



upcoming events

DEC. 8

MICHAEL LONDRA'S CELTIC YULETIDE
@ KANSAS CITY IRISH CENTER
DREXEL HALL / 3301 BALTIMORE AVE.
KANSAS CITY, MO
3:00-5:00 P.M. / \$30 GEN. ADMISSION
EVENTBRITE.COM

JAN. 11

CMA CONCERT: LE VENT DU NORD
@ HOLY TRINITY PARISH HALL
\$25 GEN. ADMISSION
THECMA.ORG

FEB. 15

CMA CONCERT: HIGH TIME
@ HOLY TRINITY PARISH HALL
\$25 GEN. ADMISSION
THECMA.ORG

MAR. 14

CMA CONCERT: CALAN
@ FRANKLIN JUNIOR HIGH
\$25 GEN. ADMISSION
THECMA.ORG

MONTHLY IRISH "SESSION" OPEN JAMS / 7-9:30 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



The Blarney

upcoming:

Monthly Meeting
Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Menu:
Chili & Fixin's

Next Meeting
Christmas Dinner
Holiday Inn Downtown
Dec. 9, 6 p.m.

november (samhain) 2019

'tis the season to rejoice & reflect on our blessings



The "most wonderful time of the year" is upon us, sings Tony Bennett, and after the annual celebration (*in some cases, "ordeal"*) of Thanksgiving, we trek into December and our **Annual FSOSP Christmas dinner party on Dec. 9.**

Next week's meeting is the proper time to reserve your spot(s) at this event.

A mere \$40 per person entitles you to a glorious gastronomic repast, cash bar, con-

vivial conversation and the general joy of celebrating the season with your clubmates at the **Holiday Inn Downtown**, courtesy of our host, Friendly Son **Bob Conley.**

Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. (*although many of us "pre-load" at Cooney's about 4 p.m.*) and in addition to dinner, the evening will include Christmas jazz entertainment, a performance by the Foy Dancers and Michael Dennis' exquisite slide production showcasing the past year's events. *[Send him some pix!]*



Your choices for dinner that evening are the popular classics: Pork Tenderloin, Baked Salmon, and Chicken DeBurgo, all with potatoes, salad and extras.

Expect delectable raffle items from our intrepid prize committee, charming gifts for the ladies, and our dressed-out Irish Christmas tree.

The hotel staff needs to get our dinner count in advance so don't delay your registration.

Step on up to the head table at Mickle next week and be counted. Slainte! 



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



the fsosp will play 'santa' this season in mentor iowa's adopt-a-family program

Mentor Iowa has reached out to us again this year to participate in their upcoming holiday party and adopt-a-family program.

As the holiday season quickly approaches, the staff at Mentor Iowa is excitedly planning their annual holiday party group event in December, a celebration that may be the only holiday event the children participate in.

"Our creed is 'Every Child Deserves a Future.' By fulfilling this request, we can continue to achieve our mission and better the community. It is always a fun time of the year for us, and many children receive the holiday they deserve," said Mentor Iowa executive director Marty Lester.

Adopt-a-family sponsors work with the Mentor Iowa office to purchase needed items for the family. Mentor Iowa distributes a wish list to mentors, and then the mentor discusses with their mentee's family what they need and want for the holiday season. Items needed typically include: clothing, household items, shoes, books, games and whatever else is on the family's wish list. The average amount spent on each child is approximately \$75, but we can choose the amount we want to spend on the children.

Jim & Terrie O'Donnell have graciously offered to do the shopping for the family's gifts this year.

A "needs" list will be supplied by Nov. 27 and gifts are due to be delivered by Dec. 16.

Mentor Iowa is a non-profit, volunteer organization that was started in 1974 by citizens of the community, a Juvenile Court Judge, and court personnel, all of whom were concerned about the growing number of children served by the court. The mission of the organization is to provide trained volunteer mentors to abused, neglected, and delinquent children who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court.

"We do this by working in partnership with the children, their families, and the community. Community volunteers present a solution by providing the mentor services to the ever-increasing number of Children in Need of Assistance (CINA) and delinquent youth in central Iowa," said Lester. 🍀

WEARIN' OF THE GRIN

A horse walks into a bar and orders a pint. The barman says, "You're in here pretty often. Do you think you might be an alcoholic?"

The horse replies, "I don't think I am," and vanishes from existence.

See, the joke is about Descartes' famous philosophy of "I think; therefore, I am."

But to explain that part before the rest of the joke would be putting Descartes before the horse.



Three dead bodies turn up at the mortuary, all with very big smiles on their faces. The coroner calls the police to tell them what has happened.

"First body: Pierre Dubois, Frenchman, 60, died of heart failure while making love to his 20-year old mistress.

Hence the enormous smile, Inspector," says the coroner.

"Second body: Hamish Campbell, Scotsman, 25, won £50,000 on the lottery, spent it all on whisky.

Died of alcohol poisoning & hence the smile."

The Inspector asked, "What about the third body?"

"Ah," says the coroner, "this is the most unusual one. Paddy Murphy, Irish, 30, struck by lightning."

"Why is he smiling then?" inquires the Inspector.

"Thought he was having his picture taken."



Two couples were playing poker one evening and Jim accidentally dropped some cards on the floor.

Bending down under the table he noticed Jack's wife Sue wasn't wearing any underwear under her dress.

Later, Jim went to the kitchen and Jack's wife followed and asked, "Did you see anything that you like under the table?"

She said, "You can have it, but it will cost you \$200."

Sue told Jim her husband Jack played golf every Friday afternoon and that Jim should come over around 2 p.m. So Jim showed up, paid Sue the \$200 and then closed the transaction.

Jack came home as usual around 6 p.m. and asked,

"Did Jim stop over and give you \$200?"

Sue, with a lump in her throat said yes he did, very red-faced by now.

With a satisfied look on his face Jack said, "Jim came by the golf club this morning and borrowed \$200 and said he would stop by the house this afternoon to pay me back."

(Now that, my friends, is a true poker player.)



board news

As of the upcoming meeting, the **monthly meal/drink fee will be raised to \$15** in order to more realistically cover the actual cost of what is offered.

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Dishwashers are still sorely needed to help out at our gatherings. One idea floated is to establish volunteer groups to work a month or two each and receive "first in the dinner line" status and perhaps some free raffle tickets. Doable, gents?

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It is time to sign up for our **annual Christmas dinner at the Holiday Inn Downtown on Dec. 9.**

The cost is \$40/person and reservations are requested in advance to enable the hotel to plan the event.

Please help us put together a great **slide show** by bringing or sending any pix from the year's events to Mike Dennis at mdennis1958@gmail.com.

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The board voted to approve a **\$220 donation to the CMA** organization this month. They requested that we keep the donation modest because of our meager resources and we appreciate that.

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Ever been to a Minnesota or Wisconsin **"meat raffle"**? President T-Bone (*ironic name to connect to this, eh?*) has suggested we try it out.

A variety of donated meats are offered in a series of drawings over the course of a meeting and \$1 raffle tickets are sold for each drawing. Can we sink our teeth into this?



hello, fellow Irishmen!

I'm excited to say that the board has received the start-up paperwork for our "St. Patrick's Parade Day Tailgate Party" and the potential for financial success looks great!

And discussing our parade reminds me that we are quickly coming up on a new year. People like to use the new year as a time to start new things. Promoting our club now could be the encouragement that they need to join up and become an outstanding addition to our club!

Do you have any family members that would fit in with our group? (Is it time to bring in the younger generations?)

Do you have any coworkers or friends that you know enjoy celebrating St. Patrick's Day or that you see at our parade, but have never joined our club?

Or maybe past members that you have not seen at a meeting for awhile and may just need a little encouragement to revisit us?

Spread the word that this is a great time to join up and also a great way for them to stay up-to-date on all the upcoming Saint Patrick's Day festivities!

Lastly, do you need Christmas gift or stocking-stuffer ideas? Paying FSOSP yearly dues for someone would be an easy way to take care of some of your shopping this season!

Your honored president, Tony "T-Bone" Schmid

BARNEYBITS

Tapping the table with your glass before taking a shot is like drunkenly arguing about politics — you can participate even if you don't really understand what's going on.

Here's how it works. You heroically purchase a round of shots for yourself, the bartender... and anyone else who inspires your noble generosity. Everyone raises a glass and clinks, saying "Cheers!" or "¡Salud!" or some variation thereof. Then you lightly touch your glass to the bar, making a satisfying "thunk" sound before swigging.

Many drinkers believe this demonstrates respect for the establishment and those who work there. Tapping the bar is a way to celebrate the often-unseen folks who made the moment possible, such as barbacks, kitchen porters, delivery truck drivers, locksmiths, and so on.

"Clinking glasses is toasting one another. Touching the countertop is toasting the house," Sother Teague, beverage director of NYC's *Amor y Amargo* writes.

Others think it's a carpet-friendly version of "pouring one out" for the dearly departed.

"In some bars it's a nod to people who aren't with you," David Blend writes in *Thrillist*.

Either way it's considerably more polite than shouting your feelings about healthcare or the electoral process into the ether. 🍀