

# Seanchaí Cois Fharráige

## THE SEASIDE SEANACHIE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF  
SOUTH JERSEY

P.O. Box 195, Absecon N.J. 08201

Website: <http://home.comcast.net/~iacssj>

APRIL PROGRAM  
WILL BE  
“TITANIC”

DON'T MISS  
THE BOAT

WHICH SAILS  
7:30  
TUESDAY,  
APRIL 15 2014

A little over a hundred years ago, a small town in County Mayo said goodbye to a number of its citizens, mostly young women, as they boarded a ship for America. The Mayo town was Lahardaun; the ship, the Titanic. Such is the intriguing story you will be informed and entertained by at our meeting, Tuesday, April 15 starting 7:30 at the Absecon American Legion Post, Mill Road and New Jersey Avenue. Jim Curley, a journalist with personal ties to the town and families, will present a multi media approach to the story. He will explain the town's hopes and motivation in sponsoring the travelers, their fears and sadness, as well as the wonderful stories of survival that night and afterwards in America. Jim has attended the annual ceremony in memory of the deceased and will share his experiences there with us. The usual social will follow Jim's talk. The business meeting will conclude the evening with a review of our March activities. Titanic stories have always held an appeal for us—this will be no exception. Bring a friend.

SPRING IS HERE

TIME TO

PICK UP AND

SIGN UP

RENAISSANCE  
FAIRE  
AND  
MAYFEST

What is your sign that spring has come? Do you just go by the calendar? My mom's was seeing the first robin in our Camden backyard. My dad favored the crocus popping up in his small flower bed. Some say the beginnings of baseball, others the end of the snow piled up. How about the Philadelphia Flower show—certainly not a good indicator this year. Well, for the IACS, the sure sign of Spring is the arrival of the raffle book from the printer, the start of their distribution at the April meeting. Come prepared to the April meeting to pick up and sign up. Pick up your envelope with your allocation of raffle tickets. While you are at it, sign up for a shift at Smithville's Renaissance Faire, May 3 and 4 and also for the ever popular Mayfest, May 17 and 18. It's what defines an “active” club member.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems fitting that the end of our St. Patrick's festivities would be the time I must move on from the Irish American Cultural Society and New Jersey. I have recently returned to employment in Charleston, South Carolina. I have been honored to serve as your president for the past six years and think that the club has moved in a positive direction. I would like to thank everyone involved and thank you for all your support, both to the club and myself. I won't be far from anyone "up north". You won't have to worry about me, Charleston is very Irish, and so I won't feel too far from home. On the President's last note, don't forget to support all the great events coming up including Raffle sales! Again, thanks for the opportunity to serve as your president. Maybe, I'll be able to attend the picnic in September.

BILL GOTTSHALL

SUPER PARADE  
TURNOUT AND  
ALL WE HEARD  
WAS HOW GREAT  
WE LOOKED

The day was glorious—except maybe for the occasional blowing sand. Our position near the front of the line of march guaranteed we were not slowed down by stops by groups ahead of us. Walt Murphy got close to his goal contingent of 20. In short, it was a great parade. Sally Picardo, Celeste Noble, Walt Cottrell, John Corry, Pat DeLuca, Mickey O'Brien, Jeff Harward, John and Joann Slonieski, Mike Farrell, Isabel Gallagher, Kathy Byrnes and her friend, Rick, Noreen Lawlor, Charlie McFadden, Dick Noble, Pat Rush and Walt Murphy marched.

LATER THAN  
THE NEWLY  
PLANNED  
7:30 START  
DOESN'T MESS  
UP THE MARCH  
IACS CEILI

Jim Gillon is back reporting: (What you didn't realize he was gone?) "Change, always confronted with the inertia of tradition and the dynamics of communication resulted in a minor delay in the start of the March Ceili, which was scheduled for a new start time of 7:30 pm. Despite the delay we found time for a full dance program and to celebrate the 70th birthday of Joe McGonigle, born the year I obtained my drivers license. Joe responded to the cake and well wishes by singing a few songs including the humorous "Paddy McGinty's Goat". With the minor change in tradition of starting time, the next Ceili is scheduled for April 26th at **7:30 pm**, American Legion Hall, 1st and Pennsylvania Ave, Somers Point. Your \$5:00 donation at the door will help feed the hungry through the efforts of the Holy Redeemer Food Bank."

TRY AGAIN  
APRIL 26

7:30

R.I.P. JOE

The St. Patrick's Season was made sad by the loss of club member, Joe Wilkins. Our condolences go out to Kathleen, who was one of the earliest members of our club and one we usually counted on for our opening prayer.

PUT IT DOWN  
(THIS  
NEWSLETTER  
THAT IS)  
IF YOU HAVE A  
SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATION  
NOT YET  
SUBMITTED, YOU  
ONLY HAVE  
DAYS LEFT

In looking over back issues of the Seanachie, I came across an article a couple years back in the April newsletter. It suggested putting down the newsletter and turning your full attention to your scholarship applicant, if you have one. That is true again. If you have received this and you have a potential applicant, please understand that the **complete** application must be in the PO Box 195, Absecon NJ 08201 no later than April 14. This means you **can't** bring it or any part of it to the meeting on April 15. You don't want that youngster missing out on the \$2000 scholarship because of a late or incomplete submission, particularly if a timely submission would have made him/her a winner.

WE RECOGNIZE  
KEY LITURGY  
CONTRIBUTERS

Whenever you have an undertaking as vast in scope as the St. Patrick's liturgy, it takes a lot of people with a lot of effort. There are the key people and those who support them in getting their piece of the action successfully accomplished. At the very top of the list, we have Fr. Paul Harte. The logistics of hosting the bishop, insuring the liturgy follows proper guidelines and coordinating with the Bishop's office are all essential elements which have to tax a busy pastor. Fr. Harte was invaluable. Performing a similar top job of hands on work and coordinating was our chairperson, Walt Murphy. He was the go to guy when we needed liaison with Father Harte, the choir and other committee members. Kay Noble did her usual superb job of organizing the liturgy participants. Laurie Crowell produced the 400 copies of the program and together with daughter Sandy, set up the beautiful arrangement at the foot of the altar with our new St. Patrick's statue. The McFaddens took care of all of the hall requirements and Ginny those in the kitchen. They led, but ready for the understatement of the year? They had help! You!

AND

THE FACT THEY  
DIDN'T DO IT  
ALONE

WAY TO GO  
PEOPLE

MORE  
RECOGNITION

THE BAKERS  
WITH A MODRN  
DAY MIRACLE OF  
THE LOAVES

We anticipated a full house for the Mass and an equally large attendance at the social in the hall. We were not disappointed. But any concern that we would not be able to offer the huge crowd ample Irish hospitality was washed away in a sea of wonderfully home baked soda bread and sweets. The club membership provided a modern day version of the multiplication of the loaves. We couldn't keep track of the generous parade of members transiting the hall, dropping off their breads before Mass. All of you who baked and brought, be proud of your effort, the IACS surely is.

OH WHAT A  
NIGHT!

30TH ANNUAL  
LITURGICAL  
CELEBRATION IN  
HONOR OF ST.  
PATRICK

UNEQUALED IN  
SPIRITUAL DEPTH  
AND QUALITY OF  
PREVIOUS ONES

SO MANY  
MEMBERS  
CONTRIBUTED IN  
SO MANY WAYS

RECORD  
COLLECTION  
EXTRAORDINARY  
BUT DON 'T  
NEGLECT THE  
ORDINARY IN  
APRIL

Bishop Sullivan honored us with his presence, inspired us by his homily, and entertained us with a couple of songs afterwards. The four club member priests, Monsignor Coyne, Monsignor Hodge, Father Brady, and our most gracious host, Father Harte, joined the bishop in celebrating St. Patrick, an awe inspiring lineup. The pageantry began immediately with member John Mistler leading the entrance procession on the pipes. John was followed by an AOH honor guard with the national flags and the flags of Ireland's Four Provinces. A large combined Honor Guard of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus demonstrated their usual military precision under the leadership of club member, Phil Pfaffan. Six altar servers including club members Molly and Declan Lawlor preceded the celebrants. Ann Carol Mullin proclaimed wonderfully the reading from Jonah, the starting point for the Bishop's homily. Helen Riso narrated the impressive offertory procession which saw Executive Board members, Kathy Byrnes, Pat DeLuca, Celeste Noble, Dan and Clare Lawlor, joined by Barbara Lang and Jim Logue to present to the Bishop the Irish flag, Celtic Cross, St. Bridgid's Cross, shamrocks, Irish fiddle and the bread and wine. Special thanks go out to Mike Garvin and the South Jersey Ceili Band and Ed and Bonnie Quigley with the Jersey shore dancers at the social. Our kitchen crew started early and stayed late as they kept the platters of soda bread filled. Ginny Atkinson was joined by kitchen regulars, Sally Picardo, Loretta Sheetz, Linda Carson, Doris Lopez and Barbara Palmer. Much thanks to these stalwarts and the many members who dropped off and pitched in. Ginny asked us specifically to express her appreciation to all. That the music was so special owes a lot to Steve Beddia and his daughter Kim, our cantor, and the Our Lady of Sorrows choir. The choir regularly has two of our members, Walt Murphy and Charlie McFadden, joined for this Mass by members Rosemary O'Dowd, Sandy Dierolf, and JoAnn Sloniewski.

Steve Disbrow and his crew of ushers made the food bank at St. Nicholas of Tolentine more than \$1400 richer as a result of the collection at the Mass. Extraordinary. At our April meeting, we will return to the ordinary, where we remember to bring food and gently used clothing to be shared with the poor of our area.



THE PIPER

APRIL 2014

TOMMY MAKEM

Picture this: It's March 12, 1961, and Irish music is rising in popularity. The well-known and popular Pearl Bailey is unable to perform as planned on CBSTV's *The Ed Sullivan Show*, so another previously unknown group of young Irish musicians step in. The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem perform masterfully for over 16 minutes and are seen by an estimated 80 million people. An agent for Columbia Records signs them on the spot to a five-year contract and advances them \$100,000.00, an unheard of amount, a new beginning for these young Irishmen.

The Clancy Brothers were originally from Tipperary, but the older two brothers, Tom and Pat, had moved to the US in the late 1940s. They met an American folksong collector, Diane Hamilton, who travelled to Ireland in the 1950s to meet the rest of the Clancy family. She took the younger brother, Liam, to Armagh to meet Sarah Makem, Tommy's mother and one of the most respected Irish traditional singers in the country. Liam and Tommy, then in their early 20s, struck up a friendship which endured for many years.

Opportunities were scarce in Armagh in the 1950s, and in 1955 Tommy moved to the US and settled in Dover, New Hampshire, where he had family. When he arrived in Logan Airport in Boston, he carried a makeshift suitcase, some bagpipes, and an x-ray of his lungs to prove he didn't have tuberculosis, a major customs concern at the time. He worked for a while at Kidder Press, but when his hand was crushed in a printing press and he could no longer work, he set out for New York to pursue an acting career. He joined up with the Clancy brothers and they recorded an album in 1956 called *The Rising of the Moon*. The album was funded by their patroness Diane Hamilton. For several years the group toured, and then came the momentous appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

After signing with Columbia, Tommy played solo at the Newport Folk Festival in 1961. By then his hand had healed and he resumed playing the tin whistle and Banjo. The 1961 Festival was a turning point in his career. Along with Joan Baez, he was named as the most promising newcomer on the American folk scene.

The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, once harboring an ambition to act, decided that music was a better career at that time. Their natural way of singing popularized songs like *I'll Tell Me Ma*, *The Irish Rover* and *The Mountain Dew* which they sang in a faster tempo than previously performed. There seemed no end to their repertoire. In many an Irish bar today you will doubtless hear *The Irish Rover* sung with gusto. Their music was spreading across the world—in 1962 they did a sellout tour in Ireland and the UK, travelling after that to Canada and Australia. When they were invited to play at the White House for President Kennedy in 1963, Tommy was responsible for rewriting the song *We Want No Irish Here* based on the shop window sign seen commonly in the US in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century *No Irish Need Apply*.

In 1969 Tommy left the Clancy Brother to pursue his solo career and tour successfully for many years. But in 1975 he was on the same bill as Liam Clancy for a folk festival in Cleveland, and after doing a set together it rekindled their professional bond. They performed after that as Makem & Clancy and recorded several albums together. In 1984 the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem reunited at a packed performance at Lincoln Center.

In the 1980s and 1990s he ran Tommy Makem's Irish Pavilion in New York City. It was an Irish club for a wide range of musicians, a venue where Paddy Reilly, Joe Burke and Ronnie Gilbert, among others, started their careers. Liam and Tommy often performed together in peak season. And not forgetting his roots, in 2000 he established the Tommy Makem International Festival of Song in South Armagh.

Tommy Makem was a prolific composer, writing such standards as *Four Green Fields*, *Gentle Annie*, *The Rambles of Spring*, *Winds of the Morning* and *Farewell to Carlingford* among many others. He performed very nearly to the end of his life, dying in Dover, NH on August 1, 2007. Liam Clancy said of his death, "He had the knack of making an audience laugh or cry—holding them in his hands," and "He was my brother in every way."

His sons Shane, Conor and Rory now perform as The Makem Brothers and continue to keep the tradition alive.