
MOHAWK VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL EVENTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2007

Man! What a busy month – lots of stuff to tell you about. So sit back, relax, grab a glass of stout or a cup of Twinings and get ready for the biggest issue we've ever put together...starting with the biggest Irish Festival ever put together!

Eileen Ivers, Enter The Haggis Top Three-day Lineup

As the saying goes, you can't have too much of a good thing. At least that's what organizers of the Great American Irish Festival are hoping, as they have added a third day for this summer's edition of the wildly successful festival.

The 2007 Great American Irish Festival will be held on Friday, July 27, Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort. The unprecedented and meteoric growth of the Great American Irish Festival made the decision to add a third day an easy one. "People asked for it and we listened," said Festival Director Matthew Sullivan. "With three days of entertainment, there is sure to be something for everyone. Where else can you get three days of world class entertainment at these prices?"

Festival-goers have an opportunity to make it an even bigger bargain, as a limited number of advance-sale tickets are available now for \$20 for the entire three-day festival, and once those tickets are gone, that price won't come around again. "This is a great value, and the lowest price that will be offered for the 4th annual fest," noted Assistant Festival Director Kevin Dowling. "You don't want to pass it up."

The festival committee has chosen as its theme for this year's festival the Great Hunger – the famine of 1847 – to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the worst year of the potato blight that decimated much of the Irish population. Displays will be on hand depicting the elements of this tragedy. Also, new this year will be the addition of a Gaelic Mass to be held at 10:30 on Sunday morning. Those attending the mass will receive free admission to Sunday's activities. But even with the culture and the history, for many of the festival attendees, the focus is on the music, and once again they will not be disappointed.

As announced at the Halfway to GAIF Hooley on January 28th, this year's outstanding lineup is as follows:

EILEEN IVERS AND IMMIGRANT SOUL Eileen Ivers has been called a "sensation" by Billboard magazine and "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin" by The New York Times. Nine Time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion, London Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony at The Kennedy Center, Boston Pops, musical star of Riverdance, The Chieftains, Hall and Oates, Afrocelts, Patti Smith, Paula Cole, Al Di Meola, Steve Gadd, founding member of Cherish the Ladies, performed for Presidents and Royalty worldwide ...this is a short list of accomplishments, headliners, tours and affiliations that have established her as the pre-eminent exponent of the Irish fiddle in the world today.



The daughter of Irish immigrants, Eileen Ivers grew up in the culturally diverse neighborhood of the Bronx, New York. Rooted in Irish traditional music since the age of eight, Eileen proceeded to win nine All-Ireland fiddle championships, a tenth on tenor banjo and over 30 championship medals, making her one of the most awarded persons ever to compete in these prestigious competitions.

Her virtuoso playing electrifies crowds wherever she plays, and she is matched every step of the way by her all-star band, as they seamlessly blend African and Latin percussion and bass, Irish instrumentals, and American soulful vocals. It is no exaggeration when the Washington Post writes of Eileen Ivers, “She suggests the future of the Celtic fiddle.”

ENTER THE HAGGIS

From the minute they take the stage, the non-stop infectious energy of Enter the Haggis makes it impossible for anyone to stay seated. Returning to the Great American Irish Festival by overwhelming popular demand, Enter the Haggis has built an international touring and recording career based on its unique approach to Celtic-based music and high-energy performances. The group is no stranger to the stage, as their constant touring schedule has made them one of the biggest draws at Celtic and folk festivals throughout the world, and their recordings have been no less successful. After the success of the band’s 2002 recording “Enter the Haggis -Live!,” the group teamed up with JUNO nominated producer Joao Carvalho to record its fourth album, “Casualties of Retail” in 2004. The result, which featured the catchy bluegrass-fusion singles “Another Round” and “Gasoline” as well as driving Celtic-rock instrumentals that showcase the group’s arranging and performance talent, was followed by their most ambitious and successful recording yet. “Soapbox Heroes,” released in 2006, once again establishes the band as possessing tremendous flexibility while not abandoning their respect for the traditional Celtic genre. In addition to their recordings, Enter the Haggis has also recently become stars of the small screen. A television special on the group titled “Live at Lanigan’s Ball” has aired on PBS affiliates throughout the U.S. and Canada, and the band was recently featured on A&E’s twice Emmy nominated “Breakfast With The Arts” program.



THE PRODIGALS

The Prodigals are one of the most successful bands to emerge from the East-Coast Irish scene. The band combines brilliant original lyrics and melody with a genuine passion for the traditional music of Ireland and a funky energy that is pure New York. The roots of the music are unmistakably traditional Irish; the branches that shoot off delve into rock, worldbeat, jazz and punk, and the result has been called “the best Irish trad-rock band” by no less a source than the Village Voice. Dubbed “the kings of jig-punk,” The Prodigals have played throughout the United States, headlining the world’s largest Irish festivals, and recently received the #1 ranking by readers of the largest circulation Irish-American newspaper, the Irish Echo, beating out acts such as U2, the Saw Doctors, Black 47 and Van Morrison.



GLENGARRY BHOYS

“Hard-rocking” and “bagpipes” are not two terms generally heard in the same sentence, but with the Glengarry Bhoys, it’s appropriate. The Glengarry Bhoys have established themselves through a devoted work-ethic of touring and recording as one of the top draws on the Irish festival and club circuit. The Bhoys have their roots in Glengarry, Ontario and their music draws on the unique blend of the French and Scottish musical heritage indigenous to the area. Their blend of traditional music, fused with the multicultural sounds of modern and contemporary Celtic music, has brought them international acclaim. Fiery guitar and bass, intense percussion and fiddle, teamed with pipes and vocals, make for a memorable performance.



PADDY NOONAN For decades, Paddy Noonan has ranked as America's best known and best loved performer of Irish dance music. From his early days in the great ballrooms and dance halls of New York through to his grand national tours of today, Paddy has made countless numbers of dancers take to floor, and provided a musical soundtrack to Irish American life for generations.



HAIR OF THE DOG Over the past decade Hair Of The Dog has entertained thousands of fans of all ages with their unique blend of Celtic, rock, folk and bluegrass music. Their high energy sound, smooth four-part harmonies and tight instrumental attack has made them America's number one Irish folk band, and an international success as well. The band has sold thousands of their CDs, pitching them from stages shared with The Clancy Brothers, Seven Nations, Black 47, The Wolfe



Tones, The Young Dubliners, Solas, The Paperboys, The Prodigals, Off-Kilter and the like. They tour Ireland annually, they've been to the Caribbean and they've appeared in concert at pubs and festivals across the US, including The Chicago Gaelic Park Festival, The Bethlehem Pennsylvania Celtic Classic, The Cleveland Summer Fest, The Hunter Mountain Irish Festival, The Coney Island Great Irish Fair, Irish 2000 Music And Arts Festival, The Capital District Scottish Games and the East Durham Irish Festival. The Albany NY-based Hair Of The Dog is a complete evening's entertainment, balancing humor with beautiful ballads, hot picking with Irish sing-alongs. Onstage or on disc, few acts can match half the fun or the musicianship of Hair Of The Dog. Perhaps that's why they've had standing room only houses at every headlining gig for the past two years and counting.

THE ELDERS The Elders, the most popular Irish band throughout the Midwestern United States, are a six-man group that melds the energy of rock with respect for Irish musical traditions. The Kansas City-based group has become famous for their high-energy rock shows that exude a fiery Celtic-influence and comical story telling that is true to the culture they represent. The Elders released their sixth album, Racing the Tide, in mid-2006, which has already secured a national distribution deal that will expose the sextet to the rest of the United States, and the band has been garnering accolades everywhere, ranging from top album of the year on paddyrock.com to second place in the most recent Celtic Music Awards, beating out such bands as Dropkick Murphys, Flogging Molly and Great Big Sea. The group consists of Norm Dahlor (bass, banjo, guitar and vocals), Brent Hoad (violin, mandolin and vocals), Joe Miquelon (keyboard and saxophone), Steve Phillips (guitar, mandolin and vocals) and Tommy Sutherland (drums and percussion) and, from County Wicklow, Ireland, Ian Byrne, (vocals and percussion).



GREENWICH MEANTIME Greenwich Meantime was brought together when Shelley Downing, James Libbey and Steph McAlear, then members of the Glengarry Bhoys, felt a need to follow their own musical ambitions. This sparked the interest of Nigel Gibson, also formerly of the Bhoys. Nigel



signed on and former "Haggis" frontman Nick Matthew completed the quintet. Based out of Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, GMT grew up in traditional Celtic and French Canadian music country, and that influence is evident in the music they write and perform. The band has set their sights on staying true to their Celtic roots, while making use of all their creative resources. As a result of that dedication, Greenwich Meantime has become one of the fastest rising acts on the Celtic music scene.

SEARSON Searson brings Celtic music to the edge. Raw power, energy and band chemistry ignite and unite this multi-talented group. Searson – Mike and daughters Erin, Heather and Colleen – hails from the Ottawa Valley, Ontario, an area rich with fiddling and step dancing. All of the girls began music lessons at a very young age, ranging from fiddle, step-dance, piano, vocals and guitar. Since becoming a full-time touring act last year, Searson has captivated audiences all over Canada and the United States with its high-energy display of lead female fiddles, strong vocals, guitar, bass, piano, mandolin, bodhran and lively step-dancing. This truly unique musical act combines tremendous musical talent with a step dancing showcase that always brings a huge crowd to its feet.



MILLISH The high-caliber alternative/Celtic quartet Millish, based in Ann Arbor, consists of State Champion bluegrass fiddler Brad Phillips, World Champion Uilleann piper Tyler Duncan, National Award-winning jazz percussionist Mike Shimmin, and Millish’s “Creative Mastermind” guitarist Jesse Lee Mason. Individually they’ve garnered numerous state and national awards, and together they’ve taken their common interest in jazz, Celtic and World music and have melded these divergent styles into what they call “Irish music with a difference.” Their debut album earned them an International Acoustic Music Award before it was even released and they have appeared on “A Prairie Home Companion,” and have played and recorded with Natalie McMaster, The Chieftains and Mark O’Connor.



SEAMUS KENNEDY Singer? Instrumentalist? Comedian? Perhaps the only word that adequately describes Seamus Kennedy is “entertainer.” Originally from Belfast, Northern Ireland, Seamus has been entertaining audiences all over the United States for the past 32 years. With a ready wit and a vast store of songs, he travels from Alaska to Florida, Maryland to California, performing for audiences which range from Popes and presidents to bartenders and bricklayers, from college students to kindergartners. In concert or festival, in pub or club, in colleges or high schools, Seamus Kennedy has the repertoire and the ability to make folks forget their cares for a while, to relax and enjoy themselves as he encourages the crowd to sing along to silly lyrics and daft ditties or act out the choruses of children’s songs. Mixing his endless supply of jokes, stories and one liners with traditional Irish tunes and the occasional ballad, Seamus never fails to please.



PAT KANE AND WEST O’CLARE West o’Clare is the band Pat Kane formed in 1995, named for his family’s home county in Ireland. The band represents the Irish musical tradition of the region they were raised in, here in America. That region centers near Elmira NY, roughly the area around the Finger Lakes and Twin Tiers. West o’Clare are known for their fine vocals and harmonies. Their instrumentation is varied: fiddle, flute, whistles, accordions, concertinas, guitars, bodhrans and bones. At present, the band consists of Pat Kane, Brian Hyland, and Bryan Kane, Pat’s nephew. The band is often joined by friends from home, like Terry Kane, Kevin Riley, or Brian Murphy. The band has been active with concerts, festivals, parties, schools, colleges & clubs, ceili & square dances, radio, television, wakes & weddings, and every fancy ball!



FIELDSTONE Fieldstone’s focus is traditional music of the British Isles. Ballads, jigs, reels, songs of rebellion, and other “old tunes” make up the majority of sets, interspersed with selections from contemporary Celtic artists. Based in Elk County, located in northwestern Pennsylvania, Fieldstone has been together as a group for nearly six years, performing at Central New York Scottish Games, the Cumberland Celtic Festival, the Celtic Fling, Highlands of Ohio, the PA Renaissance Faire, the Ligonier Highland Games, the Dayton Celtic Festival, the McHenry Highland Festival and numerous festivals, gatherings, and pubs. Instrumentation includes fiddle, mandolin, Celtic harp, uilleann pipes, Highland and small pipes, banjo, guitar, bouzouki, whistles, wooden flute and bodhran.



SEANACHE Seanache, the Gaelic term for Storyteller, originated in a little town called Kilrush. This small town is located at the mouth of the river Shannon, in County Clare at the southwestern end of Ireland. It was here that the founder of the band, Gerry Dixon, honed his craft; singing and playing traditional Irish music and telling stories of his culture. Gerry was greatly influenced by his family and renowned artists, such as Christy Moore and Finbar Furey. Like many others from Ireland he not only sings, but also plays a myriad of instruments; including the guitar, tin whistle, and bodhran.



VINCE COLGAN The term is often too easily and inappropriately applied, but Vince Colgan is a true legend in central New York Irish Music circles and beyond. A master storyteller as well as a consummate balladeer, Vince has entertained generations of Central New Yorkers and is now working on the next generation. The Great American Irish Festival is honored to welcome him to its stages.



THE BLARNEY REBEL BAND The Blarney Rebel Band is a group of musicians from the Celtic hotbed of Central New York performing all types of traditional Irish music, from rollicking pub songs to traditional folk fare, from rousing sea songs to moving ballads, from stirring rebel songs to hand-clapping jigs and reels. It’s all on display by a group of talented musicians boasting virtuoso musicianship and perfectly blended harmonies, sure to please old and young alike. The Blarney Rebel Band is always ready to help raise a pint, whether at a festival, party or a night at the local pub! The band, which consists of Mark Sisti - banjo, mandolin, mandola, pennywhistle, concertina, accordion, flute, vocals; Al Sisti - bass guitar, vocals; Dan Sisti – guitar, vocals; Jessica Voce - bodhran, tambourine, percussion, has recently recorded their first CD, “Live at Piggy Pat’s” and are currently working on their follow-up recording.



CLIUDAN Blending traditional Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton tunes with pub classics, rebel tunes and originals, Cliudan is bound and determined to get you on your feet with their signature driven acoustic style. The nucleus of the Cliudan sound is a tribute to Irish and Scottish roots, rural upbringing, and varied musical backgrounds, and they’ve become known for their creative and energetic mix of progressive Celtic and fiery traditional, blending the two in an unpredictable but always sincere and appreciative way. Cliudan has played extensively though the Northeast from Buffalo to Boston, Manhattan to Ottawa, Canada and many places in between. Cliudan features Noah Brown- Guitar, Vocals; Andrew Gracey- Lead Vocals, Flute, Whistles and Mandolin and John Gilligan – World percussion. They are currently working on their new CD to follow-up their most recent effort, “Smoke and Strong Whiskey.”



JOHN GILLIGAN John Gilligan is a central New York based solo performer with an upbeat Irish Republican rebel sound. Gilligan performs a variety of favorites from Irish Republican ballads to rebel songs along with a few contemporary Irish songs thrown in for good measure. John Gilligan delivers a striking live sound that wins over audiences wherever he goes. John has performed in Ireland and has also played extensively throughout New York and Pennsylvania. His venues range from intimate pubs & clubs to festivals and outdoor functions. John, who has just released his first recording, "Green Plastic Derby," works in close association with the Irish community and its various member groups --such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), and the Irish Political Prisoners Children's Holiday (IPPC) -- and contributes time, talent, and resources in their various fundraising efforts. In addition to his solo shows, John also performs with the band Cliudan.



The festival is scheduled for Jul 27-29, 2007, at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds, with proceeds being used to help establish an Irish Cultural Center in the Mohawk Valley. Be sure to visit the website (www.greatamericanirishfestival.com) regularly for further announcements and updates.

“Let the countdown begin!” -- Halfway to GAIF Hooley a Rousing Success

On Sunday January 28th, 2007, the 1st Halfway to GAIF Hooley was held, featuring perennial festival favorite The Glengarry Bhoys, along with local favorites Cliudan and the Butler-Sheehan School of Irish Dance. Intended to express the committee's sincere thanks to their many volunteers, sponsors and other festival supporters, it also provided the perfect opportunity to announce the headline performers for this year's festival, being held from July 27-29, 2007. Excitement was in the air as festival director Matt Sullivan rattled off one impressive act after another, and the packed house exploded with each announcement. Faced with six more months of counting the days, they looked to the Bhoys for a fix – and they did not disappoint! Within minutes, everyone in the building was on their feet, cheering the band on through two great sets of music, and well-deserved encores. At the end of the day, the Glengarry Bhoys had to be wondering: is this what they do in Central New York every Sunday afternoon? One thing's for certain: if this party was any indication, there may soon be calls for a "Halfway to Halfway to GAIF Hooley"!

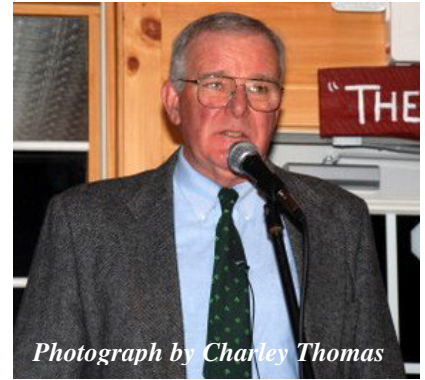


MVCC Graphic Design Students Create Artwork For Irish Festival

Once again, MVCC graphics design students have been tasked with creating a "Theme Graphic" for the 2007 Great American Irish Festival. "This assignment provides a unique opportunity for them to compete for the honor of having their design printed," said Robert Clarke, Professor in MVCC's Art Department. This is the second time the GAIF committee has turned to MVCC's Professional Practice in Graphic Design program for help in creating a recognizable image for the festival. In the spring of 2004, Mr. Clarke's class worked on creating a logo for the festival, and Adrienne Sangastiano's design was selected and continues to represent the festival. "MVCC's students have been very helpful," said Matt Sullivan, GAIF Director. "There are a lot of very talented people in the Mohawk Valley and we felt that it was only appropriate we should ask for their help." There are currently 23 students working on at least one submission each for judging which will take place at the end of February; with the winning design being announced at this year's Parade Grand Marshall's Reception, on March 6, 2007. "We hope to select a number of works that could be used as posters, t-shirts, banners, and in a number of other ways over the next few years." said Sullivan.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal Announced

William Barry Sr. of Whitesboro was announced as the 2007 St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal. Mr. Barry has a long history of involvement in the community and Irish interests. His large family was on hand to witness the announcement at Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub in Washington Mills. Pickled Pig Publican Pat McCann (say that late at night) hosted the announcement during his Irish Happy Hour as he is the reigning holder of the Bruce Braun Trophy for winning the tavern division of the parade last year. The 2007 parade steps off March 10th at 11 am on Genesee St. when Mr. Barry and his estimated 25 family members will lead the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade ever held in Utica, which is the 3rd largest parade in NYS. The official "passing of the shillelagh" will take place at the Grand Marshall's Reception on March 6th at the Stanley Theatre.



Photograph by Charley Thomas

Discounted Great American Irish Festival Weekend Passes still on sale

For a limited time, the Great American Irish Festival will continue to offer discounted three day passes to the July 27-29 Festival for just \$20. Festival Director Matt Sullivan says, "Our booking department is promising the best lineup yet. With three days of entertainment, there is sure to be something for everyone! Where else can you get three days of world class entertainment for only \$20? This is a great value, and the lowest price that will be offered for the 4th annual fest - don't pass it up!" Children under 13 are FREE. Ordering could not be easier. Just click on the Click N Print link on the main page of the Great American Irish Festival web site (www.greatamericanirishfestival.com). You can purchase your tickets and print them out at home.

Stanley Theater to host "Lord of the Dance"

"Lord of the Dance," the world's highest-grossing dance performance, returns to the Stanley Theater on February 8th, 2007 at 8 PM. "Lord of the Dance" is the theatrical extravaganza that has helped catapult Irish dancing into the global spotlight. The show features more than 40 dancers who deliver an eloquent and stunning interpretation of one of Ireland's most famous legends. It has been the highest grossing dance show in the world since it began in 1996 (from www.lordofthedance.com). Tickets for the event, which range from \$22.50 to \$47.50, are available at the Stanley Box Office (724-4000) or at Ticketmaster outlets.

Irish Singer-Songwriter Paul Brady Appearing at the Egg

On Friday, February 9th, **Paul Brady** -- the songwriter Bob Dylan once described as one of a handful of "secret heroes" -- will be performing at the Egg in Albany. Brady originally made his reputation as one of Ireland's premier interpreters of traditional music, touring and recording throughout the '60s and '70s with the Johnstons, Planxty and Andy Irvine. His solo career has explored contemporary folk and rock music and has established himself as one of the greatest Irish singer-songwriters of his generation.

In the past few years, he has been honored with lifetime achievement awards from IRMA (Irish Recorded Music Association), The British Academy of Composers and Songwriters and BBC Radio 2's Folk Awards. Continuing to tour extensively both as a solo performer and with his own band, he has forged a reputation as a passionate and exciting performer and attracts a dedicated following worldwide. Paul Brady continues to push out the boundaries not only of his own talent but of Irish contemporary music in the new millennium. Tickets for the 8 PM show are \$24.

Book Review:
“Call Me the Breeze”
Submitted by Mark Sisti

It is with more than a trace of ambivalence that I recommend “Call Me The Breeze” by Patrick McCabe. Not because I didn’t enjoy it (I did, immensely), but because I am fully aware that many of you simply will not like it. It is, to put it mildly, not an easy read. Interesting? Certainly. Worthwhile? Probably. Easy? Nope. It also uses language which some may find offensive but which, as anyone who’s spent time in Irish pubs can tell you, is necessary to properly convey a sense of place. Having been duly warned, don’t contact me with death threats if you don’t care for it.

Those who have read McCabe’s previous novels, like “Butcher Boy,” “The Dead School” or “Breakfast On Pluto,” will know enough to expect a disturbed main character, but it is a pretty safe bet you’ve never encountered anyone like Joey Tallon. Joey has a natural intelligence and an insatiable curiosity and yearning for knowledge, but he also has a tenuous grasp of reality, which makes him a notoriously unreliable (if fascinating) narrator. Early in the book, you think his delusion stems from the copious amounts of hallucinogenic drugs he ingests, but eventually it becomes clear that the capacity for self-delusion is an integral part of Joey’s makeup. His delusions cause him to make impulsive decisions that land him in prison, place him in the center of the literary world, and, finally, lead to his supreme conflict. His ability to convince himself of the truth in his fantasies allows him to believe he can escape his past and his surroundings and, in fact, may be necessary for Joey to survive. If he finds himself unable to fit into the world he inhabits, he can invent a world where he is a central figure.

The novel follows Joey, from the mid-1970s to the present, in his journey toward enlightenment as it takes him through stints as a roadie, bartender, convict, playwright, filmmaker, teacher, novelist and politician. He lives on a town near the border of Northern Ireland, and his personality reflects all the tension inherent in such a setting. He is heavily affected, without realizing it, by a series of deaths in the town, natural, suicidal and homicidal. He is surrounded by a throng of colorful characters who, as the reader soon discovers, may be real or may be drawn from his imagination. He is part sponge, part chameleon, and is obsessively enthusiastic about everything he encounters. Seemingly at every turn of the page, Joey has a new philosophy by which he will live his life and a new messiah to worship, whether Manson, Hesse, Gogol or Travis Bickle. His manic enthusiasm is contagious, and we find ourselves rooting for Joey to succeed, even as we suspect things will not go well for him.

Joey constantly refers to the act of peeling layers of an onion to get to the core, and Joey’s story is revealed in much the same way. Because the story is told partly through the use of diaries, journals, notebooks and other writings never meant to be published, we are not privy to the background of many of the people and events to which he refers, and their significance is only revealed as the book goes on, as the reader is forced to constantly reassess earlier assumptions in light of later revelations.

What could become ponderous in lesser hands is saved by McCabe’s gift for seamlessly blending heart-wrenching sorrow with delightful black humor. (Am I the only person who found “Emerald Germs of Ireland,” for all of its matricide and serial killings, to be hilarious?) Parts of this novel are laugh out loud funny, sometimes as a result of situations, sometimes through McCabe’s colorful language and sometimes just through Joey’s character, which we grow to like and, on some level, even admire.

Joey is fascinated by lines from T.S. Eliot that proclaim “the end of all our exploring/Will be to arrive where we started/ And know the place for the first time.” For Joey, life is not linear, it is circular, and what he actually seeks is not knowledge but rebirth, which he can only gain when his illusions are destroyed. Whether this results in triumph or tragedy is ultimately for the reader to decide.

Irish Breakfast To Continue According to Charley Thomas of the Riverside Diner, the pending sale of his wonderful establishment does not necessarily mean the end of the best Traditional Irish Breakfast in the county... although Sunday, February 4th may be the last one featuring Charley as the head cook and all-around rabble-rouser. Per Charley – never known to exaggerate a story! – the prospective new owner has promised to continue the Irish Breakfast on the first Sunday of the month, and will also be featuring an Italian breakfast on the last Sunday. Whatever the future holds, why not make plans to start your Super Bowl Sunday with a trip to the Riverside Diner for a hearty breakfast of two eggs, Irish bacon, Irish Sausage, Black and White Pudding, two kinds of Irish Soda bread, a Broiled Tomato, toast, and coffee or tea, all for the low price of \$5.95. While you’re there, please let the big man and his family know how much you appreciated their starting this great tradition. That certainly would not be an exaggeration. And from us to Charley, Pam and the girls: *Siochan leat!*

Celtic Club Calendar Finally, here’s the Irish Musical and Cultural calendar for February:

Feb 2	Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	5-8:30 PM	Free
Feb 2	Old Friends CD release	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Feb 3	Pat Kane	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Feb 4	Syracuse Irish Session	HalfPenny Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Feb 6	Cliudan	Coleman’s Irish Pub	Syracuse	5 PM	Free
Feb 8	Lord of the Dance	Stanley Theater	Utica	7:30 PM	\$20-30
Feb 9	Paul Brady	The Egg	Albany	8:00 PM	\$24
Feb 9	Donal O’Shaughnessey	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	5-8:30 PM	Free
Feb 9	Padraig Allen and Buddy Connolly	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Feb 10	Traditional Sessions	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Feb 10	Blarney Rebel Band	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Feb 10	Liz Carroll and John Doyle	Old Songs	Voorheesville	8:00 PM	\$17
Feb 10	Flynn 529 and St. James Gate (fundraiser)	Albany Irish-American Center	Albany	7:00 PM	\$15
Feb 11	Donal O’Shaughnessey	Coleman’s Irish Pub	Syracuse	4:00 PM	Free
Feb 16	Greenwich Meantime CD release party	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Feb 16	Cliudan	Glory Days	Herkimer	9:00 PM	Free
Feb 17	Seanache	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Feb 17	Glengarry Bhoys	Linda Norris Auditorium	Albany	8:00 PM	\$23
Feb 17	Cliudan	Irish Center - AOH	Albany	8:00 PM	TBD
Feb 18	Syracuse Irish Session	Johnston’s Bally Bay Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Feb 18	Cliudan	Coleman’s Irish Pub	Syracuse	4:00 PM	Free
Feb 23	Seanache	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	5-8:30 PM	Free
Feb 23-24	Neil Emberg	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Feb 24	Traditional Sessions	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Feb 25	Flyin’ Column	Coleman’s Irish Pub	Syracuse	4:00 PM	Free
Feb 28	Wolf Tones (benefit)	St. Patrick’s School	Syracuse	7:30 PM	\$20

That wraps it up for this month. Believe it or not, there’s still stuff we could’ve put in this time, but couldn’t fit it... and so we’ve got a head start on next month’s. But as you know, March is a very busy time around Central New York, so these “extras” may have to wait yet another month. In the meantime, if you have anything you want to add, feel free to contact us at sistia@adelphia.net, bloftis@verizon.net or marksisti@adelphia.net.