

President's Pint of View



HOLIDAY SEASON IS NEAR WHICH means so is our Christmas dinner, our last event of the year.

To all who are planning to attend, please have your \$25 per person and your dinner choices of steak, chicken or salmon ready at the next meeting. Unfortunately, you will have to buy your own drinks, but the good food and company makes up for it.

Once again we will have the Foy Dancers, gifts for the ladies, our year in a slide show of our events and an appearance from some guy up north (and I don't mean Minnesota). Be there or be square.

We are still asking everyone to consider an event committee to be a part of. We would like to get everyone on a committee by January. Next year's events are the Skywalk Open in February, St. Patrick's Parade in March, 5K/10K run in March, Irish Open Disc Golf in May, Leprechaun Open in June and the Halfway to St. Patrick's Bike Ride in September. Remember, we don't need just physical help, we need your creative ideas.

It is also time to think of our elections. We have an entire list of officers open and anyone who has been a member for two years is eligible. So be careful when you leave the room; you might be nominated. Anyone can be a board member, so if you're interested, step up. Board member terms are for three years and officer terms are for two. That's my POV and I'm sticking to it. See you at the meeting.

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

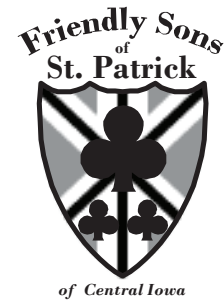
HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT WOMEN & BE POLITICALLY CORRECT:

1. She is not a "BABE" or a "CHICK" -
She is a "BREASTED AMERICAN"
2. She is not "EASY" -
She is "HORIZONTALLY ACCESSIBLE"
3. She is not a "DUMB BLONDE" -
She is a "LIGHT-HAIRED DETOUR OFF THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY"
4. She has not "BEEN AROUND" -
She is a "PREVIOUSLY-ENJOYED COMPANION"
5. She does not "NAG" you -
She becomes "VERBALLY REPETITIVE"
6. She is not a "TWO-BIT HOOKER" -
She is a "LOW-COST PROVIDER"

HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT MEN & BE POLITICALLY CORRECT:

1. He does not have a "BEER GUT" -
He has developed a "LIQUID GRAIN STORAGE FACILITY"
2. He is not a "BAD DANCER" -
He is "OVERLY CAUCASIAN"
3. He does not "GET LOST ALL THE TIME" -
He "INVESTIGATES ALTERNATIVE DESTINATIONS"
4. He is not "BALDING" -
He is in "FOLLICLE REGRESSION"
5. He does not act like a "TOTAL ASS" -
He develops a case of "RECTAL-CRANIAL INVERSION"
6. It's not his "CRACK" you see hanging out of your plumber's pants -
It's "TROUSER CLEAVAGE"

Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick
The Mickle Center #241
1620 Pleasant
Des Moines, IA 50314



The Blarney

Upcoming:

MEETING November 14

Menu:
"Award-Winning"
Chili w/Bread & Fixin's

CHRISTMAS DINNER

(also the next meeting)
Holiday Inn Downtown
"Top of the Tower"
Dec. 12 / 6-10 p.m.



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NOVEMBER [SAMHAIN] 2016

Thanksgiving has a dubious origin

Formal observances known as "thanksgivings" have occurred since biblical times. But the first one recorded in the New World was neither in America, nor in November, and not on a Thursday.

The service was conducted by an English preacher, a Rev. Wollfall, on a windswept island off Newfoundland. The ship's log of explorer Martin Frobisher, who was searching for the Northwest Passage, revealed:

"On Monday morning, May 27, 1578, aboard the Ayde, we all received the communion by the minister of Gravesend. Here we highly prayed God and altogether upon our knees gave Him humble and hearty thanks, and Maister Wollfall made unto us a godlye sermon, exhorting all to be thankful to God for His strange and miraculous deliverances in these dangerous places."

According to one account, an iceberg spoiled this affair, smashing the Ayde's anchor through her hull and requiring the crew to fashion a temporary patch from a side of beef.

One first trulyw American Thanksgiving feast took place on Dec. 4, 1619, before the better-remembered 1620 arrival of the pilgrims in Massachusetts, at Berkeley Plantation, in what is now Virginia. On that date, 38 colonists from England's Berkeley Parish, who had dropped anchor in the James River, came ashore led by Capt. John Woodlief. He spoke for the group:

"Wee ordaine that the day of our ship's arrival at the place assigned for plantacon (plantation) in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God."

But American folklore historians generally consider the first modern Thanksgiving dinner to have taken place in the early fall of 1621 at Plimouth Plantation in coastal Massachusetts.

This celebration differed from its modern counterpart in that its participants valued fasting over feasting (!), and restraint above indulgence (!!).

Many of the dishes Americans traditionally consume on Thanksgiving were not prepared at the first gatherings, including such starches as yams and potatoes, which were not yet introduced from South America.

Being near the Atlantic, cod and other fish, eels, mussels, clams and crabs were more standard fare, and corn-on-the-cob, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin and apple pie would have to wait for later times, as would the centerpiece, turkey.

Our modern national holiday was commemorated on Nov. 26, 1789 by George Washington to celebrate the U.S. Constitution, and Abraham Lincoln changed it to the variable-date Thursday format in 1863. 🍀

Feast with us at our yummy yule dinner

Tables will be set at the Downtown Holiday Inn's "Top of the Tower" on the night of Mon., Dec. 12 for our annual FSOSP Christmas dinner.

You can make your reservation for a spot, and one for a wife, partner or date, at next Monday's meeting, again this year for only \$50/couple.



Entree choices are filet mignon, baked salmon or chicken de burgo. The sides will be salad, mashed potatoes, vegetables, rolls and a dessert.

This proposed menu is designed to satisfy every taste, and even gluten-free or vegetarian entrees can be prepared, if you let us know ahead of time.

The evening will be an entertaining one for you, with music, gifts for the ladies, a gob-smacking raffle prize table and some extra surprises. Mr. Dennis' year-in-review slide show will be back and the newest tradition, our Irish Christmas tree, will be erected prominently in our midst.

Many of us start the evening at Cooney's or Sully's and you should join us, just don't be late for our 6 p.m. start at the Holiday Inn.

We end the year with this dinner, celebrating the fraternal spirit of the FSOSP and giving thanks for the past year.

Register this next week and plan on joining us in December. 🍀

CMA's 25th Anniversary Concert Series Jan. 14 / Feb. 11 / Mar. 11

This is the 25th season for the Celtic Music Association and the schedule is a rich one. This past October 8, the Scottish band Dallahan entertained at Holy Trinity's hall. Three shows remain and here is **CMA's President Virgil Kleinhesselink** to tell you about them:

"On Jan. 14, RUNA returns to Holy Trinity. This group has become a favorite of our audiences. Recognized as one of Irish music's new "super-groups," RUNA has been enchanting audiences by pushing the boundaries of Irish folk music since their formation.

"Feb. 11 sees the return of Scythian to Hoyt Sherman. this band plays a range of styles from traditional Celtic to Celtic rock, with strains of gypsy and klezmer. Get ready to dance!

"We conclude the season with the return of Cherish the Ladies on March 11, also at Hoyt Sherman. They are an American all-female super group, celebrating their 25th anniversary tour. Every time we have hosted them in Des Moines we have had sold-out shows.

"Get your tickets at Celtic Traditions, Holy Trinity, Cooney's or by sending payment to P.O. Box 30001, Des Moines, IA 50310." 🍀

ALL CONCERTS START AT 8:00 P.M. / DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 P.M.

Momentum magazine spotlights Leonhart

John Leonhart lined up for his first marathon in 1978 and ran a 3:08 to finish in 300th place in the Drake Relays Marathon, according to *Momentum* magazine.

At age 65 he has now run a marathon in all 50 states and the IMT Des Moines race on Oct. 16 marked his 200th lifetime outing.

To make it more interesting he ran his 199th the day before in Kansas City, as part of the I-35 Challenge.

"If you get old enough and keep doing the same thing, the numbers will add up," he said.

He won't be stopping anytime soon, either. He ran No. 201 this past Saturday in Savannah, Georgia.

"I can also run a marathon on my birthday the next two years, and I like when I can do that, so I'll keep doing these things through 2018 at least. Plus, I've run Boston each of the last five decades, so I'd like to do that at least once every 10 years."

There have been good races and bad, but one stands out.

"The most beautiful course that I've run was Big Sur," said Leonhart. "They call it the jagged end of civilization. It's just beautiful and I've run it twice."

Of his 38-year-long challenge to complete 200 marathons, Leonhart has no regrets.

"This has been a great experience," he said. "I wouldn't trade it for the world. I've met a lot of great people, went to a lot of incredible places around the world that I wouldn't have gone to." 🍀



Board News

We will again participate in the **Mentor Iowa Adopt a Family** program.

In the program, holiday gifts are purchased for the children in a selected family.

Executive Director Marty Lester will provide us with a family list by Nov. 22 and **Jim & Terrie O'Donnell** have graciously offered to once again make Christmas wishes happen for the assigned kids, in our name.

A target of \$300 is to be spent and the O'Donnell's magically procured about \$700 in value for that outlay last year. Kudos to them!

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Parade news: Checks have been written to the city for street use (\$250) and a graffiti permit (\$50), so we can say, confidently, all indications are that, "Yes, there will be a parade next year!"

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From the "Space: the Final Frontier" Dept.:

The board has noted that **more room is needed for our organization at the Mickle Center.** Another office space next door to our spot is available, but it's felt it would be too expensive.

A lower-level space is available and attractive in that once-a-year stuff could be stored there, with an easy load in/out to boot. That idea is on hold.

In the meantime, the plan is for 3-4 guys to find a Sunday afternoon to try to first re-organize the current office space and then assess the need to expand. For starters, it appears a file cabinet can be ditched and a shelving area can be redesigned. Film at eleven.

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Gents: Pick a committee to join and help on: Skywalk Golf / Parade / 5K/10K Run / Disc Golf / Leprechaun Open / Bike Ride / Promotion.

Sign up at the next meeting and be a part of the action!

Requiescat in pace

A former Friendly Sons of St. Patrick president (1997), **David "Spanky" Crippen**, passed away at his home Oct. 26.

He was a true south-sider and an integral part of the start-up of South Side Cares.

He was a huge advocate for charities and fundraisers and was involved in the Kids With a Wish Foundation.

BLARNEYBITS

Our recent donations have been much appreciated.

This is from Program Coordinator **Melinda Collins** of



Plymouth Grounds Coffee Shop:

"Thank you so much for your ongoing support and friendship.

"We are proud of our mission to assist young adults with special needs in our community. We have the opportunity to observe student successes each and every day.

"Again, thank you for your continued support."

They kindly sent us several gift certificates to use in our monthly raffle, as well.

Coach Dylan at **Opportunity on Deck** writes us:

"Thank you for supporting our first-ever Ultimate Frisbee clinic in October. The jerseys we received from you looked awesome and all the kids were pumped."

"The weather at the clinic wasn't great, with overcast skies and light rain, but those that attended had a ton of fun learning about Frisbees and playing in their new jerseys. Thank you!"

Most recently, the Sons donated \$1500 to help support the 30th Annual Benefit for **HCI Care Services** and they expressed their gratitude.



Tray Wade, President and CEO of HCI says: *"Thank you for the continued support from the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick."*

You make central Iowa a better community because of your generous giving. We can't thank you enough and especially Ed Kelly for 30 years of organizing and orchestrating the Annual Dance to benefit HCI Hospice Care Services. May the hinges of our friendship never grow rusty!"

Come help us prep chili for the Monday meeting? Contact **George Hedding** at geohedd@aol.com or 250-4220 for directions to his place. Cooking and cavorting are guaranteed. And there might be beer.