Irish Society President's Christmas Message - See page 2

The Irish Society News

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The Irish Society
www.theirishsociety.org
P.O. Box 820010
Houston, Texas 77282

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In Memoriam
Ann C. Ivins

2011 St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner

The 2011 Celebration Dinner Honoree will be UST's Center for Irish Studies' Director Lori Meghan Gallagher. This event will be held on Friday March 11, 2011 at the Petroleum Club. Lori will also be the Parade's Grand Marshal the next day. The Irish Society will march in the Parade, as will the UST Center for Irish Studies.

Our evening begins at 6:30 with a reception hour and hors d'oeuvres. Grand entrance at 7:35. Dinner at 8:00 sharp. Complimentary valet parking. Evening ends about 9:30 PM. The cost is $150 per ticket.

Please contact Lyn Brogan at 281-531-0656, Pat Sharkey at 713-752-4266 or Pete Little at petelittle@comcast.net to make reservations.

Mark this date also: Saturday, February 5, 2011 - 12 to 6 PM, the Rory Miggins Memorial Cook-off & Music Festival at the Continental Club, 3700 Main St. Rain or Shine.

Irish Society Christmas Wishes

Irish
you a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

President's Christmas Season Message

As we enter the joyous Christmas season, the Board and I wish each of you a blessed, happy and healthy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I am excited about the progress The Irish Society has made this year. I look forward to even more positive programs and social events for our members during 2011. The Board remains committed to keeping in touch with the members and upgrading the communication links for the members. As we move up the technology ladder, we are placing more emphasis on communicating with you via an electronic Newsletter on our website (**www.theirishsociety.org**), The Irish Society Facebook page and e-mail correspondence. In order to facilitate this transition to a more electronic based communication approach, it is important that each of you provide us with your current email address. If there is a change in your mailing address, please advise. We want you to contribute your suggestions for future social activities. Our membership is at an all time high. This high water market is a tribute to each of you for your continued support over the last 11 years. Please continue your terrific efforts to recruit new members. The Irish Society is like a fine wine, it gets better with age! The Irish Society has an active social calendar planned for 2011. The Board of Directors continues to plan events in response to your suggestions. Consequently, please attend our scheduled social activities and keep submitting your ideas for new and innovative activities for the members of The Irish Society to enjoy. I look forward to seeing you at our 2011 events.

OUR E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

Internet subscribers should know that receiving future newsletters via E-mail is a cost-saving. It is voluntary, but electronic mail is our future. Be it known that there is a cost of printing and mailing our newsletters. We are looking to economize wherever possible. A positive note is that the E-mail format allows you to receive the newsletter in color. The newsletter is always available on our Web page. If you would like to receive your newsletter via Email, then please contact Pete Little at:
petelittle@comcast.net .

The Results Are In!

In order to continue to strive to meet the needs of our members, we distributed a survey earlier this year regarding activities that you would like to see organized on your behalf by the Irish Society. We would like to sincerely thank our members who replied to the survey either electronically or by mail and we were delighted to receive 70 responses! Your top choices are as follows:

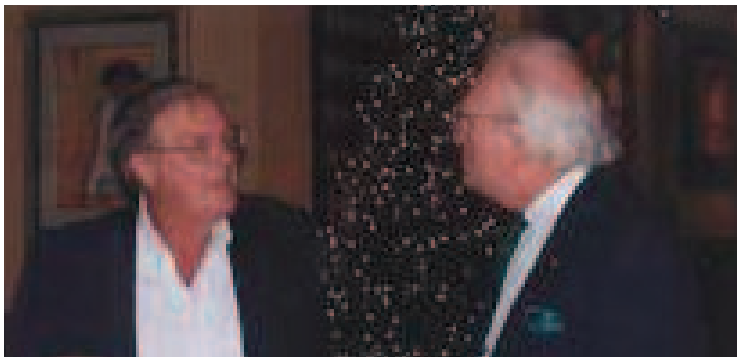
- Irish festival
- Irish movie night out at theatre
- Irish pub crawl
- Attending cultural events
- Saint Arnold Brewery tour
- Irish cooking demonstration with celebrity chef
- Irish Pot-luck night
- Wine & cheese reception
- Family Picnic
- Book club focused on Irish literature

In response to these results, we were pleased to present free admission to the movie "Ondine' at the Anjelika in June, a scrumptious four-course Irish-themed meal complete with recipes, prepared by Justin Bayse at Stella Sola in August and a fun-filled family picnic at Dan Electro's Guitar Bar featuring great Irish music and dance in September (co-hosted by KPFT & the Irish American Heritage Association).

We are busy lining up activities for 2011 and will the start the year off with a bang with an Irish Cooking Demonstration and gourmet meal prepared specially for Irish Society members by Celebrity Chef, Bryan Caswell, of recent "The Next Iron Chef" fame, at the Reef Restaurant (January 17, 2011, pricing and details will follow soon) and the first of our quarterly Irish Pub crawls (details coming soon). We hope that you will join us for these and the many of the other activities planned for an exciting 2011!

Please continue to check out our website **www.theirishsociety.org** for updates on all of the upcoming 2011 events.

CPL PATRICK T. O'CONNOR, USMC

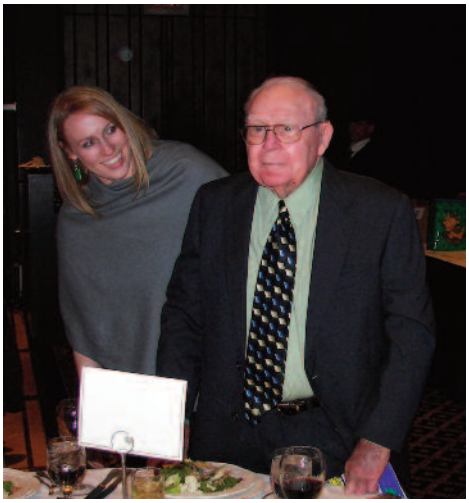


Pat left us on July 27, 2008. We have missed him! Recently former Marines Mike Harrington and David O'Keefe presented a memorial wreath on his grave up in the National Cemetery.

Pat had received 3 Purple hearts while serving our nation in the USMC. A group including Peg O'Connor, her parents, Pete Little, & Lyn Brogan, were in attendance. Above are Col. Mike Harrington, Ret. & David O'Keefe, a former Corporal, representing The Irish Society in this special moment.

Here are Lyn Brogan and Pat at the famous AOH Christmas luncheon in 2005, hosted by Tom Horan at O'Rourke's Steak House.

ART KELLY - Rest In Peace



Art Kelly represented the older generation of the Houston Irish community. As a member of the AOH, he helped to maintain the continuity of Irish-Houston heritage.

Art passed away in September. He had a royal sendoff at Saint Cecilia's. Our condolences go to Art's family. At left is Art Kelly with his granddaughter, Lauren, in 2008 at our St. Patrick's Celebration Dinner.