
MOHAWK VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL EVENTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 9

Sept 2011

School's in Session, Sessions in School; MVCC Classes Boast Celtic Flavor

With the wildly successful Great American Irish Festival, one of the state's largest St. Patrick's Day parades, and the soon-to-be-built showpiece Irish Cultural Center, it's clear that Central New York is rapidly becoming the hub of Irish culture in New York State. If there's any doubt, take a look at the Mohawk Valley Community College Center For Corporate And Community Education Fall 2011 catalogue, which features no less than four classes relating to Celtic culture. (Why do we say "no less than four" when we actually mean "four?" But I digress.) Pick a day of the week and you can learn more about Irish, Gaelic and Celtic culture, language and history. Maybe we should start calling MVCC "Mohawk Valley Celtic College."

Irish Myths and Legends

In no culture is the line between history and mythology as blurred as in the culture of the Celtic nations. In this eight-week course, students will get an overview of the myths surrounding Celtic culture, with an emphasis on Irish myths and legends. Topics will include the creation myths, Gods and Goddesses, Irish epic literature, oral storytelling traditions, and meanings behind Celtic symbols. The course will also touch on the incorporation of pagan rituals and symbolism into early Christianity, and the use of music to show the influence of myths on Irish culture.

Instructor: Mark Sisti Mon 9/26-11/14 7:00-8:00 PM \$59

Wales and the Welsh

Maybe you have Welsh heritage? Maybe you plan on visiting Wales? Or maybe you're just interested in the fascinating history and culture of this Celtic land, rich in legends, medieval castles, and beautiful scenery. In this class, you will learn about your Welsh origins, examine ancient customs, hear Welsh stories, and ponder what you might like to visit. Welsh educator and author, Rainer Morgan, will take you on a tour of Welsh culture, geography, tourism and history, in the comfort of the classroom!

Instructor: Rainer Morgan Tues 9/20-10/11 6:30-8:00 PM \$39

Irish Songs: Their History & Meanings

Who was Kevin Barry and why do the Irish sing about him? Where are the Fields of Athenry, and what was Trevelyan's corn? What exactly is a Broad Black Brimmer? If you've always wondered about the stories behind these and other favorite Irish tunes, this is the course for you. You will learn about the places, names and history that make up all the songs you always knew but never understood.

Instructor: Mark Sisti Wed 9/28-11/16 7:00-8:00 PM \$59

Irish Language for Beginners

Have you always dreamt of traveling to the Emerald Isle? If so, this course will help you to build conversational skills you can use during your travels! In this course, you will be introduced to the basics of conversational Irish (Gaelic) language. Lessons will include history and folklore of Ireland to help students to learn the roots of this rich and interesting language.

Instructor: Tom Malley Thurs 9/29-11/3 7:00-8:30 PM \$59

For more information or to register, visit the online brochure at <http://www.mvcc.edu/cced/material/brochure>.

September – Marking The End of Summer or... the Beginning of Fun??

You know it as well as we do: September in Central New York means bringing in the trampolines, trying to remember where we put the rake, telling the kids that you'll make them go swimming if they don't clean their room, and wishing the Mets better luck next year. But does the fun have to stop? Absolutely not... just throw on your GAIF fleece and head out to any of these September festivals:

- 🍷 **Capital District Scottish Games** (*Sept 3-4*) The Altamont Fairgrounds will host the 2011 Capital District Scottish Games, which will feature pipe band, solo piping and drumming, highland dance and highland athletic competitions, the Scottish Dog Breeds exhibition and Scottish dog show, children's events and a 5K Kilted Race, exhibits by Scottish clans and societies, Scottish Livestock Show, Irish Step dancing demonstrations and performances by The Brigadoons, Rathkeltair, Kevin McKrell, The Fighting 86's and more. Ticket prices are: Saturday: \$22 at the gate, \$18 pre-sale; Sunday: \$12 at the gate, \$10 pre-sale. Children 12 and under are free. For more info, visit www.scotgames.com.
- 🍷 **Syracuse Irish Festival** (*Sept 9-10*) On September 9-10, downtown Syracuse will be touched with a tint of green as the Syracuse Irish Festival once again takes to the streets. In total, performances will take place on two separate stages in Clinton Square, by such Celtic and Irish bands as The Elders, Searson, The Glengarry Bhoys, Rathkeltair, Goitse, the Blarney Rebel Band and much more. Once again there will be a Gaelic Language Mass, slated for 11 AM on Saturday. The festival, which runs from noon to 11 PM both days, is free. For more info, check <http://www.syracuseirishfestival.com/>.
- 🍷 **17th Rochester Irish Festival** (*Sept 9-11*) Started in 1994, the Rochester Irish Festival is committed to the ideal of staging an event in an atmosphere conducive to families and children, with entertainment that is dynamic, vibrant and energetic. This year's lineup includes Andy Cooney and his Show Band, Derek Warfield & Young Wolfetones, Emish, Glengarry Bhoys, and others. For more information, check [here](#). Tickets are \$10 each day for Friday and Saturday (\$8 in advance), or \$20 for all three days (only in advance).
- 🍷 **15th Irish 2000 Music and Arts Festival** (*Sept 16-17*) The 2011 edition of the Irish 2000 Music and Arts Festival will take place at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds in Ballston Spa, N.Y., on Sept. 16-17, 2011. Gates open at 4 PM on Friday and 11 AM on Saturday. Performers include Enter the Haggis, Gaelic Storm, Black 47, Leahy, Carbon Leaf, Glengarry Bhoys, Hair of the Dog, Seven Nations, Shilelagh Law, The Fenians, The Clancy Legacy and many more. Tickets for the festival are: Friday, \$20 at the gate (\$16 in advance), Saturday, \$20 at the gate (\$16 in advance), with a special 2-Day Pass available for \$29. Kids 12 and under are free. For more information, visit their [web site](#).
- 🍷 **Elmira Irish Festival** (*Sept 10*) The Elmira Hibernian-sponsored 11th Annual Halfway to St Patrick's Day Irish Festival will be held this year from 1:00 PM to 11:00 PM on September 10th, at the Hibernian Center grounds at 701 Kinyon St on Elmira's Southside. Admission is free. This year's Festival features Hair of the Dog, Pat Kane, The Stoutman, pipers and more. A complete menu of food and beverages will be offered. Those attending should bring lawn chairs as limited seating is available.
- 🍷 **Irish Day at Lock 20** (*Sept 5*) On Monday, September 5th from 3 PM until dark, the annual "Irish Day" will be held at the Lock 20 Canal Park on Rte 49 in Marcy, as the last concert in 2011's "Betsy the Barge" series. Irish music will be provided by Comhaltas Ceoltóir Éireann's Craobh Dugan branch and others, followed by a fireworks display at dusk. Show-goers are encouraged to bring their own blankets and/or lawn chairs.
- 🍷 **3rd Hudson Valley Irish Fest** (*Sept 24*) Jameson's Revenge headlines the 3rd Annual Hudson Valley Irish Fest on Saturday, September 24 at Peekskill Riverfront Green. Rounding out the lineup will be Celtic Cross, Mary Courtney and John Redmond and others. Also appearing will be the Hudson Valley's finest traditional Irish musicians, Massed Pipe Bands and Irish Step Dancers. The festival runs from 11am to 7pm. There will be a donation entry fee for this event, food and drink are not included.

“Dingle Boy” Wins GAIF Photo Contest

The winning photograph for the 2011 Great American Irish Festival was “Dingle Boy,” submitted by Paul Stern of Utica. Paul, who won \$100 for his winning entry, had a profitable weekend at GAIF this year, also taking third place with his photo, “The Quick and the Dead,” netting him another \$25. Sandwiched between Paul’s entries was the second-place winner of \$50, Utican Thomas Dineen’s “Liffey River from Halfpenny Bridge.” This year’s contest was especially close, with only six votes separating the top two photos out of almost 1,500 votes that were cast.



Do you have a photograph of an Irish or Irish-American location, activity or event? It’s never too early to start thinking of next year’s contest. While pictures must show an Irish or Irish-American event, activity or location, GAIF Cultural Building chair Deni Finch-Frederick suggests that entrants may want to look a little closer to home for their subject matter.

“We really want to encourage photographers to think American-Irish, especially shots of things that are Mohawk Valley centered, seisuns, ceilis, old buildings and graveyards, for example,” said Deni. “After all, not everyone can make it to Ireland, so we have to look for the Irish around us.”

Photographs may be submitted to the Great American Irish Festival Photo Contest, c/o Deni Finch-Frederick, 307 N. Bellinger St., Herkimer, NY 13350, no later than Saturday, July 21, 2012. Each photo must be at least 8 inches by 10 inches and no larger than 11 inches by 14 inches and must be mounted or matted but not framed. Each entry – photographers may submit up to three photos – must include a person or people as the subject or a component of the photograph.

For 2012 rules and entry forms, go to <http://www.gaif.us/festival/photo-contest>.

Earlville Opera House Welcomes the April Verch Band

On Friday, September 2nd, the Earlville Opera House brings in the April Verch Band, traveling from Ontario in support of their newest CD, “That’s How We Run.” The band, led by triple-threat entertainer April Verch – she’s a champion Canadian fiddler, stepdancer, and singer – brings together Celtic, jazz, folk, and bluegrass influences; the result of which is a high-energy performance that will leave you yearning for more. The ethereal-voiced Verch hails from Ontario’s Ottawa Valley, and is deeply rooted in the rich traditional musical heritage of that region, as defined by the immigrants drawn to the region’s lumber camps in the mid-1800s. Tickets for the 8 PM show range from \$13 to \$23. The Earlville Opera House is located on East Main Street in Earlville.

Kirkland Art Center Welcomes Comas

On Friday September 30th, the Kirkland Art Center brings in one of the hottest up-and-coming Celtic acts around, Comas, for a very special 8 PM performance. Comas – its name translates to “power” in Gaelic -- brings together their many cultural influences to forge a unique blend of traditional Irish music. Drawing comparisons to Lunasa, De Dannan and Solas and characterized as “...open to new influences but with a respectful eye on the past,” Comas is Aidan Burke (fiddle), Sylvain Barou (flutes and pipes), Philip Masure (guitar) and Jackie Moran (bodhran and percussion). Make plans to see this rare appearance by a group the Irish Post has called “one of Europe’s most sensational Celtic bands.”

“Irish Cultural and Historical Society of the Mohawk Valley” News

Great American Irish Festival Director Matt Sullivan reports: “With the 8th annual Great American Irish Festival now in our rearview mirror, we can re-focus exclusively on the progress underway at the Irish Cultural Center. By the way, although some accounting work remains, it would appear that this year’s festival was the best yet. The Friday rain was apparently not enough to do much damage, and the crowds for the day Saturday and the Mass on Sunday were festival records for sure.”

“As for our building project, we are finishing up the poured walls and are getting ready to pour the cellar floor, now that the basement plumbing is about complete. Also completed is our elevator shaft and pit. Backfilling is well underway and we’ll be ready for some lumber soon. We have been slowed somewhat by a rainy spring and our work harvesting the stone from the St. Patrick’s Church. Terry Horan and Jack Kelly have put in many hours in this process, and have now stockpiled about 65 crates of stone (both red and



limestone) as well as some huge stones too large to crate. They will be incorporated in the construction of our pub fireplace and courtyard walls, among other things. In fact, the value of our reclaimed stone is about the same as what we paid for the property. While we may not be setting any speed records thus far, I’m happy to report that everything is top-quality and should serve us well for many, many years.”

“If you have some time, stop down to the “five points” to view the progress.”

For more information on the Irish Cultural and Historical Society of the Mohawk Valley – including ways you can get involved – be sure to visit the new web site at <http://www.iccmv.us/>, or “like” our [Facebook page](#).

The Story of Kevin Barry

On September 20th 1920, the Irish Volunteers ambushed a British army bread van on Queens Street near Monks Bakery in Dublin. In the ensuing gun battle three young British soldiers were fatally wounded. All the volunteers escaped except one. On November 1, 1920, 18-year-old Kevin Barry was executed and, in doing so, entered into the pantheon of legendary Irish heroes.

Kevin Barry came from a well-off family in County Carlow. He went to school at St Mary’s College in Rathmines and later to Belvedere College where he excelled at rugby and hurling. Despite his many activities – which, by his 2nd year included participating in the fight for Irish independence – he was a good student, winning a scholarship given annually by Dublin Corporation, allowing him to become a student of medicine at University College Dublin.

At the young age of 15, he joined the Irish Volunteers, a military organization established in 1913 by Irish nationalists, formed in response to the formation of the Ulster Volunteers in 1912. Barry’s job consisted mainly at first of cycling all over Dublin delivering messages and orders, but he also took part in a number of operations including a raid for ammunitions and numerous other skirmishes, and quickly rose to the rank of Section Commander. On June 1st 1920 his Company attacked King’s Inn and captured a large quantity of

ammunitions and weapons. In another incident, Barry himself led a group which captured the guardroom on Constitution Hill. More than 25 British soldiers were seized in the raid but released unharmed.

After attending Mass on the morning of September 20, Kevin joined a party of IRA volunteers on Bolton Street in Dublin, with orders to ambush a British army truck as it picked up a delivery of bread from the bakery, and capture their weapons. It was not expected to be a complicated excursion; in fact, Kevin, who had a school examination at 2:00 p.m., expected the operation to be concluded in time for him to take his exam.

The plan was for the Volunteers to surround the truck, take the weapons, and escape. The five British soldiers in the truck complied with the order to lay down their weapons, but when a shot was fired – by some accounts a warning shot from a soldier in the front of the truck who was left uncovered – the ambush party opened fire. Barry's gun jammed twice, and he took cover under the truck. As British reinforcement arrived, the rest of the Volunteers fled, and Barry was left behind, discovered and arrested by the soldiers. One of the soldiers had been shot dead. Two others died of the wounds they suffered in the attack.

After his capture, Kevin was interrogated and tortured by the authorities but refused to reveal the identities of his accomplices. Although no evidence was ever introduced that Barry ever fired a shot, he was court-martialed and was quickly convicted. He refused to defend himself at trial, saying only, "As a soldier of the Irish Republic, I refuse to recognize the court." He was sentenced to be hanged.

It was a tense time in Ireland, with the nation still outraged at the executions of the leaders of the insurrection. In addition, on October 25th the Lord Mayor of Cork, Terence MacSwiney died as the result of a hunger strike after being arrested for sedition. His death generated huge world-wide publicity, and most observers believed that the authorities would not execute Barry in the midst of such a tense political situation. As the deadline approached, however, it became clear that Kevin Barry would be executed. Barry's only complaint was that he wished to be shot, the manner of execution for prisoners of war, rather than hanged as a common criminal.

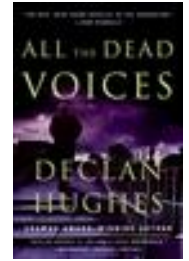


A friend who had visited him shortly before the execution quoted Barry as saying, "It is nothing, to give one's life for Ireland. I'm not the first and maybe I won't be the last. What's my life compared with the cause?" The depth of Republican feeling in the Barry family came to the fore when the priest who attended Barry said to his mother that he didn't think Kevin realized he was going to be executed because he was so calm. Mrs. Barry replied, "I know you are not a Republican. But is it impossible for you to understand that my son is actually proud to die for the Republic?" On the morning of November 1st 1920 at 8:30 AM, Kevin Barry was led out to the gallows and executed by hanging.

Just as in the aftermath of the 1916 Easter Rising the British badly misjudged the situation. By executing Kevin Barry they handed the Irish Republican Army a huge propaganda victory. The execution of someone so young aroused widespread international condemnation across Europe and America, and led to many of his fellow students joining the IRA. Barry's execution precipitated the bloodiest month of the War of Independence, November 1920. Young recruits flocked to join the IRA in the War of Independence, which in turn led to the Treaty, the partition of Ireland, the Civil War, Independence and all that has occurred since. Kevin Barry is buried in the yard of Mountjoy Jail, along with nine others who were hanged between March and June 1921.

Those interested in learning more about Kevin Barry and other Irish heroes immortalized in song may want to consider enrolling in "Irish Songs: Their History and Meanings" being offered at MVCC beginning in September. For more information, see article in this newsletter.

Book Review:
“All The Dead Voices”
By Mark Sisti



Ed Loy is back and we couldn't be happier. The reluctant but resilient private eye, introduced in Declan Hughes' debut novel, "The Wrong Kind of Blood" (reviewed in this newsletter in the September 2006 issue; go ahead, I'll wait) returns in "All The Dead Voices," the fourth in the series. (Yes, I know, there's been another Loy novel since this one but, as mentioned before in this space, my preference is to read and review series books in the order they were written. Some aspects of a later book may be spoilers for those who haven't yet read the prior installment. For example, if the newer book includes a character from the previous one, you have a pretty good idea that person was neither the murderer nor the murdered.)

The latest installment opens with a prologue flashback to 1980, where we find two IRA men hiding alongside a roadway, waiting to detonate a bomb intended to kill a brutal and hated judge. Hughes scatters additional seemingly unrelated flashbacks throughout the book, because, as we've learned with Hughes, there is always a connection between the past and the present.

Flash forward to the current day, where Loy is asked to check on the activities of an up-and-coming young football star, Paul Delaney, by Paul's brother Dessie, an old acquaintance who has heard rumors that Paul has been dealing drugs for some of the local gangsters. As per usual with Ed Loy, there are shootings and beatings before you're even settled in your easy chair. Both incidents make Loy suspect that there is something to the rumors, and he's even more convinced when the two thugs who had tried to attack him turn up dead.

Of course, that would be far too simple a plot for Declan Hughes, so, meanwhile, Loy is approached by the perfect Hammett-like femme fatale, Anne Fogarty, whose father was killed 15 years earlier, but who believes the police held the wrong man responsible. Her father, a revenue (tax) inspector, had been digging up dirt on some very bad people: Jack Cullen, ex-IRA now gang leader; Bobby Doyle, ex-IRA now property developer, and George Halligan, who readers of previous Loy books remember fondly. Cullen also has ties with young Delaney, and, in addition, is concerned about unrest within and outside his organization. And somehow it ties in with the 1980 IRA bombing. And the two hoods who attacked Loy and later turned up dead. Confused yet? If not, you soon will be. Along the way we meet enough hard-boiled characters to fill a full Chandler library, and it is sometimes difficult to follow the players without a scorecard, but if you stick with it, Hughes, as he usually does, manages to tie pretty much everything together and give you a satisfying payoff at the end.

"All the Dead Voices" is a good story, with very good, sometimes excellent, writing and some interesting twists that don't seem to come out of left field. The action is non-stop, the tension builds gradually but unceasingly and the plot is complicated enough to maintain interest without becoming convoluted. With his perfect ear for crisp dialogue, Hughes moves the story at a brisk pace that only feels hurried when he wants it to, as the events race toward their climactic, almost cinematic resolution where the past and present converge. The violence is often brutal, the language is frequently profane, but the book doesn't rely on the shock value of those elements to make it interesting. It is an intelligent and riveting examination of shadows and the objects that cast them and of the destructive consequences of acts long forgotten.

As always, what makes Declan Hughes's books work is his attention to characters. Ed Loy is a credible, three dimensional protagonist, with the perfect balance of cynicism and idealism. Unlike in the previous Loy books, the love interest never comes off as forced and, while there is the occasional "been there before" feel, none of it appears clichéd. What makes Loy stand out from a sea of mostly interchangeable hard-boiled detectives is the fact that we can observe a growth in him from one novel to the next. The Ed Loy we encounter in "All The Dead Voices" is not the same as the one we met in "The Wrong Kind of Blood," older and more world-weary, but also more centered and stable. And – no spoiler here – this trend continues in the next Loy novel, "The City of Dead Girls. But don't worry: with Loy, "stable" never means boring.

Craobh Dugan “Tune of the Month” – Britches/John Ryan’s Polkas – by Skip Mansur

“Polkas! We haven’t played any Polkas!” So you say that you thought Polkas were primarily a Polish form of dance and music? Well, that is not incorrect, however.... The polka dance form was originally a Czech peasant dance, developed in Eastern Bohemia (now part of Czechoslovakia). The dance was first introduced into the ballrooms of Prague in 1835. The name of the dance (pulka) is Czech for “half-step,” referring to the rapid shift from one foot to the other. From Prague the dance was introduced to Paris and England in the 1840’s and at that time it was a high-class kind of dance, not the type you would find on an accordion! (it was performed for Queen Victoria in 1845 in London). However, the first pulka were played on stringed instruments - primarily the violin by Czech peasants, and following the spread into Great Britain, including Ireland, it also found its way into popular Irish dance and music, returning to its more traditional roots.

The polka is one of the most popular traditional folk dances in Ireland, particularly in Sliabh Luachra, a district that spans the borders of counties Kerry, Cork and Limerick. Many of the figures of Irish set dances, which developed from Continental quadrilles, are danced to polkas, which generally have a 2/4 time signature. There are hundreds of Irish polka tunes, which are also often played at seisiúns and céilidhs, including our local CCE events. In fact, at our Third Wednesday evening seisiún at The Mill in Rome, we have been trying a new format, starting with an hour (or so) long Slow Seisiún for those who might wish to try learning some tunes. We have been playing our “Ryan’s Polka Set” at some of these since polkas make some fairly easy tunes to learn. Presented here are the first and last tunes in that set, “Britches Full of Stitches” (“O the Breeches Full of Stitches”) and “John Ryan’s” (often known as “Sean Ryan’s”) polkas. (Note, we sometimes play “Britches” also in the key of G).

Britches Full of Stitches

CCE Craobh Dugan
Ryan’s Polkas Set

A

The musical notation for "Britches Full of Stitches" is presented in two systems. The first system shows the melody line with notes and rests, and the second system shows the bass line with notes and rests. Chord symbols A, D, and E are placed above the notes in both systems. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

John Ryan's

D

The musical notation for "John Ryan's" is presented in two systems. The first system shows the melody line with notes and rests, and the second system shows the bass line with notes and rests. Chord symbols D, G, A, E7, and A7 are placed above the notes in both systems. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

“Britches Full of Stitches” is found among the tunes of County Clare fiddler Martin Hayes. As noted in *The Fiddler’s Companion*, this tune was mentioned in Irish novelist Charles Kickham’s novel *Knocknagow, or the Homes of Tipperary*, first published in 1879, in which this ditty is sung by a jew’s harp player who first plays the tune for a visitor who has torn his pants, then sings:

*Oh, my breeches full of stitches,
Oh, my breeches buckled on.*

“John Ryan’s” is a popular tune, and was played by the Irish Group Planxty on the album “Cold Blow the Rainy Night.” You may also recall having heard it played in the movie “Titanic” down in the “Party in Third Class” (see for example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U50hqJS2ock>). Interestingly, the tune immediately preceding it was “Blarney Pilgrim,” presented here back in July). Our own past parade Grand Marshall and County Kerry accordionist, Jim O’Looney is fond of recounting the many house dances he was invited to play music for in Ireland. There, the kitchen tables were cleared away to make room for the dancers and sometimes the music and dancing continued all night until the darkness again began to fade....

RANDOM RAMBLINGS

- ✚ **“Nuacht as Craobh Dugan”---news from the Dugan Branch** Chris Hoke of Craobh Dugan sent in the following report on the exciting Echoes of Erin concert: “This will be our biggest event of the year!! The concert is set for Saturday October 15th in the Rome Free Academy Auditorium. Tickets cost \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Tickets are on sale now and are available from Mike or Chris Hoke who are taking orders over the phone (827-4291) or via email (hoke84@gmail.com). There is also a link for the tickets on our [website](#).” We’ll have a full article on the concert in next month’s issue... but you may not want to put off buying your tickets; this is going to be a very well-attended event. The Craobh Dugan musicians also have a couple of additional performances this month besides the normal fare (which now includes the new “slow session” segment at the Mill in Rome); those being Irish Night at Lock 20 on Sept 5th, and during Charley Thomas’ traditional Irish Breakfast on Sept 25th. Wh-what? Charley Thomas’ Traditional Irish Breakfast? Tell me more!!
- ✚ **Traditional Irish Breakfast** Do you love charity and blood pudding? World-class musical talent and broiled tomatoes? Soda bread and Charley Thomas? Well heck yeah, who doesn’t?! Okay, on Sunday September 25th, all this and more will be available to you as Charley Thomas presents his famous traditional Irish breakfast, from 8 AM until 12 noon at the Utica Maennerchor, as a fundraiser to help the folks in Craobh Dugan defray the costs of bringing in the storied Echoes of Erin concert in October. The meal will consist of eggs, Irish sausage, Irish bacon, black or white pudding, fried tomatoes, Irish soda bread and Irish brown bread. The cost is \$10 per person and \$25 per family (adult(s) and children under age 16). Charley’s famed breakfasts go quickly, so tell your family and friends to come early and come hungry! I can’t think of a better way to spend a Sunday morning than to bring back the memories of Irish Sundays at the Riverside Diner and help a good cause at the same time. Oh yeah, and eat good food.
- ✚ **The “Boys of Wexford” Return** The Boys of Wexford -- an ensemble musical cast from around the northeastern United States – will be bringing the sounds of Ireland to upstate New York; honoring the achievements of the many Irish immigrants who helped build the Erie Canal. The Boys, led by fiddler P.V. O’Donnell and featuring a group of superb musicians and vocalists Claudine Langille and Melissa Murray, mark their 6th straight year of traveling the Erie Canal, making stops at Stone Church in Stone Arabia from 7-9 PM on Sept 9th; at Loopies Pub in Tribes Hill from 5-8 PM on the 10th; at the Irish American Club in Amsterdam from 8:30 to 11 PM on the 10th, and wrapping things up with two hour performance at the Tugboat Festival in Waterford, starting at 1 PM.
- ✚ **Rome Drum Major 9th in World Championships** Jason Matteson of Rome has been busy! He recently earned ninth place at the World Pipe Band Championships, which take place annually in Glasgow, Scotland. He also took second place at the North Berwick Highland Games and received the Burgh of Bridge of Allan Rose Bowl Trophy for winning first place at the Bridge of Allan Highlands Games. Since returning to the US, Matteson won first place at the Hunter Mountain Celtic Festival. “For my first time competing at the Worlds, it was a great show and I very much look forward to placing higher next year,” Matteson said. Matteson is a bagpiper with the Mohawk Valley Frasers Pipe Band, where he teaches the bagpipes and how to be a drum major.
- ✚ **17th Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival** On the weekend of September 10-11, the town of Norwich will be welcoming over 10,000 attendees to the 17th Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival. The art-themed event features music workshops at the children’s stage, student art exhibit, competitive poetry slam, craft demonstrations, hands-on arts projects for adults and children of all ages in two art zones, and a variety of other creative opportunities throughout the parks. This year’s musical entertainment boasts an outstanding lineup of performers from all genres, including Sara Milonovich with Daisycutter, Runa, and the legendary family band McPeake, from Belfast.

Celtic Club Calendar Finally, here's the Irish Musical and Cultural calendar for September:

Sep 1	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Sep 2	Rathkeltair	Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	9:30 PM	?
Sep 2	April Verch Band	Earlville Opera House	Earlville	8 PM	\$13-\$23
Sep 2	Donal O'Shaughnessey	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Sep 2	"Mostly Irish" Monthly Jam	Irish American Club	Amsterdam NY	7:30 PM	Free
Sep 3	Pat Kane	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	8:30 PM	Free
Sep 3-4	Capital District Scottish Games	Altamont Fairgrounds	Altamont, NY	10 AM – 6:30 PM	Sat, \$22 (\$18 adv); Sun, \$12 (\$10 adv)
Sep 4	Syracuse Irish Session	J. Ryan's Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Sep 5	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Sep 5	"Irish Day"	Lock 20	Marcy	3 PM	Free
Sep 6	"Nail Creek Sessions"	Nail Creek Pub	Utica	7:30-10 PM	Free
Sep 8	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Sep 9	Neil Emberg	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:30 PM	Free
Sep 9-10	Syracuse Irish Festival	Clinton Square	Syracuse	Noon – 11PM	Free
Sep 9-11	Rochester Irish Festival	Camp Eastman	Irondequoit, NY	3– 11 Fri 12 – 11 - Sat 12 – 6 Sun	\$10 per day (\$8 adv), or \$20 for 3 days (adv only)
Sep 10	Elmira Irish Festival	Hibernian Center, Kinyon St	Elmira	1 PM - 11 PM	Free
Sep 10	Rathkeltair	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9:30 PM	Free
Sep 10	Kyle Carey with Rosie MacKenzie	Caffè Lena	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	\$10
Sep 10-11	Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival	Downtown Norwich	Norwich	Sat, 10 - 6 PM Sat, 11-5 Sun	Free
Sep 11	Donal O'Shaughnessey	Coleman's Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Sep 12	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Sep 15	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Sep 16-17	Irish 2000	Saratoga County Fairgrounds	Ballston Spa, NY	Fri 5-mid, Sat 10 AM-11 PM	\$20/day (\$16 adv); 2-Day Pass \$29
Sep 16	Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Sep 17	Baka Beyond	Center for the Arts	Homer, NY	8 PM	\$10-\$25
Sep 18	Syracuse Irish Session	Johnston's Bally Bay Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Sep 18	Triskele	Caffè Lena	Saratoga Springs	7 PM	\$10 adv/\$12 door
Sep 19	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Sep 21	Celtic Thunder	Shea's Performing Art Ctr	Buffalo, NY	7:30 PM	\$33 - \$78
Sep 21	Traditional Irish Session	The Mill	Rome, NY	7:30 PM	Free
Sep 21	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Sep 24	Hudson Valley Irish Fest	Peekskill Riverfront Green	Peekskill, NY	11 AM – 7 PM	Donation
Sep 26	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Sep 29	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Sep 30	Donal O'Shaughnessey	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Sep 30	Comas	Kirkland Art Center	Clinton, NY	8 PM	\$15; \$12 members

If you have anything you want to share with us, feel free to send it to us (sistia@roadrunner.com, bloftis@gmail.com or 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.