

THE IRISH SOCIETY NEWS

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The Irish Society
www.TheIrishSociety.org
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2021 ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION DINNER

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021



Our 2021 St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner Date has been changed!

Our 2021 St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner will be held on **Friday, September 17, 2021** at the Petroleum Club of Houston. We will be honoring Pete Little, Host of the Irish Aires Radio Show on Saturdays on KPFT 90.1 at 6PM. Pete is also a long time IS Board Member and he was Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Parade in Houston. This Dinner is our only Fundraiser of the Year! More info soon.

Houston St. Patrick's Parade 2021

No Parade, I'm Afraid!

Not unexpected news from Mary Kearns and the Parade Commission that the **Houston St. Patrick's Parade** for 2021 will be cancelled, but this gives us plenty of time to get ready for 2022! Due to restrictions by the City of Houston and common sense about large gatherings the parade will again, be cancelled in Houston. "We hope it does not dampen the enthusiasm of Houstonians who have celebrated the parade in Houston for the last 62 years," said Sandy Ryan, longtime Houston resident and parade attendee.

Word from Ginger Simon that the Irish Stew Cookoff/Music Festival is planned for mid-September to coordinate with half-way to St. Patrick's Day. Many local Pubs will be holding events then when it is safer for people to congregate. There will, however, be some local Irish venues that will still be holding events on the March 13th weekend this year, and we will distribute that information as we get closer to those event dates...So go get your Vaccine! Stay Calm and Irish On!

'IRISH NEED NOT APPLY' BUT IF YOU ARE HIRING...

The Houston Gaels are getting inquiries from many Irish students who would like to come to Houston on J1 visas. Is anyone in the community willing to hire an Irish student for a 3-6 month period? We believe it would be beneficial to our community at large. Some of these students are not football players but just interested in our city. Please let us know and thank you! You can either email John Ziomek at jlziomek@gmail.com or the club at Houstongaels@gmail.com.

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](https://www.facebook.com/IrishSocietyofHouston)
Direct link: <https://m.facebook.com/IrishSocietyofHouston/>

HOUSTON GAELS

The Houston Gaels recently recognized some club members for our end of season awards. With 2020 being so difficult for everyone, some of our members continued to go above and beyond. Two members in particular were recognized by the club. Adam Robertson organized several events for the community including our run for charity which we raised several thousand dollars for the Urban League of Houston. He also organized our gold tournament and fundraiser for club member Jack Simmons. For that, the Gaels recognize Adam Robertson as our 2020 Community Service Award recipient. Our Club Person of the year was unanimously voted to be Aindriu O'Eachthair. Aindriu was our Chairman this year and led us through a difficult period with dignity and class and helped set us up for a better present and future. He and his wife Deborah have just left Houston for Belfast and we wish them well.



On December 11th, the Houston Gaels GAC hosted their annual golf outing. This year the club was raising money for long time member Jack Simmons as he has battled major unexpected health issues since March.

We are proud to say that the Houston Irish community at large showed its true spirit. The Gaels were able to raise over \$20,000 between the golf and the online fundraiser. Every dollar raised went to Jack as he fights to get better. We are happy to say that on Monday, February 8th, Jack will head to Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore to meet with specialists and receive treatment and hopefully begin his road to recovery. The club would like to thank everyone who donated to the cause and/or played in the tournament. It was a tremendous day out with great craic was had by all! Special thanks go to the Irish Society, Greg Horan, and June and Eamon Finnerty for all of their tremendous generosity above and beyond what could have been asked for. When we began this club almost ten years ago, we spoke of football but most importantly we spoke of the community which we wanted to expand and build. On behalf of the club, **go raibh maith agat** (thank you)! Follow us at HoustonGaels.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I must say, y'all have a wise board representing you! I was initially suggesting powering through and having our St. Patrick's Dinner in March as usual. However, cooler heads prevailed and we have decided to use a bit more discretion and call an audible! That's right, let's have some fun together...and peace of mind. Our Dinner Chairman Gregory Horan has coordinated with the Petroleum Club, and we have a new date, **September 17, 2021, Friday**. This new dinner date will serve as our **"Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Celebration Dinner."** It will provide time for our members to get vaccinated and allow any herd immunity from this Covid-19 to set in prior to the dinner, at least that's the idea. Let's get on with it! Let's raise a glass of Old Tom Horan Irish Whiskey! And let's celebrate St. Patrick and our heritage, while we honor one of our favorite local celebrity personalities in the Irish community, and a good friend of The Irish Society, **Pete Little**. Sláinte!

**THE 2021 ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION DINNER DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED
THE NEW DATE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2021**

W. J. FLYNN CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES - LIVE STREAM EVENTS

Tuesday, March 16, 2021; 12pm - Everybody Matters: From Peace Building through Human Rights to Climate Justice, Presented by **Mary Robinson**, *Former President of Ireland; President of Ireland; United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Founding Member of The Elders; Chair of The Elders; UN Special Envoy on Climate Change.*

Live stream via University of St. Thomas Zoom; Free and open to the public

Registration is required. Go to www.stthom.edu or Email Lori Gallagher at irishstudies@stthom.edu Space is limited. Please Register by Friday, March 12.

First rising to prominence as President of Ireland, Mary Robinson is widely regarded as a ground-breaking and transformational leader who elevated the public role of the Irish presidency, helping to shape modern Ireland in a period of rapid and unprecedented economic growth. Mary Robinson has moved audiences around the world with her passionate and hopeful call for all nations to work together to fight for a sustainable future.

Friday, April 9, 2021; 12pm - Reconciliation and Peace: Walking in the shoes of the Other
Presented by **Rev. Bill Shaw**. Space is limited. Please Register by Wednesday, April 7. **Go to www.stthom.edu or Email Lori Gallagher at irishstudies@stthom.edu**

Join us for a virtual chat with Rev. Bill Shaw on Reconciliation and Peace: Walking in the shoes of the Other. Rev. Shaw is a Presbyterian minister working in a distinctly Catholic environment of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Rev. Shaw also is one of the mentors for our students on study abroad as he opens doors for us to people across the community for dialogue and understanding. Rev. Shaw's organization, the 174 Trust, is a nondenominational community-based organization that pursues peaceful cross-interaction at a grassroots level.

WE GIVE CHARITABLY - TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

The Irish Society is proud to be able to provide modest financial support to a number of local Houston charities, including Houston Food Bank, TX Prader Willi Syndrome and several others. Included in this group is **Dan's House of Hope**.



Dan's House of Hope (DHOH) helps Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Fighters by providing free lodging during treatment for those traveling to the TX Medical Center, isolation reducing psycho-social programming like support groups, guest speaker dinners, arts & crafts nights, game nights and a wide variety of other events. If you'd like to help, you can donate directly at www.danshouseofhope.org, or mail a check to Dan's House of Hope, PO Box 8444, Houston, TX 77288. You can also help out by attending or sponsoring a fundraiser. DHOH will be hosting its **10th Annual "Driving FORE Hope"** golf outing at Houston National Golf Club on **Friday, May 7, 2021** – socially distanced of course. Food, beverages and prizes are included, and the entire event will be outside. For more information, contact Roger at info@danshouseofhope.org.

Molly's Pub Charity Golf Tournament supporting **Texas Prader Willi Syndrome Association** will be Monday, October 4th, 2021. Save the date. Go to TXPWA.org for more information.



Happy
St. Valentine's
Day!



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