

THE IRISH SOCIETY NEWS

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The Irish Society
www.TheIrishSociety.org
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HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

59TH ANNUAL HOUSTON ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



Kent Hargett and Michael Martin, of Godfrey's Rangers, are this year's Grand Marshal's of the 59th Annual Houston St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Parade will take place on St. Patrick's Day, **Saturday, March 17th, 2018**, at Noon, Clock Tower at MinuteMaid Park, 1800 Texas Avenue, Rain or Shine! This year's theme is **'Houston Strong. Irish Proud.'** Come on down and March with the Irish Society in the Parade or Cheer the Irish Community on as we celebrate our Irish Heritage. Happy St. Patrick's Day! Go to hsppc.org for more.

BLOOMSDAY! SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 16, 2018 Bloomsday! We wish to extend an invitation to all our Irish Society Members and their guests from 1-3PM, enjoy live music, 1 complimentary beverage and light buffet, followed by Irish Dancing. More information about this event will appear in our next newsletter.

JIM FOLEY - LIFETIME MEMBER



Congratulations to our Lifetime Member, Jim Foley, on receiving Marquette University's 2018 Department of Intercollegiate Athletics Lifetime Achievement Award.

Foley's standout public relations and sports radio broadcasting career with the Houston Rockets has left a memorable legacy that will live on for years. And it all started at Marquette University as the sports information director.

Jim Foley is and always will be remembered as one of the voices of Houston Rocket Basketball radio broadcasts, especially during the NBA Championships seasons of '94 and '95. His lifetime achievement award from Marquette reiterates what we Irish have always known - Jim Foley lives his Catholic faith and his Jesuit educational values wherever, whenever and whatever he is doing. We are proud to call Jim Foley a member of the Irish Society and even more proud to call him a Friend.

DECLAN PLUNKETT, THE HARP - THANK YOU!



For almost 20 years, The Harp has drawn in customers with the warm, emerald glow of its neon sign. And for 15 years before the doors were first thrown open, Declan Plunkett was already a fixture of the Montrose bar scene.

Declan came to Houston on the advice of a friend and things clicked. "This is a nice place," he remembers thinking. "The people are super friendly and there's lots of gorgeous women." One of those lovely lasses became

Plunkett's wife, and together they started a family which included two daughters (both of whom would work for the Harp. Plunkett found initial employment in Houston at Kenneally's Irish Pub on S. Shepherd. Kenneally's founder John Flowers hired Declan and he ended up working with him for 15 years. By 1999, Plunkett had the experience and knew the time was right to strike out on his own. Plunkett's first step was finding the right spot for his bar. As for the name: "The Harp is the national music emblem of Ireland," notes Plunkett. "And you can't franchise (it), everybody can use it."

The intervening 19 years have flown by for loyal regulars, but Plunkett notes that The Harp's popularity peaked in its first seven years. "Rent was cheaper, there wasn't a bar on every corner," he recalls. "We were, like, the only place on Richmond between Montrose and Shepherd."

Declan, the Irish Community thanks you for keeping the Irish Heritage and Culture alive in Houston for all these wonderful years! Slainte!

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

The Irish Network invites you to mingle with the Irish. These monthly mixers are a great way to connect with the local Irish community, advance your own professional career, improve business prospects and make new friends. Everyone is welcome. Go to irishnetworkhouston.com for further information.

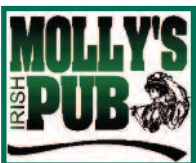


DAN'S HOUSE OF HOPE - DRIVING FORE HOPE GOLF OUTING



Monday, April 30, 2018 - Dan's House of Hope - "Driving FORE Hope" Golf Tournament and Dinner, Riverbend Country Club, 1214 Dulles Avenue, Sugar Land, TX 77478. Shotgun Start at 12PM. Lunch on the course and dinner in the golf club with a live and silent auction. For golfers, the all-inclusive price of \$150 will provide: 18 holes of golf, range balls, lunch provided, an assortment of fun golf games and drawings for prizes, delectable buffet-style dinner. Non-golfers / significant others are welcome to join us for dinner (\$40). For more information go to: **DHOH.ORG**

MOLLY'S PUB CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



Monday, May 21, 2018 - Molly's Pub Charity Golf Tournament, Cypresswood Golf Club, 21602 Cypresswood Dr. Shotgun Start at 10AM, Includes Lunch and Dinner. Dinner served at Olde City Pub and Grill, 14124 Stuebner Airline Rd. with a live and silent auction. Contact June Finnerty at junefinn@sbcglobal.net for more information or go to **TXPWA.ORG** to register.

E-Mail us at houstonirishsociety@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all our members! As we know, March is a marvelous month for Houston's Irish community. Thanks to all The Irish Society members who attended Saturday's outstanding St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner honoring June and Eamonn Finnerty. It was a great night for the Finnerty family and our Irish community. A special shout-out to Gregory Horan for his extraordinary efforts to organize and host the Celebration Dinner. Well Done, Sir!

While the St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner is the Irish community's private party celebrating Houston's Irish community, this Saturday's St. Patrick's Day Parade is The Irish Society's public display of our Irish pride. I strongly encourage all of our members, along with your families, friends and neighbors to march with The Irish Society in Saturday's Parade in downtown Houston. This year's Parade is particularly exciting given that the Parade is on St. Patrick's Day itself. An added inducement to participate in the Parade is the St. Patrick's Day forecast for 80 degrees! If ever there is a time to march in Houston's St. Patrick's Day Parade, this is the year to march.

The Parade commences at 12:00 noon this Saturday at the Clock Tower at Minute Maid Park. The Irish Society's marching members will be gathered behind The Irish Society banner, and we will be proudly marching near the front of the Parade. Your active participation in Saturday's Parade is welcomed and encouraged. Wear your green and join the fun at noon this Saturday. I look forward to marching with you and The Irish Society this Saturday. Slainte!

CELEBRATION DINNER A SUCCESS BECAUSE OF YOU!

Thank you all for attending our St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner honoring June and Eamonn Finnerty! We appreciate your support of the Irish Society. We look forward to next year's event. Here are some pictures of the event that was held on March 10th at the Petroleum Club.



MARCH 9, 2019 ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION DINNER, SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Please visit our Website www.TheIrishSociety.org or [FaceBook](#) for regular updates

IRISH AIRES BROADCAST ANNIVERSARY - 90.1 KPFT



As many of you in the Houston Irish Community can recall, St Patrick's Day 1982, was the first broadcast of the Irish Aires Show on KPFT 90.1FM, Featuring Mary and Pat Patton as hosts. The show was on Sunday at 1:00, just about the time people were sitting around the table for lunch after returning from church, and Mary and Pat provided an hour of wonderful Irish

tunes, commentary on the troubles in Ireland and news from the old country. Pat continued the show into the 90's with the help of Pete Little and Jay Dooling. In 2011 Emily Standish and Bill Galbraith, a local Irish duo performing as Constant Billy, joined the show which has been broadcasting on Saturdays from 6-7PM. We lost Pat in 2005 and Jay passed on in 2015 and we miss them both. We would also like to put out a call to Irish music lovers of all ages that could spare a Saturday evening from time to time to help out the Irish Aires crew, please contact us. Our station, KPFT has just celebrated it's 48th Birthday March 1st...and with Irish Aires celebrating 36 years this Saturday... please consider a donation to the show during our fundraising drive by visiting the **KPFT.org** website and using the TIP JAR at the top of the page and specify IRISH AIRES as the recipient...or give us a call Saturday, during our 6-7PM time slot at 713-526-5738(kpft). Here's to many more years! Slainte!

AN IRISH BLESSING

May Your Neighbors Respect You
 Troubles Neglect You
 The Angels Protect You
 And May Heaven Accept You.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! - The Irish Society



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