

HARP – March 2006

Saint Patrick's strategy throughout Ireland was to first win the blessings of the local chiefs, then to proceed with the conversions of the populace. The land was gripped in paganism, spiritism and black magic. Where he went, Patrick was met with confrontations and threats. In each case he would...perhaps miraculously.. win them over.

That strategy worked to the benefit of the Church, and to the benefit of the Irish people. Unlike any other country in Western Europe, Ireland was converted to Christianity without the shedding of martyrs' blood.

Tom Carney, Joan Giba are Irish man and Irish woman of 2006

On Saint Patrick's Day, Tom Carney and Joan Giba will be honored as the Irish man and Irish woman of the year.

Tom (Thomas W.) Carney was selected by the Joseph Nalley Division #6, AOH where Tom has been a member for 25 years. He has held the offices of Vice President, Recording Secretary, and as Hall Steward for the Hibernian Hall on Southern Boulevard. For many years he has volunteered his time for projects including the St. Patrick's day Parade Committee; The Gathering of the Irish Clans; and the Youngstown FEIS.

Joan Giba was selected Irish Woman of the year by the Golden Rose Queen of Ireland Division of the Ladies AOH. She has been an active member of the Division for five years, and is currently serving as the Division's Parliamentary Advisor. She has actively worked on numerous projects and events. She has also been active in public services. In 2002 she was honored as the YWCA Woman of the Year in the category of Community and Social Services, and was chosen as an Athena Award nominee by the Youngstown Area Chamber of Commerce in 2003.

St. Patrick's Day Activities Will Begin March 4

The 2006 St. Patrick's Day observances will begin on Saturday March 4 when Warren's **Sean McBride Division #1, AOH**, will hold its seventh annual scholarship Mass and breakfast. As in the past, it will be held at Blessed Sacrament Church on Reeves Road.

Mass will begin at 8:30 am, with breakfast immediately after. This year, there will be entertainment by Irish step dancers and by the Rose and Thistle group.

Again this year, the Division will award three \$1000 scholarships for winning essays on "Why does everyone want to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day?" For tickets and information, contact Mike Mogg Sr. 330-534-0309.

On Sunday, March 12 Youngstown's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will start at 1:00 pm on Market Street. As last year, the parade will begin at McClurg Road in Boardman and proceed North on Market Street. Once again, this will be one of the largest parades in the country.

On Friday, March 17, the Youngstown AOH and LAOH will hold their annual St. Patrick's day Mass and luncheon at St. Patrick's Church on Oak Hill Avenue. Msgr. Thomas Kelly will celebrate the Mass at 10:30 am, and the luncheon will follow in the Church hall. Mahoning man and woman of the year will be honored at the luncheon.

IAAS Book Signing March 16

Barnes and Noble will hold a book signing session on Thursday, March 16 for the IAAS book "Irish in Youngstown and the Greater Mahoning Valley." The session will be at Barnes and Noble's outlet on Boardman-Poland Road. Bob Casey will give a brief talk on the Irish in the Valley, and signing will be done by Casey and Jim Dunn

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Burke dancers Will Compete In Ireland

Two Youngstown Burke Irish step dancers will travel to Belfast during the Easter week for the International Dance Finals. International competitors are divided into groups by age and sex. There are about 150 dancers in each group.

Caitlin Murphy and Lauren Kepley reached these finals by scoring in the top 5 percent of their age group at the Midwest *Oireachtas* that was held in Columbus over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Some 2600 dancers competed in that event

North American Championships

Ten Youngstown Burke dancers **have** qualified to compete in the North American Irish Dance Championships from June 28 thru July 2 in San Diego. To qualify, a dancer must have attained a “level of championship” or have finished in the top 1/3 at the Mid-America *Oireachtas*.

The ten are Colleen Kratofil, Kelly Kratofil, Caitlin Murphy, Anna Bobby, Maura Bobby, Breanne Donoghue, Lauren Kepley, Meghan McCarthy, Natalie Super, and Lindsey Nalepa.

Fund Raisers to Defray Expenses

To help defray the travel, food and lodging expenses of the North American championship team, the Burke Dancers are holding two fund raisers. (1) A hand-knitted afghan, cream with green trim, will be given away at a drawing May 5. Tickets are available at \$1.00 each from any of the dancers or the dance team contacts. (2) The dancers are selling beautiful 10” hanging flower baskets for \$15.00 each. Orders will be taken during the month of April, and the baskets may be picked up before Mother’s Day. Delivery is available in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties for an additional \$2.00

For information contact Maureen Kepley 330-757-0918, e-mail maepk@cs.com or Kate Bobby 330-757-9337, e-mail shamrock806@aol.com.

Area Parties Open to the Public

Each year, the Mahoning Valley is green with St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. Area pubs, banquet centers, and nightclubs schedule a wide array of Irish music, dancing, and food and drink. This year, Youngstown’s Chevrolet Centre has joined the celebration with a “St. Patty’s Steelhound Weekend.”

McMenamy’s on Route 422, Niles, has long boasted the area’s biggest St. Patrick’s Day party. Doors open at 11 am and authentic Irish foods will be served. Entertainment includes Lou Rafferty and Company; the Green Blossom Special band; Bag pipers; and the Burke Irish Step Dancers. Admission is \$3 adults; \$2 children.

O’Donold’s Pub & Grill will have a full day of activities on March 17. starting with a traditional Irish breakfast at 5:30 am. There will be a large tent set up in the Austintown Plaza parking lot. There will be activity throughout the day including Irish step dancing; entertainment by the Rose and Thistle group; and much more. Beer and corned beef will be served in the tent, and full Irish meals inside the pub. **Proceeds from the tent sales will be donated to hospice of the valley.**

St. Patty’s Steelhound Weekend will be celebrated at the Chevrolet Centre on March 17 & 18. The Youngstown Steelhounds will play the Colorado Eagles. The Steelhounds will be wearing **green jerseys...**the games will be played on **green ice...**and there will be **green beer** to drink. The puck drops both evenings at 7:05. Groups of 15 or more get discounted tickets. Contact Steve Reynolds at 330-747-7825 ext. 5226.

Irish of Youngstown Web Page

Don’t forget to go to our web page, www.irishofyoungstown.com for up-to-date information about Irish activities in the area

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Mahoning Valley Ulster Project Begins 18th Year

In 1987, the Mahoning Valley Ulster Project was organized to host Catholic and Protestant teens from Northern Ireland. The goal is to contribute to Peace by exposing the Northern Ireland teens to the freedom and ecumenical spirit of American teens, as well as getting to know each other.

Each year, 12 Northern Ireland teens...six boys and six girls; six Catholic and six Protestant...spend the month of July with host families in the Valley. There are also one male and one female counselor who come with them. During the month, they participate in a wide range of group activities along with their American host teens.

Fund Raisers Essential

Each year, the Mahoning Valley project must raise between \$15-20,000 to pay for air fares, local transportation, tickets to places such as Cedar Point and Mahoning Valley Scrappers games, a two-day retreat, and the needed pizza and soda pop that goes along with being a teenager. Countless volunteer hours go into **Three major fundraisers** that will be held during March and April.

Auction Saturday March 4

An "Irish Benefit for Peace" auction will be held Saturday, March 4, at McMenamy's Banquet Center, Route 422, Niles. Hundreds of items will be offered in both silent and live auctions. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and there will be a buffet dinner, music by Harpist Darlene McBenn, and Irish step dancing. Pre-sale tickets are \$25, available from Vicki or Terry Vicars 330-783-9291 or 330-770-8502.

Cahal Dunne Concert and Dinner

On Saturday April 1, the Cahal Dunne concert and dinner will be held at St. Luke's Church Hall, South Avenue, Boardman. A buffet-style dinner will be

prepared by Peppers Gourmet Catering of Sat. Luke's. The menu consists of roast beef, chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetable, bread and butter, with pie for dessert This year

Host Families With Teens needed

The Ulster Project needs host families who can commit to a month of activities. A host family must have a teen 14-17 years of age. The family does not have to be of Irish descent...only a desire to help in a small way to bring peace to Northern Ireland.

All expenses of both the Irish and the American host teens are paid for by the Ulster Project. The host family need only provide a home and meals for the month, and transportation to the events.

For both the host family and the host teens, this can be the best month of their lives. As one of the 2005 host teens put it, "When the teens came over, we bonded immediately.

Even though we had just met, it seemed as though we had known each other forever. Now there's not a day when I don't talk with some of the Northern Ireland teens. We're always e-mailing and instant messaging each other. I know that all of us will be friends for life."

there will be only one serving, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Tickets for this year's event have remained the same as previous years at \$24.00 for dinner and concert or \$13.00 for the concert only. There are no "dinner only" tickets available. Since an advance count is required for the dinner, advance purchases are required. "Concert only" tickets will be available at the door. Advance purchases are available from the House of Erin, or from :Leo Jay 330- 758-8546.

"Rock On" Saturday April 8

There will be six local bands competing in the popular annual "Rock on" at St. Luke's Church Hall on South Avenue, Boardman. The event will be on Saturday, April 8, from 5-10pm. Tickets are \$5 each, and refreshments are available.

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Each band will select a local charity that will receive a share of the proceeds, and the remainder will benefit the Mahoning Valley Ulster Project.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 4, 8:30 am...Sean McBride Div AOH (Warren) annual Scholarship Mass and breakfast; Blessed Sacrament Church.

Contact Mike Mogg 330-534- 0309

Saturday, March 4, 6pm...Ulster Project's Irish Benefit for Peace Auction McMenamys (see article for details)

Tuesday, March 7...LAOH meeting at Hibernian Hall, Southern Blvd.

Sunday, March 12... St. Patrick's Day Parade, Market Street, Boardman. 1:00 pm.

Thursday, March 16...IAAS Book signing at Barnes & Noble, Boardman

Friday, March 17...Annual AOH/LAOH St. Patrick's Day Mass and Luncheon at St. Patrick's Church, Oak Hill. Irish man and woman of the year will be honored.(See **article**)

Sat., April 1...Ulster Project's Cahal Dunne concert and dinner at St. Luke's Banquet Hall, South Ave. (see Ulster Project article)

Aug 13&14...2006 Gathering of the Irish Clans at St. Maron's Rec. Center

IAAS Genealogy Seminar Sept 23

Once again this year, the Irish American Archival Society will hold a genealogy seminar. The featured speaker will be Regina Costello, Genealogist and Associate Curator of the Western Reserve Historical Society. Her topic will be "How the Irish have influenced Northeastern Ohio." And will trace immigration to the U.S.A. in general and how immigrants came to Northeastern Ohio.

The seminar is scheduled for September 23, at the Ursuline Education Center, 4280 Shields Road...adjacent to the Ursuline Motherhouse. for information, call 330-533-7542 or 330-799-4544.

Sat, April 8...Ulster Project's "Peace Project Rock On" (see article)

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