



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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RIBBON-CUTTING MARKS JUNE 11 OPENING OF INTERPRETIVE CENTER



On Saturday June 11 Museum members, friends, and local officials gathered to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the official opening of the Museum's new Interpretive Center at 648 Thames Street. The ceremony took place shortly after 10:00 a.m. and was led by Newport Mayor Steve Waluk and Museum President Vince Arnold, joined by Museum board member and City Councilor-at-Large, Harry Winthrop, Councilor-at-Large Naomi Neville, and Museum member and R.I. House District 75 Representative, Peter Martin. Numerous representatives from the local press, including the *Newport Daily News*, *Newport This Week* and *PatchNewport.com*, were on hand to cover the event, and upwards of 100 individuals visited the Center during its first official day of operation.



Naomi Neville, Steve Waluk, Vincent Arnold and Harry Winthrop (L to R) after the ribbon cutting

Photo by Denny Lynch

Visitors to the Center will learn about Irish immigration to Newport County from the 1600s to the present and of the many contributions made to our community by individuals of Irish descent. The Celtic-inspired seal of the new Interpretive Center (pictured above) and Center exhibits were designed by Holly Grosvenor of Northeast Collaborative Architects. The exhibits are organized around several key aspects of life in the local Irish community and include maps, photographs, video, and artifacts, including some from the construction of Fort Adams, which was built with Irish immigrant labor.



Visitors gather outside the Interpretive Center on opening day.

Photo by Lou Burns

Continued on page 2

The Interpretive Center is open Thursday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., June through October. Appointments may be made for off-season and group tours. Admission for the general public is “By Donation” and admission is free for MNIH members, though donations are encouraged. Trained Museum members serve as volunteer docents, working 3-hour shifts to greet, assist and guide the visitors. On page 3 is our current list of docents. If you would like to be a docent please contact Interpretive Center manager Mike Slein, at 401-847-7021 or farmags@cox.net.



Vincent Arnold, MNIH president, on opening day.

Photo by David Hanson, courtesy of Newport Daily News

INTERPRETIVE CENTER A REALITY DUE TO YOUR GENEROSITY

Without the generous donation of both time and “treasure” by so many of our 500+ members as well as numerous community supporters, we could not have reached the milestone of opening an Interpretive Center on June 11. The results from our January 29, 2011 2nd Annual “Irish Eyes” benefit at Salve Regina University’s Ochre Court, plus proceeds from a special appeal this spring to Life Members generated a total of \$14,827 for the Center. These funds were combined with those raised over the years of planning and earmarked for the design, creation and installation of Center exhibits and for its ongoing operating expenses (e.g. rent, utilities). Public visitation to the new Center will generate donations as well, and we hope the Center will ultimately become self-funding.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation to support the new Interpretive Center, please consider doing so today. Donations in any amount are most appreciated. Checks payable to “MNIH” may be mailed to PO Box 1378, Newport, R.I. 02840. Donations via credit/debit card may be made on our website: NewportIrishHistory.org. Please indicate if you would like your donation to be allocated to the Center’s Operating Fund or to the Center’s Endowment.

Below is a list of Life Members who have responded as of press time to our Special Appeal in support of the new Interpretive Center and on page 4 is a list all the business and individual donors to the January “Irish Eyes” event. Thank you all for your generosity and support of the Museum’s Mission!

Alexandra Allardt
Shawn Burns
Joseph L. Cahill – In Memory of Joan C. Arnold
Ann "Claire" Clancey
Mary C. Connelly
Mike & Beth Cullen
Bill & Karen Day
Patrick & Deborah Donovan
Michael J. & Donna M. Henlyshyn

Joan M. Lynch
Edward F. McGrath, ChFC, CLU
Geraldine Nagle – In Memory of William D. Nagle
F. Donal & Ellen O’Brien
Mary Cooney Oliveira
Thomas O’Malley
Mary Beth Pike
Jerry Sullivan
Pauline C. Walsh

MANY THANKS TO OUR INTERPRETIVE CENTER DOCENTS & INTERNS

(List as of July 20, 2011)

Vincent Arnold	Elliot "Skip" Carter	Carol Mahoney
Lorrie Babcock	Ann "Claire" Clancey	Ann Arnold May
Lauren Bennett **	Karen Nicholson Coffman	Joe McEnnis
Mike Brennan	Grace Curran	John McLoughlin
Marilyn Bunnewith	Jack Curran	Eleanor Murphy
Lou Burns	Eileen Jachna	Paula Shea
Anne Casey McKenna	Marion Galvin	Bonnie Slein
John Farrell	Kathleen Sullivan Halpin	Mike Slein
John "Skip" Carney	Eilish Heaney	Kathleen Watterson

** Lauren is a senior at The University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA and is interning for the Museum this summer. She is cataloging books and CDs for our library and is serving as an Interpretive Center docent.

ANNUAL STEAK FRY A FINANCIAL & SOCIAL SUCCESS

Saturday, June 11 was the 9th Annual Steak Fry held at the Ancient Order of Hibernian Hall on Wellington Avenue. The sold-out social to benefit the Museum raised nearly \$1,000 and was a perfect finish to a day which began with the official opening of our new Interpretive Center. Nearly 100 Museum and AOH members and their guests enjoyed Chef Alain's sumptuous steaks, which were grilled to perfection by master grillers Tim Burns and Wick Rudd. Thanks to all who volunteered for the event and to all those who purchased tickets and participated in the 50/50 raffle. Special thanks to Museum board member, Patrick Murphy, for the generous donation of his 50/50 winnings back to the organization.

SAVE THESE DATES!

ANDY COONEY CONCERT IN AUGUST TO BENEFIT THE MUSEUM — A concert to benefit the Museum by nationally known Irish-American singer, Andy Cooney and his band, will take place Friday, August 26 at 5:00pm at the Jane Pickens Theater, Touro Street Newport. The event is generously sponsored by The La Forge Casino Restaurant and The Fastnet Pub. Concert tickets are \$25 (general admission) and may be purchased at the theater box office or on its website: www.JanePickens.com (click on "Coming Attractions"). Please join fellow Museum members and friends for an enjoyable evening to benefit the organization and its Mission.

FALL-WINTER LECTURE SERIES TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER — The first presentation of the 9th Annual Michael F. Crowley Lecture series will take place on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at the La Forge Casino Restaurant. Our speaker will be Professor William Matthews of the University of Massachusetts. The second lecture, scheduled for Thursday, October 13, will be given by Professor John Quinn of Salve Regina University. Please mark your calendars, details will follow.

2ND ANNUAL
WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING
Benefit for the Museum's Interpretive Center Fund
Saturday, January 29, 2011
Ochre Court, Salve Regina University

Many Thanks to the Following Generous Donors:

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Gaelic Lord

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 Steve Lepley Family
 Newport & Bristol County
 Convention & Visitor's Bureau
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Angel

Dwyer Insurance Agency
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 Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians,
 Newport
 Memorial Funeral Home
 Saint Mary's Church, Newport
 O'Neill-Hayes Funeral Home
 One Pelham East/Studio 3
 Christopher J. Behan, Attorney at Law
 Patrick Kirby, Dublin
 Hon. M. Teresa Paiva-Weed

EVENT VENUE SPONSOR

Salve Regina University, Ochre Court

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 Catherine Durnam
 Katherine "Kiki" Finn
 Dan Harrop
 Eileen Jachina
 La Forge Casino Restaurant
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 The Newport Daily News
 Teresa Marie O'Donnell
 Viking Tours of Newport
 Harry Winthrop

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 Barbara Lepley Roy
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HISTORIC BARNEY STREET CEMETERY NEWS

 On Saturday, May 7 the following group of Museum members and friends conducted the annual spring cleanup at the Barney Street Cemetery: Carolyn Booth, John Booth, Jon Davies, Bob Finn, Jim Kenney, Jack MacCormack, Steve Martin, Ed Murphy and Vince Arnold. This was followed by an early-summer trimming and weeding session over the July 2 weekend by: Carolyn Evans-Carbery, Neil Carbery, John Guilfoyle, Mary Guilfoyle, Jack MacCormack and Ann Arnold May. At press time we are planning a “Round 2” weeding session for July 27 to keep the cemetery looking its best during the summer tourist season when many visitors pass by.

Through the efforts of Jack MacCormack, the commemorative stone on the Barney Street side of the cemetery lot has been beautified with the addition of a hosta garden. A lovely collection of various types of hostas now surrounds the stone and draws attention to the important historical information about the cemetery which is presented to passers by on a bronze plaque.

We welcome additional volunteers to assist with our beautification and maintenance efforts which take place from spring through late-fall. If you'd like to help out please contact Ann at 401-841-5493 or tpm1@earthlink.net.

WE WELCOME THESE RECENT NEW MEMBERS

FROM NEWPORT:

Peter Behan
Mr. & Mrs. Ted
Bierwirth
Bill & Pat Caine
Robert W. Fasano

Walter & Eileen Jeanes

Jachna
Donna McCarthy
& Ted Wrobel

FROM MIDDLETOWN:

Mike & Sandy Gallagher

FROM PORTSMOUTH:

Nicholas F. Dealy
Carolyn Evans
Brian & Carol Mahoney

FROM ELSEWHERE:

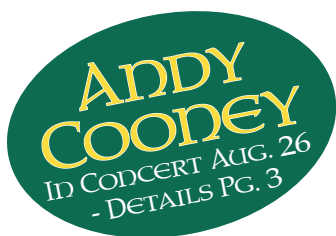
Susan M. Flanagan,
Annapolis, MD
Jack Flynn,
Narragansett, RI
John F. Flynn,
Charleston, RI

IN MEMORIAM

In February two longtime Museum members and members of MNIH president Vince Arnold's family passed way. On February 4 Elizabeth “Betty” (McDaniels) Arnold, mentor, retired educator, and wife of Vince's late brother Hugh, passed way at age 85 after a long illness. On February 15, Vince's wife, Joan (Christman) Arnold died unexpectedly at age 80. The sisters-in-law shared November 19 birthdates and a love of history, and were strong supporters of the mission of the Museum from its inception.

THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY
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Newport, RI 02840

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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
Maria Carroll, Secretary (401) 846-8865
Deanna Casey, Treasurer (401) 847-7156
Pat Murphy, Historian PtrckFMrphy@verizon.net

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Check Membership: ☐ Individual (\$15/yr) ☐ Family (\$25/Yr) ☐ Business (\$50/yr)

☐ Individual Life (\$150) ☐ Family Life (\$200)

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (Donations are tax deductible—a 501(c)3 organization)

Mail to: The Museum of Newport Irish History, P.O. Box 1378, Newport, RI 02840

Interpretive Center: 648 Lower Thames Street, Newport (Thurs-Sun, 10am-4pm, June-Oct)

401-848-0661

www.NewportIrishHistory.org

NewportIrishHistory@gmail.com