



IRISH SPIRIT

The St. Patrick Society Quad Cities, USA

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

Feb. 2008

Happy St.
Patrick's
Day!



St. Patrick's Day Weekend 2008 March 14-16

Another **GRAND WEEKEND** is just around the corner! Gather your friends and family together to enjoy this fabulous party – the “grandest” of SPS traditions! There's music, dance, merriment, and pageantry. We invite you to celebrate your Irish heritage throughout the weekend and show your support of the St. Patrick Society. Activities abound for everyone Irish and Irish at heart. Full details of all events can be found on the St. Patrick Society website: www.stpatsqc.com.



Gathering of the Clan Luncheon

This year's official Grand Weekend kick-off is on **Friday, March 14th** from 11:00am to 1:30pm. Bring your clan to the Col Ballroom, 1012 W. 4th Street, Davenport to meet the Grand Marshal for Parade XXIII, our lovely 2008 Irish Mother of the Year and the 2008 SPS scholarship winners. Enjoy music from the Don't Be Brothers and your choice of a traditional corned beef or fish filet lunch served at noon. Former 2005 Grand Marshal, Tom Otting, will make you smile as our guest emcee again this year. **Advance reservations of \$12 are required.** To reserve your space, call Chairperson Kathy Douglas at 355-8214 or mail in the enclosed form. Deadline for reservations and payments is **March 11th**. RSVP forms can also be downloaded from the SPS website. **Advance reservations are requested to ensure enough dinners are prepared for all guests. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$15.**



The Mass & Grand Parade XXIII

Saturday, March 15th

The day begins at 10 am with **Mass at St. Mary's Church** in Rock Island. The annual **Grand Parade**, the only interstate 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 traditional path through the District of Rock Island, crossing over the Centennial Bridge and into downtown Davenport via Gaines, 3rd and Harrison Streets. Our Grand Marshals and Irish Mothers will again be treated to 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 get a group together to enjoy some fresh air and exercise by walking in the parade. We hope to see many families competing for the **Best Irish Family Walking Group** trophy again this year. The winning family will also be honored at 2008 Erin Feis on Sep.21. 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 five Judges Choices awards.**



The Post-Parade Bash

Immediately following the parade, the annual bash will be held from 1 to 4:30pm at the Col Ballroom in Davenport. Admission is \$10, which also includes your 2008 SPS membership. Kids 15 and under are free. There will be more "South Side Irish" music from the Don't Be Brothers, plenty of traditional, high-energy Irish step dancing from the Mullane-Healy-O'Brien Irish Dance Academy and delicious food, catered by Galick'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 13th year, IHD completes the weekend on **Sunday, March 16** from noon to 5pm. The event will be held in the **Grand Ballroom at the Isle of Capri Convention Center in Bettendorf**. Traditional musicians, Fire in the Belly, will entertain and accompany the talented, crowd-pleasing step dancers. Concessions, including food, 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. The Bernard A. Gilhooly Award will also be presented. For more information about the day's activities or to get involved, 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 by downloading a

form from the Society website. Applications must be received by **March 1st**. This is a great opportunity for any student wishing 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 14th.



Irish Mother of the Year Nominations

Think about a special lady in your life or another exceptional woman you would like to honor with the title: *Irish Mother of the Year* and write to us with a tribute of 150 well-chosen words or less. Describe her general attributes, personality 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, 2008**. Please send letters to:
St. Patrick Society
c/o Irish Mother of the Year
PO Box 4487
Davenport, IA 52808
Please note: Irish Mother candidates must be in the Quad Cities on Grand Parade Weekend.



Bernard A. Gilhooly Award Nominations

Is there someone you know who has emulated the undying persistence of the Irish people by "passing on" Irish culture to others in the Quad Cities and its outlying areas? If so, the Society would like to hear from you. Please send us a 150-word nomination letter to be judged by a three-person panel. Please send letters to:
St. Patrick Society
c/o Gilhooly Award
PO Box 4487
Davenport, IA 52808
Nominations must be postmarked no later than March 1st.

The Bernard A. Gilhooly Award will be presented at Irish Heritage Day. Winners will receive a bronze statuette of Annie Moore, first immigrant registered through Ellis Island, and a certificate of recognition. Winners will be in the Grand Parade on March 15, 2008.



Irish Memorial



Preliminary Artist's Rendering of Irish Memorial monument

Donations are still requested to make the Irish Memorial Project a reality. An initial design, pictured above, from sculptor, Louis Quaintance, has been prepared and is being reviewed by the SPS Memorial Committee and the City of Davenport Design Center. For information, call John Scally at 788-2341 or Pat Burke at 359-8016.



Erin Feis Date Change

Please note that Erin Feis will be a week later this year, so mark your calendars for **September 21st in the District of Rock Island**. The date change was necessary to secure the Showmobile stage. This stage is a key part of the event as it greatly reduces event expenses, while providing an ideal platform to showcase our talented dancers, Mass celebration and Red Hair/Freckle contest. Planning for 2008 has started and new volunteers are always welcome

to join the committee and bring new ideas. Please contact Jan Foley at 323-6046 or Jolene Whittemore at 563-391-1904 to get involved.



Local History Project focused on QC Irish

The Society has been asked to assist the Davenport Public Library's Iowa Stories 2000 Committee with a unique project that allows middle school students to gain a first-person account of local history. The committee is looking for about 25 -30 senior citizens of Irish ancestry who have either immigrated or were raised in a family that immigrated from Ireland. Subjects will be asked to spend about an hour sharing their memories of being Irish in the Quad Cities. Those interested individuals who fit this description will be videotaped between March 3 and 21 by groups of Davenport middle school students. The videotaped interviews will be archived at the Davenport Library, forever preserving a slice of history that defines our cities. If you would like to participate in this unique project, contact **Dave Layton of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program at (309) 793-4425 by Feb 25th**. Other QC populations previously highlighted by the Committee were African Americans (2004), German-Americans (2005), and Mexican-Americans (2006).



QC Ceili Club

Experience the fun of Irish social dancing with the Quad Cities Ceili Club. The Club will host a St. Patrick's Day dance on Friday,

March 14 from 8 to 11pm at the Davenport Knights of Columbus. Stones in the Field will perform. Adult admission is \$8. For more information and to view a calendar of events, visit www.qcceiliclub.org.



More Irish events around town

The **Don't Be Brothers** will perform at The Gardens Friday, March 14th from 5 to 8 pm. They will play after the Col Bash on Saturday, March 15 at Rock Island Brewing Company from 5-7:30pm and again from 8-10pm at the Rhythm City Casino, Davenport.



Irish Night at the Quad City Flames

Saturday, March 29, the QC Flames are offering coupons for half price admission (\$8) with a donation of **THREE** non-perishable food items. All goods will be donated to the Riverbend Food Bank. The Flames will take on the Milwaukee Admirals at 7:05pm. Hope to see you there!



Become a Society Booster

Thanks to the financial support of our Society boosters, we are able to provide our members with a quarterly Irish Spirit newsletter. Businesses interested in promoting their services to 700 Society members are invited to call Tom Schulte at 386-9350 for details.

THANK YOU...

to all those SPS members and



friends who participated in the Davenport Veteran's Day Parade. We had about 50 people in the SPS Walking group. Special thanks to Leo Kilfoy for coordinating this great event.

SPS OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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(563) 355-8214

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(563) 323-6046

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(309) 788-2341

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2008 St. Patrick Society Membership Application

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

\$10.00 Yearly Renewal - Make checks payable to the St. Patrick Society.

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