



upcoming events

- MAR. 6**
PARADE REGISTRATION MEETING (LAST ONE)
@ MARRIOTT WINDOWS ON 7TH - 7 P.M.
- MAR. 9**
JIGJAM - CMA CONCERT
@ HOLY TRINITY PARISH HALL
8 P.M. / \$25 GEN. ADMISSION
THECMA.ORG
- MAR. 16**
KELLY'S CLAN
@ SNUS HILL WINERY IN SLATER - 7-10 P.M.
- MAR. 17**
ST. PAT'S PARTY
IRISH BREAKFAST; LIVE MUSIC
@ SULLY'S - 6 A.M. TILL ?
- MAR. 17**
KELLY'S CLAN
@ CABARET BAR & GRILL IN ANKENY - 6-9 P.M.

- MAR. 20**
ROCK & ROLL BINGO
NO ENTRY FEE; PRIZES FOR WINNERS
@ SULLY'S - 7-10 P.M.
- MAR. 23**
EMMETT CAHILL IN CONCERT
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH FUNDRAISER
\$30 GEN. ADMISS. / \$45 MEET & GREET
@ 7 P.M. TICKETS AT EMMETCAHILL.COM
- MAR. 27**
STU RYAN O'BRIEN SINGALONG
@ SULLY'S, 7-9 P.M.

MONTHLY IRISH "SESSION" JAMS / 7ISH-9:30 P.M.
1ST TUESDAY @ FIDDLE & WHISTLE, MARSHALLTOWN
2ND TUESDAY @ JAVA JOE'S, DES MOINES
3RD TUESDAY @ COONEY'S, DES MOINES
4TH TUESDAY @ DUBLIN BAY, AMES

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



The Blarney

upcoming:

- Monthly Meeting**
March 11, 6:30 p.m.
@ Marriott w/cash bar
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St. Patrick's Day Parade Staging
10 a.m. on MLK
- Mass @ St. Ambrose**
10 a.m. w/ Bishop Pates
- Public Reception**
12-4 p.m. @ Marriott
.....
Annual 5K/10K Run
Apr. 14



Board Contact Info:

- President - Tim Schuck - 778-8390
schuck.t@cmbaarchitects.com
- Vice Pres. - Bree Young - 720-2580
youngbree76@gmail.com
- Treas. - Josh Soliday - 577-0990
jsoliday2323@gmail.com
- Sec. - Ed Kelly - 577-3843
ylleke@mchsi.com
-
- Mike Dennis - 779-7026
mdennis1958@gmail.com
- George Hedding - 250-4220
geohedd@aol.com
- Bill McCarthy - 975-5254
mccar7660@aol.com
- Mike Murphy - 537-7699
mikemurphy@ishsi.com
- Tony Schmid - 554-1107
fsosptony@outlook.com

march (march) 2019

embrace yer' heritage, 'tis celebrating yourself!

Feelin' a little tense here at press time. The Old Farmer's Almanac says our St. Louis-Kansas City-Des Moines region is looking to be rainy, snowy and coldy around mid-March. It's daily still 20 degrees below average! And the bloody groundhog lied! But (take a breath) ... optimists unite; let's make this the best parade ever!

Our **Parade-Chairman-for-Life Michael Dennis** has been working diligently all year to keep this massive celebration on a solid track and we think he has his freezing ducks in a row this unusually frigid spring.

The most important element: YOU. We need more volunteers to step up at the next meeting:

"The time is upon us for the 2019 St. Patrick's Day celebration. It's our largest event of the year so it requires the largest group of volunteers.

We will be painting the staging numbers on MLK the weekend prior to the parade and dozens of volunteers will be required on parade day for staging, crowd control, and de-staging.

If you can help with the event, please contact me at the March meeting or get in touch at 515-779-7026 / mdennis1958@gmail.com," said Dennis.

A few details:

The **last float entry opportunity is this Wednesday, Mar. 6** at the "Windows on 7th" room at the Marriott at 7 p.m. Three other meetings have already been held and this will be the last chance for anyone who wants to be part of the parade.

(If you want to enter and if this notice doesn't reach you in time, call Dennis.)

Per usual, we will hold our **monthly meeting at the Marriott at 6:30**. There is no meal, but a cash bar will be open. Payment of this year's dues would be most welcome.

Last Tuesday's meeting to conduct queen interviews gave us a chance to meet three lovely lasses and you'll meet our choice, your **2019 FSOSP Queen**, at the meeting.

This year our **St. Pat's morning activities will all be at the Marriott**. Come join us for a **7:30 a.m. flag-raising**, followed by our **traditional member's breakfast at 8 a.m.** in the "Windows on 7th" room. That morning you will celebrate our **Irishman of the Year & 2019 Parade Marshal**.

We upped the ante to offer **1500 available raffle tickets** this year. Several hundred are in your hands and "on the street." Remember: all tickets, sold and unsold, are due at the merch table on Sat. morning.

The public reception will feature the fabulous **Foy Dancers** and pub-style music by **Kelly's Clan** with lots of unexpected craic.

A "Sunday 17th" is the only time we vary the actual parade date. So be sure and spread the word to friends that the parade is on **SATURDAY, not Sunday**. Slainte! 🍀

CMA Concert at Holy Trinity Parish Hall ends season March 9

JigJam is a multi-award winning quartet from the heart of the midlands in Ireland. Blending the best of traditional Irish music with bluegrass and Americana in a new genre which has been branded as 'I-Grass' (Irish influenced bluegrass), their onstage energy along with their virtuosic musical ability has captivated audiences throughout the world.

"Here's an Irish band that's going to impact the world as hard as Clancy Brothers or U2 if they get only half a chance." - Midwest Records

Jamie McKeogh, Cathal Guinan and Daithi Me-
lia all hail from Tullamore in Co. Offaly, with Co.

Tipperary-born Gavin Strappe completing the quartet. All four members grew up immersed in Irish traditional music and culture which is reflected by the band collectively achieving over twenty All-Ireland titles at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann competitions. They have now developed their own unique style of music influenced by American Folk music while staying true to their Irish roots.

Described as "the best Irish group so far in bluegrass", this sharply-dressed outfit delivers an energy-fuelled, foot-stomping live performance. All multi-instrumentalists, they interchange between banjos, guitars, fiddles, mandolins and double bass onstage which creates an experience which is pleasing to both the eye and the ear. 🍀

JigJam in Concert @ Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Sat., Mar. 9 @ 8 p.m. Tickets on sale now.



WEARIN' OF THE GRIN



While reading an article last night about fathers and sons, memories came flooding back to the time I took me son out for his first pint. Off we went to our local pub on a Friday night.

I got him a Guinness He didn't like it, so I drank it.

Then I got him a Kilkenny, he didn't like that either, so I drank it.

Finally, I thought he might like some Harp Lager?

He didn't and I drank it.

Next, I thought maybe he'd like whisky better than beer so we tried a Jameson's. Nope! In desperation, I had him try a couple of fingers of rare Redbreast, Ireland's finest whisky.

He wouldn't even smell it. What could I do but drink it!

By the time I realized he just didn't like to drink, I was so shit-faced I could hardly push his stroller back home!!



A car full of Irish nuns are sitting at a traffic light in downtown Dublin when a bunch of rowdy drunks pull up alongside of them.

"Hey, show us yer teats, ya bloody penguins," shouts one of the drunks.

Quite shocked, Mother Superior turns to Sister Mary Immaculata and says, "I don't think they know who we are; show them your cross."

Sister Mary Immaculata rolls down her window and shouts, "Piss off, ya fookin' little wankers, before I come over there and rip yer balls off."

She then rolls up her window, looks back at Mother Superior quite innocently, and asks, "Did that sound cross enough?"



The pastor asked if anyone in the congregation would like to express praise for answered prayers.

Suzie Smith stood and walked slowly to the podium.

She said, "I have a praise. Two months ago, my husband, Tom, had a terrible bicycle wreck and his scrotum was completely crushed.

The pain was excruciating and the doctors didn't know if they could help him."

(You could hear a muffled gasp from the men in the congregation as they imagine the pain that poor Tom must have experienced.)

"Tom was unable to hold me or the children," she went on, "and every move caused him terrible pain. We prayed as the doctors performed a delicate operation, and it turned out they were able to piece together the crushed remnants of Tom's scrotum, and wrap wire around it to hold it in place."

(Again, the men in the congregation cringed and squirmed uncomfortably as they imagined the horrible surgery performed on Tom.)

"Now," she announced in a quivering voice, "Thank the Lord; Tom is out of the hospital and the doctors say that with time, his scrotum should recover completely."

(All the men sighed with unfeigned relief.)

The pastor rose and tentatively asked if anyone else had something to say.

A man slowly stood up and walked slowly to the podium.

He said, "I'm Tom Smith." *(The entire congregation held its breath.)*

"I just want to tell my wife -- the word is sternum."

BOARD NEWS

Our finances continue to improve according to Treasurer Josh Soliday.

A current balance of several thousand will be augmented by dues payments, raffle ticket sales and sponsor donations. We will also receive a 5K grant from Polk County in April.

The new bags tournament has necessitated a slight increase in our blanket liability policy, however.

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The Feb. 23 **34th Annual Skywalk Open** was a grand success. The **O'Donnell Family** designed & built the FSOSP golf hole and this year they/we won 1st Place for the "Best Themed Hole Design."

Volunteers were on hand for fun two-hour shifts and *(bonus!)* over 5 books of raffle tickets were sold.

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Note the page one story: The **flag-raising will be at 7:30 at the Marriott** this year as Sully's will be closed. Actually, a plus could be that some of the morning's shuttle hassle will be eliminated this way.

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Outgoing **President Tim Schuck** prepared some new donor "ask" forms for us. They look pretty classy. Let us know if you have any ideas for people and/or businesses we could approach for much-needed financial help with our events. Then grab some of these new docs.

president's
pint of view



I would like to start out by saying "Thank You" for letting me serve you for the past two years as president of this great organization. It seems that the time flew by.

The board has been great to work with and I believe together we have laid the groundwork to get this club moving upward in our donations and community support. I believe the incoming president is set to do great things, too, and I look forward to his leadership and ideas.

Fret not, I'm not leaving you just yet; I will be working closely with the new president over the next two years, serving as VP *(you can't get rid of me that easily)*.

I would also like give special thanks to our queen, Elizabeth, for her help and attendance at a majority of our events this past year. Not only did she make us look good, I don't think I ever saw her without a smile on her face. It has been great to have her as part of our club. She will be missed, although I have a suspicion we might see her at our events in the coming years. She will be a tough act to follow, for sure.

That being said, I hope to see you all at the March meeting to say farewell to her, as well as to welcome our new queen.

We'll see you at the meeting or on St. Patrick's Day!

Until then...

Stay classy Sons!

President Tim Schuck

BLARNEYBITS

Sold-Out Carnegie Hall Debut

IRELAND'S
LEADING TENOR

EMMET
CAHILL

Live In Des Moines

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019

7:00 PM

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
FUNDRAISER

\$30 General Admission

\$45 Meet & Greet + Concert
Starts 5:30 pm

BUY TICKETS AT
EMMETCAHILL.COM



Emmet Cahill, award-winning Irish tenor and lead singer with the popular Irish music show Celtic Thunder, is coming back to Des Moines to perform a concert at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Saturday, March 23 at 7 p.m.

Join Ireland's most exciting young tenor for a night of songs and stories as he debuts his brand-new album, "Blessings of Music".

Having made his sold-out debut at Carnegie Hall in March 2018, Emmet is back on tour across North America with his biggest tour to date, singing traditional Irish songs, beloved church hymns, Broadway favorites and a bit of opera.

And no Emmet Cahill concert is complete without the ever-popular "request medley" segment, which often brings surprises from the audience!

As a solo artist, he has performed in over 70 cities across North America and has been a featured guest artist with several US symphonies. Emmet's first orchestral debut album, "Emmet Cahill's Ireland" on the Sony Music USA label, went to #1 on the World Music charts.

Don't miss this wonderful evening of music that will leave you with fond memories that will last a lifetime!

Tickets are \$30-\$45. Purchase at the door or online at www.emmetcahill.com/tour-dates/. Type IRISHTENOR2019 & receive a 10% discount. 🍀