



# THE IRISH SOCIETY NEWS

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NOVEMBER 2019



The Irish Society  
[www.TheIrishSociety.org](http://www.TheIrishSociety.org)  
P.O. Box 980334  
Houston, Texas 77098

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**VICE PRESIDENT**  
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COL. MIKE HARRINGTON  
ANN C. IVINS  
GLENN MCCARTHY, JR.  
MADELINE O'BRIEN

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2020 CELEBRATION DINNER

Save the Date - The **2020 Celebration Dinner** will be held on **March 7, 2020, Saturday**, at the Petroleum Club at 6:30PM. One week before the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Tickets are only \$150 a person or \$1,500 for a table of 10. Please call Gregory Horan for more information at 713-459-4559 or email at [gghoran@hotmail.com](mailto:gghoran@hotmail.com).

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT UST

**Sunday, December 1, 2019 - 2PM-4PM** Get into the holiday spirit with lively music from The Jig Is Up!, Houston's premier traditional Irish band. This special show will spotlight several Irish Christmas season traditions, including the 'wren boys' parades for charity, sean nós dance and uniquely Irish Christmas songs. Tickets \$15 for adults; \$10 seniors (65+); UST faculty, staff and students free. UST Jones Hall 3910 Yoakum Blvd. Contact Lori Gallagher [irishstudies@stthom.edu](mailto:irishstudies@stthom.edu) or 713-525-3592.



### A THANK YOU TO PATRICK SHARKEY

'Pat Sharkey is a native of Dayton, Ohio. He graduated in 1973 from Columbia in NYC, then graduated in 1976 from Case Western Reserve University Law School in Cleveland, Ohio. Sharkey commenced practicing real estate law in Houston in 1976. He currently is a partner in the Jackson Walker law firm. He is a big Rockets and Texans fan, and a HUGE Astros' fan. He dated Mary Sharkey way back (i.e. 1969) in HS and through college. They have 3 children: Shawn, Dr. Amy Sharkey Kipp and Callie Sharkey Ritter. He was one of the 21 original Founding Members of the Irish Society. He was the 2006 St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshall, he'll always be recognized for wearing his famous green cabean. He was the 2014 Irish Society St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner Honoree. He is presently an Advisory Member of the William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas. Pat is also a Member of the Houston Irish Lawyers Association.

**Hey Pat: From all of us, thanks for your Irish Society participation since October 15, 1999 and being our President for 16 years.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM PAT SHARKEY

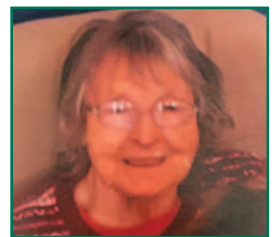
As we enter the 2019 edition of the holiday season, I thank all of you for your continued membership in, and support of, The Irish Society, and I wish each of you a healthy, happy and blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas. One of the endearing attributes of the Irish is our devotion to our families, and no time is more treasured than the Thanksgiving/Christmas season for gathering the clan together and giving thanks for our abiding love. Inasmuch as The Irish Society is akin to family, I wish all the best to each of you.

It is one of the cruel facts of life that time flies by and we age quicker than we are willing to admit. However, after 15 years of serving as President of The Irish Society, I have elected to step aside and let the next generation of Irish lead Houston's Irish community. It has been my honor to serve the Irish community, and I treasure the memories and friends I have made along the way. I am pleased to announce that an outstanding Irishman, Joe O'Rourke, has agreed to take the reins as President and guide The Irish Society in the future. I know you will actively support Joe and The Irish Society with the same enthusiasm and comradery that you exhibited during my term as President.

The Irish Society has exciting plans for 2020. We hope your participation in the energized, active calendar of social events will make 2020 the best year ever for The Irish Society. Slainte!

## ANN DALY - REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of one of Houston's great Irish Ladies, **Ann Daly**. Ann had been very active in all Irish activities for the past 30 years, but had recently returned to a retirement home in her native Cork, where she passed away. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers. The Irish community will never forget her generosity.

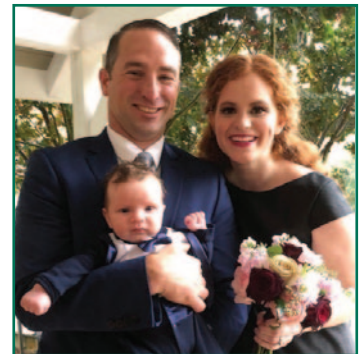


## WELCOME TRISTAN ALEXANDER ZIOMEK!



Kelly and Johnny Ziomek (Irish Society Board Member) welcomed Tristan Alexander Ziomek into the world on September 2, 2019! Baby and Mother Kelly are doing great as well as his big brother, Pauly! Our newest IS Member has already paid his 2020 dues!

Congratulations to the Ziomek Family. We wish you all good health and happiness!



## IRISH SOCIETY AND FACEBOOK

Hey members! Be sure to visit, like, and share the all New 'Irish Society of Houston' Facebook page! This is a public page, so there is no need for requests and approvals. Just follow us and keep informed of all things IRISH in the city of Houston! FB Search: **@IrishSocietyofHouston**  
Direct link: <https://www.facebook.com/IrishSocietyofHouston/>

E-Mail us at [houstonirishsociety@gmail.com](mailto:houstonirishsociety@gmail.com)

## CONSUL GENERAL CLAIRE MCCARTHY COMES TO TEXAS

The Irish Society welcomes Consul General of Ireland, Claire McCarthy, to Texas. She began her post in Austin this fall. Consul General McCarthy is from Bandon, County Cork, Ireland. She previously served in the Embassies of Ireland in Uganda and Zambia as well as a number of positions in Dublin and the Irish Aid office in Limerick. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Law and European Studies and a Master's degree in Women's Studies from the University of Limerick.



*Claire McCarthy and John Kane*

Along with the other Irish Consuls General across the US, Claire will be working toward strengthening relations between the US and Ireland and widening and deepening political partnerships in her region. She also will work towards strengthening the economic relationship between the US and Ireland by supporting and defending the advantages of jobs that benefit both countries.

A further significant area of work for Consul General McCarthy will be to support and deepen the relationship between Ireland and its large Diaspora in Texas. Working with the Consulate team, Claire will continue to provide support to Irish cultural and sporting organizations in Texas through the Government of Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme as well as connecting with any individual Irish people who wish to be connected to the Consulate!

Speaking two months into her assignment, Consul General McCarthy noted that the warmth of the welcome she has received in Texas was only surpassed by the warmth of the weather. She looks forward to meeting as many of the Irish community and friends of Ireland in Texas as soon as possible and encouraged anyone who would like to get in touch to reach out to the Consulate in Austin.

## THE HOUSTON GAELS END OF YEAR DINNER



Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram or on our website [HoustonGaels.com](http://HoustonGaels.com). We'd like to welcome and congratulate Aindriu Hoctor as the new chairman of the Gaels. Aindriu hails from Tipperary and moved here with his wife Deborah for work.

We will have our end of year dinner on Saturday, December 7th at Hugh O'Connor's at 7pm. Tickets are \$25. Please email [Houstongaels@gmail.com](mailto:Houstongaels@gmail.com) for more information.

## IRISH NETWORK HOUSTON

The Irish Network invites you to attend our Monthly Mixers. Everyone is welcome. Go to [irishnetworkhouston.com](http://irishnetworkhouston.com) for more information. The bonds that we look to create provide our members with valuable contacts, friendships and opportunities both sides of the Atlantic and especially Houston, Texas!



## NEW IS PRESIDENT - IRISH SOCIETY ELECTIONS

The elections were held for the Officers of the Irish Society on November 11, 2019. Joe O'Rourke is our new President, Jim Sharp is Vice President, Barbara Hogan was elected to Secretary and Gregory Horan retained the title of Treasurer. Congratulations to all; and a Special Salute to Patrick Sharkey for his many years as President of the Irish Society!

Please visit our Website [www.TheIrishSociety.org](http://www.TheIrishSociety.org) for Event Information

## IRISH SOCIETY THANKS OUR MEMBERS

**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 2020 dues will be sent out soon. Individual dues remain at \$35 annually, and family dues at \$50. One time donations to be included as a 'Life Member' are also available. Please visit [theirishsociety.org](http://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.

## SAVE THE DATE, MARCH 7, 2020 ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION DINNER



Please have a  
Happy Thanksgiving,  
a Blessed  
Christmas Season  
and a  
Prosperous New Year!



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