



IRISH SPIRIT

The St. Patrick Society Quad Cities, USA

Phone (563) 324-5000 • Visit our website: www.stpatsqc.com

Late Feb. 2007

St. Patrick's Day Weekend 2007 - March 16-18

About every seven years it happens—an unmistakably special day when we can celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Grand Parade and a Post-Parade Bash on **THE DAY!** As Irish luck would have it, 2007 is one of those special years. So, gather your clans and plan to enjoy another great **SPS GRAND WEEKEND!** More details of all events can be found on the St. Patrick Society website: www.stpatsqc.com.

22nd Annual - Gathering of the Clan Luncheon

This official kick off to the Grand Weekend will be held **Friday, March 16th** from 11:00am to 1:30pm at the Col Ballroom, 1012 W. 4th Street, Davenport. 2007's Weekend celebrities, our Grand Marshal for Parade XXII, 2007 Irish Mother of the Year and the 2007 SPS scholarship winners, will all be announced. Enjoy top-notch Irish music by the Don't Be Brothers, and your choice of a traditional corned beef or fish filet lunch for \$12 with advance reservations. Once again, 2005 Grand Marshal, Tom Otting, will provide some Irish wit and humor as our guest emcee. To reserve your space, call Kathy Douglas at 355-8214 or mail in the enclosed reservation form. Deadline for reservations and payments is March 13th. RSVP Forms can also be downloaded from the SPS website.

SPECIAL NOTE: We urge you to make reservations in advance to ensure an adequate number of dinners are prepared for all our guests. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$15.
** You can also catch The Don't Be Brothers perform Friday evening at The Gardens on Marquette Street in Davenport. Their vocals truly shine in an intimate pub setting like this!

The Mass & Grand Parade XXII

Saturday, March 17th - The day begins at 10 am with **Mass at St. Mary's Church** in Rock Island. The annual **Grand Parade**, the only interstate St. Patrick's Day parade in the USA, begins at 11:30 am at the former Knights of Columbus building on the corner of 4th Avenue and 23rd Street, Rock Island. From there, the route follows the usual path through the District of Rock Island, crossing over the Centennial Bridge and into downtown Davenport via Gaines, 3rd and Harrison Streets. Our former Grand Marshals and Irish Mothers will again have the luxury of riding in the Metrolink Trolley. Parade applications are available from Chairman John Scally, 309-788-2341. Application deadline is **March 1st.**

Trophies will be awarded at the Col Bash. We encourage you to round up your family and enjoy some fresh air and exercise by walking in the parade. We hope to see even more Irish families competing for the coveted **Best Irish Family Walking Group** trophy again this year. The winning family will also be honored at 2007 Erin Feis on Sep. 16. Other trophies will be awarded in the following categories: **Best Irish Float, Best School Group, Best Commercial Entry, Most Unique Entry, International & Best Non-Irish, and Judges Choice.**

The Post-Parade Bash

Immediately following the parade, the annual bash will be held from 1 to 4:30 pm at the Col Ballroom in Davenport. Admission is \$10, which also includes your 2007 SPS membership. Kids 15 and under are free. The Don't Be Brothers will entertain once again and there will be plenty of traditional Irish step dancing from the Mullane Academy. Enjoy delicious food, including corned beef sandwiches and hot dogs, catered by Golick's Market. If you are interested in volunteering for the event, call the SPS phone number at 563-324-5000 or Pat Burke at 563-359-8016.



Irish Heritage Day

Now in its 12th year, IHD completes the weekend on **Sunday, March 18** from noon to 5pm. This year, the event will be held at a new location: **the Grand Ballroom at the Isle of Capri Convention Center** in Bettendorf. Traditional music from Fire in the Belly will entertain and accompany the crowd-pleasing Mullane Dancers. Cultural displays, children's activities, concessions, beer, soda and coffee will be available. Free will donations to fund this event are kindly accepted at the door. With rising event expenses, we encourage you to give generously, as well as purchase raffle tickets at the event. For more information about the day's activities or to lend a helping hand, contact Culture Chairman, Jim Gilhooly, 563-323-6426.



SPS Scholarships

The St. Patrick Society will again award two \$1,500 scholarships this year. These awards are available to any student (high school or college) who is related to a Society member in good standing. Applications are available through school guidance counselors or through download from the Society website. Applications must be received by **March 1st**. This is a great opportunity for any student wish-

ing to further their collegiate studies. If your school does not have an application, contact Matt Wissing at 563-324-1705. The winners will be announced at the Clan Luncheon on March 17th.



Irish Mother of the Year Nominations

If you would like to honor an exceptional woman in your life, a lady you feel is worthy of the title: Irish Mother of the Year, please write to us. With a tribute of 150 well-chosen words or less, describe her general attributes, the qualities she embodies and how she makes you feel. Nominees should be involved in family, church, and community, have a good sense of humor and pride in their Irish heritage. An impartial panel of judges will review all the letters. Deadline for all entries is **March 1, 2007**. Please send letters to:

**St. Patrick Society
c/o Irish Mother of the Year
PO Box 4487
Davenport, IA 52808**



Bernard Gilhooly Award Nominations

Nominations are also being sought for the 2007 Bernard A. Gilhooly Award. For the past several years, the Irish Heritage Day Committee has presented this award to an individual who emulates the undying persistence of

the Irish people by "passing on" Irish culture in the Quad Cities and its outlying areas. Nomination letters of 150 words are requested by **March 1, 2007**

A three-person panel will judge entries. Winners will be recognized at Irish Heritage Day and will receive a bronze statuette of Annie Moore, the first immigrant registered through Ellis Island, and a certificate of recognition. Please mail letters to the St. Patrick Society PO Box above, marked ATTN: Gilhooly Award, so it gets routed to the correct judging panel.



Odds 'n Ends Irish Memorial Update

The Society's Irish Memorial Committee continues to make progress. The Committee of John Scally, Shelley Sheehy and Pat Burke have planned a meeting with the City of Davenport Design Center and the Director of Quad City Arts and will next determine the artist of the Memorial and the design. The Committee will keep the SPS Membership informed as the project moves along.

SPS Winter Meetings Reminder

February 19 - General Meeting
April 9 - Annual Meeting/
Officer Elections. Held at Knights of Columbus in Davenport at 7:30 pm.

New SPS Memorabilia & Apparel

Joe Dooley will soon have another great 2007 Grand Parade XXII commemorative poster for sale, as well as new t-shirts and sweatshirts. You can also purchase items by calling Joe at 563-322-0475.

HELLO to our new Volunteer Webmaster!

Please take a moment to visit the newly updated Society website: www.stpatsqc.com. Thanks to the talents and creativity of Gerry Bade, the site is undergoing some needed enhancements and reorganization, which will make it easier to navigate. Gerry will also be adding more historical information. This site is a great resource for members and the general public. Kudos to Gerry for stepping forward to manage this important Society communication tool.

KISS the Irish Cook! Spice up your life with an Irish cooking class

Thursday, March 8th from 6:30-9:30 pm. Offered by Scott Community College. Held at Pleasant Valley High School, Bettendorf. Cost: \$19. Call 563-441-4100 to register.

Circa 21's Traditional Irish Cabaret

with Noel V. Ginnity will again visit the QC on **March 6** for a matinee and evening show. Tickets are \$37.50 & \$42.50. For reservations, call 309-786-7733, Ext. 2.

Ceili Club Dances

Join the Club for two winter dances at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Davenport:

Sunday, Feb. 25 at 2pm

Saturday, March 17th - St. Patrick's Ceili at 7:30pm. Dancing to live music from Stones in the Field. www.qcceiliclub.org.

Stephen's Green winter appearances

Pat McGuire's Irish American Grill will host the duo on Feb. 13 and March 6. Shows start at 6pm. Reservations are needed.

SPS Boosters & Advertisers!

If you would like to advertise your business, services or event to over 700 Society members and constituents, consider becoming a Society booster or advertiser. The cost for boosters is only \$50 per year, which includes a listing in the Irish Spirit, as well as on our website. Contact Tom Schulte for booster information at: 563-386-9350. Display ads in the Irish Spirit are also welcomed. Cost for camera-ready ads are as follows: business card size - \$25, half column - \$50, half page - \$100. Call Sara Brewster at 563-528-0416 for information.

2007 St. Patrick Society Membership Application

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____

ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

\$10.00 Yearly Renewal - Checks payable to St. Patrick Society.

HELP THE ST. PATRICK SOCIETY GROW! MAKE COPIES IF NEEDED