



IRISH SPIRIT

The St. Patrick Society Quad Cities, USA

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

Late Fall 2006

2006 ERIN FEIS RE-CAP

The day may have been soggy, but the Irish spirit still shined at the 22nd annual Erin Feis! A drizzly morning and scattered showers through the day impacted this year's attendance, but from the majority of positive comments received post-Feis, the new activities (indoors and out), the vendors, entertainers and new stage set-up were very much enjoyed by those who braved the weather. Mullane School was able to turn in one show-stopping performance, but a slick stage prevented them from safely dancing their second show. The music, however, didn't miss a beat with a hopping Ceili in RIBCO and stellar performances on the outdoor stage by new band, Gan Bua, and crowd favorites, Leahy's Luck and Wylde Nept.

First-year co-chairs, Jan Foley, Jolene Whittemore and Vic Quinn were on their toes and kept our volunteer crews upbeat and smiling throughout the day. Their leadership, combined with the great teamwork of our committees, made for a well-run event and was a bright spot in a cloudy day.

We had a good turn-out again for the Red Hair Freckle contest, chaired for the first time this year by **Eileen O'Brien**. Special thanks to the SPS judging panel of **Bonnie Burke**, 2006 Irish Mother of the Year, past Gilhooly Award Winner, **John Scally**, and **Jim O'Neill**, 2006 Grand Marshal.

Shaun Staron of Davenport was the Grand Prize raffle winner. His grandmother, past Irish Mom, **Jane Jones**, bought tickets for all her grandchildren and his turned out to be the lucky one. In lieu of the Ireland trip, Shaun opted for the cash prize to put towards the annual Jones family vacation - which will likely be Wisconsin in 2007. And, as a winner's perk, Shaun gets to help Grandma plan the trip!

Many thanks to all of our event volunteers, The District of Rock Island, RIBCO, Riverboat Development Authority, Scott County Regional Authority and Tri City Electric. Additionally, special thanks to Steve Shannon for donating special Ireland T-shirts, whose proceeds will be used for SPS scholarships and to Kim Holtam, for hosting the Erin Feis volunteer party at The Gardens in October.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's Erin Feis: September 16, 2007.



2006 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: The Abbey Hotel, AD Huesing, Aunt Joys Christmas Stockings, Barkan's Clothing, Biaggi's Restaurant, Bleyart's Tap, Celebration River Cruises/Celebration Belle, Circa 21 Dinner Theatre, Crown Trophy, Dee Dee's Baskets, Everybody's Hair, Family Museum of Arts & Sciences, Four Points by Sheraton, Downtown Deli, The Irish Cottage, The Filling Station, The Gardens, Gentry Shop, Golick's Meat Market, Happy Joe's, Heart of America Restaurants, House of Print, Isabel Bloom, Isle of Capri Casinos, Jack's Maytag, Jumers Casino Rock Island, Kelly Construction, Mango Bay Tanning, Midwest One Bank, Modern Woodmen, Pat McGuire's Irish American Café, Quad City Bank & Trust, Quad City Mallards, The Rodisson on John Deere Commons, Regalia Manufacturing, Rhythm City Casino, RIBCO, River City Tire, Shamrock Imports, Stern Beverage, St. Patrick's Society, Town & Country Bowling Lanes, and Vanguard Distributing.



Special thanks to the SPS Members and friends who participated in the Davenport Veteran's Day Parade on November 11. Thanks to Leo Kilfoy for organizing the event.



Looking Ahead - Grand Weekend needs YOU

As we prepare for Grand Parade XXII, the Parade Committee welcomes your help. We ask that people who have never served on a committee step forward. This is a great opportunity to become involved in the St. Patrick Society and meet some wonderful people. Additionally, those selected to become committee members will be making a much needed contribution to the Society.

Candidates are asked to call Grand Parade Chairman, John Scally, (309) 788-2341, during business hours to discuss what they can offer to make the United States' ONLY INTERSTATE St. Patrick's Day Parade another huge success. Those offering to serve must be willing to contact groups we are interested in having in our Parade. There will be other tasks to perform as well. We will meet as needed. We look forward to your call.

-John Scally

SPS Website Coordinator

The Newsletter Committee is looking for a reliable volunteer to work on the Society website. The coordinator would be responsible for updating information and working with the Board and our webmaster to keep the site fresh and current. If

you are familiar with web pages, have good writing skills and a little time to share, we would love to talk to you. For more information, please contact Pat Burke at 359-8016 or Sara Brewster 528-0416.

A Sister City in Ireland!

On September 26, 2006, representatives for the City of Davenport, including Alderman Barney Barnhill and Jon Stauff of St. Ambrose University, joined Mayor Ed Winborn, in Carlow, Ireland as he signed a new Sister City agreement with Carlow County. Carlow is an agricultural area located south of Dublin. To date, Carlow's bio tech center and Iowa ethanol plant experts are working together on the feasibility of ethanol production in Carlow County. St. Ambrose University is currently conducting international student exchanges with St. Patrick's Carlow College and working on a program with the Institute of Technology. The signed Sister City agreement will soon be on display in Davenport City Hall.

Irish Memorial in Davenport

Over the past several months, a committee has been working diligently with City officials to realize a long-time Society goal: a memorial commemorating the Irish men and women who arrived in the Quad Cities decades ago. The City is donating space on the northeast corner at the Ground Transportation Center Block at the intersection of Harrison and 2nd Street, which is also the endpoint of our annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Society is responsible for securing funds for the project and will consult with the City's Design Center during the design and construction phases. The Memorial Committee plans on unveiling the final design of the Memorial to the St. Patrick Society membership and the general public sometime in mid-2007.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS 2nd Annual Christkindlmarkt

Visit Christkindlmarkt in Downtown Davenport's Skybridge on December 9.

If you are looking for unusual gifts, take some time to shop between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. The Christkindlmarkt committee for Sister Cities will have about 25 tables of ethnic items from around the world. Refreshments will be served outside on 2nd St. at the north base of the Skybridge. RME will provide holiday music.

The St. Patrick Society will be selling t-shirts and memorabilia. Other local Celtic groups will have fresh holly, books, t-shirts, Celtic ornaments, tea cozies, and Celtic themed items.

Ceili Club Dances

Celebrate the holiday season with some spirited Irish social dancing. All are welcome and ceili lessons are offered, so no experience is needed! The Club is hosting a dance to live music on Saturday, December 30 at the Davenport Knights of Columbus at 7:30 pm. Other winter dances, also at the K of C Hall, are Sundays, Jan. 28 and Feb. 25, at 2pm. A St. Patrick's Day Dance with live music is also planned for March 17th at 7:30 pm. Contact **Gerry or Pat Bade** at 563-386-7551 or log on to: www.qcceiliclub.org.

Stephens Green shows

The duo will play at Pat McGuire's on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2006 and on these Tuesdays in 2007: Jan. 16, Feb. 13, March 6, April 17, May 15, July 24, Aug. 14, Sept. 4, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11. All shows start at 6pm. Call 386-0090 for reservations.



Important Dates in 2007

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 2007** dates are: **January 22, February 19 and April 9**, (Annual Meeting/ Officer Elections).

Grand Weekend Events

March 16 - Clan Luncheon
March 17 - Mass, Grand Parade & Col Bash
March 18 - Irish Heritage Day**
** New Location at Isle of Capri Convention Center, Bettendorf



Deadlines & Due

Dates

March 1, 2007 ...

*Irish Mother nominations due

Send 150 word nomination letters to our PO Box- 4487, Attn: Irish Mother. More details on the website, www.stpatsqc.com.

*Scholarship applications due

Call **Matt Wissing**: 563-324-1705. Eligibility and applications can be found on the website, www.stpatsqc.com.

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

*NEW! 2007 Gilhooly Award nominations due

Nomination letters of 150 words for the 2007 Bernard A. Gilhooly Award are being requested this year. Nominee should emulate the undying persistence of the Irish people by "passing on" the Irish culture in the Quad Cities and its outlying areas.

A three-person panel will judge entries. Nominee will be recognized at Irish Heritage Day. Please mail letters to:

St. Patrick Society
Attn: Gilhooly Award
PO Box 4487
Davenport, IA 52808

March 12, 2007...

Clan Luncheon RSVP's to Kathy Douglas: 563-355-8214.

****Please mark your nomination envelope to indicate if it's Irish Mother, Scholarship, Gilhooly Award, luncheon or membership.**

2007 SPS Memberships...

make GREAT holiday gifts! Purchase yours by mailing a check for \$10.00 per person (16 years & older) to the Society PO Box.

Memberships are good January through December and entitle you to admission to the post-parade Col Bash, as well as four issues of the *Irish Spirit*. Fees help support the Grand Parade and other Society events and programs. Contact **Silia Smiley** 359-0408.



Irish Music on the Horizon...

March 23, 2007 - Dervish at St. Ambrose University Reserve tickets online: <http://web.sau.edu/galvin/boxoffice-form.asp> or call: 563-333-6251.

May 5, 2007-Cherish The Ladies/Irish Pops Concert

- Five Flags Arena, Dubuque. Call Toll Free, 866-803-9280 or visit www.dubuquesymphony.org.

Sincere Condolences to long-time SPS members, Connie and Jack Pond, in the loss of Connie's mother, Lorene Wilkerson. Our prayers are with you both.

Travel Grant Recipient checks in

Andrew Harvey, a St. Ambrose student currently studying in Carlow Ireland, recently sent a letter about his experiences. Here is an excerpt for your enjoyment.

"... As each day passes I've grown increasingly impressed with the generosity of the Irish; the friends I've made don't think twice about inviting me to stay with their families or about buying me drinks (regardless of whether or not I want a drink!). Most of the Irish I've met tend to have great senses of humor, too—they're terribly quick-witted. It's of small consequence that I can only understand one in four words.

...The weather here for the past ten days has been absolutely gorgeous... I spent a few days in Monaghan with my friend, Scott, where he introduced me to Sir Jack Leslie, the owner of Castle Leslie and first cousin of Winston Churchill (this was pretty cool); I also went to the Inishmore in Galway (the biggest of the three Aran Islands)... I also spent some time in Laois where I caught my first hurling match and the County Laois Gaelic Football Final. Yesterday, I went to Dublin and saw the International Rules Ireland vs. Australia Football match—I've never seen so much brawling, even at a hockey game. I've now traveled to the following counties in Ireland: Dublin, Waterford, Kildare, Carlow, Laois, Roscommon, Galway, Longford, Cavan, Mayo, Fermanagh, Monaghan, Tyrone, Meath, Westmeath, Offaly, Louth, Wicklow and Tipperary... As I get nearer to the end of my experience here, I'll be able to reflect more fully on the time I spent and how I spent it. Right now, though, I can honestly say that studying abroad has been one of the best things I've ever done..."

2007 St. Patrick Society Membership Application

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

\$10.00 Yearly Renewal - Checks payable to St. Patrick Society.

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