



The Blarney

UPCOMING:

Monthly Meeting:

October 14th

Mickle Center

6:30 P.M.

Menu: 'Octoberfest Hot Dogs,
Brats, Grandma Heddingers
German Potato Salad,
Mystery Dessert

Next Meeting:

General meeting November 11th

Mickle Center

6:30 P.M.

BOARD CONTACT INFO

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OCTOBER (DEIREADH FÓMHAIR) 2024

Dark history of Halloween originates with the Celtic fest of 'Samhain'

To find the origin of Halloween, you have to look to the festival of Samhain in Ireland's Celtic past. Samhain had three distinct elements. Firstly, it was an important fire festival, celebrated over the evening of October 31st and throughout the following day. The flames of old fires had to be extinguished and ceremonially re-lit by druids. It was also a festival not unlike the modern New Year's Day in that it carried the notion of casting out the old and moving into the new. To our pagan ancestors it marked the end of the pastoral cycle – a time when all the crops would have been gathered and placed in storage for the long winter ahead and when livestock would be brought in from the fields and selected for slaughter or breeding. But it was also, as the last day of the year, the time when the souls of the departed would return to their former homes and when potentially malevolent spirits were released from the Otherworld and were visible to mankind.

Samhain & the Celtic Calendar

The Celts celebrated four major festivals each year and none of them was connected in any way to the sun's cycle. The origin of Halloween lies in the Celt's autumn festival which was held on the first day of the 11th month, the month known as November in English but as Samhain in Irish. The festivals are known by other names in other Celtic countries but there is usually some similarity, if only in the translation. In Scottish Gaelic, the autumn festival is called Samhuinn. In Manx it is Sauin. The root of the word – Sam – means summer, while 'fuin' means end. And this signals the idea of a seasonal change rather than a notion of worship or ritual. The other group of Celtic languages have very different words but a similar intention. In Welsh, the day is Calan Gaeaf, which means the first day of winter. In Brittany, the day is Kala Goanv, which means the beginning of November. The Celts believed that the passage of a day began with darkness and progressed into the light. The same notion explains why winter – the season of long, dark nights – marked the beginning of the year and progressed into the lighter days of spring, summer and autumn. So the 1st of November, Samhain, was the Celtic New Year, and the celebrations began at sunset of the day before its eve. Slainte!



Presidents Pint of View

As fall settles in, so does our “slow season.” Well, not really. Even though we do not have any events in October or November, I assure you we on the board are busily working to get our parade in order, looking for a Queen, Irishman of the Year, and a Parade Marshal. If you have any suggestions, please let one of your friendly neighborhood board members know. We are always open to suggestions for any of those honors.

I would like to thank Mr. Tilton and Mr. Corben for putting on a wonderful car show. With the help of their many volunteers, they were able to put on a smooth-running, family friendly event that raised a fair amount of money. Also, thank you Mr. DeMoss for cooking up some delicious food. If you didn't get a steak & cheese sandwich, you missed out.

We on the board are also thinking up some possible new activities both for the public, and for just the Sons. Some things to make some money for our charities, and some things to do just for fun. If anyone has any ideas, we are open to hearing them as always. I would also like to say once again, we are always available and open to any discussions regarding the club, the meetings, events etc. so please reach out.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and until then, stay safe.

President, Tim Schuck



BOARD NEWS

Mr. Soliday as almost always has stated: "We Have Money!" The club has done very well with fund raisers as of late and are looking for additional beneficiaries. If you have some ideas, by all mean please share.

Despite the weather the car show was a huge success for the club. Mr. Soliday will have the breakdown at the monthly meeting. Special thanks to Mr. Tilton and Mr. Corben for a fantastic job of organizing this event. Next years show is already planned for September 14th, 2025.

Pig Raffle Winners were:

Tim Schuck

Jason Simpson

Gary "Pork" Portoh

Mr. Soliday would also like to remind everyone that there are only 20 spots left for the Christmas Party. If you plan on going it would be best to get your funds in asap. Once they are gone that's it, no late arrivals gents. Please also have your food choices in to Mr. Dennis.

Mr. O'Connor is hard at work and on schedule with parade planning, right now he is busy working on parade staging. As President Schuck stated if you have an idea for Irishman or Parade Marshall, please let us know. The board is also investigating the possibility / feasibility of stretching out our event so that everything does not happen all in one day. Research with other clubs suggest that they have multiple days for things such as a Parade Marshalls Gala, and a Flag Raising Day, prior to the actual day of the parade. We will keep you posted.

Mr. Soliday has also taken the lead on our planning of a Pickleball Tournament, He found we have an in over at Smash Park so he is working on the wrinkles. There will be more to come on this.

We are also thinking about having some card tournaments in the winter months, please let us know if this is something you would be interested in.

Officer and Board elections are right around the corner, if you or someone you know is interested in being on the board or would like to run for a prestigious position such as President, please let a board member know.

The November general meeting is on Vetran's Day, the board is busy planning something special to honor veteran's at the November meeting.

The monthly FSOSP raffle at Carl's Place is netting the club \$375 a month. This may not seem like a lot but, it covers our rent at the Mickle. If you haven't had a chance, stop into Carl's at buy a ticket. Drawings are held the first Wednesday of each month.



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

The season gets underway on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at 7:30 when we present One for the Foxes. 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

1691- Treaty of Limerick is signed, ending the Williamite War in Ireland; the treaty allows evacuation of the Irish army to France and promises tolerance of Irish Catholics

1693 - Irish Brigade of France fights in the battle of Marsaglia

1731 - A complaint is made to the House of Commons 'that Mr. Anthony Tenison did, in a violent and notorious manner, assault John Bourke, Esq., a Member of this House, by presenting a pistol to his breast, and threatening to shoot him, on the thirtieth of December last'

1796 - The Royal College of St. Patrick, a Catholic seminary, is opened in Maynooth, Co. Kildare

1833 - Birth of Father William Corby who became Chaplain of the Irish Brigade in Detroit, Michigan

1842 - Birth of heavyweight bare-knuckle boxer Jim Dunne in Co. Kildare. Dunne won the American heavyweight title from fellow Irishman Jim Elliot - the pair were jailed after the illegal event

1878 - New York Gaelic Society is formed

1930 - Actor Richard Harris is born in Limerick

1935 - Birth of Thomas Kineally, Irish-Australian author of Schindler's List which was originally called Schindler's Ark

1948 - Birth of Gerry Adams

1981 - In the Maze Prison, Northern Ireland, ten IRA and INLA hunger-strikers die between 5 May and 12 August; the hunger strike is called off on this date

1999 - Ireland moves a step closer to raising the recruitment age of the armed forces from 16 to 18

2000 - Midleton Distillery in Co. Cork wins the Distillery of the Year award

2001 - The Black & White Pub of The Year Award 2001 goes to Fitzpatrick's Bar of Jenkinstown, Co Louth.

2002 - The North's police service launch dawn raids on Sinn Féin's offices at the Northern Ireland parliament at Stormont

2010 - Graeme McDowell after delivering the match-winning point for Europe in his final singles match against the USA's Hunter Mahan at the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor in Wales. For the first time in its history, the Ryder Cup stretched into a fourth day due to inclement weather

Richard Joseph Murphy

June 19, 1934 - September 11, 2024



Richard "Dick" Joseph Murphy, 90, of Des Moines, passed away on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at Wesley on Grand Senior Living Community, Des Moines, Iowa. Born on June 19, 1934, in Fort Dodge, Richard was the son of Elmer and Bridget (O'Brien) Murphy. He graduated from Manson High School in the Class of 1954 and later lived with his grandparents on their farm in Graettinger. Richard began serving as an altar boy at St. Thomas Church in Manson, Iowa, in the 1940s.

After moving to Des Moines, he became a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus. He lived at the downtown YMCA for 35 years, and after its closing, he moved near St. Ambrose Cathedral, where he became very active in parish activities, including Parish Receptions, Burrito Bowls, Lenten Fish Lunches, and other Knights of Columbus events.

Richard worked in the food industry at various downtown restaurants, retiring from Hy-Vee Hall. A passionate sports fan, Richard avidly followed the St. Louis Cardinals, the Iowa Hawkeyes, and was a season ticket holder for the Barnstormers. Richard was a beloved member of St. Ambrose Cathedral, the Sons of St. Patrick, and a 3rd Degree Knights of Columbus member.

He is survived by his sister, Kathy (Bob) Carney of Clear Lake, Iowa, as well as his nieces and nephews: Peter (Peg) Murphy, Patrick (Jan) Murphy, Mary (Kurt) Heinrich, Kevin (Kari) Carney, Erin (Chris) Meyer, Bridget (Brad) Lemker, Courtney (Gary) Matt; along with numerous great-nieces, great-nephews, and many cousins.

Richard is preceded in death by his parents, brother and sister-in-law, William "Bill" (Margit) Murphy, sister, Mary Murphy, infant brother, Dennis, Murphy; nephew, Matthew Murphy and great-grand-nephew, Nolan Meyer.

The family would like to thank the Hospice staff for the love and care that Richard received.

Wearin' O' The Grin

From Mr. Kelly's Oldies -

- A husband is at home watching a football game when his wife interrupts. "Honey, could you fix the light in the hallway? It's been flickering for weeks now."

He looks at her and says angrily, "Fix the lights? Does it look like I have GE written on my forehead? I don't think so."

Then the wife asks, "Well then, could you fix the fridge door? It won't close right."

And he replies, "Fix the fridge door? Does it look like I have Kenmore written on my forehead? I don't think so."

"Fine," she says, "then could you at least fix the steps to the front door? They're about to break."

"I'm not a carpenter and I don't want to fix steps," he says. "Does it look like I have Ace Hardware written on my forehead? I don't think so. I've had enough of you. I'm going to the bar!"

So, he goes to the bar and drinks for a couple of hours. Then he starts to feel guilty about how he treated his wife and decides to go home. As he walks into the house, he notices that the steps are already fixed and the hall light is working. As he goes to get a beer, he sees the fridge door is fixed.

"Honey, he asks, how'd all this get fixed?" She said, "Well, when you left, I sat outside and cried. Just then a nice young man asked me what was wrong and I told him. He offered to do all the repairs, and all I had to do was either go to bed with him or bake a cake."

He said, "So what kind of cake did you bake?"

She replied, "Helloooo... Do you see Betty Crocker written on my forehead? I don't think so!"

- At Friday night services, Morris goes to his friend Irving and says, "I need a favor. I'm sleeping with the Rabbi's wife. Can you hold him in synagogue for an hour after services for me?" Irving is not very fond of the idea, but being Morris' lifelong friend, he reluctantly agrees. After services, he strikes up a conversation with the Rabbi, asking him all sorts of stupid questions, just to keep him occupied. After some time, the wise Rabbi becomes suspicious and asks, "Irving, what are you really up to?"

Irving confesses, "I'm sorry, Rabbi. My friend's sleeping with your wife right now & he asked me to keep you occupied." The Rabbi smiles, puts a brotherly hand on Irving's shoulder, and says, "You better hurry home, Irving. My wife died two years ago."