

THE IRISH SOCIETY NEWS

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The Irish Society
www.TheIrishSociety.org
P.O. Box 980334
Houston, Texas 77098

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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY BLOOMSDAY - 2019



We wish to extend an invitation to all our Irish Society Members and their guests for this gathering which celebrates a day in the life of Leopold Bloom, Joyce's character from his classic work Ulysses.

Bloomsday will be celebrated on Saturday, June 15, 2019 from 1-3pm at the Bull & Bear Tavern, 11980 Westheimer.

Great food and entertainment await your arrival. Participate in the 50/50 Raffle, Door Prizes for best James Joyce Look-A-Like and for Best Period Costume (1904). See You There!

COL. MIKE HARRINGTON, USMC - R.I.P.

Michael H. Harrington, USMC (Retired) November 27, 1933 – May 14, 2019 passed away. He loved to profess his Cork, Ireland ancestry. He was a proud FOUNDER of our Irish Society, 10/15/99. His beautiful wife Christine was always at his side. They were "regulars" at our annual Galas and Celebration Dinners. And his association with the annual St. Patrick's Parade will never be forgotten. He always provided the Color Guard for the Parade. This Baltimore, MD native achieved initial national notice as a superior lacrosse player at Duke University. Then after a ROTC career at Duke, he joined the USMC as a 2nd Lt. in 1955. During his long USMC career, he was awarded the PURPLE HEART in Vietnam in 1967. He officially retired in 1986. Mike spent several weeks in Hospice before passing last month at age 86. March On.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM PAT SHARKEY

The advent of Summer provides Houston's Irish community with its annual gathering celebrating Bloomsday. One of the primary goals of The Irish Society is to promote all forms of Irish culture, including literature, music, theatre and sports. June 15th affords Houston's Irish community an opportunity to come together and celebrate not only James Joyce's Ulysses, but also the joys of being born into an Irish family. We do not gather nearly enough as an Irish community, so I strongly encourage you to take the time to join the Bloomsday festivities on June 15th at The Bull and Bear Tavern and raise a pint (or two) with your Irish mates. The Irish Society is as strong as its members, so make plans to participate in this year's Bloomsday party.

I also encourage each of you to continue your financial support of The Irish Society. Dues statements are being sent to the membership, and your prompt and generous response to the dues statement is appreciated. Dues paying members receive an immediate return on their investment via a free drink at the Bloomsday party. In Irish terms, that's a "win/win" deal. Slainte!

'JOHNNIE' LALLINGER AND 'KATIE' McCONN - REST IN PEACE



Johnetta 'Johnnie'
Lallinger

Sad news on the passing of two Lifetime Members and Grand Dames of the Irish Society, Johnetta 'Johnnie' Lallinger and Mary Catherine 'Katie' McConn. These two ladies were friends for decades and in the first few years of the Irish Society's formation they spearheaded the Silent Auctions at our dinners and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the cause. Both ladies were in their 90's when they passed away last month. Katie's husband John Luke McConn, preceded her in death just 4 months ago. Katie and Luke hosted fundraising parties at their home featuring local celebrities including Arthur Gordon Mason, that contributed to the seed money which financed the University of St Thomas' Center for Irish Studies. We thank them for all the years of dedication to our organization and countless others. Please keep these Irish Society benefactors in your thoughts and prayers.



'Katie' Burke
McConn

ERIN CASS - NEW IS BOARD MEMBER

Erin Cass has joined the Irish Society's Board of Directors. Erin Cass was born and raised in Buffalo, New York where she began Irish dancing at the age of 7. At age 12, Erin relocated to Houston, Texas where she studied Irish Dance. Erin took the T.C.R.G. exam where she received passing marks and became a registered teacher. Erin made her lifelong dream come true and founded the Cass Academy of Irish Dance. Erin proudly welcomed her new business partner and co-instructor, Owen Barrington and officially became the Cass-Barrington Academy of Irish Dance. Welcome Aboard!



REBECCA LAIRD - IRISH SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Each summer, as part of UST's Flynn Center for Irish Studies Travel Abroad program, Dr. Lori Gallagher is able to host a group of students to experience Ireland. The travel allows the students to experience the history, politics, literature, archaeology, music and culture throughout Ireland. Needless to say, 21 days to experience all that is Ireland is a wonderful opportunity.

One lucky participant is **Rebecca Laird**, a UST senior and music major. Rebecca plays guitar and mandolin in a band called Cari Q., and also plays piano and enjoys pretty much any string instrument. Although the Study Abroad program is subsidized by UST, it still leaves students with a hefty sum to cover all expenses. Rebecca, who has a younger special needs brother at home, would likely have been unable to take part in this experience of a lifetime without the support of a grant from The Irish Society, which is funded through your annual dues. She has asked the Irish Society Board of Directors to pass along her extreme gratitude to all Irish Society members for helping to make this trip possible for her.



IRISH NETWORK, HOUSTON GAELS AND IRISH SOCIETY MIXER

The Irish Network, Houston Gaels and Your Irish Society invite you to mingle with the Irish on Wednesday, July 17th at 6:30pm at **Hugh O'Connors**, 7620 Katy Fwy Unit #350. Everyone is welcome. It is Steak Night at Hugh O'Connors. See you all there! Go to irishnetworkhouston.com for further information or theirishsociety.org.



THE HOUSTON GAELS



The Gaels 2019 Schedule: June 8th tournament in Houston, Gosling Park, 4055 Marisco Pl, The Woodlands, TX 77384; June 22nd Texas Finals in Dallas. We will be having **Youth Camps** in July and would invite all Irish Society members' children to join us. Locations and dates TBD but we are looking at three camps. They will be for boys and girls ages 5-17. Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram or on our website HoustonGaels.com for more details. We will finalize dates and locations in the next couple of weeks. If your children are interested, please email HoustonGaels@gmail.com. If you would like to play football, we have both ladies and men's football and have levels for beginners to more advanced.

LIFE'S WAGON TRAIL - A POEM BY DAVID O'KEEFE

Through dark canyons we must now go, tired lungs & muscles pulling all they can, the family Bible the only hope we know, as we follow Heaven's mysterious plan. When we see other stalled pioneer folks, we stop for a spell and give 'em a hand, to help them as we can from pain's yokes so they can reach health's Promised Land. At last with hearts, lungs, or muscles, with faith and nerves at ease, whatever, we finally start to slowly go downhill and see before us Life's flowing river. We ourselves at last have made it. We thank Lord Jesus on bended knee for kindly helping us mortals not to quit so that we too can help others be free. Sometimes, life takes us back East again, through mountain, canyon, and over trail. When we see others in life's painful plain, we now try to help them some, without fail.

Please visit our Website www.TheIrishSociety.org for Event Information

IRISH SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dear Irish Society Members, On behalf of the board of directors of the Irish Society, we would like to thank you for your support of the Irish Society. Your annual dues are critical in funding our charitable support of Irish cultural events, scholarships and nonprofit work.

Our 2019 dues are being collected now, and we appreciate prompt submissions. Individual dues remain at \$35 annually, and family dues at \$50. One time donations to be included as a “life member” are also available. If you have already paid your 2019 dues, or better yet, are already a lifetime member, THANK YOU and excuse this duplication. Please visit theirishsociety.org and use the Membership Options link to make payment, or mail a check to: The Irish Society of Houston, PO Box 980334, Houston, Texas 77098.

We hope to see you all at our annual Bloomsday celebration at The Bull & Bear Tavern & Eatery from 1:00-3:00pm on Saturday, June 15th. Enjoy Irish dancers, fun music by The Tomfooligans, and get an engraved glass courtesy of Guinness! And as always, paid members receive their first beverage courtesy of The Irish Society.

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!

The Irish Society wishes All the Fathers - Past,
Present and Future - Happy Father’s Day!
Wether you get a Tie, a Tool or a New Car...
Just know that we care!



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