

March 2017  
Irish American Heritage Museum  
Newsletter



**5th Annual  
Maureen Farrell McCarthy  
Irish Soda Bread  
Competition  
March 4, 2017**



***It's Your Heritage...Pass it on!!***

Do you make soda bread? Do you want to see how it compares to others? Enter this year's Irish Soda Bread Competition where first prize in each category receives a prize of \$300. Registration information can be found [here](#).

There is a full day of activities planned along with the competition this year.  
11:30AM- Irish Road Bowling Demonstration

1:00PM- Soda Bread History and Baking Demonstration  
 1:30PM- Soda Bread Tastings  
 2:00PM- Awards Ceremony- Winners must be present

The first 50 entries receive a 5th Anniversary commemorative t-shirt!!

***A Night of Irish Theatre***  
**March 3 @ 7PM**  
**March 4 @ 7PM**  
**March 5 @ 2PM**

The Irish American Heritage Museum is proud to announce the production of two one act plays, Lady August Gregory's "Spreading the News", and George Bernard Shaw's "How He Lied to Her Husband". A Night of Irish Theatre is funded by a grant from Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs Emigrant Support Programme. Before each production there will also be a discussion giving historical background to each play by Dr. Margaret Carroll. A Night of Irish Theatre is directed by Steven O'Connor.



The Cast of "Spreading the News".

Cost of the performance is \$5 for Museum members, \$10 for non-members. Seating is limited! RSVP by calling 518-427-1916.

***Genealogy Programs with Lisa Dougherty***

***Common Myths About Immigrant Ancestors, and how to Find Out the Truth***

**March 7 @ 6:30PM**

The United States is a nation of immigrants, so those with an interest in their family history often wonder how the experience shaped their ancestors. Unfortunately, the image of immigrants and the immigration process is marked by widely held myths and legends. These stories are so often repeated that they are usually accepted as fact. Professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty will discuss some of the most common myths, and how you can use the facts about the immigrant experience to trace your own family from their homeland to the United States.



***The Process of Obtaining Irish Citizenship***  
**March 21 @ 6:30PM**

If you have a parent or grandparent who was born in Ireland, you may be interested in applying for Irish citizenship. Having an Irish passport entitles you to many benefits, including easier travel throughout the EU. Join professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty to learn more about the process of obtaining Irish citizenship- who is eligible? What paperwork is required? How long does it take? These and many other questions will be answered during this presentation.

\$5- non-members  
 Free to members



**Green Tie Luncheon**  
**March 9 @ 11:30AM**  
**375 Ontario St. Albany, NY**

Join the Irish American Heritage Museum at the CDIAA (home of the Albany AOH and LAOH) for an afternoon of friendship, live music by Don Kelly, raffles, food, and good fun. All the proceeds raised from this event benefit the educational programs at the Irish American Heritage Museum. This is an event you do not want to miss! Our Irish gift shop will also be open.

Cost- \$25 per person  
 RSVP by March 6 by calling 518-427-1916 or emailing [info@irish-us.org](mailto:info@irish-us.org)



**Museum continues its mission to preserve Irish-American culture and history**

The Museum is proud to announce that it is a recipient of a 2017 CDLC Retrospective Conversion, Metadata, Digitization, and Newspaper grant from the Capital District Library Council Board of Trustees. This grant will allow the Museum to catalog an additional 400 books and make them accessible to the public world-wide via interlibrary

loan.

We also want to thank Dr. Brendan Keenan and Mrs. Christina Keenan for their long-term loan of late 19th century Ancient Order of Hibernian Honor Guard Paraphernalia. Items include uniform sash, hat, cuffs, belt, and sword. These fantastic objects will be on display very soon at the Museum!





## **Seanachie Eves featuring Marni Gillard and Mary Murphy March 10 @ 7PM**

Seanachie Eves sponsored by Berkshire Bank, is back with a fantastic March duo.

Marni Gillard is a well-known regional storyteller who once taught at Niskayuna, but now freelances as a teacher-artist education consultant. The book "Storyteller, Storyteacher" traces her journey into storytelling and the transformation it brought to her classroom and her life. "Without a Splash: Diving into Childhood Memories" is a cd of triumph and trauma that helps children and adults story-tell memories.

Mary Murphy is a regional writer and storyteller who has performed regionally at Proctors, and Story Sundays and nationally at the Hawaii Storytelling Festival. The Clever Gretchen Storytelling Festival at Syracuse University & National Storytelling Festival.

Widely known for her humorous and family tales, her stories have been published in the anthologies: "Give a Listen and A Solstice Evergreen."

Museum members- \$5  
non-members- \$10



Fantastic crowd at the 2016 Family Fest

## **Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade Family Festival Academy Park 11AM-4:30PM**

In conjunction with Albany's 67th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade The Irish American Heritage Museum, with the support of the United Irish Societies of the Capital District, Inc., the Albany

Downtown Business Improvement District, and the City of Albany Capital Fund, is pleased to announce its 2nd annual Irish American Heritage Family Festival to be held on Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> from 11-4:30pm in Academy Park in front of City Hall in Downtown Albany.

The Irish American Heritage Museum will be hosting a family friendly, alcohol-free event that will showcase the culture and heritage of Ireland. At the same time, the Museum is hoping this will draw families to Downtown Albany to enjoy the parade festivities and all that is Irish in a fun and safe environment!

The day's special events include:

- \* 11:00 am - The Brothers Flynn will start us out w/ some great Irish music
- \* 11:45 am - Enjoy Irish storytelling by Bill Combes
- \* 12:00 pm - Irish dance group "Bethlehem Traditional School of Dance"
- \* 12:45 pm - Enjoy Irish storytelling Bill Combes

- \* 1:00 pm - Pádraig Timoney and Flór Ó Riain perform traditional Irish Music.
- \* 1:45 p.m. - Bag Pipe performance and face-off courtesy of the "Pipers Dojo"
- \* 2:00 pm - Parade steps off from Central Avenue and Quail Street
- \* 2:30 pm - Local Irish Musician Don Kelly performing "Irish Ballads & Hits"
- \* 4:30 pm -- Festival closes.

There will also be face painting by "Sparky" the clown, Balloon Twists by "McIntosh" the clown, youth bagpipers from the Pipers Dojo, Irish food by O'Slattery's Restaurant, pastries by Zachary's Pastry Shoppe, maple products by Mountain Wind Farm, Kernel Corn, fried dough, information vendors, and traditional Irish Gifts from the Museum's Gift Shop.

### **History and Creation of the Irish Fighting Stick March 14 @ 6:30PM**

Join the Museum, and Liam O Caidhla from Shillelagh Co. Wicklow, Ireland, for an interesting look into one of Ireland's most interesting, but often misunderstood icons, the Shillelaghs.



Liam O Caidhla has been making sticks for years. The skill has been in Liam's family since the time of his great-grandfather Denis and has been passed down through the generations. Liam works with his son, also Denis, crafting these sticks and keeping the tradition alive.

The business is growing and the craft is still being developed and perfected in producing Shillelaghs in the traditional styles which will meet the demands of modern living. The art of making Shillelaghs is a series of processes taking from 2-4 years, from the moment a stick is cut to the moment its lucky owner lays eyes upon it.

Join Liam at the Museum for this rare look at Irish fighting sticks from the man who makes them!

\$5- non-members  
Free to members

### **Irish Folk Music and Song with Tim O'Shea March 25 @ 2PM**

Guitarist and singer Tim O'Shea, of Killarney, Ireland will perform songs and tunes from all around Ireland and the Celtic world. O'Shea's repertoire draws from the singing of Irish and Scottish performers like Jimmy McCarthy, Paul Brady, Dick Gaughan and Andy M. Stewart as well as from the many styles of instrumental Irish music he has heard while growing up in County Kerry.



Be prepared to learn as well, as O'Shea will be teaching some basic Irish instrumental lessons, including the bodhran.

\$5- non-members  
Free to members



***Helena Byrne is Back!!  
Irish Storyteller and Singer  
March 27 @ 7PM***

Due to the large amount of requests, and overwhelming response to her 2016 performance, the Irish American Heritage Museum is proud to bring Helena Byrne back to Albany!

Combining her love of Irish folklore and passion for the performing arts, Helena regularly performs as a seanchaí (storyteller). Helena interweaves tales of the Other World and the mysterious Fairy Folk with traditional Irish songs and wonderful insights into the Irish life of days gone by.

Akin to the traditional travelling seanchaí of times past, Helena is renowned for bringing her spellbinding stories and songs to diverse audiences in settings large and small. From young to old, Helena will bring your imagination into the fascinating ...world of the Banshee, the Pooka and the... supernatural.

"If you don't get goosebumps when you hear her beautiful voice then you may need to consult a medical professional because chances are, you're dead inside." - Travel Ireland Magazine, March 2016.

Cost-  
Museum members \$5  
non-members- \$10

### **Soaring Six Spires of Albany: The Legacy of Patrick Keely April 1 @ 2PM**

As one crosses over the Hudson River coming into Albany, one is easily struck by some soaring church spires. Near the south of the city's center, one sees the two great spires of Patrick Keely's, Immaculate Conception Cathedral, and to the North of the city, one perceives a cluster of three spires, which belong to the great, Keely Church of St. Joseph, funded by some of the "Lumber Barons of Albany." The Madames of the Sacred Heart would call upon Patrick Keely to build their notable Convent and Kenwood Academy, in the southern end of Albany.



Patrick C. Keely was an immigrant carpenter who migrated to America in 1842. Thurles, County Tipperary, was his hometown. His father William, was superintendent of St. Patrick's College in Thurles. Eventually the two Keely sons emigrated to America. Patrick arrived in Brooklyn to practice his skill, and William arrived in Louisville, Kentucky. Thus began two great careers in architecture, that would supply great churches to these parts of America.

The power point presentation on Patrick Keely, given by Edward Furey- President of the Patrick Keely Society, will follow his life and great work in his nearly 700 ecclesiastical designs in architecture, along the Atlantic seaboard, into Canada, out to Watertown Wisconsin, and down to New Orleans, where he designed the largest church in the South.

## Calendar of Capital District Irish American Events

March 3 @ 7PM- A Night of Irish Theatre- Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207.

March 4 @ 10AM-2:30PM- 5th Annual Maureen Farrell McCarthy Irish Soda Bread Competition- Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207.

March 4 @ 7PM- A Night of Irish Theatre- Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207.

March 5- Albany AOH & LAOH Communion Breakfast. CDIAA 375 Ontario St. Albany, NY.

March 5 @ 1PM-6PM- Irish Family Festival 2017. Saratoga AOH. Saratoga Wilton-Elks. 1 Elk Lane Saratoga Springs, NY

March 5 @ 2PM- A Night of Irish Theatre- Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207.

March 7 @ 7PM- Common Myths About Immigrant Ancestors, and how to find out the truth. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207

March 9 @ 11:30AM- Green Tie Luncheon. CDIAA 375 Ontario St. Albany, NY.

March 9 @ 7:30Pm- Teada Concert. Old Songs. 37 South Main St. Voorheesville, NY

March 10 @ 7PM- Seanachie Eves- Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207

March 11- North Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 11 @ 9AM- Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church. 605 Central Ave. Albany, NY

March 11 @ 11AM-2:30PM- Irish American Family Fest- Academy Park Albany, NY

March 11 @ 2:00PM- Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade. Central Ave. Albany, NY

March 11 @ 7PM- Kevin McKrell Concert. Spa Little Theatre. 19 Roosevelt Dr. Saratoga Springs, NY.

March 14 @ 6:30PM- History and Creation of the Irish Fighting Stick. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207

March 16 @ 7:30PM- Hair of the Dog Concert. Proctors Theatre. Schenectady, NY

March 17 @ 12PM-10PM- St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Schenectady Hibernian Hall. 1748 State Street Schenectady, NY.

March 17 @ 8PM- Get Up Jack Concert. Revolution Hall. Troy, NY

March 19- Lake George St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 21 @ 6:30PM- The Process of Obtaining Irish Citizenship. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207

March 25 @ 2PM-Irish Folk Music and Song with Tim O'Shea. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207

March 27 @ 7PM- Helena Byne- A Collection of Irish Stories, music, and poetry. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207

March 29 @ 11AM-2PM- Open genealogy session. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207.

April 1 @ 2PM- Soaring Six Spires of Albany- The Legacy of Patrick Keely. Irish American Heritage Museum. 370 Broadway Albany, NY 12207



Presented by our friends at the Troy Music Hall

# Lúnasa

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 8 PM



### The hottest Irish group on the planet!

Lúnasa is Kevin Crawford (flutes, low whistles and tin whistles), Trevor Hutchinson (double bass), Ed Boyd (guitar), Seán Smyth (fiddle and low whistle) and Cillian Vallely (uilleann pipes and low whistles).

The band is renowned for their stunning shows honed by superb musicianship. Their inventive arrangements and bass driven grooves have steered Irish acoustic music into surprising new territory. Their recordings have been hailed as some of the best and most important world music albums anywhere, while their blend of intelligence, innovation, virtuosity, and passion has brought them to the forefront of Celtic music.

Tickets available now, call 518-273-0038 or online at [www.troymusichall.org](http://www.troymusichall.org)



**Troy Savings Bank Music Hall**  
30 Second Street, Troy, NY

518-273-0038

[troymusichall.org](http://troymusichall.org)

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