

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>

FEBRUARY 18TH
PROGRAM A
REAL WINNER

ALL IRELAND
CHAMPION
DANCER
FRANCESCA
BISHOP
7:30

Last summer, the IACS donated some money to help a young local girl to compete in the all Ireland championships held in Killarney. Turns out, we backed a winner! Francesca Bishop captured a first place and third overall in her group. The Absegami freshman will come to the February meeting to share her experiences at the competition. She plans a Powerpoint slide presentation, and a reprise of her winning dances. The meeting is Tuesday night, February 18, starting at 7:30. Francesca's performance will be followed by the usual social and an important business meeting relative to our March events. .

WE HOPE YOU
DIDN'T COME

WE WANT TO
INSURE OUR
NOTIFICATION
SYSTEM WORKS

The January snow storm forced cancelation of our regular meeting. Fortunately, we had enough advance warning to notify people. Tom Brett, our program for the meeting was gracious and asked when we would reschedule him. And we certainly will. We sent an e-mail to all of our newsletter subscribers who get their information that way. We contacted Linda Carson who runs our telephone committee program and she got her people on the phones. Walt Murphy arranged for Public Service Announcements on radio and in the press. We hope that we got to everyone. But the important question is, Did you get notified? If not, please let Dick know at 652-1679.

HEAVENLY
DANCER

R.I.P.

This isn't the first mention of Hedy O'Brien on our front page. She and Marie Russ shared a headline above the masthead after successfully managing our Irish Festival. Hedy was active in the club almost from the beginning, serving on the Executive Board and totally supporting the yearly festivals. Perhaps foremost, she was a dancer. Before the Thursday night at 7:29 dance lessons and the Jersey Shore dancers, we gathered in Hedy's basement and before meetings. When Ed Quigley organized dance for the club, Hedy was a most active participant. I'm sure she danced her way into heaven. To husband Rich, her family, and her many friends, so very sorry for your loss.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that the weather has become colder it's time to start thinking about Spring. Believe it or not, March is only a month away and time to think about our Annual St. Patrick's Mass and the Atlantic City St. Patrick's Parade. Both events are a great way to celebrate March and I hope you will put them on your schedule. It is also the time of year we start our raffle sales. Every year has been getting better and better, so let's keep the momentum going. I hope your New Year's resolution includes getting more involved with the Club as there is plenty to do, from Raffle help to participation in the Mass. Come to the next meeting and let us know you can help. Stay warm and think spring.

Bill Gottshall

“AUTUMN, WINTER,
SUMMER OR FALL
ALL YOU HAVE TO
DO IS CALL”

AND THESE UNSUNG
HEROES DO JUST
THAT

TRANSLATION:
WE CANCELED THE
JANUARY CEILI

BUT HAVE HIGH
HOPES FOR
FEBRUARY 22
AT 8PM

Some times it takes a crisis to help you to realize how good the people who support you are. Take for an example, our telephone committee. Every month they remind people of the meeting and to bring goodies for the table. And every month, people come and bring enough goodies that there are usually leftovers. And we don't think anything of that. And then comes a snow storm, and it is important that people know of the cancelation. The phone committee springs in to action and completes the notification. Who are these unsung members of the club? Well, there is the chairperson of the committee and herself a caller, Linda Carson, is 272-0808. Her team includes Mary Curry, 641-7955, Dr Peter Finley, 263-9050, Margaret Maury, 645-1954, and Loretta Scheetz 927-7643. I've included their names so you can know who to thank; their phone numbers if by chance you aren't getting calls on a monthly basis.

Jim Gillon reports before heading toward warmer climes: A combination of factors including, accumulated snow, prediction of additional snow, sub freezing temperatures, potential adverse consequences, loss of revenue, all were assigned a weighted value and a decision analysis yielded a conclusion to cancel the Ceili scheduled for 25th of January. With a forecast of continued severe winter weather, all will have another month to become acclimated and hopefully be ready for the next Ceili, scheduled for February 22nd at 8:00 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.

GOT APPLICATION?

SCHOLARSHIP, THAT IS

BETTER GET GOING

As advertised, February is the last meeting to request your scholarship applications for the 2014 awards. We have no meeting in March because of the liturgy and April is too late. So if you have been a member in good standing for at least three years and have an applicant completing high school this year, with at least a B average and intends to go to college, you should pick up the forms. Last year's non-selectees are eligible to submit again by sending their first semester transcript and any information they would like included with their previous submission. We continue to offer two \$2000 scholarships in the name of former club members Marie Gubbins and Harry Savage. You can pick up the applications at the meeting or call Laurie Crowell (645-2159) to make other arrangements. But time is of the essence.

FOOD AND CLOTHING IN GREAT DEMAND

HOPE YOU RECALL HOW

Do you still remember how we collect non perishable food and gently worn winter clothing for the working poor serviced by St. Nicholas of Tolentine's Food pantry? You could be forgiven if you said "no". We haven't done it since last year and even if that is only two months ago, we didn't collect in December either.

We hope you have been stocking up for each month and are ready to bring your December, January, and February gift to the meeting. We will see to it that it goes where it is most needed.

CLUB SINGERS ENCOURAGED TO JOIN CHOIR FOR ST. PATRICK'S LITURGY

"Those who sing, pray twice", which leaves me without a prayer. Seriously, we want everyone to be singing at our 30th anniversary St. Patrick's Liturgy. Most of you will choose to sing from the congregation and that's beautiful. But others can make a significant contribution to the choir. Any member who wants to join the choir in the loft for this special liturgy are required to attend the two practices that will be devoted to the Mass music. These will be Thursdays, February 27 and March 6 at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Linwood at 7:30.

NO ARAN SWEATER? NO SWEAT WEAR LOGO SHIRT

The club logo sweatshirt is acceptable wear for St. Patrick's Day Parade uniform. If you want to have one to sport on the Boardwalk, you need to order soon. Tell Pat DeLuca how many and what size you would like and pay her the \$20 for either short sleeve or long sleeve, or \$10 for a hat. That'll take care of it.

| | | |

LAST CHANCE TO
REMAIN A MEMBER

THE ANNUAL
“PURGE THE
LIST OF
DELINQUENTS”

SCHEDULED FOR
EARLY MARCH

ARE YOU
INADVERTENT OR
INTENTIONAL?

RAFFLE SEASON IS
UNDERWAY
(ADMINISTRATIVE
PART)

TOP PRIZE NOW
WORTH UP TO
\$1800

TOM BRETT’S TOUR
INFO AVAILABLE

If you were snowed out of your plan to pay your dues at the January meeting, don’t be concerned. You can bring them this month, or put it in the hands of the Postal Service, who have a “rain, sleet and snow” clause in their charter. Make the check payable to IACS, in the amount of \$10 (one person) or \$15 (more than one). Send it to PO Box 195, Absecon NJ. 08201. At the March Executive Board meeting, the board members will be doing the annual pour over the list of delinquent members. In this process, they will look at the list of non paid up members. They will try to decide if the omission is intentional (people want to leave the club) or inadvertent (people meant to stay in the club but haven’t paid their dues). The former group, the intentional delinquents, will be removed from the roster and the newsletter mailing lists. We can’t afford to keep you. The inadvertent list will be divided among the board members who will call you to determine if you are inadvertent or if you are intentional. Please save them a number of calls. If you want to stay, it is easy, just pay.

Although the drawing isn’t until Fall, and the prime selling season doesn’t start until Spring, it is in the dead of winter with snow all around that the IACS starts the 2014 Raffle Season. Our first step is to submit an application for the license to Absecon and the to the State’s Gaming Control Board. This is a necessary process that usually takes weeks to complete. So that is why we start this early with the hope the approval reaches us in time to have the tickets printed before the St. Patrick’s Day opportunities. The Executive Board has made a major change in the prize amount. Our previous limit of \$1500 top value for the two round trip tickets to Ireland has proven in the past to adequately pay for the tickets due to airline price raises. Our application to the State asks permission to value the first prize at no more than \$1800. This match prices the Board researched to be more reasonable.

One aspect of Tom Brett’s absence in January was the loss of information on his annual tour to Ireland which usually sells out quickly. They leave on November 5, return on the 12th, spending two nights in Derry, Sligo and Dublin. More information from Tom at 856-673-8452 or www.tombrett.net. We will have flyers at the meeting.



THE PIPER

FEBRUARY 2014

IRISH IN AMERICA BEFORE COLUMBUS?

While Christopher Columbus is generally credited with having discovered America in 1492, a 1521 Spanish report provides inklings of evidence that there were, in fact, [Irish](#) people settled in America prior to Columbus' journey. Researchers feel certain that there was a colony of Irish folk living in what is now South Carolina, when Christopher Columbus "thought" he had discovered the New World," writes Richard Thornton for [The Examiner](#).

In 1520, Peter Martyr d'Anghiera, a [historian](#) and professor, was appointed by Carlos V to be chronicler for the new Council of the Indies. Though Martyr died in 1526, his report, founded on several weeks of interviews, was published posthumously in a book named *De Orbe Novo* (About the New World). The book has been published and translated numerous times in the centuries since then. The passages concerning the land that would become Georgia and the Carolinas were always included, but generally ignored, says Thornton.

While interviewing Spanish colonists, Martyr took note of their vicious treatment of Chicora Indians. However, he also included in his report that the Spanish colonists had a very good relationship with another nearby colony, which Martyr reported to be named Duhare. Physically, the people of Duhare appeared to be European according to the Spanish colonists in the area. The people of Duhare had red to brown hair, tan skin and gray eyes, and were noticeably taller than the Spanish. According to Spanish accounts, the people of Duhare were Caucasian, though their houses and pottery were similar to those of American Indians. The king of Duhare was said to be named Datha and was described by the Spanish as being a giant, even when compared to his peers. He had five children and a wife as tall as he. Datha had brightly colored paint or tattoos on his skin that seemed to distinguish him from the commoners.

Despite Martyr's report that included the apparently unique tribe of the Duhare, the believed predecessors of the Creek Indian tribe, more recent scholars are wary of the possibility of a Caucasian tribe at that time in America. "In 1922 the Smithsonian Institute published, "Early [History](#) of the Creek Indians and Their Neighbors" by renowned ethnologist, John W. Swanton. It included much of Martyr's passages on Duhare, but was prefaced with contemptuous remarks by Swanton that the story couldn't

be true and that the Duhare were probably a Siouan tribe,” explains Thornton.

However, later in 2006, People of One Fire, a nationwide team of Native American scholars, primarily of Creek Indian heritage, began a comprehensive research program to obtain more accurate and detailed knowledge of North America’s pre-European history. As part of their research, they began to attempt to translate every single Native American word that was translated by the Spanish. While many of those words were easily translated by modern Creek, Alabama, Koasati or Choctaw dictionaries, the words associated with the province of Duhare defied translation until 2011. The Duhare words, recorded by the Spanish, were able to be translated using Gaelic dictionaries. Duhare, in fact, was found to be translated to either “place of the Clan Hare,” or if the Duhare came from west of the Shannon River, it meant, “du’hEir,” place of the Irish.

Further solidifying the Irish roots in Duhare, it was found that Datha, the name of the leader of Duhare, was a standard Medieval Irish Gaelic word that means “painted.” Datha of Duhare was remembered for being tattooed or painted, as if to separate himself from the commoners - a tradition among Celts.

Also in 2011, the mystery of the Reinhardt Boulder - an ancient and mysterious carved rock that was found years ago on the Cline farm in the Hickory Log area of Cherokee County in Georgia near the Etowah River - was put to rest after striking similarities between its carvings were made with rock carvings that originated around the Atlantic Coast of Ireland. “There is a boulder on the Dingle Peninsula of County Kerry that has the same glyphs (carvings) as the Reinhardt boulder and is approximately the same size. The Reinhardt Boulders’ concentric circles are a common theme of petroglyphic boulders all along the western Irish coast. However, the answer to the riddle of the Reinhardt Petroglyph has created many more questions about North America’s history before Christopher Columbus’s voyage,” writes Thornton in a separate article.

Thornton himself asserts that researchers believe that the Duhare tribe was established prior to Columbus “discovering” America in 1492. However, he freely admits that historians and researchers do not know how, when or why the Irish arrived in present-day America. While there is overwhelming evidence of Irish influence in what is now the area of South Carolina and Georgia, Thornton is careful to note that until solid DNA evidence is produced, it is hard to definitively link pre-Columbus America with Ireland.

Consider the old joke of how Pat supported the fact the Irish were in America, saying his father once anchored out in the ocean. Upon pulling up his anchor, there was a cart wheel attached to it, proving beyond a shadow of a doubt, the Irish were traveling to America by land, before the flood.

This month’s Piper was submitted by member, Walt Murphy. We have another on how the Irish language influenced New York slang sent in by Ed Quigley. Both the Piper and the Seanachie appreciate when members come across something that they want to share. Just send it to noblegl@comcast.net or mail it to the P.O. Box 195, Absecon NJ 08201.

Consider the fact that Columbus came to Galway to study Brendan's voyages before setting sail, thus the Columbus monument close to the Spanish Arch in Galway City.

Thanks to Ger at www.TheWildGeese.com for his permission to print this article. Sign up for his excellent newsletter at the website. It is free.