



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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4TH ANNUAL "IRISH EYES" BENEFIT A GREAT SUCCESS

The Museum's 4th Annual "Irish Eyes are Smiling" benefit gala at Salve Regina University's Ochre Court was held Saturday, May 11, 2013. Record attendance of 177 included Irish Museum members and friends, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Newport Irish Heritage Association members, and supporters from the community-at-large. Our annual evening at Ochre Court featured fine food and drink and live Irish musical entertainment.

The headliner for this year's benefit was the renowned singer/songwriter, Robbie O'Connell. Guests were greeted by a bagpiper, serenaded by Celtic harp music, and entertained throughout two lively sets of Irish "session" music.

Another feature of the evening was a silent auction with over 60 items. Guest bid on packages for stays in Kinsale, Newport's sister city in Ireland, Red Sox tickets, fine jewelry, and three lovely paintings of local scenes by three members of Newport's Grosvenor family of artists and architects, including patriarch, Richard Grosvenor. A photographer from *Newport This Week* was on hand to capture the fun, and many wonderful photos of guests enjoying the evening appeared in the Thursday May 23 issue, some of which are reproduced in this issue.

A complete list of event sponsors and donors, including our many silent auction donors, may be found on page 3. A copy of this list was also on display at Ochre Court the evening of May 11. The major event financial and in-kind sponsors were also recognized with name/logo mention in a video "loop" that ran throughout



Laura Carrares, Richard Grosvenor and daughter Holly Grosvenor

PHOTOS BY JEN CARTER

Continued on page 2

the evening on a large flat screen, courtesy of our event Audio/Visual Sponsor, Flint Audio-Video. We are most grateful for their generous support.

The net proceeds from our 4th Annual “Irish Eyes” benefit are approximately \$14,000. This amount will cover our basic operating expenses for the Interpretive Center on Lower Thames Street, including rent and utilities. If you were not able to attend the May 11 event please consider making a donation in any amount to support our Interpretive Center for the season ahead, our third season of operation. Checks should be made payable to “MNIH” with “Interpretive Center Operating Fund” in the memo section and mailed to the post office box listed on the back of this newsletter. Donations may also be made online, using a credit card or PayPal account at www.NewportIrishHistory.org (click “Donate” tab). If you prefer your donation be earmarked instead for the Center’s Endowment Fund, please make a notation on your check or in the “Special instructions for the recipient” field if paying online.



Deborah Miller, Museum treasurer and event chair, Deanna Casey, Paula Silvia, and Sandy Gallagher



Fred and Betty Spitzer with Mike Tuohy on the right



Singer/songwriter, Robbie O'Connell



John Twomey from Kinsale, and Museum Board member, Rick O'Neill

4TH ANNUAL
WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING
 Benefit for the Museum of Newport Irish History Interpretive Center
 Saturday, May 11, 2013
 Ochre Court, Salve Regina University

Many Thanks to our Attendees and to the Following Generous Donors:

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 & Museum

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Thames Glass

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Angela Vars

The White House Kinsale,
 The Frawley Family

as of 6/7/13

MUSEUM ANNUAL MEETING & SUPPER HELD APRIL 23

The Museum's Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 23 at the Hibernian Hall was attended by approximately fifty members and board. Treasurer Deanna Casey presented an overview of the 2012-2013 financial results and a proposed budget for the Fiscal year 2013-14. The budget was approved. The Museum's new fiscal year runs from April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014.

Secretary Maria Carroll presented the proposed Board of Directors and Officers for the upcoming year. Officers and directors elected including two new directors: Kathleen Papp and John Curran. Long-time board member Joe McEnness stepped down and we are grateful for his many years of service. All officers and board members for 2013-2014 are listed on the right.

Vice President Mike Slein reviewed the past year's activities at the Museum Interpretive Center. He thanked the docents for their fine service and discussed the operations for the 2013 Season. Hours will be from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays, beginning Saturday, May 25. The Center will also be open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.

President Arnold thanked all the Board members for their good work and diligence, with special attention to the upcoming Annual "Irish Eyes" at Ochre Court, which was moved to May from the prior January-February date. Arnold reported on the two grants the Museum received during the year, including a \$1,500 grant from the Irish Consulate which is being used to document over 175 historical pictures. A smaller grant from the RI State Heritage Commission was used to support our very successful speaker program during the 2012-2013 Season. After the meeting the attendees enjoyed a sumptuous supper hosted by board member Ron Moore, with his famous Irish beans and hearty hors d'oeuvres.

2013-2014 BOARD

Officers

Vincent Arnold, President
Michael Slein, Vice President
Deanna Casey, Treasurer
Maria Carroll, Secretary
Ann Arnold May,
Communications/Membership
Christopher Behan, Esq., Counsel

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Joseph Brady
Michael Brennan
Louis Burns
Elliott "Skip" Carter
Jack Curran (*new*)
Stephen Lepley
Jack McCormack
Ron Moore
Patrick Murphy
Rick O'Neill
Kathleen Papp (*new*)
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Margaret Ahearn

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Hibernian Div. #1 Newport
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President, Ladies Ancient Order
of Hibernians, Newport
(Suzanne Kissell)
President, Newport Irish Heritage
Association (Donal Lehane)

Honorary Board Members

The Hon. Kathleen Connell
Mrs. Diana Crowley
The Hon. David Roderick

Webmaster

Rep. Peter Martin



INTERPRETIVE CENTER NEWS

The Interpretive Center at 648 Lower Thames Street opened for the 2013 Season on Saturday, May 25. Public hours for our third season of operation are Thursday through Sunday from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., through the last Sunday in October. The Center can also be opened at other times for private and group tours upon request and reasonable lead time. Museum Vice President Mike Slein is our Center Manager and provides training for the volunteer docent staff. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer docent, please call Mike Slein at 401-847-7201 or email him at farmags@cox.net. If you can spare time for one or two 2-½ hour shifts per month during the summer-fall season, please consider volunteering. The training can be scheduled at your convenience, and the shifts at the Center are interesting and rewarding. The Center educates and entertains visitors from near and far regarding the history of the Irish in Newport County, consistent with our Mission:

To tell the story of Irish immigration to Newport country from the 1600s to the present, to preserve artifacts and mementoes of that movement, and to facilitate research into Irish heritage.

BARNEY STREET CEMETERY NEWS

Our annual “spring cleanup” at the historic St. Joseph/Barney Street Cemetery was held the morning of Saturday, May 4. Thanks to the following Museum and/or Ancient Order of Hibernian member volunteers: Dan Oakley, Bob Finn, John Booth, Carolyn Booth, Mary Guilfoyle, John Guilfoyle, Kerry Murphy, Joan Galvin and Ann Arnold. A special thanks to Pat Carlisle of PDC Landscaping who volunteered his professional services by mowed the lot. We are also grateful to John and Mary Guilfoyle for stopping back just before the Memorial Day Weekend to spruce the cemetery up a bit for the important holiday.



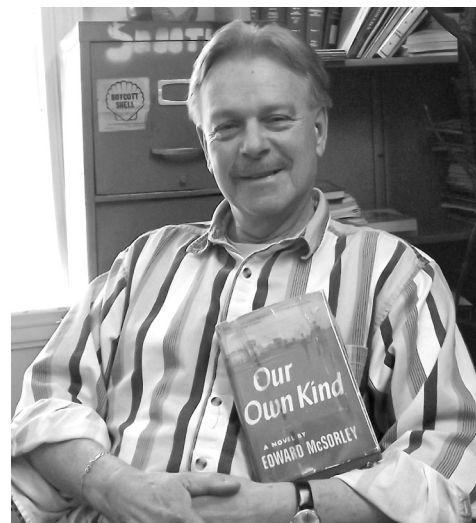
Last year's "Spring Cleanup" at the Cemetery

Maintenance and the continuing beautification of this cemetery, the final resting place of many of Newport's earliest Irish immigrants, is an important and ongoing initiative of our organization. New members will be interested to learn that the cemetery was established in the 1830s in conjunction with the founding of Rhode Island's first Roman Catholic parish, the forerunner of St. Mary's Church at the corner of Memorial Boulevard and Spring Street. The property is owned by the Diocese of Providence and was restored by the Museum in 1999.

We welcome new volunteers to help us properly maintain this lovely and historically important property, which is a stop on many historic walking tours. If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers for the season ahead to help with weeding, trimming, etc., please contact Ann at 401-841-5493 or tpm1@earthlink.net.

SPEAKER PROGRAM NEWS

Our 2012-2013 Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series concluded on Monday, March 25 with a talk by Dr. Scott Molloy entitled “Revisiting ‘Our Own Kind’: An ‘Angela’s Ashes’ Tale set in Rhode Island.” The novel “Our Own Kind”, written by Edward McSorley and published in 1946, tells the story of a young Irishman growing up in R.I. in the early part of the 20th century. The audience of over 120 enjoyed Dr. Molloy’s animated discussion of this book, which he uses in his honors course about Irish-America at the University of Rhode Island. The audience also enjoyed the fun and informal raffle of a vintage copy of the 1946 book as well as the silent auction of a second copy of the original, which together raised \$130 for the organization.



Scott Molloy with “Our Own Kind”.

PHOTO BY JAMES JOHNSON,
COURTESY OF NEWPORT DAILY NEWS

The March 25 talk was the fifth and last of the series, which began in September. Over 500 Museum member and guest attended these five well-received talks, a list of which is reproduced below and on our website:

2012 – 2013 MICHAEL F. CROWLEY LECTURE SERIES

- September 17, 2012 - Donald D. Deignan, Ph.D. - *The Rhode Island Irish Famine Memorial: Its Past, Present and Future*
- October 15, 2012 - John F. Quinn, Ph.D. - *The Rise and Fall of Charles Stewart Parnell, Ireland's 'Uncrowned King'*
- January 17, 2013 - Kurt C. Schlichting, Ph.D. - *Exploring the Historical Record of Irish Immigration: To American and Newport*
- February 25, 2013 - Karen A. Holland, Ph.D. - *Hero of the Siege of Londonderry, 1689?*
- March 25, 2013 - Scott Molloy, Ph.D. - *Revisiting ‘Our Own Kind’: An ‘Angela's Ashes' Tale set in Rhode Island*

The news series will begin in September or October 2013.

We will notify the membership as speakers, topics and dates are confirmed.

§ SAVE THE DATES §

Monday, June 24 – Train Ride The Museum will hold a train ride social/fundraiser on Monday, June 24 from 6:30-8:30. A vintage train operated by the Old Colony & Newport Railroad will treat us to a sunset ride on the west side of Aquidneck Island, overlooking Narragansett Bay. This will be a BYOB event, with heavy hors d'oeuvres provided by the Museum Board. Tickets are \$15 per person and are limited to 60. Watch for a flyer in the mail. Tickets may also be purchase online at www.NewportIrishHistory.org (click “Events”). All reservations will be held at the door; no tickets will be mailed.

Saturday, September 7 – Steak Fry Our 11th Annual Steak Fry Fundraiser at the Hibernian Hall, 2 Wellington Avenue Newport. 6p.m. cocktails, p.m. dinner. Cook-to-order steaks, classic sides and dessert (cash bar). Watch for a flyer with tickets information and other details. Limited to 100 and always a sell-out.



LONGTIME PASTOR OF ST. MARY'S TO RETIRE JULY 1



A native of County Kerry, former Irish Museum board member, and current Chaplain of the R.I. State Ancient Order of Hibernians, Reverend George B. McCarthy, will retire as pastor of Saint Mary's Parish following the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 30, 2013. Father McCarthy was ordained June 3, 1956, and his retirement follows 57 years of service to the Diocese of Providence, 37 of which were spent serving Newport's historic St. Mary's Parish. He has been named "Pastor Emeritus" of St. Mary's by Bishop Thomas Tobin, and he will celebrate his eighty-first birthday on August 7, 2013.

As many Museum members know, St. Mary's Church, which stands at the corner of Spring Street and Memorial Boulevard, was dedicated to "The Holy Name of Mary, Our Lady of the Isle" on July 25, 1852. It is home to Rhode Island's oldest Roman Catholic parish, established April 8, 1828 to serve the growing Catholic population, many of whom were Irish who came to work on the construction of Fort Adams. The structure is of second period Gothic architecture and was designed by Irish immigrant and Brooklyn-based architect Patrick C. Keely, who is considered America's first Catholic church architect. According to Saint Mary's website: "Work began on August 7, 1848, with the men of the parish each volunteering at least one day's labor to help dig the trenches."

Father McCarthy's many accomplishments include the restoration and ongoing maintenance of this beautiful church building, declared a National Historic Shrine on November 24, 1968. He was also instrumental in obtaining parish support for the Museum's 1999 restoration of the Barney Street Cemetery. A plaque is displayed at the cemetery recognizing Saint Mary's role in the restoration of the tall cross that stands amongst the gravestones.

The Museum Board and Membership thank Father George for his support of the Museum and wish him many years of health and happiness on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement!

WE WELCOME THESE RECENT NEW MEMBERS

FROM NEWPORT:

Abigail Adams
Mary & Michael Bunker
Joan Murphy Casement
Meryle & Patrick Cawley
Mary Elizabeth Cedrone
Mary Jo Dieckhaus
Mary & John Flynn
Thomas Gallagher
Thomas & Joan Galvin
Michael Healy
David Joseph Kane

Charles P. Kehres, Jr

William & Alisha Lynch
Stephen S. & Lynn Marino
Roy and Sue McCall
Mary E. Newman
Stephanie O'Hanley
Martha Parker
Betsy Reed
Jim Ryan
Sheila Tyler

FROM MIDDLETOWN:

Helen Cassels
Jane Hale
Maureen McGann
Suzanne Nunes
Phyllis Seeba

FROM PORTSMOUTH:

Philip Driscoll
Noreen Kissell
Maureen Sweeney

FROM JAMESTOWN:

Lawrence J. Bartley, Jr.
Lawrence & Mary
McDonald

FROM ELSEWHERE:

Bill & Judy Babcock,
Narragansett, RI
Bridget Bourne,
North Providence, RI
Dr. Leo P. Donovan,
Stamford, CT
Karen & Steve Ellsworth,
Oxford, N.Y.
Barbara Smith, Peacedale, RI

THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY
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Thanks to
Irish Eyes
Attendees & Donors
see page 3



JOIN THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY AND SUPPORT YOUR IRISH HERITAGE

Vincent Arnold, President (401) 847-2890
Michael Slein, Vice President (401) 847-7201
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Mail to: The Museum of Newport Irish History, P.O. Box 1378, Newport, RI 02840

Interpretive Center: 648 Lower Thames Street, Newport (Thurs-Sun, Noon-5pm, Mem Day Weekend – Oct)

401-848-0661

www.NewportIrishHistory.org

NewportIrishHistory@gmail.com