



# The Blarney

## UPCOMING:

### Monthly Meeting:

December 11th

Cocktails @ 6 Dinner @ 7

Christopher's

2816 Beaver Ave.

### Next Meeting:

General meeting January 8th

Mickle Center

6:30 P.M.

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### BOARD CONTACT INFO

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## DECEMBER [NOLLAIG] 2023

### 'Beannachtaí séasúr' to one and all!

That's a Gaelic "Season's Greetings, "friends. A wise man once said don't look back, you're not going that way, but a little end of year reflection, never hurt. The Friedly Son's made great strides this past year raising funds to get us in a stable position, as well as giving to charity. We have done this, all the while enjoying close friendships with all those, who make up our ranks. This is an accomplishment worthy of celebrating don't you think? We will gather **Monday December 11<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Christmas Dinner at Christopher's on Beaver**, to do just that, to toast our organization, the people who make it strong, and the good works accomplished this year. Plans have been finalized and a cocktail hour kicks the night off at six, with dinner to follow at 7 p.m. President Schuck will have some pithy remarks for us and then Mr. Dennis' Superb & Stupendous Slide Show of the year's highlights caps off the night. See you there.

*May you never forget what is worth remembering  
or remember what is best forgotten. Slainte*

The Celtic Music Association has announced its new winter concert schedule, the following four dates have been announced:

#### Tallymoore

- Saturday, January 20, 2024
- 7:30 PM-10:00 PM
- Franklin Junior High Event Center

#### Heron Valley

- Saturday, February 24, 2024
- 7:30 PM-10:00 PM
- Holy Trinity Hall

#### Dàihm

- Saturday, March 23, 2024
- 7:30 PM-10:00 PM
- Franklin Junior High Event Center

## *BOARD NEWS*

Mr. Soliday says we have money which is always a good thing, two big expenses' coming the end of the year are the fact that our dreaded taxes are due, as well as our insurance.

Parade planning is on track and going well, Parade Chairman for life Mr. O'Connor has met with the city, contracts are all signed. The Marriott has been booked for our prestigious gala. Please note parade route will change this year. Also, we have begun our search for a Queen, and Irishman of the Year. If you know of anyone that fits those descriptions, and are interested, please let a board member know. **Parade Float meeting dates** are: **Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup> @7P.M. Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> @2P.M. Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> @7P.M.** All meetings will be at Windows on 7<sup>th</sup>.

We have Board elections coming up soon. Up for re-election are the secretary, and two board positions. If you or someone you know are interested in being on the board, please let President Schuck know.

The board was contacted again this year by Mentor Iowa for Christmas Sponsorship, and we have gladly taken that on.

**There is no smoking and/ or drinking at the front door during meetings.** It must be done out by the grill area.

# FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

OF CENTRAL IOWA



## Presidents 'Pint of View'

*Hello everyone! 'Tis the season once again. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you at our annual December dinner at Christopher's dressed in your finest. I know you will all miss the treasurer's report at this meeting, but at least we will have our slideshow to remind us of all we did this year.*

*As the year comes to a close, our schedule will start to pick up once again as we complete preparations for the parade. As you all are aware, the event will be a bit different this year, staging by the botanical center and heading west on grand to the Marriott.*

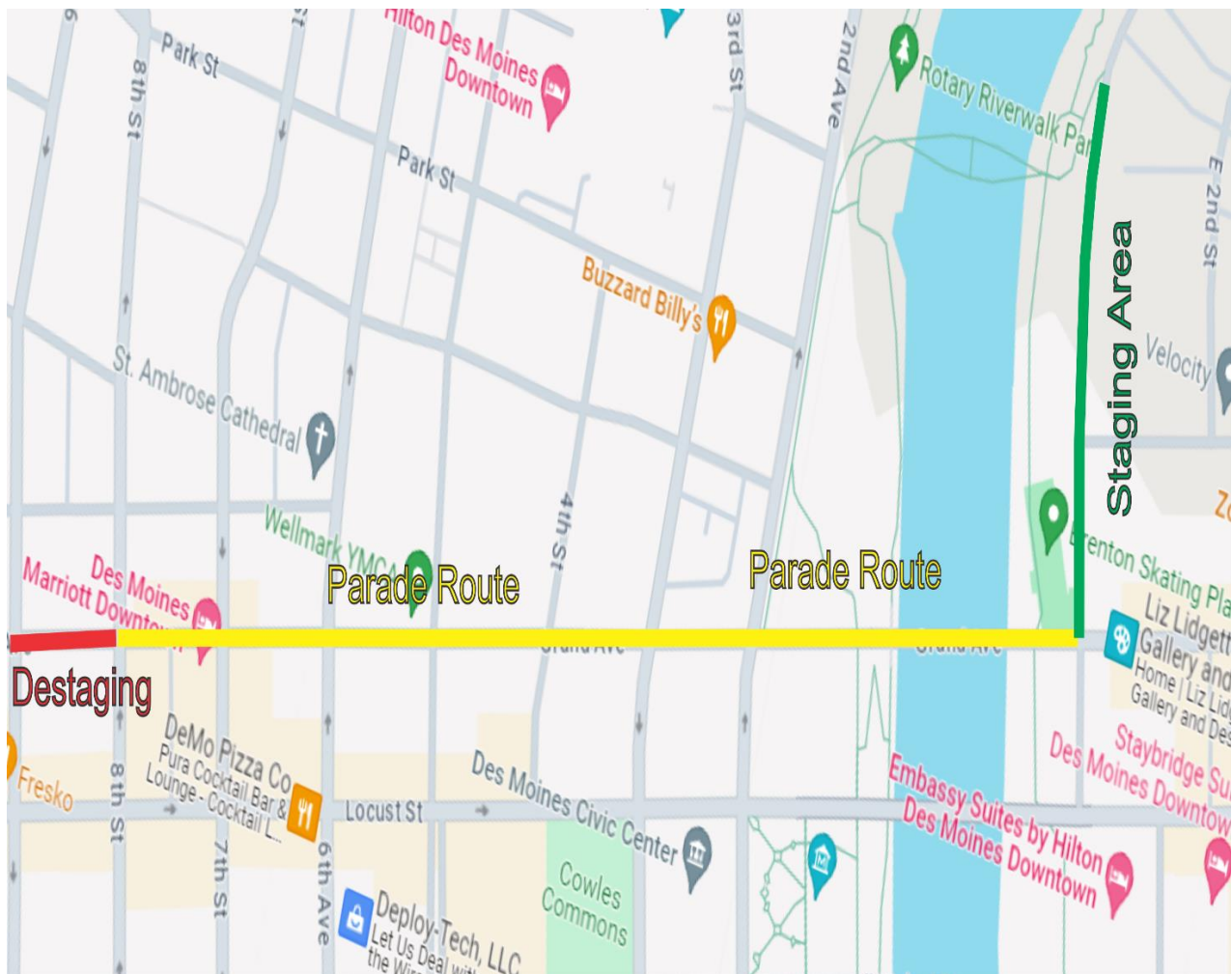
*Our set-up at the Marriott will also be a bit different from the past, however, I know we will have a great time. Please come out and help us celebrate this great day!*

*If I do not see you at the dinner, have a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year!*

*Also, please do not forget we are still looking for a new Queen and Irishman of the Year. Any suggestions are welcome.*

*Thank you, and have a safe holiday season  
President, Tim Schuck*

## Parade Route



Parade staging will be on Robert D. Ray Drive north towards the Botanical Center. The Parade will go West down Grand and end at 8<sup>th</sup> street. Please remember parade meeting dates are as follows:

**Tuesday February 20th @7P.M. Saturday February 24th @2P.M.**

**Thursday March 7th @7P.M.**

All meetings will be at Windows on 7th.

# Merry Christmas

## Holly and Ivy hanging up and something wet in every cup\*

Not so long ago, Irish Christmas decorations were much simpler than they are now. The children gathered holly and ivy for adorning, windows, doorways, mantles and pictures, and the father would carve out a turnip in which would be placed a large red candle. This would go in the window to light the way for the Holy Family on Christmas Eve. Only in relatively recent times did an Irish family have a Nativity scene and a decorated tree in the house. As for Mistletoe, it's quite rare in Ireland and is generally associated with ancient Celtic and Druidic fertility celebrations; this is most likely where the custom of kissing under the mistletoe comes from.

### An Irish Christmas - Waiting for St. Nicholas

On December 5th, children would put their shoes on the hearth, hoping St. Nicholas would come.

According to my mother, it was what she always did as a little girl and, while I have found no references to any special celebrations surrounding this feast day in Ireland, curiously, I did find the following toast: "May yours be the first house in the parish to welcome St. Nicholas."

While the first Sunday in Advent always initiated the spiritual season of Christmas, i.e. my mother insisted on extra Our Father's and Hail Mary's at bedtime prayers, December 5th marked the beginning of the fun and festivities.

### *"Is there a Santa Claus?"* by Virginia O'Hanlon

Dear children of yesterday and today, when that question was asked, I, a little girl, was interested in finding out the answer just for myself. Now, grown up and a teacher, I want so much that all little children believe there really is a Santa Claus. For I understand how essential a belief in Santa Claus, and in fairies, too, is to a happy childhood.

Some little children doubt that Santa still lives because often their letters, for one reason or another, never seem to reach him. Nurses in hospitals know who some of these children are. Teachers in great city schools know others.

Dear children of yesterday, won't you try to seek out these trusting children of today and make sure that their letters in some way may reach Santa Claus so that 'he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood'? That, I believe, is the best way of proving there is a Santa Claus, for ourselves and for the children.

And so dear children, - and to all children everywhere - as long as you believe in goodness, generosity, guardian angels, and so many other things you cannot see - but you know are real, the essence of Santa Claus will always be in your heart - if only you believe.