

THE IRISH SOCIETY NEWS

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 4

www.THEIRISHSOCIETY.ORG

NOVEMBER 2020



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

PRESIDENT

JOE O'ROURKE

VICE PRESIDENT

JIM SHARP

TREASURER

GREGORY HORAN

SECRETARY

BARBARA HOGAN

DIRECTORS

ERIN CASS

LORI GALLAGHER

BARBARA HOGAN

GREGORY HORAN

ROGER KENNEAVY

PETE LITTLE

PATRICK SHARKEY

PAULINE WARD

JOHN ZIOMEK

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

DR. JOSEPH MCFADDEN

JOHN B. KANE

REV. CHARLES R. GREENE

IN MEMORIAM

DOROTHY DAVITT

MICHAEL FLEMING

COL. MIKE HARRINGTON

ANN C. IVINS

GLENN MCCARTHY, JR.

MADELINE O'BRIEN

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

2021 CELEBRATION DINNER

Our 2021 St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner Honoree is Pete Little. Pete is an IS Board Member, Bloomsday Coordinator and Host of the Irish Aires Radio Show on KPFT 90.1FM. Pete was the St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshal in 2004. We are honoring Pete's many years of highlighting all things Irish!

Our 2021 St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner will be held on **Friday, March 5, 2021** at the Petroleum Club of Houston. We are confirmed for this date and are allowed only 130 dinner guests. Make your reservation soon! The Dinner is our only FundRaiser of the Year! Congrats to Pete Little!



A Virtual Christmas Concert

Hosted by the W J Flynn Center for Irish Studies

An Irish Christmas! With Kathleen Keane & Jesse Langen

Sunday, December 6, 2020, 2:00PM,

Live stream via UST Zoom Webinar

Join us for a memorable afternoon featuring Kathleen Keane and Jesse Langen, two of the most gifted and world-renowned traditional Irish musicians based in Chicago. Celebrate the great tradition of a joyful Christmas night with traditional Irish Christmas carols and tunes from the rich treasury of Ireland's cultural heritage.

Space is limited. Please Register by Wednesday, December 2.

Go to www.stthom.edu/irishstudies

or call Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3885 for more information.

This is an On-Line concert and you must register to be able to view the Christmas Concert

BILLIE ELLIS - R.I.P.

Billie John Ellis passed away on September 17, 2020 at the age of 90. He was a man of many talents with many interests. He first managed a "Midget Market" in Houston and then he and his brother became partners in "Ellis Towing Company". He was a tugboat captain pushing barges for ten years, and regaled people with colorful stories of this adventurous career. He then decided to become a Dairy farmer. He next became a successful cotton farmer, and then, a self taught real estate developer. His final career evolved from dealing with the purchase and management of real estate notes to becoming a private money lender.



He was a family man with three children, eleven grand children and 10 great grandchildren. He and his wife, Ann, enjoyed being Life Members of the Irish Society. He always said that he definitely had some Irish blood in him, but he was not sure how much. Ann made up for that by proudly claiming 75% Irish blood flowing through her veins. He loved his ranch "Hog Wild" in Flatonia, and did his best to trap the wild hogs. He also enjoyed spending time at his "little blue beach house" in Galveston. Entertaining people at these two places and at his home in Houston was a great joy for him, and a memorable culinary experience for his guests. Anything he cooked was delicious, and a better barbeque pit master has never walked this earth.

We will always remember Billie Ellis. May He Rest in Peace.

IRISH NETWORK HOUSTON

The Irish Network invites you to attend our Monthly Mixers. Everyone is welcome. Go to 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!



HOUSTON GAELS



We are actively recruiting new players and if anyone, male or female, would be interested in joining, please email us at houstongaels@gmail.com. All levels of play are welcome and we can teach new players; including youth teams, between the ages of 5 and 17 who is interested in playing Gaelic Football. Follow us at HoustonGaels.com.

GOODBYE 2020!

This year felt like each month since March has had 200 days in them! We are approaching the End of 2020 and it seems bitter-sweet. Many great events took place in 2020. As a nation we applaud all essential workers for getting us through the pandemic. We thank all those on the front lines who care for the sick. We remember all the lives lost. We pray for all the families that are not whole because of the pandemic. We cherish the moments and memories of all those who did not get to celebrate momentous occasions, Family events and personal milestones such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc. We look forward to 2021 with great hopes and aspirations. A Fresh Start; New Beginnings! GoodBye 2020; Hello 2021...

E-Mail us at houstonirishsociety@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, 2020 will obviously go down as a year of challenges, but challenges the Irish and Irish-Americans will overcome. After all, we have that special resiliency that is baked into us through generations of Irish before us always finding a way, through faith, humor, kindness, sport, and literature to make the best of it – make the best of life. So, as we approach Thanksgiving, and Christmas I wish all of our wonderful Irish Society members a holiday season where we can hopefully take a breather, reflect on what's most important, slow down, and be extra grateful to have the likes of our fellow members and past experiences to guide us through 2021. We have a few interesting things cooking at the Irish Society – some mentioned in this newsletter and a couple of things we will update the membership about as they come to fruition. Until then, Merry Christmas everyone!

PETE LITTLE AND THE IRISH AIRES RADIO PROGRAM

Irish Aires Radio Show first debuted on KPFT 90.1 FM on March 17th 1982, with hosts Mary and Pat Patton. Jay Dooling joined Pat and Pete Little in 1993 and both Pat and Jay continued till their untimely passing. Pete and Peg Pywar, assistant producer, have kept the show going at KPFT-FM (90.1) between 6-7PM (midnight Irish Time) every Saturday night time slot with help from Bill Galbraith and Emily Standish, long time local musicians. Austin McCord came on board after a chance meeting and chat at an Irish event last year and has stepped up to the plate with some new contemporary artists which helped the show evolve as it enters its 39th year on the Houston airwaves. The real backbone of Irish Aires is you, our thousands of listeners who year after year contribute to help keep the show and KPFT on the air. Thank you to Pete Little for keeping the tradition alive. Sláinte!



IRISH SOCIETY AND FACEBOOK

Hey members! Be sure to visit, like, and share the '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](https://www.facebook.com/IrishSocietyofHouston/) Direct link: <https://m.facebook.com/IrishSocietyofHouston/>

JOHNNY Z (ZIOMEK) WINS...AGAIN!



Back in late February, just before the world went crazy, Johnny Ziomek, IS Board Member and Houston Gaels Player Extraordinaire, traveled over to Ireland at the invitation of his old Gaelic Football club; the Wild Geese of Orange County, California. They were invited to play in the Paidi O'Se Memorial Classic just outside of Dingle in County Kerry. The weather was beautiful for the North Atlantic in February and a bit of snow was even mixed in with the constant wind and rain! Their club was able to prevail after a victory over Kilenale from Tipperary in the semifinals and Lispole from Kerry in the finals. "It was an incredible achievement and certainly a highlight of my GAA career and life." - *Johnny Ziomek*

GIVING THANKS AND THANK YOU FOR GIVING

We are approaching the holiday season. The season of giving. We all have a lot to be thankful for in our lives. Many charities need our help to continue their charitable works. Find the time to check on your neighbors. Find a worthy cause to donate your time, talent and treasure. Believe it or not a Little Goes A Long Way when giving to a charity of your choice.

Many charitable organizations have seen their regular donations dwindle during this pandemic. Find the time to seek those organizations out and inquire about what you can do for them. You can give On-Line. You can Volunteer. Your gesture, big or small, will be welcomed.

The Irish Society is making donations to the **Houston Food Bank**, **Dan's House of Hope** (Roger Kenneavy, IS Board Member) and **Texas Prader-Willi Association** (June and Eamonn Finnerty, 2018 Honorees) among others. We will continue to support our Irish Community through donations, promotions and fundraising.

Make a commitment to give back to your community. They need our help more than ever. If not money, give your time. Most donations are tax deductible. Now is the time to act!

We thank you for being members of the Irish Society. We wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Healthy and Happy New Year!

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to All!



The Irish Society

P.O. Box 980334 • Houston, Texas 77098

www.theirishsociety.org

houstonirishsociety@gmail.com
