
MOHAWK VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL EVENTS NEWSLETTER

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Here at MVICE headquarters, we live by the motto of Animal House's Faber College: "Knowledge is Good," and so we start this issue with some little known trivia. Did you know that January was so named after Janus, the Roman god of gates and doorways, who was often depicted with two faces looking in opposite directions? Sure you did. And you probably are aware that February has its roots in Februa, the Roman festival of purification. But do you know how the month of March came to be named? Oh sure, your teachers would have you believe that it was named after Mars, the Roman god of war... but our crack staff has done some investigative sleuthing, and we've reached this dramatic conclusion: March is so named because there are so many parades during the month. So why was this obvious fact kept from you? Conspiracy? Coincidence? Some other word that starts with "C"? Exactly. While you ponder that, and wonder what other lies we're being taught, here is our "coincidental" lead story. Roman god of war indeed!

Hundreds to March in Annual Parade

SATURDAY, MARCH 18th, marks the occurrence of one of Utica's most fun-filled traditions: the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Sponsored by the "Adelphia Cable Cares Club," the parade starts at 10:00 AM at Oneida Square and continues down Genesee St. to Columbia St.; led by this year's Grand Marshall, **Tom Coyne**. Tom, the program director for WKTU News Channel 2, has been the parade's announcer for many of the last 15 years. Al Pulaski of the Adelphia Cable Cares Club, the parade organizer, said Coyne had earned the honor. Pulaski recalled him dressed in heavy gloves and thick boots one year, bravely announcing the parade in bone-chilling temperatures. "He about half froze to death up there," Pulaski said. Coyne, a lifelong Utica resident who's half-Irish, said he was honored; adding that people look forward to the parade as eagerly as they did America's Greatest Heart Run & Walk and the Utica Boilermaker Road Race. "It's like a rite of spring," said Coyne, 50. "I don't know if the temperatures can get warm until you have the parade." Anyone interested in marching or helping can call Pulaski at 797-7111, ext. 313.



Marking the ceremonial "passing of the Shillelagh" from the previous parade Grand Marshall to this year's, the Grand Marshall's Reception will be held on March 14, 2006, in the lobby of the Stanley Theater. Last year's Grand Marshall, Dr. Dan Murphy, will be on hand to do the honors, when – flanked by an assemblage of past Grand Marshalls – he hands off the shillelagh to Tom Coyne. The reception, which runs from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, costs \$5 and requires a ticket, which can be gotten from any of the parade organizers. Providing entertainment throughout the evening will be the Blarney Rebel Band.

Grand Marshall's Reception

Great American Irish Festival Lineup Announcement – Part 2

Keep your eyes and ears open for an exciting announcement regarding the 2006 Great American Irish Festival. Rumor has it the festival will be making a public announcement of the remainder of the 2006 line-up very shortly, and the same rumors say that this year's lineup is absolutely phenomenal. For those who thought the initial announcement of the first batch of performers – which included such names as Natalie MacMaster, Solas, The Prodigals, Enter The Haggis, Andy Cooney, The Glengarry Bhoys and many, many others – was impressive, the upcoming announcement of the entire lineup will be nothing short of jaw-dropping and should cement the GAIF position as one of the pre-eminent Irish festivals in the Northeast. Stay tuned.

Night Eagle Cafe to host Open Irish Traditional Music Session

On Tuesday, March 28 at 8:00 p.m., the Night Eagle Café in Oxford, NY is offering the opportunity to enjoy an authentic Irish traditional session in an accessible, supportive, and welcoming setting. What is a Traditional Irish Session? Regular readers of this newsletter are quite familiar with the format (if not, go back into your archives and thumb through your old issues), but for newcomers, an Irish traditional music session is a relatively informal gathering of Irish traditional musicians where there are active participating musicians, listening musicians who are learning the repertoire, and, hopefully, an enthusiastic audience. The songs are generally Irish dance tunes passed down through generations, including hornpipes, jigs, reels, and slip-jigs. Session musicians may string tunes together, one right into another, to form sets in which each melody is typically repeated three times. While the Night Eagle session is an open session, as with any session, the usual caveats regarding session etiquette apply. Intermediate to advanced players with a repertoire of 20 or more session tunes are welcome to join, while beginning players are encouraged to listen to the sessions, take notes on the tune titles and even, (with permission of the performers, usually freely given) record session tunes for learning purposes. The Night Eagle Cafe Irish Traditional Session will be hosted by Anna Lisa Quinn and admission is free. For more information or directions, go to the café website at <http://www.nighteaglecafe.org>. Musicians interested in joining the session should email Anna Lisa at annalisa@nighteaglecafe.org.

Random Ramblings

- ✚ **Dinner Show with Andy Cooney** Fresh on the heels of a great show in Rome last November, **Andy Cooney** returns on March 18th 2006 for a very special Dinner Theater night at Hart's Hill Inn in Whitesboro. Andy's "Forever Irish" tour features the Andy Cooney Band with special guests Kathryn Smith -- "Ireland's Finest Soprano" -- and musical comedy duo "Mac & O." Tickets are \$42.50 per person, and a table for eight can be purchased for \$320. For more information contact 315-768-7104. Doors open at 6 pm, the dinner buffet is served at 6:30 pm, and the show starts at 8 pm. All proceeds will benefit the John C. Devereux Division 1 Oneida County Ancient Order of Hibernians.
- ✚ **Irish Breakfast** Don't forget that on the first Sunday of every month from 8:00 to noon, the Riverside Diner offers an outstanding Traditional Irish Breakfast; consisting 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. The next one will be on **March 5th**. The Riverside Diner is located at 9663 Route 49 in Marcy.
- ✚ **IPPCH Fundraiser** There'll be something for everyone at the Devereux on Saturday, March 11, as Utica's most fun bar presents an evening of traditional and rousing Irish music, all to benefit the Irish Political Prisoners' Children's Holiday (IPPCH). The show, which runs from 8 PM to midnight, will feature the talents of two of the areas favorite acts: **Cliudan** – with their "driven acoustic style" -- and **John Gilligan** and his "upbeat Irish Republican rebel sound." In addition to the great music, there'll be plenty of raffles, laughs and libation. There is a suggested \$5.00 donation.
- ✚ **St. Patrick's Day Raffle** There is another raffle being held in support of Ireland's patriot sons, sponsored by the Concerned Group for Republican Prisoners (CGRP). First prize is a handcrafted Irish bodhran, signed by several Irish POWs; and second and third prizes are \$20 and \$10 credits for purchases at the CGRP online shop. Tickets are one dollar and the drawing will be held on Saturday, March 18th, 2006. The Concerned Group for Republican Prisoners was formed to support Irish Political Prisoners who are now being held at Portlaoise Gaol in Ireland. More information on CGRP can be found at www.CGRP.info/ or feel free to contact the CGRP Eastern US Coordinator, John Gilligan, at (315) 768-2347 or via usmemer@CGRP.info.

❁ **St. Patrick's Day Mass** The annual mass honoring Saint Patrick will be held Saturday, March 18, 2006, at 4 PM at St Joseph's-St Patrick's Church , 702 Columbia St. in Utica. (For those of you keeping track, this is the regular Vigil Mass, so it counts for the Sunday mass obligation.). Rumor has it that there may be a special guest cantor at the mass as well.

❁ **...and in a related matter.** If you attend the Mass in Honor of St. Patrick on March 18, when it comes time to offer a sign of peace, you could try saying "Síochán." This is the Irish word for peace, pronounced shee-uh-khawn. The kh represents a sound similar to the ch in the German word "ach." Of course, there is no reason that you can't use this word anytime you attend Mass. And if you want to greet someone with "the blessings of St Patrick's day to you," you might try: "Beannachtaí La Féile Padraig duit." [pronounced "Ban-acht-ee law fay-la Porr-ig dit"], or the short form, "Lá Féile Padraig duit."

❁ **Cortland Celtic Festival Fundraiser** Come celebrate St Paddy's Day a little early AND help support the Cortland Celtic Festival at the same time! The 2nd annual pre-St Paddy's Day Dinner and Dance is scheduled for Sunday, March 12th from 4 to 8 pm, at the Cortland Elks Lodge 748 on Groton Ave in Cortland. The evening includes a traditional Irish beef stew dinner, music by Pat Kane and West O'Clare and a performance by the Montague School of Irish Dance (Cortland's very own Irish Step Dance school). Tickets are \$17 per person or \$30 a couple, and you'll want to get them early, as this event is sure to sell out! Tickets can be purchased at Sheridan's Fine Jewelry, 6 Main Street in Cortland and at the Cortland Youth Bureau at 35 Port Watson Street. For more information, call the Bureau at 753-3021. All proceeds benefit the Cortland Celtic Cultural Association, sponsors of the annual Celtic Festival, which this year falls on August 26, 2006. For more information about the festival, please visit www.cortlandcelticfestival.org



❁ **Volunteers Needed** The Great American Irish Festival is still soliciting volunteers for any of many areas, such as Marketing, Food Vending, Festival Merchandise, setup and cleanup. While these functions are currently staffed, more volunteers are needed so that one or two people aren't burdened with the full load. Anyone interested in volunteering for anything is asked to contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Claudette Johnson at camj322@aol.com, or to visit the GAIF website and complete the volunteer page.

❁ **Bald is Beautiful** In the Events Calendar that appears at the end of this newsletter, you'll see on Sunday, March 26th, a rather cryptic reference to an event at Kitty Hoyne's called "St. Baldrick's Day Fundraiser." No, it is not another St. Patty's Day party... it's much more noble than that. What it is is one of hundreds of fundraisers organized by the St. Baldrick's Foundation, whose mission is "...to raise awareness and funds to Conquer Kids' Cancer by shaving heads on St. Baldrick's Day [the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day]." What started seven years ago as a friendly challenge between three Long Island men has grown into the world's largest event for combating childhood cancer. Since that first "dare," St. Baldrick's Day fundraisers around the world have raised over \$12 million for the CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation and the CureSearch Children's Oncology Group. To get involved in Kitty Hoyne's fundraiser, visit http://www.stbaldricks.org/location_detail.asp?citycode=USNYSY06. For more information on this worthy cause, check out www.stbaldricks.org. If you can't attend (or don't want to get shaved), donations are welcomed.



SHAVING THE WAY TO CURE CHILDHOOD CANCER
BE BRAVE ... GO BALD

- ✚ **Irish Happy Hour Keeps Rolling!** Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub's Irish Happy Hour has been drawing great crowds since it started, and the party continues... even through kitchen fires. This Friday, **March 3rd**, P5 welcomes back area favorites, the **Blarney Rebel Band** for a night of great traditional pub music and laughter (hopefully not at the music). The following week, **Cliudan** brings their high energy sound to the stage, and on Friday, March 17th – yep, St. Patrick's Day proper -- Pat is bringing in two of the area's favorites for a marathon of Irish music. The Blarney Rebel Band will be playing from 5 to 8 PM, followed directly by **Vince Colgan** performing from 8 to 11 PM... and there's likely to be some interplay between the two acts. On the following Friday, the Blarney Rebel Band returns, and wrapping up the month, Piggy Pat's welcomes long-time veterans of the local Irish music scene, **Rattlin' Bog**. In the upcoming weeks and months, expect to see more outside acts coming in, including **Gerry Dixon and Seanache, Donal O'Shaughnessey** and others. Remember, that's Irish Happy Hour, at Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub (corner of Kellogg Rd. and Route 8 in Washington Mills), from 5-8 PM; with entertainment from **5:30-8:30 PM**. For more information -- or if you want to grab some great BBQ fare - - visit www.piggypats.com, or call 73-PIGGY [737-4449].
- ✚ **"North Country Goes Green" Irish Festival** From March 17-19th, Watertown plays host to the 21st annual "North Country Goes Green Irish Festival," at the State Office Building. The festival, promising three days of constant musical entertainment, supports **Project Children**, raising money to bring children from Northern Ireland to Northern New York for four weeks in the summer. This year's festival features a lineup that includes Searson, the Causeway Giants, Seanache, Cliudan, John Gilligan, Tartan Special, Rattlin' Bog, and much more. Admission to the festival is \$5/person, with children 12 and under admitted free if accompanied by a parent. For additional information, visit <http://www.northcountrygoesgreen.com>.
- ✚ **Camden Hosts 5th Annual Parade** On March 11th, Camden will be hosting its 5th annual St Patrick's Parade, starting at 2 PM, on Main St. As always, there will be a celebration following the parade at Katie and Karl's Restaurant, from 5-8 PM, with corned beef dinners, green beer, awards and entertainment by The Stoutmen. For more information, contact Frank Bergin at OBERGIN@aol.com.
- ✚ **"Best Of Ireland Tour"** November 5-13, 2006. This Escorted tour includes roundtrip airfare from Albany on Continental Airlines, two nights in Dublin, two nights in Killarney, two nights in Ennis and one night in Cabra Castle. Sightseeing includes Guinness Brewery, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Waterford Crystal, Blarney Castle, Ring of Kerry and the Cliffs of Moher. Price is \$1,449.00 per person based on double occupancy. For more information, contact Celia Antonik at JRP Travel (315) 796-8671 or email celia@jrptravel.com.
- ✚ **Landmark Appearance of Celtic Woman** On Thursday, **March 9, 2006** at 7:30 PM, the wildly successful review **Celtic Woman** will be coming to the **Landmark Theater** in Syracuse. Tickets for that show range from \$22.50 to \$47.50. For more information, visit <http://www.landmarktheater.org/> or <http://www.celticwoman.com/>
- ✚ **The Commitments to play MWPI** Following a worldwide media tour in 1991 to promote the global success of the Alan Parker film of Roddy Doyle's acclaimed novel, The Commitments went their separate ways. During the promotion, there were so many requests for the band to tour, that by 1993, The Commitments -- "Dublin's Saviours Of Soul" -- had been reborn as a real, working band, playing their special "Dublin Soul." They have toured the world ever since, performing for millions of delighted fans, and on Saturday, **March 11th**, they'll be appearing at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute Performing Arts Tent in Utica. For more information, contact the MWPI at 797-5608.

☘ **Ladies Night(s) Out** Cherish the Ladies will be performing with the Syracuse Symphony on four consecutive nights, from **March 23rd through the 26th**. On March 23rd, they visit the Cortland High School (8 PM, tickets \$10-20), followed by two nights at the Crouse-Hinds Theater (8 PM both nights, tickets ranging from \$16 - \$54). Wrapping up the mini-tour will be a special performance called “Shamrockin’ With Cherish the Ladies.” That show is at 10:30 PM on the 26th, with tickets running from \$12-\$25; half-price for children under 12. For more information, visit www.syracusesymphony.org or call (800) 724-3810.

☘ **Solas at the Egg** Loudly proclaimed as the most popular, influential and exciting acoustic Celtic band of the day – and a main headliner at this year’s Great American Irish Festival – Solas will be making an appearance at the Egg, in Albany, on **April 21st** at 8:00 PM. Tickets for the show are selling for \$24.

☘ **Riverdance** will be coming to the Mulroy Civic Center at the OnCenter, Crouse Hinds Theater, in Syracuse, from **May 16-18, 2006**. Tickets are on sale now, ranging from \$39.50 to \$70. (If those dates aren’t doable, it’ll also be in Rochester from May 5-7). For more information, call the OnCenter Box Office at (315) 435-2121, or visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com/artist/778497>.

Celtic Club Calendar Finally, as promised, here’s a look at some upcoming Irish Musical and Cultural events for March, suitable for posting:

Mar 3	Donal O’Shaughnessey	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Mar 3	The Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	5-8:30 PM	Free
Mar 4	The Blarney Rebel Band	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Mar 10	Cliudan	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	5-8:30 PM	Free
Mar 10	Neil Emberg	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Mar 11	IPPCH Fundraiser	The Devereux	Utica	8-midnight	\$5
Mar 11	Neil Emberg	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Mar 12	Hadrian's Wall	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Mar 14	Utica Parade Grand Marshall’s Reception	Stanley Theater Lobby	Utica	8:00-?? PM	\$5 w/ticket
Mar 17-19	North Country Goes Green Irish Festival	Dulles State Office Building	Watertown	Varies	\$5
Mar 17	The Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	5-8:00 PM	Free
Mar 17	Vince Colgan	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	8:00-?? PM	Free
Mar 17	Cliudan	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	Noon-6:00PM	Free
Mar 17	Cliudan	Glory Days	Herkimer	9:00 PM	TBD
Mar 17	Cassidy McCale	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	7:00 PM -??	Free
Mar 18	Utica’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade	Genesee St.	Utica	10:00 AM	Free
Mar 18	Andy Cooney “Forever Irish”	Hart’s Hill Inn	Whitesboro	6:00 to ??	\$42.50
Mar 18	Cliudan	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	4:00-7:00 PM	Free
Mar 18	Traditional Irish Session	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:30-11:00 AM	Free
Mar 18	Cassidy McCale	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	Noon-5:00 PM	Free
Mar 18	Gerry Dixon & Seanache	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	5:00-11:00 PM	Free
Mar 18	Post Parade Party – Justice McBride Duo Reunion & Blarney Rebel Band	The Devereux	Utica	Noon - ??	Free
Mar 24	The Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	5-8:30 PM	Free
Mar 24	Old Friends	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Mar 24	Irish Traditional Music Session	Night Eagle Café	Oxford NY	8:00 PM	Free
Mar 25	Dave Anthony	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:00 PM	Free
Mar 31	Rattlin’ Bog	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	5-8:30 PM	Free

That wraps it up for this month. If you have anything you want to add, PLEASE feel free to contact us at sistia@rl.af.mil, bloftis@adelphia.net or marksisti@adelphia.net. And from all of us, have a safe and fun St. Patrick’s Day!