



The *Blarney*

UPCOMING:

Monthly Meeting:

December 2nd

Chicago Speakeasy

6 P.M. Cocktails

7 P.M. Dinner

Next Meeting:

General meeting January 13th

Mickle Center

6:00 P.M.

BOARD CONTACT INFO

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DECEMBER (NOLLAIG) 2024

We will be gathering a week early this month for our annual Christmas party at Chicago Speakeasy. Cocktail hour kicks off at 6, with dinner to follow. If you have not yet made your reservation and still wish to make it, contact Mr. Soliday, we still have a few spots left.

Our annual dinner is held because it's important that we take time during the rush of the holidays to enjoy the things in life that really matter. This month, may you take in the serene moments spent with friends and loved ones, and may the wonder of Christmas surround you throughout the holiday season. To one and all, Slainte!

May you be blessed with the spirit of the season which is peace.

The gladness of the season which is hope.

And the Heart of the season which is love.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.





Presidents Pint of View

Hello everyone! 'Tis the season once again. I hope you all are having, or have had, a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends (depending on the release date of the Blarney). I look forward to seeing you at our annual December dinner at Chicago Speakeasy. I understand there are a few spots left to fill so if you have an inkling to go, get in touch with Josh Soliday and he will set you up. Don't forget, the dinner is on December 2nd, a week earlier than our regular meeting date.

As the year comes to a close, our schedule will start to pick up once again as we complete preparations for the parade. Our route will be the same as it was last year, heading west on Grand from the Armory to the Mariott. The staging will be a bit different from last year, but no worries, we have it under control. Also, we will be back in the big ballroom this year, so we are lining up music and hopefully the Foy Dancers.

Speaking of the big day, we are in need of queen candidates, Irishman of The Year, and grand marshal suggestions, so if you have anyone in mind for any of those esteemed roles, please reach out and let us know. We also have some other roles to fill before that big day. Our elections are coming up quickly so if you have any nominations, be it yourself or someone you know, let us know so we can get them on the ballot. The more candidates we have the better.

If I do not see you at the dinner, have a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year! Although the weather is cold, may your hearth and heart be warmed with friendship, kinship and kindness this holiday season.

Thank you, and have a safe holiday season!

President, Tim Schuck

Board News

We have been instructed by our landlord that the loading zone in front of the building is for temporary parking only. That means no parking for longer than 20 minutes or you may get a ticket or even towed at your expense. If you have a handicap parking placard you are welcome to park in the handicap spot adjacent to the loading zone. I understand this is not convenient if you are bringing things to the meetings, but going forward, please unload or load what you need and then find another place to park if you are going to be here for longer than 20 minutes. If you need assistance, we can arrange for someone to park your vehicle elsewhere and pick you up after the meeting. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Grant season is upon us and Mr. Soliday is hard at work preparing applications for such. Grants we are applying for are: Polk County/ Prairie Meadows, Veridian Credit Union, and Catch Des Moines.

Parade planning is in full swing with Mr. O'Connor fully organized and moving full steam ahead. He is currently working on organization of the staging area as well as will be meeting with the city in December. We also are currently planning on expanding our celebration to start on Saturday March 15th, more information on that as it becomes available.

Queen interviews are Sunday February 16th, 2025 at 2 P.M. at the Mickle Center. If any of you know of a deserving young lady, please let a board member know so we can get you an application, it will also be available online soon.

We have again partnered with Mentor Iowa and O'Donnell and Son's to help out some less fortunate families.

We are still working on a Pickleball tourney and hope to have that finalized in the next 2 weeks.

Item of note: The monthly raffle at Carl's Place will be on 1/1/2025 for January.

Board elections are fast approaching, if you or someone you know is interested in running for office, or a seat on the board, let us know so we can get you set up and nominated.





the
CELTIC music
association

Des Moines, IA

*Proudly sponsoring and promoting Celtic music and cultural events in
Des Moines since 1992.*

Welcome to Season 2024-2025

All of this season's concerts will take place at The Franklin Event Center.

Our concert lineup for 2024-2025 season starts with One for the Foxes in November 2024, followed by The Bryne Brothers, Switchback, and The Jeremiahs in January, February and March 2025.

See our current newsletter with the information on the performers for this season's concerts. The link below takes you to our website, from there you scroll down to the READ OUR NEWSLETTER box, open Summer 2024 to see the current newsletter. You may open any newsletters to see past information about previous concerts.

<https://www.thecma.org>

We held our annual meeting in July and re-elected officers to continue one more year. We would love for new people to join the board to help us continue our mission of bringing quality Celtic music to the Des Moines area. New email for information: info@thecma.org

Irish History

Traditional Irish Christmas recipes live on in Eire

The following are brief descriptions of typical Irish Christmas recipes still enjoyed today.

Roast Goose (25th December)

Goose was always the number one festive food for celebrations such as weddings and Michaelmas which were held between September and Christmas. Stuffed with herbs and fruit, it used to be boiled but by the 19th century it was roasted, stuffed with onions, bacons and potatoes, or with apples and potatoes. Roast turkey didn't become the first choice of Irish Christmas recipes until the 20th century. At least 1 lb. of uncooked weight was allotted per diner. Stuffing was usually potatoes, apples and onions with spices and excess fat had to be poured off 3-4 times while roasting to make it less greasy. Although not confined to Ireland's Christmas dinner table, baked ham is another dish often served with the goose. Three types of potatoes are quite likely to appear with Christmas dinner: roast, boiled and mashed, plus roasted parsnips, boiled or mashed swede, brussels sprouts and cabbage.

Plum Pudding (25th December)

Plum or Christmas pudding, half drowned in whiskey, is, of course, an essential part of the main family dinner on Christmas Day itself but may make a limited appearance on other days as well.

Spiced beef for St. Stephen's Day

Irish Spiced Beef is traditionally served on St Stephen's Day (26th December). This is the case in most of Ireland but in Co. Cork, it is not just one of the most popular Irish Christmas recipes, but also a dish served the year round. Although our ancestors would have prepared their own dish, and many families still do, you can find well-prepared beef joints, liberally covered in spices, in butchers throughout Ireland in the two weeks before Christmas. Preparing it was a long process. A middle rib of beef was boiled and then pressed between two heavy plates for 12-15 hours. The meat was then covered in a mixture of spices with salt, sugar and minced onion, and placed in an earthenware crock. Once a day, every day for a fortnight, the meat was turned and each time re-rubbed with the spice mixture.

Scones for Little Christmas (6th January)

On Little Christmas (6th January), the last official day of the season in Ireland, the feast consists mainly of baked goodies such as scones, cream, jams, gingerbread, iced sponge cakes and pots of tea. This tradition arose from the belief that women deserved a special day of their own after providing for their families throughout the festive period. The chosen foods were considered "dainties" but Spiced Beef still often makes an appearance, too.

These baked goodies are enjoyed throughout the year, not just as part of an old-fashioned homely Irish Christmas