



muskegon
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american
society



Quarterly Newsletter

www.muskegonirishamerican.com

mskirish@muskegonirishamerican.com

January 2012

Next Event



Sunday, January 29, 2012

1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Hennessy's Irish Pub and Restaurant

Conklin Ceili Band

It is hard to believe that this is our *12th* annual pub party! And returning to entertain us with their special brand of Irish music is the **Conklin Ceili Band!** The band is performing all over the region, and we are fortunate that our date fits their busy schedule. As we did last year, we will begin with a warm-up by our own Dynamic Duo, **Kevin Donovan** and **David McIntire**, joined by accordion player **Jim Mayo**.

Time flies, and one year has passed since we opened **Hennessy's Pub** last January with our annual pub party. We had a great time, and this year will be even better! Irish victuals and libations will be available, and there is no admission charge. There is no football on television because the Super Bowl is the next weekend. So there is no excuse to miss this fun! See you there!

Last Event

On Tuesday evening, November 3, 2011, we gathered at the Muskegon Museum of Art for our annual desserts and Irish movie night. We viewed a powerful film, Five Minutes of Heaven, starring Liam Neeson and James Nesbitt. Our fellow member and professional movie critic, **Bill Iddings**, provided an introduction to the movie. Many thanks to **Kathleen Marek** and **Rosemary Stellino** for providing the desserts and attractive presentation. We also appreciate the attendance of several members of the Gaelic League of West Michigan and of the Grand Rapids Irish Heritage Society, who made the trip to Muskegon to join us. See everyone again next year for another Irish movie!

Chris Zahrt is 2011 Irish Person of the Year

Every year at our Irish movie night in November, our club gives our "Irish Person of the Year Award" to a member who has served to better our club and community in significant ways. The award is kept secret until announced by our President **Kevin Donovan** at our event, and this year's recipient was none other than **Chris McCarthy Zahrt**. In our club Chris is always among the first to step forward to help. But more importantly, Chris is the hard-working, totally dedicated Board President of the Michigan Irish Music Festival. Under her leadership and with the help of the excellent team she has built, our festival has become one of the jewels of our area and beyond. It has grown every year, even during the economic downturn. In fact, this past year the festival was able to donate \$10,000 to help the needy! Chris' passion, energy and inspiration form the core that makes the festival work. And not only that, she's a lot of fun! We could not be more proud than to name Chris as our 2011 Irish Person of the Year!



Kevin Donovan presents to Chris Zahrt the 2011 Irish Person of the Year Award

Club Re-Organization

Recently our club has filed incorporation documents that will lead to our organization being recognized as a non-profit charitable corporation under both Michigan and federal law. This status will allow us to move forward in a number of areas that will enhance our activities and strengthen our ability to preserve our Irish history and culture in our community and state. Stay tuned for more information as this process continues. This will be an exciting time for our club as our future plans develop!

2012 Dues Bill

After many years of keeping our annual dues at \$15 per family, and after careful consideration of our budget, our Board has taken the necessary step of raising our yearly dues to \$20 per family. Please fill out the dues card enclosed with this newsletter and send your dues to our Treasurer, **Bruce Duff**. You can also pay your dues at our pub party at Hennessy's on January 29th.

Board Membership Change

Our long-time board member and former Irish Person of the Year, **Tom Maloy**, has recently retired from our board. Joining our board is **Dee Carlson**. Thank you, Tom, for your many years of help, and we look forward to Dee's service on our board!

Facebook Page

Our club is now on Facebook. You can do a search, or here is the actual link:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Muskegon-Irish-American-Society/172485182844182?sk=info>

The Season of St. Patrick's Day

Yes, the Great Day, which is on a Saturday this year, will be here before we know it! Below are the events in our community that have been announced as of now. You may want to save this page. Events in which our club is involved are in larger, bold type.

MARCH 2 -3 Lafferty's Wake Dinner Theater, Frauenthal Center

"Lafferty's Wake" is a comedy by Susan Turlish. It is based on an Irish wake, with lots of Irish humor, songs, and audience participation. This is a dinner theater event, i.e., dinner is included in the ticket price. This has received great reviews!

March 9 Riverdance at Frauenthal Center

This is billed as Riverdance's "final" tour, which we seem to recall hearing about some past tours. Still, even if this tour is not the final one, this is a great opportunity to see this classic right here in town!

March 9 & 10 Michigan Irish Music Festival St. Patrick's Party at Fricano's. Go to www.michiganirish.org for details.

St. Patrick's Day

10:00 a.m. Irish Mass at St. Mary's Parish

Sponsored by our club

11:00 a.m. Parade Gathers at 4th & Clay near Hackley Park. Sponsored by the Jaycees and others, this is our first official parade in several years. **Parade route will be to Hennessy's Pub.**

Noon At Hennessy's - our club's 39th annual ceremony raising the Irish Flag in downtown Muskegon!

7:30 p.m. Slide Concert at Frauenthal Theater
Sponsored by Michigan Irish Music Festival. Slide has been the most popular act at the music festival, and for those who must see Slide at least once a year, this is your only chance in 2012 because Slide is not touring this fall and will not be at the Festival. Tickets info at www.michiganirish.org

Irish Movie Night at Art Museum November 8, 2011



Photos by Bob Wright and Neil Mullally