), The Glengarry Bhoys, The Byrne Brothers, Steel City Rovers, and Enda Reilly, as well as local Irish bands.

An expanded cultural tent will provide classes and workshops on Irish literature, language, and traditional music throughout the weekend. There will also be displays and lectures on local Irish history. The Tír na nÓg kids' tent will have family-friendly activities including Irish sing-alongs and cultural activities. Plus language lessons, a kid's introduction to Irish dance, and crafts.

Attendees can enjoy demonstrations with the Buffalo Fenians Gaelic Athletic Association and learn about their mission to preserve Gaelic Games and Irish culture in our community. There will also be a kids camp open to boys and girls ages 5-16 on both Saturday and Sunday where children will learn to play Gaelic football and hurling.

A vendor tent will feature shops and artisans selling Irish merchandise and wares. Food will

be available to purchase from The Banshee Irish Pub, Fat Bob's Smokehouse, and others. Beer, wine, pop, and water will also be available to purchase.

The festival is operated by the Buffalo Irish Center and the Irish Cultural and Folk-Art Association of WNY. Our not-for-profit event is run by volunteers who are deeply committed to promoting Irish heritage throughout Western New York. Thank you for your support!

Buffalo Irish Festival's Heritage Wall Invites Families to Become Part of Event History

Organizers of the Buffalo Irish Festival have a unique opportunity for individuals and families interested in preserving Irish heritage in our community. Donors can purchase a personalized stone in the Buffalo Irish Festival Heritage Wall, a timeless display that will be on view at the event for years to come.

For a \$200 donation, individuals and families can personalize a stone with a 25 character limit. Produced by John Kennedy of Kennedy Sign & Design, stones will be painted on 4 x 8 sheets of 3 mm aluminum composite panels that are weatherproof, rot, and warp proof. The stones form a standing wall surrounding a beautifully designed Celtic Tree of Life.

Stones must be purchased by June 25 for the 2023 festival. Send an email to info@buffaloirishfestival.com to request an order form.



Admission tickets are now on sale at www.buffaloirishfestival.com for the 2023 Buffalo Irish Festival, which will celebrate the best of Irish culture, music, dance, and history July 28-30 at the Lakeside Lawn on Buffalo's Outer Harbor. Festival hours are Friday 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Join us for one day or come for the entire weekend. The Parade of Flags will return to kick off the festivities on Friday and a traditional Irish mass will take place at 10 a.m on Sunday morning. Admission for mass is free, and admission for children ages 16 and under is free all weekend. Ticket prices are as follows:

- Friday Admission \$10
- Saturday Admission \$15
- Sunday Admission \$10
- Weekend Pass \$30
- Friday VIP Ticket \$50
- Saturday VIP Ticket \$50
- Sunday VIP Ticket \$50



buffalo fenians
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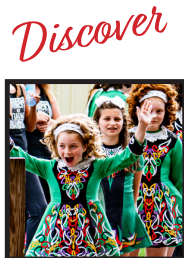
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THE DAUGHTERS OF ERIN

By Meme Riedy

The month of March was busy for the Daughters of Erin beginning with the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Dinner on March 4th as Stacie Sommer received the prestigious Tara Award, the Knights of Equity Irishman of the Year award was presented John Oakley and scholarships awarded to High School seniors Owen Close, Maeve Lembke, Claire McDonald and Jameson Zuber.

We enjoyed concerts featuring Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfetones, Screaming Orphans and Young Dubliners along with the festivities of the St. Patrick's Day weekend. The Daughters of Erin marched in the parade on a cold, blustery day in downtown Buffalo and received First Place in the Irish Women's Marchers category. Congratulations Ladies!

We also participated the annual St. Patrick's Easter breakfast and passed out treats to the children in attendance.

There are many activities planned in the coming months including the annual Calendar Luncheon, our largest fundraiser, on May 6th in the Buffalo Irish Center. Our chaplain, Fr. Bill Quinlivan, will celebrate the Memorial Mass for deceased members prior to our May meeting and we will enjoy a potluck dinner after our Initiation of New Members in June.

If you are Irish, Catholic and interested in the Daughters of Erin, join us on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Buffalo Irish Center.

DAUGHTERS
OF
ERIN



Buffalo, NY

UNITED IRISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION



Follow our parade on



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www.buffalostpatricksdaysparade.com

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

QUERIES

Anyone know Mike McBride the 1st Ward Terror?

The Buffalo News

Buffalo, New York · Friday, July 13, 1900

M'BRIDE THE TERROR AGAIN.

First Ward's One Legged Bad Man Once More Up for a Crime.

"Mike" McBride, the terror of the First Ward, fell into the clutches of the police again this morning, and in consequence he will spend the next two months in the Penitentiary. McBride is 39 years old and is a cripple, having lost his right leg in a railroad accident several years ago. In spite of that fact he is a powerful man, and few ever get the better of him in any kind of a scuffle.

His particular delight is to mix it up with policemen, and several carry scars on their faces and bodies as a result of trying to arrest him. Last fall McBride and several other pug-uglies attacked Patrolman Flynn of the Seventh Precinct. McBride unscrewed his wooden leg and beat Flynn over the head with it until the officer fell senseless to the street. Flynn was laid up for two months. McBride and his pals were arrested and were sentenced to spend 50 days in the Penitentiary. McBride has been sent down twice since. He finished serving his second sentence on Wednesday.

Andrew DeForest opened a new saloon on Hamburg street a week ago. McBride passed the place about midnight and saw three shupers of beer on the counter. He went in and drank two of them before DeForest could interfere with him.

DeForest demanded the price but McBride laughed in his face. Then DeForest threw him out, and as McBride landed on the sidewalk Sergt. Mostberger came along and arrested him.

"You're a bad egg," said Judge Graf when McBride was arraigned before him this morning. "The best thing I can do is to send you to the Penitentiary for 60 days. The next time you come up here I'll give you six months."

SCREAMING ORPHANS

Sunday, March 12th the Screaming Orphans played in the Buffalo Irish Center 245 Abbott Road.

This was their second appearance in less than a year at the Buffalo Irish Center.

Screaming Orphans are a Pop and folk band from Bundoran, County Donegal, Ireland. The band consists of the four Diver sisters – Joan, Angela, Gráinne



and Marie Thérèse. The group combines their own original melodic old-school pop songs with a modern take on traditional Irish music and song, inherited from their family roots.

They have released 14 albums and two EP's: Happy Christmas Vol. 1, Sunshine And Moss, Life in a Carnival, Taproom, Dance with Me e.p., Ballads Rule OK, Toy Theatre, Sliabh Liag, Lonely Boy, The Jacket's Green, East 12th Street, Belle's Isle, Circles, Back to Dublin, Screaming Orphans and Listen and Learn.

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MARGARET A. O'SULLIVAN

Margaret A. O'Sullivan passed away last June at the age of 54, after succumbing to a long illness. She was born and raised in South Buffalo, and was the second youngest of seven children. Her father, the late Patrick O'Sullivan, was originally from County Kerry, Ireland. Her mother, Janet O'Sullivan, hails from Glasgow, Scotland. Both parents immigrated to the United States at a young age.

Margaret attended St. Teresa's grammar school. At the age of seven, she began to have some difficulty with her health. Soon after came the diagnosis of Juvenile Diabetes, and the realization that she would require insulin for the rest of her life to remain alive. This is a prospect which may cause some people with the diagnosis to feel sorry for themselves, and fall into despair. Margaret did not choose that route. Having been raised in a family by a father who worked two jobs, and a mother who managed the household and fulfilled the role of nanny to an additional child, she learned the values of hard work and perseverance. She never sought sympathy for her condition, nor used it as any kind of crutch. She went on to attend Mt. Mercy Academy, and later earned an Associate's degree from Trocaire College.

In her early adult years, Margaret took her first full-time job with Exchange Mutual Insurance. She was devoted to her beloved daughter Heather Pascall-Nagy, and spent a great deal of her free time involved with Heather's Irish Dance, as the two of them often traveled out of town to attend feis activities. She also devoted time volunteering at St. Teresa's School. She went on to work for many years at Merchants Mutual Insurance, where she supervised the Direct Bill Department for a time, and later became an IT Analyst.

When Margaret was in her mid-thirties, her kidneys began to fail. It became apparent that she would require a kidney transplant in order to survive. Her siblings underwent testing to determine compatibility, which revealed that her brother, Rick, was a match. He did not hesitate to do what was necessary to provide his sister with the gift of life. It was appropriate that successful transplant surgery took place on Valentine's Day of 2005. As it turned out, the transplanted kidney, which Margaret affectionately referred to as "Little Rick", helped extend her life by 17 years!

Margaret was eager to share her story of love and courage with others to help educate them. She spoke to numerous groups on behalf of UNYTS (now known as ConnectLife), and volunteered time for that organization at events such as the Erie County Fair.

The O'Sullivan family have traditionally been very involved in preserving Irish Culture by being members of U.I.A.A., which among other things, is the organizing force behind the Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade each year. Margaret's father and brother Michael have each served as Grand Marshals of the parade. Margaret served along with siblings, nieces, and nephews as a Division Marshall for many years.

She loved the Buffalo Irish Center, where her father used to moonlight as a bartender. It was common to see Margaret there on a Friday or Saturday night with family and friends, enjoying drinks, music, and the friendly company of the staff and clientele.

People who live with diabetes, particularly Type 1 (Juvenile), face many challenges, and Margaret was no exception. Blood glucose levels can be very difficult to manage. There are "high and low sugar" episodes, accompanied by symptoms that usually leave one feeling horrible. There are days of feeling "off", sick, and just plain exhausted. It was not uncommon that these symptoms would become serious enough that hospitalization would be required.

It was a cross that was almost unbearable at times, but Margaret insisted on carrying it on her own. She never burdened family or friends with complaints, or behaved in a way to let others know how tough she had it. Instead, one of her greatest defenses was her sense of humor. She enjoyed pulling pranks on her friends, and singing songs while substituting her own bizarre lyrics. You could always count on her to tell a joke, or a crazy story in order to get others to laugh.

When members of four generations of the family would gather for dinner on Wednesdays at the O'Sullivan house, and someone would grouse about how tough things were, Margaret would snap back with her favorite response "Weakness will not be tolerated in this family"! She practiced what she preached.



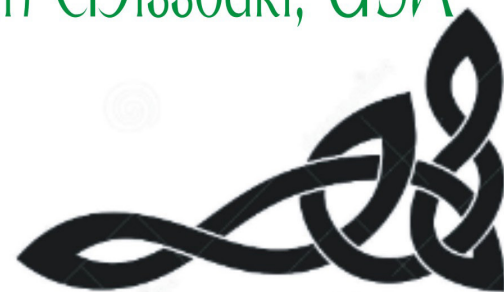
Peter Heffernan & Margaret O'Sullivan

Margaret is survived by her long-time partner and companion Peter Heffernan, her mother, daughter, six siblings, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Her two grandsons Quinn and Connor were the absolute light of her life. She also had two "adopted" grandsons, Hunter and Caleb who she loved as her own. And finally, there is her grand-dog Trixie. She would remind people that "I really don't like dogs – just Trixie".

Donations would gladly be accepted in her memory to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

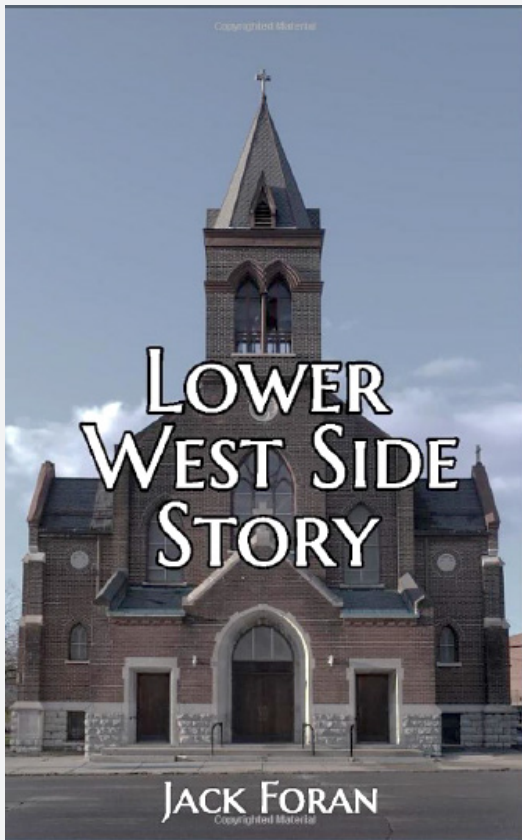


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Early on the morning of the first day of the new year and new decade 1960, Father Vincent L. Belle, a popular young assistant pastor at the solidly Italian Holy Cross parish on the lower west side of Buffalo was shot dead as he set out to take Communion to shut-ins on the Catholic Church holy day. It remains to this day an unsolved murder.

A few weeks before the incident, a crudely lettered sign in pidgin Italian was posted anonymously in the back of the church accusing one of the priests—apparently Father Belle—of unspecified wrongdoing. The church pastor later said he had talked to Father Belle about the accusation and was convinced there was nothing to it.

The sign turned out to be the work of an illiterate old man who was said to have conceived animosity toward Father Belle because he imagined the priest was interfering in his—the oldman’s—illicit endeavor to woo a married woman parishioner and mother of eight. The old man was said to have imagined Father Belle was having an affair with the woman. Based on the somewhat bizarre blend of accounts and allegations, the old man was formally accused of the homicide.

Lower West Side Story recounts an intellectual adventure personal quest investigation of a cold case murder that amid persistent factors of enigma and stonewall ultimately veers off in a new direction—or directions—to discover more cogent answers to more pertinent questions about this more than half a century old unsolved crime.

PERSONAL QUEST CHRONICLE PROBES PRIEST MURDER

By Kevin J. O’Brien

It was back in the 1970s. Then fledgling newspaper reporter and novice marathoner Jack Foran got to know newly ordained Catholic priest and fellow aspirant athlete Dan Walsh running in Delaware Park.

Father Walsh was assigned temporarily to Holy Cross parish on the lower West Side, where a decade or so earlier an assistant pastor in the parish was murdered in cold blood. It was then—and still is—an unsolved crime. But thinking about it, and looking up the newspaper stories about it at the time, Foran determined to figure out who did the murder, and eventually write up the story.

“Or that was the idea,” Foran said in a recent interview with Buffalo Irish Times. “But solving the case wasn’t that easy.” What Foran ended up with after much time and effort was just a thick file of newspaper stories xeroxed from library microfilm, some interviews with officials still around who might possibly know something about the case, and pages of notes and draft, consigned to a shelf for years.

Until COVID, when with time on his hands, and not doing much else, he decided to get back to the murder case. Reread all the mate-

rial, rethink the matter through, and figure it out, once and for all, and write it up.

“So you do the preliminaries—again for the umpteenth time—and think about writing. Where you want to go with the story. What you want to say. Plotting it out.

“But somehow still not quite getting there. Not quite figuring it out. The mystery. That you’re trying to figure out. What you’re trying to say.

“But then if you’re lucky—this actually happens in writing—can happen—sometimes the story itself takes over, and tells you what it wants to say. The real story. Maybe a bigger story—more important story—even than you were trying to tell.

“About a murder, but more about the cover-up. About the church. Church officials. But also civil officials. The police and the DA.

“So not just a murder—if you can talk about murder that way—but that was just one crime. But hundreds—or more likely thousands—of other crimes—also felonies—of clergy sexual abuse of minors in Buffalo and area over the past half a century at least. That cover-up.”

Jack Foran’s book is called Lower West Side Story. It’s available from local bookstores and from Amazon.



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HARRIS-GRIECO ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE



By Kristin Wells



The Buffalo Irish Dance Parents Organization is a non profit organization who operates through fund-raising efforts, proudly supports the dancers of Harris-Grieco Irish Dance Academy and contributes to the Irish American Cultural traditions of our community.

In 2022, Clann Na Cara merged with the Harris-Grieco Academy in an effort to combine forces for the greater good of the students. Approaching one full year as a united school, The Harris-Grieco Academy of Irish Dance is under the direction of Rachael Grieco of the UK and Ireland and Jennifer Mammoliti from right here in Buffalo. Classes are taught in Kenmore, Williamsville and Orchard Park for boys and girls starting as early as age 4.

While not required, many of the Harris-Grieco dancers choose to compete in Feiseannas. Dancers successfully represented Harris-Grieco Academy at Feiseanna all over the Northeast in all levels of competition. Additionally, this past year the school has participated in the Mid-Atlantic Region Oireachtas in Philadelphia and currently has dancers preparing for the North American



Dancer Carly Koneski "getting air" at a St. Patrick's season show at Platters Chocolate.

Irish Dance Championships in Nashville, Tennessee this July. Throughout the year dancers have performed at festivals such as Buffalo Irish Festival and Niagara Celtic Festival. After a successful St. Patrick's Day season which kicked off with dancing at the Guinness Toast at the Buffalo Irish Center, Harris-Grieco performed shows all over Western NY at schools, nursing homes, community centers, restaurants, bars and private parties. The Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade was a memorable highlight of the season. Immediately following their busiest time of year, a team of Harris-Grieco dancers began rehearsing for the distinguished honor of performing with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and dancers from a variety of genres. On April 1st the one of a kind show "Dance the Night Away" took place at Kleinhans Music Hall and was an experience the dancers, their instructor and families will surely never forget.



Dance The Night Away with the BPO and dancers showcasing styles from all over the world. This event took place April 1st at Kleinhans Music Hall.



The Harris-Grieco Academy and Buffalo Irish Dance Parents Organization are looking forward to kicking off summer at the Ken-Ton Memorial Day Parade next month. More information on the school, our events and more can be found at <https://www.buffaloirishdance.com> and <http://www.bfloidparentsorg.com> or by following the Academy and Parents Organization Facebook and Instagram pages.



Harris-Grieco owners and Instructors Rachael Grieco and Jennifer Mammoliti.



4 year old Claire Del Plato



IRISH CLASSICAL

T H E A T R E C O M P A N Y

2023 - 2024 SEASON

BETRAYAL

By Harold Pinter

February 23, 2024 – March 17, 2024

**Directed by ICTC Associate Director
Greg Natale**

Emma has been having an affair with her husband Robert's close friend, Jerry, for seven years. Told in reverse-chronological order, Pinter's semi-autobiographical play explores relationships' layered lies and all the complexities that come with them. ICTC Associate Director Greg Natale directs a powerhouse cast featuring Anthony Alcocer, Steve Copps, Aleks Malejs, and John Profeta.

Speaker Series: Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 1:30 pm.

ASL/Open Captioned Performance: Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:30 pm.

The Irish Classical Theatre Company is thrilled to announce its 33rd Season, a selection of powerful, intimate stories that span the range of the human condition.

BELFAST GIRLS

By Jaki McCarrick

September 22, 2023 – October 15, 2023

Directed by Kyle LoConti

The year is 1850, and five young women seek to escape the famine in Ireland aboard a ship bound for Australia. As they sail toward the promise of new lives in Sydney, they struggle to leave their pasts behind. Award-Winning Director Kyle LoConti makes her ICTC main stage directorial debut with this heartfelt, new Irish play, starring Robyn Baun, Cassie Cameron, Solange Gosselin, Lily Jones, and Renee Landrigan.

Speaker Series: Sunday, October 1, 2023, at 1:30 pm.

ASL/Open Captioned Performance: Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 7:30 pm.

FAITH HEALER

By Brian Friel

January 5, 2024 – January 28, 2024

**Directed by ICTC Co-Founder
Josephine Hogan**

An ICTC favorite, Faith Healer tells the story of Francis Hardy, a Faith Healer who travels around the British Isles offering redemption to those who are sick and suffering. Told in four monologues by Francis; his stage manager, Teddy; and his wife, Grace, Faith Healer is an Irish meditation on the role and responsibility of the artist in society. Long-time ICTC favorite Paul Todaro returns to The Andrews Theatre as the titular character, joining ICTC Artistic Director Emeritus Vincent O'Neill as Teddy, and Margaret Massman as Grace, under the direction of ICTC Co-Founder Josephine Hogan.

Speaker Series: Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 1:30 pm.

ASL/Open Captioned Performance: Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 7:30 pm.

“MASTER HAROLD”... and the Boys

By Athol Fugard

November 10, 2023 – December 3, 2023

Directed by Aaron Mays

One of Athol Fugard's masterpieces, “Master Harold”... and the Boys is a coming-of-age drama that explores the relationship between Hally, a white teenage boy, and Sam and Willie, two middle-aged black waiters who work in his mother's tea room, during apartheid-era South Africa. When Hally learns his troubled alcoholic father is returning home from the war, he takes it out on Sam and Willie exposing a long history of hatred. A Tony Award Nominee for Best Play, Sam Fesmire, Vincenzo McNeill, and Gerald Ramsey star in Aaron Mays' ICTC directorial debut.

IRISH CLASSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

BELFAST GIRLS

JAKI McCARRICK



Season Artwork by Michael Gelen,
Inkwell Studios.

THE PRICE

By Arthur Miller

April 19, 2024 – May 12, 2024

**Directed by ICTC Associate Director
Fortunato Pezzimenti**

One of Arthur Miller's rarely produced but powerful plays, *The Price* introduces us to Victor and his estranged brother, Walter, as they reunite after 30 years to sell their parents' estate. Surrounded by the individual motives of Victor's wife and an octogenarian antique dealer, tensions rise as Victor must face the sacrifice he made for his father. Award-Winning Actors Kate LoConti Alcocer, Todd Benzin, Tom Loughlin, and Ben Michael Moran star, directed by ICTC Associate Director Fortunato Pezzimenti.

Speaker Series: Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 1:30 pm.

ASL/Open Captioned Performance: Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 7:30 pm.

PRIVATE LIVES

By Noël Coward

June 7, 2024 – June 30, 2024

**Directed by ICTC Associate Director
Chris Kelly**

Elyot and Amanda are both happily married... for the second time. Both honeymooning with their new spouses Sibyl and Victor, the couple finds themselves staying in adjacent rooms at the same hotel. Despite a volatile history, this chance encounter reignites their flame, causing chaos for their new spouses. ICTC Associate Director Chris Kelly leads a dynamite cast, featuring Anna Fernandez, Chris Hatch, Maria Pedro, Darryl Semira, and Jenn Stafford in this fun and fresh take on Noël Coward's classic comedy to finish our 33rd Season.

Speaker Series: Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 1:30 pm.

ASL/Open Captioned Performance: Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 7:30 pm.



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Subscriptions are currently available for Current Subscribers and will go on sale to all on April 17, 2023. For more information, visit www.irishclassical.com.

Up Next:

Thurgood opens at The Andrews Theatre on March 31 and plays through April 16, 2023, with an ASL interpreted and Open Captioned performance on Thursday, April 13 at 7:30pm. Curtain times are 7:30pm, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 3pm Saturdays, and 2pm Sundays. Tickets are \$49 and can be purchased online at www.irishclassical.com, by phone at 716-853-4282 or in person at the ICTC Box Office from 10am - 5pm Monday-Thursday, 12pm - 8pm Friday. Student/Senior/Veteran/Industry discounts are also available.

About ICTC:

Celebrating its 32nd Season, the Irish Classical Theatre Company presents outstanding live productions at The Andrews Theatre, Western New York's only true theatre-in-the-round, where you are never more than 10 feet from the stage. ICTC creatively pivoted during the COVID-19 pandemic, remaining culturally relevant as an artistic leader in the Community and offering Buffalo Spree's “Best Production of a Classic Play” for *Waiting for Godot* in their 2021 Best of WNY Poll.



Brutal low temperatures, crazy high winds, mobs of parade fans? No problem for the Erie County Sheriff's Pipes &

Drums in their return to the Valley St. Patrick's Day parade as they escorted the large contingent of Erie County Sheriffs. At close to 2 miles, the route was longer than last year and heavily attended by cheering fans of the Irish. It was a grand day for the many organizations and people who turned out for the big traditional event. The crowds spirits were boosted by the bright sunshine and lack of rain. No one seems to mind the occasional white flakes. The boisterous crowds enjoyed hearing the music of the pipers and drummers as much as the band was thrilled to play there.

THE EASTER RISING

not starry-eyed idealists playing at rebellion. These men knew that afterwards, their lives were forfeit. They must have hoped that their grand gesture would galvanize the Republic, and so it did. From the ashes of their graves rose the soaring Phoenix of a New Ireland that in a few short years would become a nation once again, after some seven hundred years of captivity. Bless these men and women for their grand gesture at the rising of the moon.

And so, at Easter time, those of Irish descent also think of these brave men and women who gave birth to a nation. And always ever in our ears is and will be the stirring, martial lilt of the old IRA fight song, "The rising of the moon."

SINN FEIN REBELLION IN IRELAND.

THE HISTORY



LORD WINBORNE SIR MATTHEW

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

...of the rebellion...
...of the rebellion...
...of the rebellion...

By Joseph Xavier Martin

During Easter week of 1916, a small band of Irish rebels seized the post office and several buildings in Dublin, Ireland. It wasn't the first rebellion in Ireland against the British Empire. Several others, including the violent uprising of 1798, under famed Irishman Wolfe Tone, had tried to throw off British rule. All of the rebellions had been forcefully suppressed by full-scale military units of the British Army.

England had invaded and occupied Ireland during the 12th century under the British monarch Henry II. The seven hundred year occupation was not marked by any generosity to the native Irish. Their lands were taken away, their right to vote, to own property, practice their religion and to exist as anything other than a serf was removed. The poverty and early death during this period was horrendous.

But, the spark of Irish nationalism remained in the land. Irish patriots had emigrated in large numbers to America and Australia. Several achieved considerable success. All remembered from whence they had come and founded various Fenian movements, dedicated to freeing Eire from British rule.

Rueful British authorities acknowledged that there was a Republic of Eire within the United States. In 1867, a large Fenian force invaded Canada from Buffalo, New York, intent on forcing England to leave Ireland. After a few early successful forays, around Ft. Erie, Ontario, the Fenian force was routed by regular British Army forces, stationed at nearby Ft.

cotton merchants had supported the South in the American Civil war. Some Canadian historians today surmise that these events, after the Fenian invasion, had prompted Queen Victoria, uncertain and apprehensive of an actual invasion of Canada by the United States, to have enacted in the British Parliament, the Act of Union legislation that created the Dominion of Canada in 1867, as part of the British Commonwealth.

Still, the Fenian movement gathered strength, even after periodic defeats. The Irish rebels felt that a revolt during the midst of the horrors of W.W. I would be successful in achieving their goal of independence. They were proved wrong. It was a brave but futile exposition of nationhood, put on my men and women who knew it was but one more "beau geste" in the long process that would one day free Eire forever. Some like to describe it as a failed event brought on by poor communication and missed opportunities. But, I don't think so. Clark, Pearse, Connelly and the other Irish rebels were all hard as nails revolutionaries, tempered by the steel of stays in British Prisons,

George. The U.S. Naval gunboat "Michigan" had been anchored in the Niagara River, to shut off reinforcements and munitions to the Fenians. It was a questionable intervention by the U.S. government, some said at the behest of the British Crown.

It was a time of international uncertainty. The American civil war had just been concluded. There was considerable animus, on the part of America, towards the British whose

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RARE BOOK OF IRISH ART AND POETRY MAKES ITS WAY TO WESTERN NEW YORK

Estate sale find will be the topic of lecture at Buffalo Irish Center

A rare book that is a fine example of Irish artistry and scholarship has been acquired by Walker Metalsmiths in Andover, NY. The *Cromlech on Howth* is a beautifully illustrated and illuminated poem published in 1861.

Stephen Walker will be featuring this book in a lecture, *Weaving the Endless Knot; the Folklore of Celtic Art*, at the Buffalo Irish Center May 3 at 7 PM. This presentation is a preview of Walker's contribution to an international gathering of Celtic artists and scholars this June in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland. The *Cromlech on Howth* book is a time capsule that informs of the attitudes and imagination that inspired the revival of medieval Celtic art in the middle of the 19th century.

Stephen Walker, founder of the Andover, NY Celtic jewelry business, used images from *The Cromlech on Howth* in several prior presentations on Celtic art. This famous book is difficult to find in well preserved, intact condition. Few were printed and some of those have been dismembered so that their most beautiful color plates can be sold individually. Walker says, "I have been looking for a complete copy of this book for many years. The one I finally was able to purchase had been in the library of a Highland Scottish gentleman who recently passed away."

Three generations of Irish antiquarians and artists collaborated to create this book. The book combines the talent of poet Sir Samuel Ferguson, 1810-1886, with that of artist Miss Margaret Stokes, 1832-1900, and Dr. George Petrie, 1790-1866, who provided antiquarian commentary.

Artwork by Henry O'Neill, 1798-1880, will also be displayed and discussed along with examples of 19th century Celtic jewelry. The survival and evolution of Celtic art, its importance in national and ethnic identity and the mysterious symbolism of this complex tradition will be presented.



Stephen Walker with the *Cromlech on Howth*, a rare book he recently acquired.

Weaving the Endless

Knot:

*The Folklore of
Celtic Art*

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

7:00 pm

at the

Buffalo Irish Center

Stephen Walker, of Walker Metalsmiths in Andover NY, is a researcher and writer whose focus is on the folklore of modern Celtic art and the technical mysteries of Medieval Celtic metalwork. His talk will focus on *The Cromlech on Howth*, a beautifully illustrated and illuminated poem published in 1861.

This masterpiece combines the talent of poet *Sir Samuel Ferguson*, 1810-1886, with that of artist *Miss Margaret Stokes*, 1832-1900, and *Dr. George Petrie*, 1790-1866, who provided antiquarian commentary. The presentation is a preview of Walker's upcoming contribution to a gathering of Celtic artists and scholars at the *Second International Day of Celtic Art Conference* (June 8-11) hosted by The Saint Patrick Centre in Downpatrick.

(Admission at the Irish Center is free.)



Walker's lecture will be part of the Second International Day of Celtic Art Conference hosted by the Saint Patrick Centre in Downpatrick. Artists and scholars involved in the study and creation of Celtic art will meet from June 8-11 to share information and encouragement of this ancient art form.

The program at the Buffalo Irish Center is free to the public with no reservations necessary. The presentation should last about 40 minutes, followed by some time for questions and socializing. Refreshments will be available. Buffalo Irish Center is at 245 Abbott Road.