



## upcoming events

**FEB. 15**

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

**MAR. 7**

DUELING FIDDLES IN CONCERT  
@ SULLY'S IRISH PUB  
SULLYSDESMOINES.COM

**MAR. 14**

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

**MAR. 14**

KELLY'S CLAN  
@ SNUS HILL WINERY  
6:30-9:30 P.M.  
SNUSHILLWINE.COM

**MAR. 16**

KELLY'S CLAN  
@ MAGEE'S IRISH PUB & EATERY  
4-8 P.M.  
MAGEESIRISHPUB.COM

**MAR. 17**

KELLY'S CLAN  
@ MAGEE'S IRISH PUB & EATERY  
6-9 P.M.  
MAGEESIRISHPUB.COM

**MONTHLY DES MOINES AREA  
IRISH "SESSION"  
OPEN JAMS / 7:30(?) -10 P.M.**  
1ST TUESDAY @ MICKEY'S, WAUKEE  
2ND TUESDAY @ MAGEE'S, ANKENY  
3RD TUESDAY @ COONEY'S, DES MOINES  
4TH TUESDAY @ DUBLIN BAY, AMES



# The Blarney

## upcoming:

**Monthly Meeting**  
Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Menu:  
Sausage & Meatball  
Sandwiches  
w/Salad & Bread

Queen Interviews  
Feb. 23

Next Meeting  
Mar. 9, 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY (FEABHRA) 2020

## a bit of valentine's day bah-humbuggery *by Jim Geraghty*

Well, I hate to say it, but I'm joining the bandwagon of Valentine's Day Haters, or Skeptics, or Grumps. Of course, I'm not skeptical enough to not celebrate it and not get something nice for the Mrs., but year by year, I grow more convinced that it's just a poorly conceived, poorly scheduled holiday. What's wrong? Well, let's see...

It's mean to singles:

David Frum, in *The Daily Beast*, offered a great thought on the holiday saying, "I've never liked the Valentine's Day holiday. Our culture celebrates romantic love morning, noon and night 364 days a year – and then sets aside one special day every February to really rub the lovelesses' noses in it. Not so nice. So...if you are lucky enough to have a sweetheart, of course you must kiss her (or him) today. But if you want to really do a good deed, give a thought to the many lonely people around you: the divorced, the widowed, the unlucky – and maybe, if you have a spare dollar or two, you might want to send a small anonymous bouquet to one of them. Oh – and send it to the office, where everybody can see."

Romantic love is one of those things that we all like to have or would like to have, and we believe that anyone is capable of finding, but at the same time, clearly some people have a very, very hard time finding that special someone. It's not quite clear why this desired-but-hard-to-find aspect of life needs its own separate day to reinforce the sense of the haves and have-nots. I mean, you might as well have a holiday called, "Money Day."

"Hey, how did you celebrate Money Day?"

"I bought a yacht. You?"

"New Rolls."

The pain of unrequited love and the intensity of that feeling around Valentine's Day certainly gave Charles Schulz a lot to work with in his "Peanuts" cartoons, but beyond that, it stinks, doesn't it? Did anybody out there not have at least one fairly miserable Valentine's Day in your younger years, knowing that there was somebody out there you adored and who didn't feel the same way about you? I'll spare you the gruesome details of one of my worst and just give you the box score: one dozen long-stemmed roses given to, unbeknownst to me and despite my best intelligence-gathering efforts, a girl who was already going out with a guy. You're a #%&ing sadist, Cupid.

It's an awkward celebration of romantic love for children. We got the memo from my little guy's schools and preschools – "If your child wishes to bring in Valentines, please bring one for everyone in the class." One part of me salutes that – no need to formalize the inequities and subtle slights and hierarchy of grade school any more than the kids do already – and another part of me smells a whiff of the "everybody gets a trophy" mentality. The kids know who's popular and who isn't, whom everyone has a

### Board Contact Info:

Pres. – Tony Schmid - 554-1107  
bonetender@hotmail.com  
Vice Pres. – Tim Schuck - 778-8390  
schuck.t@cmbaarchitects.com  
Treas. – Josh Soliday - 577-0990  
jsoliday2323@gmail.com  
Sec. – Ed Kelly - 577-3843  
ylleke@mchsi.com  
.....  
Jeff DeMoss - 771-7070  
jjdemoss3@gmail.com  
Mike Dennis - 779-7026  
mdennis1958@gmail.com  
George Hedding - 250-4220  
geohedd@aol.com  
Bill McCarthy - 975-5254  
mccar7660@aol.com  
Scott Tilton - 822-2342  
setilton13@gmail.com

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



crush on and who doesn't. Getting a bunch of Valentines filled out by your friends' moms just papers over what everybody knows.

And the timing is weird. I don't know about you, but the stretch between the Super Bowl and March Madness or Spring Training is just about the gloomiest part of the year. Anything positive associated with winter is long since spent. If you're in an area that gets snow, the novelty and fun is gone and you're tired of shoveling. Everybody's got colds or the flu or bronchitis. Going outside requires puffy coats that make you look like a sumo wrestler. The ice scraper for your car is cracked. Bills for the holiday spending are coming due. You've probably blown your New Year's resolutions.

Perhaps that's why February ends up with so many holidays that feel just tossed into it: Groundhog Day, President's Day, National Organ Donor Day, Leap Day. It's such a miserable time of year & everyone tries to distract themselves with extra holidays.

Anyway, in the middle of the least cheery time of year, we're suddenly expected to be romantic and charming.

Never mind that the winter holidays of Christmas/Hanukkah/What-have-you were just six weeks ago. No, just in time to help out the nation's retailers, here's another big holiday where you have to get the love of your life something special! Sure, it doesn't have to be expensive, but I suspect every guy knows, deep down, that their gal would like to be able to crow about the wonderful flowers or box of chocolates or jewelry or nice dinner out. (Now, if you're in a relationship, you have an anniversary and a partner's birthday, and lucky me, I get to have these in November and March, meaning I get four major gift-giving occasions in a five-month span. It is very, very tough to come up with one good, original gift idea after another.)

Then there's the fact that it's on the 14th, no matter which day of the week that is, so you often find yourself trying to schedule a romantic evening in the middle of the week. Shouldn't it always be a Friday or a Monday?

Mind you, I can be a romantic guy. I like to have a selection of chocolates or a vase of flowers for the Mrs. when she gets home, but I like to do it on completely random days, or at times when I know she's had a rough day. The surprise is what makes it so great. On Valentine's Day, everybody knows that something nice, albeit socially required, is coming.

What say we move Valentine's Day to sometime in spring?

Sláinte! 🍀

## WEARIN' OF THE GRIN

*Here is a simplified urine test for all you old guys:*

Go outside and pee in the garden.

If ants gather: diabetes.

If you pee on your feet: prostate.

If it smells like a barbecue: cholesterol.

If, when you shake it, your wrist hurts: osteoarthritis.

If you come back inside with your penis outside your pants:

Alzheimers



have 3 to 4 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even numbered side of the street, so the snowplow can get through." Norman's wife goes out and moves her car.

A week later while they are eating breakfast, the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 4 to 5 inches of snow today.

You must park your car on the odd numbered side of the street, so the snowplow can get through."

Norman's wife goes out and moves her car again.

The next week they are having breakfast again, when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park..." then the electricity goes out.

Norman's wife says, "Honey, I don't know what to do."

Norman says, "Why don't you just leave it in the garage this time?"



Here's a sad example of the witch hunt caused by the flood of sexual abuse allegations. A good friend of my son, after 7 years of medical school and training, has been fired for one minor indiscretion. He had sex with one of his patients and can no longer work in the profession. What a waste of time, effort, training and money. He's still paying off his school loans.

This just goes to show you, that one minor mistake can ruin your life.

Thoughts and prayers for him and his family.

He really is a great guy and a brilliant veterinarian.



Norman and his blonde wife live in Fargo. One winter morning while listening to the radio, they hear the announcer say, "We are going to

## BOARD NEWS

Time to cough up dues for the coffer, says **Treasurer Josh Soliday**. You're covered for \$40 until March and then you must add on a ten-spot. Still a bargain for membership in our fine organization!

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### Parade entry meetings at the Marriott Hotel:

*(Required, so make it to one of these!)*

2/25 @ 7 p.m.      3/1 @ 2 p.m.

3/4 @ 7 p.m.      3/7 @ 2 p.m.

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We are still mailing out about 50 Blarneys a month at an expense that really adds up over the course of a year. Please consider getting the FSOSP news as a **PDF digital delivery**. *Added bonus is you see it in color!*

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Plans for our own sponsored **public St. Pat's party** that fundraiser Tony Rose is working on are still evolving. More news on that as it develops.

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**Wanted: a Parade Marshal & a 2020 Queen!** Contact a board member with a nomination for either, won't you? A board committee will be conducting interviews with queen candidates on Sun., Feb. 23, so send some lassies our way!

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**George Hedding** will be leaving the board after many years of devoted service and we salute him! We must fill the vacancy and one of you is surely feeling capable so stand up and let us know!

## BLARNEYBITS

Good news, Sons!

There is a new cold brew whiskey that was made to take its rightful place on your brunch table, **Jameson Cold Brew**, a whiskey blended with the taste of cold brew coffee. While you may have spiked your morning cup of joe with straight whiskey before, this was made to pair with all of its flavors exactly.

Made with 100% Arabica Beans from Brazil and Colombia, it tastes like toasted oak, dark chocolate, and, of course, coffee. Enjoy it as an espresso martini, on its own, or poured right into a glass of cold brew.

It will only be sticking around for a limited time, so you'd be smart to snap it up quickly.

You're welcome! 🍀



hello, fellow Irishmen!  
I'm very excited this month with St. Patrick's Day, our annual celebration & parade, just around the corner!

Our planned "tailgate party" has met with some hurdles along the way, but, happily, we have overcome most of them. Even though some details need to be ironed out, things are looking positive at this point and we are still hoping to show a financial gain for the club from this new event!

I hope to have details in place very soon so our members, families and the Irish community in Des Moines can start making plans to attend, promoting it and supporting our club.

The basic plan is to have a fenced off "party area" that runs parallel with the parade route for a small stretch on Grand Ave. Spectators inside the "party area" can show up early to pre-party with food and beverages available for sale AND view the parade as it goes by WITH that food and drink in hand, until the parade's end when our celebration moves to the Marriott.

There is also the possibility of a tent in case of inclement weather. If the weather is great that day, tent space would not be a concern, but if the weather is against us, it would make our party area even more sought-after which means more income for our club!

Keep your eyes and ears peeled for more info ASAP & I'll see you next week!

Your honored president, Tony "T-Bone" Schmid

