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# MOHAWK VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL EVENTS NEWSLETTER

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Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2011

## The Heroes of Easter Week

*“Never did I realize that men could fight so bravely, and die so beautifully, and so fearlessly as did the Heroes of Easter Week.” -- Fr Albert, O.F.M. Cap*

95 years ago this month, 15 Irishmen gave their lives in the cause of Irish independence. While thousands have lost their lives in that cause, these 15 were different. They were executed for their roles in the 1916 Easter Rising, and those executions swung public opinion towards Irish independence, paving the way for an Irish state.

We are familiar with some of the names. Most of us can name the principals – Padraic Pearse, Tom Clarke, James Connolly – but the full list of these brave men is remembered by very few. With few exceptions, these were not soldiers, attuned and accustomed to violence. They were, in large part, teachers, poets, writers and idealists. And they paid the ultimate price for their idealism. The rising itself has been covered in this newsletter (April, 2010,) but we thought this would be a good time to pay tribute to these 15 brave men.

**Thomas J. Clarke**, was, arguably, the person most responsible for the 1916 Easter Rising. A proponent of violent revolution for most of his life, he spent 15 years in prison. Following his release he became the leader of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and played a major role in organizing the Easter Rising.

**Pádraic Pearse**, was a teacher, lawyer, poet, writer, nationalist and political activist who founded St. Edna’s School as an alternative to the existing Irish school system, which, he believed, ignored Irish language and Irish culture. Many of the participants in the insurrection were pupils or teachers at St. Edna’s. Given his speaking and writing skills, Pearse was chosen by Tom Clarke to be the spokesman for the Rising. It was Pearse who issued the orders to all Volunteer units throughout the country for three days of maneuvers beginning Easter Sunday, which was the signal for a general uprising, it was Pearse who read the proclamation from the steps of the GPO declaring Irish independence and it was Pearse who issued the order to surrender after six days of fighting, heavy civilian casualties and tremendous destruction of property.

**James Connolly**, as Commandant of the Dublin Brigade at the time of the Easter Rising, was the resurrection’s de facto military commander-in-chief. Following the surrender, he said to other prisoners: “Don’t worry. Those of us that signed the proclamation will be shot. But the rest of you will be set free.” He was so badly injured from the fighting – the execution was carried out despite a report from a doctor that he had no more than a day or two to live – that he was unable to stand before the firing squad and was tied to a chair and shot.

**Thomas MacDonagh**, a close associate of Pearse’s from St. Edna’s, was a published poet and playwright, having grown up the son of teachers in a household filled with music, poetry, and learning. Though credited as one of the Easter Rising’s seven leaders, MacDonagh was a late addition to that group, joining the secret Military Council that planned the rising just weeks before the rising took place.

**Joseph Plunkett**, is one of those most remembered among the executed, but not for his actions in the battle. Plunkett, who was seriously ill, married his long-time companion, Grace Gifford, in jail just hours before his execution. It is said that she heard the shots as she walked away from the prison. This romantic tale was commemorated in the well-known Irish ballad “Grace.”

**Eamonn Ceannt**, commanded of the 4th Battalion of the Volunteers, which saw of the most intense fighting during the week. Ceannt's position was one of only two that was not taken in the rising, along with Éam on de Valera's at Boland's Mill. Ceannt was a master of the uilleann pipes, performing at one time for Pope Pius X.

**Sean Mac Diarmada**, was manager of the radical newspaper *Irish Freedom*, and, as a national organizer for the IRB, was taken under the wing of veteran Tom Clarke, with whom he helped plan the insurrection. Mac Diarmada was stricken with polio and forced to walk with a cane and, as a result of the disability, took little part in the fighting of Easter week.

These were the seven signatories of the proclamation of Poblacht na hÉireann, or Irish Republic. They are buried together with the other executed volunteers:

**Edward Daly**, known as "Ned," was commandant of Dublin's 1st battalion during the Easter Rising of 1916. He was the youngest man to hold that rank, and, at 25, was the youngest executed in the aftermath.

**Michael O'Hanrahan** whose father had played a role in the rebellion of 1867, was a journalist and author of two novels.

**William Pearse** was by no means a leader of the insurrection, or even a soldier, and hardly fought in the Rising at all. He was an artist and sculptor who was devoted to his brother, and described himself as "a personal attaché to my brother, Patrick Pearse;" there is little question that he was executed for nothing more than his connection to the man who delivered the proclamation.

**John MacBride**, had not even been aware of the Rising until it began, but had fought against the British in the Boer War fifteen years before. When he happened to find himself in the midst of the Rising without notice, he offered his services to Thomas MacDonagh and was appointed second-in-command at the Jacob's factory. When he was executed two days before his fifty-first birthday, he refused to be blindfolded, saying "I have looked down the muzzles of too many guns in the South African war to fear death and now please carry out your sentence."

**Con Colbert** was a deeply religious Catholic, and abstained from tobacco and alcohol. When the order to surrender was issued, knowing the leaders would be executed, he assumed the command of his unit to save the life of his superior officer, who was a married man. One report notes that the soldier who was guarding Colbert began crying when he was shot, saying "If only we could die such deaths."

**Michael Mallin** was a socialist and radical union leader. Unlike most of those executed, Mallin, a young father with four children and a pregnant wife, sought to downplay his involvement in the Rising, suggesting that he was merely obeying orders and was ignorant of the plans for insurrection.

**Sean Hueston** held the Mendicity Institution on the River Liffey for over two days with only 20 volunteers, though it was originally only intended to be held for 3 - 4 hours. The priest who attended him at his death later wrote "I would have given the world to have been in his place, he died in such a noble and sacred cause, and went forth to meet his Divine Saviour with such grand Christian sentiments of trust, confidence and love."

**Thomas Kent** reportedly played no part in the insurrection at all—he was executed for the killing of a police officer during the raid on his house the week after the Rising.

The world was appalled by the executions and the accompanying wholesale arrests of political activists, most of whom had no connection with the rebellion. This indignation led to a radical shift in public perception of the Rising and within three years of its failure, the separatist Sinn Féin party won an overwhelming majority in a general election, supporting the creation of an Irish Republic and endorsing the actions of the 1916 rebels.

## 34th Annual “East Durham Irish Festival” Kicks Off the Season



On May 28-29, the 2011 Celtic festival season unofficially gets under way, as the quaint little town of East Durham hosts its 34th annual “East Durham Irish Festival.” Billed as the “...longest running Irish festival in the U.S...,” the East Durham Irish Festival carries on its outstanding tradition of bringing in the finest music, food, children’s entertainment and family fun, at the Michael J. Quill Cultural and Sports Centre Headquarters, on 2119 Route 145 (off Thruway exit 21). This year’s festival features Black 47, the Whole Shabang, the Prodigals, Celtic Cross, Brigid’s Cross, Shillelagh Law, The Andy Cooney Band, Jameson’s Revenge and much more. Bagpipe bands and Irish Step Dancing groups will also be appearing at the festival, and children will have their own area, “Land of the Leprechauns.” Admission is \$12 in advance; \$14 at the gate before 2 PM, and \$16 afterwards. Children under 12 are free, as is parking. For further information, call 1-800-434-FEST, or check out their [web site](http://www.irishvillageusa.com).

## Great American Irish Festival Update

The Great American Irish Festival, scheduled from July 29-31, 2011, is a mere 89 days away, and it’s not too early to start making your vacation plans. If you’ve been before, you know that the GAIF prides itself on being a “Green Festival” (uh, that’s “green” as in earth-friendly, not the color of every shirt), and to that end, we’d like to offer a couple of environmentally and fiscally responsible tips. With the price of gas over \$4 a gallon, it makes good sense to save wherever you can. This summer, instead of driving to Myrtle Beach or Ireland, why not make the short trip to Frankfort? Not only will you be saving hundreds of dollars, but you’ll get to enjoy the great sounds of the Elders, Enter the Haggis, the High Kings and dozens of other great outfits performing on three different stages (the full schedule is now posted on the [website](http://www.greif.com)). In fact, why not triple those savings and plan on camping throughout the weekend? Hey, no one ever said saving the planet can’t be fun... but you’d better hurry; sites are going fast. And even if you went last year, some big changes have taken place over the winter; new buildings, lots more paved roads and walkways, and no thunderstorms (although if it does rain, there are more buildings under which to take shelter, and of course, a lot less mud)! That’s the Great American Irish Festival, July 29-31 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort. Make plans today... you owe it to your planet!



## Celtic Faire - A Celebration of the Seven Nations

On Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the Schenectady Hibernians will be hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual *Celtic Faire – A Celebration of the Seven Nations*, from noon until 9 PM. The Faire will be located on the closed streets surrounding City Hall in Downtown Schenectady. Music will feature local Celtic bands **Who’s Your Paddy?**, **St. James’ Gate**, and **Running the River**. Performances by local pipe bands and the Irish step dancers from Farrell’s School of Dance will round out the entertainment. We have our storyteller, weaving Celtic tales in the Folklore Center, starting at 1 PM. There will be craft vendors and an expanded Food Court. The annual Bonnie Knees contest will be held over the course of the day. Don’t forget to enter your knees by emailing before Saturday, and join the fun. There will be lots of kilted men around, so don’t be shy. There will be pre-events at area locales, so keep an eye on the website for time and place. There will be something going on all day for the whole family. Bring your lawn chairs, and enjoy a day of music and food. There will be lots of raffles, including the big one, with a top prize of \$2000, the drawing to be Friday, July 29th. Tickets are \$10. For more information, contact at [celticfaireaoh@yahoo.com](mailto:celticfaireaoh@yahoo.com) or [www.celticfaireaoh.org](http://www.celticfaireaoh.org)

*Book Review:*  
**“The Likeness”**  
*By Mark Sisti*

I had a literature professor in college who was a fan of the phrase “suspension of disbelief,” that is, the willingness to forego judgment based on the implausibility of a storyline. The problem – and really the only problem -- with Tana French’s “The Likeness,” the follow-up to her award-winning “In the Woods,” is that the basic premise is based on coincidences so hard to accept that it can make the entire plot collapse. If, however, you accept the coincidences as the starting point – if you agree to suspend your disbelief for the sake of the plot – “The Likeness” will reward you with a top-notch psychological thriller and character study. Plus a great story.

Cassie Maddox, one of the characters in “In the Woods,” had, at one point, worked undercover using the alias Lexie Madison. When that case ended, it was thought that Lexie ended with it. But years later, a corpse is discovered bearing a striking resemblance to Cassie and carrying documents identifying her as Alexandra Madison. (How the dead girl came to possess the ID of an exact replica is touched on but never satisfactorily explained, but suspend your disbelief and accept it.) Cassie’s former boss in undercover, the acerbic but charming Frank Mackey, hits upon an ingenious – or insane – idea: if Cassie can once again masquerade as Lexie, perhaps they can trap the killer by having her infiltrate the house where Lexie had lived. Again, the idea that she could move in with these people who spend 24 hours a day together without them noticing any difference is hard to accept (another of those suspension of disbelief moments) but, since the story would fall apart otherwise, the plan has to work and Cassie goes about finding the killer. Trust me, once you buy into the hard-to-accept premise, the payoff is worth it.



After the housemates are told that Lexie survived the attack, Cassie moves in to the house and immerses herself fully into Lexie’s life. In doing so, however, she finds herself enjoying a bond and familial closeness she has not had since she split with her partner from “In the Woods,” Rob Ryan and, much as Ryan did, she finds herself losing her objectivity and bending the rules to the breaking point as a result. The other housemates are a tight-knit, emotionally complex group of similarly disposed but distinct individuals with clearly defined relationships, and as Cassie finds herself drawn in to their lives, there is a growing sense of confusion as to where Cassie ends and Lexie begins: as Cassie she is intent, almost obsessed, with finding out who killed the girl, but as Lexie she is equally focused on protecting her new family. The suspense builds as Cassie walks a precariously thin line where simply not knowing Lexie’s favorite foods can give her away.

The novel would be classified a mystery, but it’s much, much more than that. It is both plot-driven – you want to know how the mystery comes out – and character-driven – you care about and want to know what happens to everyone in the story. It is a testament to French’s ability to create multi-faceted characters that, in each successive novel, the main character is one who played a somewhat secondary role in the previous book. (This continues with her next novel, where the fascinating Frank Mackey takes center stage as the protagonist.) “The Likeness” is also an engrossing psychological exploration into the question of identity and our need to fit in and to belong to something larger than ourselves. The interaction of the five housemates, as they build walls to shield themselves from a world that won’t accept their eccentricities, is beautifully and believably depicted and, to some extent, we gradually become part of their close-knit group. Their secrets, Lexie’s secrets, and the secrets of the surrounding village unfold bit by bit and all tie together nicely in the perfectly paced climax.

The reason we are so quick to forgive the holes in the plot is the quality of the writing. We, as much as Cassie, are drawn in to the lives of the enigmatic housemates and the elusive Lexie Madison. Tana French writes with the skill of a magician, showing what she wishes to show, hiding what she wishes to hide and flashing glimpses of everything in between, all the while managing to avoid cliché and convention. Her lyrical phrasing, her sensual imagery and her controlled pacing impart an unreal, hazy quality to the atmosphere that gives the impression of peripheral images that disappear when we try to focus on them. OK, it’s hard to believe; but get over that hurdle and you’ll love this suspenseful and haunting tale.

## Old Blind Dogs To Play Three Area Shows

What could be better than to catch a performance from the landmark Scottish non-traditional trad band, Old Blind Dogs? How about three chances to catch them? Well, you are in luck: on May 13th OBD makes a return visit to the Caffè Lena in Saratoga Springs for an 8 PM show, and after a quick jaunt to Connecticut and western New York, they'll roll into Clinton for a special 8 PM show at the Kirkland Art Center on May 20<sup>th</sup>, wrapping up their mini-Central New York swing with a performance at Homer's Center for the Arts on the 21<sup>st</sup>. One of the original cutting edge folk outfits out of Scotland, Old



Blind Dogs has evolved and grown into one of Scotland's favorite folk bands by applying original arrangements to traditional forms to create an infectious and irresistible energy. Founding member Jonny Hardie (fiddle, mandolin, guitar) is joined by Aaron Jones (bass, bouzouki, backing vocals), Ali Hutton (pipes, whistles, vocals) and Fraser Stone (drums and percussion). While utilizing modern grooves and combining elements from other musical cultures, the Old Blind Dogs repertoire is set very firmly in their native Scotland. Tickets for the show at the Caffè Lena (47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs) are \$22 in advance or \$24 at the door. A mere \$18 -- \$15 for members -- will get you into the show at the Kirkland Art Center (Park Row, Clinton), and for the Homer performance, tickets are \$20 for adults (\$18 for members), \$16 for seniors (\$14 for members) and \$10 for students. The Center for the Arts is located at 72 South Main Street in Homer.

## Irish Heritage Museum Moving To Albany

After 25 years as a summer-only attraction in the Catskills, the Irish American Heritage Museum is moving to a new home in a downtown Albany building, with the promise of high visibility, year-round exhibits and a focus on school group programming intended to revive declining attendance. The museum previously occupied a house in East Durham in the so-called "Irish Alps" among a cluster of Irish bars and shops, and was open only between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of the Irish in America, it is the only museum of its kind in the nation. The museum will now be moving to a 3,000-square-foot, first-floor space in the 1898 Meginniss building.

At a news conference on April 24<sup>th</sup>, coinciding with the 95th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising in Ireland, Assemblyman Jack McEneny, a longtime supporter of the museum and a local historian, read the proclamation of the Irish Republic, which Patrick Pearse had read aloud just after noon on Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, from the steps of the General Post Office in Dublin (see the April 2010 issue of this newsletter for more on that proclamation). The museum is expected to open in September following renovation work estimated to cost \$150,000 to \$250,000. A fundraising drive will kick off this spring.

## Prayers and Kudos for Local Musicians

Last month, we received news at opposite fronts regarding two well-known members of the local Irish music community. First, one of Central New York's most endearing Irish musicians and personalities – Vince Colgan – suffered a stroke a few weeks ago. The good news is that he's getting better, doing rehab and making steady progress every day. Vince has had an enormous influence in the area; pioneering the growth of Irish music in Central New York while humbly dismissing the mantle of "legendary balladeer and storyteller." Vince is currently in Room 129 at Faxton-St. Luke's Hospital and his family says he would love to have people send him cards, either by snail mail or to <http://www.faxtonstlukes.com>, as he continues the long journey to full recovery. Vince, from your friends and devotees at this newsletter: Go mbíodh biseach ort gan mhoill! ... Also this month, Blarney Rebel Band's bodhran player Jessica "Jersey" Hilterbrandt and her husband Gary welcomed their first baby, Desmond, into the world at 7:11 PM on April 12, 2011. Our heartiest congratulations to the happy couple.

## Craobh Dugan “Tune of the Month” –

A slight departure in the Tune of the Month this month: instead of the usual session tunes, we thought it would be appropriate to accompany our article on the Heroes of the Easter Rising with one of the most poignant songs in the entire pantheon of Irish Music, “Grace,” written by Sean and Frank O’Meara. Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford were scheduled to be married on Easter Sunday 1916. Days before the planned wedding Joseph Plunkett, who suffered from respiration troubles, was admitted to the hospital and underwent an emergency operation. On Easter Monday 1916, the day after the postponed wedding, Plunkett left his hospital bed to man his post in the General Post Office and take part in the Easter Rising. After the surrender of the rebels Joseph Plunkett was arrested and imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol. Just hours before his execution on May 4, 1916 he married Grace Gifford in the jail chapel with two prison guards as witnesses.

### Grace

C F C C F C

5 C C7 F G As we  
gather in the chapel here in old Kilmainham Jail I  
9 F C Am D  
think about these past few weeks, oh will they say we've failed From our  
13 C C7 F G  
schooldays they have told us we must yearn for li-ber-ty Yet  
17 F C Am G C  
all I want in this dark place is to have you here with me. Oh

CHORUS: G F C  
Grace just hold me in your arms and let this mo-ment lin-ger they'll  
25 F C G  
take me out at dawn and I will die With  
29 G F C  
all my love I place this wedding ring up-on your fin-ger There  
33 F C Am G C  
won't be time to share our love for we must say good- bye

Verse 2: Now I know it's hard for you my love to ever understand  
The love I bare for these brave men, the love for my dear land  
But when Pádraic called me to his side down in the GPO  
I had to leave my own sick bed, to him I had to go

Verse 3 Now as the dawn is breaking, my heart is breaking too  
On this May morn as I walk out, my thoughts will be of you  
And I'll write some words upon the wall so everyone will know  
I loved so much that I could see his blood upon the rose.

## RANDOM RAMBLINGS

✚ **Keep Those Letter Coming!** We got a nice letter from reader Germaine Connolly regarding “Tune of the Month” columnist Skip Mansur’s piece on Patrick Byrne (MVCE, Apr 2010) that read: “Thanks (as always) for the wonderful newsletter. Did you know that Patrick Byrne was the only harper in the old style (wire strung) that was ever photographed? There were still a few harpers in the early 19th century who played on brass wire-strung harps, and who had been taught by teachers who themselves had been taught in a succession from the medieval harpers. One or two became good harpers: Valentine Rennie (Belfast harp school), and Patrick Byrne had a successful career touring Ireland and Scotland, playing before royalty (and getting photographed in a very strange outfit). These harpers, however, were oddities out of their time and did not manage to train successors. The last living appears to have been Patrick Murney, who explained stringing to James Laverty in 1882. The old style of playing put the left hand at the top of the strings (treble) and the right at the bottom (the opposite of what most harpers do today).”



✚ **“Nuacht as Craobh Dugan”---news from the Dugan Branch** Chris Hoke of Craobh Dugan sent in the following report on the long-awaited “Echoes of Erin” Comhaltas North American’s Concert Tour. “Due to circumstances beyond our control, the date for the concert we are hosting has been changed to Saturday October 15th. Because of the date change, we are looking for a different venue to host the show as the Capitol Theater is not available. You will be notified as soon as the venue is secured, but please mark the date of the concert on your calendar.” Whaddya think, folks, got any ideas or “ins” to an appropriate venue? Clinton High School? MVCC’s auditorium? The Uptown Theater? If you can think of anything, feel free to give Chris a call at 827-4291... Upcoming Craobh Dugan events: May 3 Open session at The Nail Creek Pub Varick St Utica 7:30; May 18 Open Session at The Mill E. Dominick St Rome 7:30; May 20 Ceili with musicians at The Seton Center 7:00; May 21 Lion’s Club Walk-a-Thon Sauquoit Valley HS Track 8:30 AM (see below).

✚ **Lion’s Club Walk-A-Thon** So you think those Craobh Dugan dancers can only go in circles? Not so; on Saturday May 21st at 8:30 AM, they’ll be taking part in a 5K (3.1 mi) or 10K (6.2 mi) walk at the Sauquoit Valley High School Track, as a fund raiser for the group and the Lion’s Club. Walkers collect pledges, which are turned into the Lions Club (that’s an impressive magic trick!); 90% of which come back to the Craobh Dugan branch. To get a pledge form, contact Chris at 827-4291, and then start lining up your pledges. All the money raised will go to their scholarship fund to help members attend classes and workshops.

✚ **Irish Fiddle and Piano Workshops** Fiddler **Brian Conway** and fiddler/pianist **Gilles Losier** are hosting an intermediate/advanced Irish Fiddle and Piano Workshop from 3-4:30 PM at Nazareth College Academic Center, Rooms 131 and 133, 4245 East Ave, Pittsford. Brian, a multiple All-Ireland champion fiddler, is a leading component of the highly ornamented Sligo fiddling style made famous by the late Michael Coleman, while Gilles is a legendary pianist and fiddler from New Brunswick who has been showcasing his talents as a multi-instrumentalist, accompanist, arranger and composer since the fifties. Admission for the workshop is \$20. Email [here](#) to sign up. For more, call (585) 586-4503 or go to [www.mcgrawsirishpub.com](http://www.mcgrawsirishpub.com).

✚ **Friends of St. Mary’s Raffle** The Friends’ Dorothy Fey reminded us that the Friends of St. Mary’s still has raffle tickets for two beautiful handcrafted Adirondack Chairs to benefit St Mary’s. If you live in the Camden area, the chairs are currently on display in a store window at 67 Main Street in Camden. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. If you are interested in showing your support and taking a chance on the raffle, please mail your check to: Dorothy Fey, 9180 Bones Road, Taberg NY, 13471. The drawing will be on May 22, 2011 at St. Mary’s.

✿ **“Nail Creek Sessions” Celebrates 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary** Time flies when you’re enjoying traditional Irish music, doesn’t it? It doesn’t seem possible, but it was May 2009 when we announced that Café Domenica was ending its monthly Craobh Dugan open session nights, and that Chris and Tracey (then Smith) Talgo of the Nail Creek Pub and Brewery were picking up the mantle, giving birth to what has come to be known as “the Nail Creek Sessions.” Held the first Tuesday of each month, these sessions have averaged 16 outstanding musicians each month, and they show no signs of slowing down. Here’s wishing you another great year!

✿ **It’s an Irish Underground Movement!** That’s right, digging has commenced for the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley, on the sacred grounds of the original St. Patrick’s Church at the corner of Columbia and Varick Streets. Stay tuned to this newsletter for more exciting developments as they occur.

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

May 1	Donal O’Shaughnessy and Brian Hyland	<a href="#">Coleman’s Irish Pub</a>	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
May 1	<a href="#">Syracuse Irish Session</a>	<a href="#">J. Ryan’s Pub</a>	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
May 2	Trad Irish Music Session	<a href="#">The Susquehanna Café</a>	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
May 3	“Nail Creek Sessions”	<a href="#">Nail Creek Pub</a>	Utica	7:30-10 PM	Free
May 5	Traditional Irish Session	<a href="#">Marcellus Legion Hall</a>	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
May 6	Donal O’Shaughnessy	<a href="#">Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub</a>	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
May 6	“Mostly Irish” Monthly Jam	Irish American Club	Amsterdam NY	7:30 PM	Free
May 6-7	Pat Kane	<a href="#">Kitty Hoynes</a>	Syracuse	8:30 PM	Free
May 9	Trad Irish Music Session	<a href="#">The Susquehanna Café</a>	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
May 12	Traditional Irish Session	<a href="#">Marcellus Legion Hall</a>	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
May 13	Old Blind Dogs	<a href="#">Caffè Lena</a>	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	\$22/adv; \$24 door
May 14	Trad Irish Music Session	<a href="#">Kitty Hoynes</a>	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
May 15	<a href="#">Syracuse Irish Session</a>	Johnston’s Bally Bay Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
May 16	Trad Irish Music Session	<a href="#">The Susquehanna Café</a>	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
May 18	Traditional Irish Session	<a href="#">The Mill</a>	Rome, NY	7:30 PM	Free
May 18	Traditional Irish Session	<a href="#">Marcellus Legion Hall</a>	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
May 20	Old Blind Dogs	<a href="#">Kirkland Art Center</a>	Clinton	8 PM	\$18; \$15 members
May 21	Old Blind Dogs	<a href="#">Center for the Arts</a>	Homer	8 PM	\$20, \$16 Srs, \$10 Students
May 21	Hair of the Dog	<a href="#">Parting Glass</a>	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	\$13
May 22	Flyin’ Column	<a href="#">Coleman’s Irish Pub</a>	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
May 23	Trad Irish Music Session	<a href="#">The Susquehanna Café</a>	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
May 26	Traditional Irish Session	<a href="#">Marcellus Legion Hall</a>	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
May 28	Trad Irish Music Session	<a href="#">Kitty Hoynes</a>	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
May 28-29	<a href="#">East Durham Irish Festival</a>	Michael J. Quill Cultural and Sports Centre	East Durham	11-11 Sat 10-11 Sun	\$14 (\$16 after 2 PM)
May 30	Trad Irish Music Session	<a href="#">The Susquehanna Café</a>	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free

If you have anything you want to share with us, feel free to send it to us ([sistia@roadrunner.com](mailto:sistia@roadrunner.com), [bloftis@ymail.com](mailto:bloftis@ymail.com) or [marksisti@roadrunner.com](mailto:marksisti@roadrunner.com)), and we’ll be happy to include it. As always, while we try to get things – prices, places, genders, etc. -- as accurate as we can, sometimes we make mistakes. It always makes sense to call ahead to confirm some of these further-out trips. In the meantime, don’t forget Mother’s Day on May 8th, and as this is the month we celebrate Memorial Day, please remember those who have died in service to our country.