



IRISH SPIRIT

The St. Patrick Society Quad Cities, USA

Phone (563) 324-5000 • Visit our website: www.stpatsqc.com

Late Fall 2007

Season's Greetings!



HONOR, PRESERVE, REMEMBER

A Closer Look: The Irish Memorial Project

As you know, the St. Patrick Society, with guidance from the City of Davenport Design Center, is finalizing a proposal for the design of a permanent outdoor memorial to be located at the intersection of 2nd and Harrison Streets in Davenport, Iowa. The location is a highly visible and important corner of the downtown Davenport area next to the new Figge Art Center and Mississippi River, as well the end point of the country's ONLY interstate St. Patrick's Day Parade.



We are pleased to report that California-based sculptor and Moline native, Louis Quaintance, recently met with SPS representatives and the City of Davenport to discuss our unique memorial, which will honor those Irish men, women and children who settled in the Quad-Cities. Lou is best known locally for his sculptural interpretation of John Bloom's 1947 lithograph, *Watching the Ferry*, pictured here. This life-sized bronze sculpture of two boys watching the W. J. Quinlan ferry, is located near the gazebo on the Iowa-American Water Company riverfront property, just east of the Davenport Sailing Club. Lou also heads the sculpture department at the University of California, Berkeley and has received worldwide acclaim for several other public works of art including West Coast's World War II Memorial, the USS San Diego Memorial, and the Japanese American Monument. We are thrilled to have such an accomplished artist, with local ties, interested in bringing our project to life. To learn more about Lou and see examples of his sculpture, visit his website: www.quaintancesculpture.com.



Several people have asked what is the history of the Quad Cities Irish and why should we support a memorial?

Most Americans of Irish descent in the Quad Cities (and most likely in America) today are here as a direct result of the famine in Ireland from 1845-1850. Though many Irish immigrants first arrived in New York, Boston, New Orleans and Philadelphia, it was westward expansion - the building of railroads and the Erie Canal - that fueled more opportunities and further Irish migration across the United States. Here locally, Irish workers built the Arsenal Bridge - the first bridge across the Mississippi River - which was completed in 1855. Railroad builder, Henry Farnam, celebrated the project's successful completion with a dinner gala and dedicated the 12th toast of the evening to the Irish laborers who built the bridge and the railroad. It is this irrepressible spirit of independence and hope exhibited by these hard-working Irish families, as well as their contributions to building lasting communities here, that we want to honor, preserve and remember.

We encourage all members who take pride in their Irish roots and who want to commemorate the St. Patrick Society's historical significance in the community to become part of this important and meaningful project. Contributions of any amount are appreciated and those of \$300 or more will be acknowledged at the memorial site. Please use the enclosed envelope and make your check payable to the St. Patrick Society-MEMORIAL to ensure your family's name on this piece of history for future generations.

Currently, we're a third of the way to our fundraising goal. More contributions are needed to proceed with the next phase of the project. The St. Patrick Society is a 501 (c) 3, not-for-profit organization, so donations received by the end of this year are fully tax deductible for 2007. For more information, call **John Scally** at 309-788-2341 or **Pat Burke** at 563-359-8016. Your immediate attention to this plea will be most appreciated.



2007 ERIN FEIS – What a grand day!

The 23rd Annual Erin Feis held on September 16th was a picture perfect day and an all-around success. Erin Feis raised over \$3,500 for the 2008 Grand Parade. Event Chairperson, Jan Foley, reported that we had about 150 more attendees than last year, as well as a great volunteer turn out, with 155 volunteers working the event. Thanks to all those who attended the event.

Congratulations to all the committee chairs and volunteers for organizing

Erin Feis Photos

Photos courtesy of Sean Flynn



*Five to nine-year old
Red Hair Freckle contestants*



*The Larkin & Moran Brothers
play to an appreciative crowd*



*High stepping with
Mullane Dancers*

another top-notch festival and to **LeRoy Levis**, the lucky Grand Prize winner, who chose the cash award. Special thanks to **Sean Flynn**, who captured the essence of the day with some wonderful photographs, pictured here. More of Sean's photos are available for viewing on our website: www.sipatsac.com.



RED HAIR & FRECKLES CONTEST

There were 19 enthusiastic participants who proudly showed their freckles and red-hair in this year's contest. Congratulations to the first and second place winners, respectively:

0-4 years: Isabelle Murphy and Chole Knoblock; 5-8 years: Gillian Larson and Annie Knobloch; 9-12 years: Kevin Wissing and Tony Flaherty. Special thanks to all the contestants and the SPS judging panel of Rita Callahan, 2007 Irish Mother of the Year, Maureen Siegert, 2007 Gilhooly Award Winner, and Judge Jeffrey O'Connor, 2007 Grand Marshal.



2007 RAFFLE PRIZE SPONSORS

Thanks again to co-chairs, **Kevin and Laurie Day**, we had a wonderful array of prizes generously donated by local businesses. Sincere gratitude to our numerous raffle sponsors: Abbey Hotel, AD Huesing, Allard Jewelers, Aunt Joy's Christmas Stockings, Biaggi's, Bier Stube, Bleyart's Tap, Camp McClellan Cellars, Celebration River Cruises / Celebration Belle, Circa '21 Dinner Theatre, Crown Trophy, Dee Dee's Baskets, Downtown Deli, Estate Wines, Everybody's Hair, Family Museum of Arts & Sciences, The Filling Station, The Gardens, Gentry Shop, Giraffe Photography, Happy Joe's, Heart of America Restaurants, Holiday Inn- Rock Island, House of Print, The Irish Cottage, Isabel Bloom, Isle of Capri Casino, Jack's Maytag, Johnnie's Market, Jumer's Casino Rock Island, Lagomarcino's, Mango Bay Tanning, Midwest One Bank, Modern Woodmen, Pat McGuire's

Irish-American Cafe, Pete Petersen's Wild Bird Shop, POSH, Quad City Bank & Trust, Quad City Flames, Radisson on John Deere Commons, Regalia Manufacturing, River City Tire, Rock Island Brewing Company, Rudy's Tacos, Shamrock Imports, Stern Beverage, Studio Seven, St. Patrick Society, Vanguard Distributing, Vintage Sisters, Your Hearts Desire.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Ceili Club Dances

Get into the holiday spirit with some Irish social dancing! On December 29, join the Quad Cities Ceili Club at 7:30pm at the K of C in Davenport. Enjoy live music by the Quad Cities Ceili Band. All are welcome. Contact Gerry or Pat at 563-386-7551 or log on to: qceiliclub.org.

Local Irish Music Stephens Green

The duo's first quarter 2008 dates: January 15, March 4 and April 15. Reservations are a must. Call 386-0090.

SPS honored

At the Community Caring Conference's October Community Heroes Banquet, the Society was honored with the a Bi-State Award for enhancing life in the Quad Cities with contributions to local charities, and scholarships and for promoting Irish cultural and musical events.

Memorial Received

The Society would like to thank the family of Michael Robert Mulvihill for the generous contributions received in his memory. These donations will be directed to the 2008 Scholarship Fund. We extend our sympathy and gratitude to the Mulvihill family.

SPS Meetings Schedule

All meetings are held on Mondays at the Knights of Columbus in Davenport. Board meetings begin at 6pm. General member meetings at 7:30 pm.

Winter 2008 dates are:
January 28 - Board & General*

February 18 - Board Only
April 14 - Board & General,
(Annual Meeting/ Elections)
*Note: This is a change from previous years and will be the only general meeting before the Parade.

SPS Board Nominations

Any SPS member in good standing is eligible to run for the Board of Directors. If you or someone you know is interested in working on behalf of the Society, please consider sharing your Irish spirit and running for the Board. Terms are two years. For more information, feel free to contact Silia Smiley (563) 359-0408.

Special Thanks

Founder Frank Coyle has stepped down as Committee Chair for the Mass at St Mary's, Erin Feis Permits, Bylaws/Grievances and Nomination Committees, which he has chaired since the Society was founded in 1985. These Committees will now be chaired by Lorrie Ambrose Beaman, Jan Foley, Julie Walton and Silia Smiley/Mike Scannell respectively. Frank will continue to stay involved as a Board Member/Founder for the Society. We thank him for his hard work, humorous insights and tireless dedication as Chair for these Committees.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Grand Weekend Events

March 14 - Clan Luncheon

March 15 - Mass, Grand Parade & Col Bash

March 16 - Irish Heritage Day Deadlines

March 1 -

*Irish Mother nominations due

*Scholarship applications due to Matt Wissing - 563-324-1705

*Grand Parade applications due to John Scally - 309-788-2341

March 7 - Clan Luncheon RSVP's to Kathy Douglas - 563-355-8214

The Society will also award two \$1,000 college scholarships. Eligibility and application details for Irish Mother, Parade and Scholarship can be found on the SPS website.

2008 SPS Memberships

2008 membership cards are available by mailing your check for \$10.00 per person (16 years & older) to:

St. Patrick Society

Membership

PO Box 4487

Davenport, IA 52808

Contact Mike Scannell (386-0069) or Silia Smiley (359-0408).

Membership sales begin each January and are good through December. Your membership gives you admission to the post-parade Bash, as well as four issues of the *Irish Spirit*. You also help support the Grand Parade and other events and programs sponsored by the St. Patrick Society, Quad Cities USA.



More upcoming Irish events

St. Ambrose University is hosting a national American Conference for Irish Studies on April 16-19, 2008. The theme is "The Global Irish: Conflict, Coexistence and Community." The symposium will focus on rural and agrarian Irish immigration connections and will include lectures on Irish-American studies, Irish film, poetry, and violence and gender in Ireland. Other events on the agenda include concerts by Bal Tinne, bohola and Joe McShane, and a viewing of the award winning Irish film *Pavee Lackeen*. A tour of Arsenal Island's Civil War cemetery and a Mississippi River cruise on the Celebration Belle are also planned.

More information can be found on www.sau.edu/ACIS.

The Adler Theater will present **Lord of the Dance** on February 8, 2008. Purchase tickets at the Adler Theatre Box Office, call 563-326-1111 or ticketmaster.com.

Five Flags Theater events

Tony Kenny's Ireland variety show is coming to the Five Flags Theater in Dubuque on March 7, 2008. *Phil Coulter and the Irish Pops Orchestra* will also perform there Friday, March 14. For ticket info, contact the Five Flags Box Office at 563-557-8497, Shamrock Imports or ticketmaster.com.

SPS OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Patrick Thomas Burke
(563) 359-8016

Vice President

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(563) 355-8214

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(563) 323-6046

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(563) 359-0408

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(309) 788-2341

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2008 St. Patrick Society Membership Application

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

\$10.00 Yearly Renewal - Make checks payable to the St. Patrick Society.

HELP THE ST. PATRICK SOCIETY GROW! MAKE COPIES IF NEEDED!