September at the Museum!



The Dick Conners Lunch Lecture CDIAA 9/6/2018 12 noon

"Bread or Blood:" The Great Hunger in a Typical Irish

Town. Elizabeth Stack, PhD, will discuss how the famine affected her home town of Listowel. The story is important not because it is exceptional, but because



it represents the typical experience of many Irish towns at that time. \$15 for lunch and the lecture. Please contact Paul Collins on pcollins1@nycap.rr.com to confirm you will attend.

Seanchai Evenings at the Musuem Returns! September 14th, 7pm

It's the perfect treat for the family adjusting to "Back to School!" Come hear our performers tell entertaining stories, rooted in the long Irish tradition. 7pm on September 14th. \$25 family ticket.



From "The West's

Awake" to Ireland Woke: A Sociological Reflection on Irish Modernity. Friday 20th September, 6pm Mary P. Corcoran Professor of Sociology, Maynooth University and Fulbright/EPA Visiting Scholar.

This is the decade of commemoration in Ireland marking the 1916 Rising, the transformative General Election of 1918, the War of Independence 1919-21 and the Civil War 1922-23. The commemorative process



has engaged the nation in looking back and looking forward, evaluating both our past and our present. It is timely to reflect on where Ireland has ended up, 100 years after the publication of the Proclamation, almost 70 years since the country became a Republic in 1949, 45 years after we joined the European Union and 10 years after the economic crash. In this talk, Professor Corcoran will provide some sociological reflections on Irish modernity focusing in particular on key transformations that have occurred in everyday life, as well as noting important continuities with the past. The nature of Irish civil society will be explored particularly in the context of the 2015 Marriage Equality Referendum and the 2018 Eight Amendment campaigns.



A Night in November. A play set in Northern Ireland. Directed by Stephen O' Connor and starring Parker Cross. Friday & Saturday, 20th & 21 at 7pm

Sunday 23rd September 3pm.

The play follows Kenneth McAllister, a Protestant man from Belfast, who gets swept up in the excitement of the World Cup, as he travels to New York to support the Republic of Ireland. Interrogating the sectarian traditions that he was

raised with, this very funny but poignant play is about a man realizing that he can have a hand in his own destiny. The themes of sectarianism, tolerance, and prejudice are still topical today.



Celebrate Lughnasa at the CDIAA with the Irish American Heritage Museum and Linda Horan Wednesday 26th September 6pm

Eating together is always a celebration! Join us at the CDIAA Hall on Ontario Street for a Harvest festival/Lughnasa dinner, with stories and other Celtic traditional fun. Dinner and Dessert provided. \$15 per person. Email info@irishus.org or call 518 427 1916 to confirm your seat. Celebrate the Taste and Traditions of Ancient Ireland!



Spotlight on Lisa Dougherty, Genealogist.

Our genealogist-in-residence, Lisa (Walsh) Dougherty, has been with us since the museum opened in its Albany location in 2012. She has nearly 25 years experience in family history research, and specializes in tracing ancestors to their places of origin in Ireland. Aside from the museum, she volunteers her time and expertise

offering patrons assistance monthly in several local libraries, and also conducts classes and workshops on many genealogy topics around the region. Working as a professional genealogist since 2009, some of her career highlights include contributing research on local Medal of Honor recipient Henry Johnson, consulting on the TLC Television series "Who Do You Think You Are?" and currently serving as an independent local contractor for Ancestry.com. She enjoys collaborating closely with clients, helping them discover their unique family stories.

Lisa is a native of the Glens Falls area, and has lived in the Capital Region since 1991. Her interest in family history began when she was in her teens, helping her father discover his Irish roots. She has visited Ireland 5 times and has walked in her ancestors' footsteps in Counties Laois, Clare and Tipperary. You can visit the Museum on the last Wednesday of every month from 11am-2pm to consult with our genealogist. Remaining dates for 2018 are September 26, October 31, and November 28.

Two Exciting Activities at the Museum for Winter!

The Museum will host two different activities in the Fall and Winter. We will have a knitting and



crochet class, where we will learn how to knit in the Aran Sweater tradition, knitting panels for a fabulous patchwork quilt. If you can "plain and purl" then you will be able to learn how to do these beautiful patterns.

We also intend to host a book club which will start in October. Readers will take turns leading a session on the book of their choice. We will confirm the days we will meet when people sign up. Email the museum at info@irish-us.org to sign up for these fun activities.



Irish American Heritage Museum Cup September 15, Jennings Landing

The Albany Rowing Club will host the annual Regatta at Jennings Landing starting at 12 noon. Come and watch our own Albany Rowing Club battle it out against the All Ireland Champion team, as well as crews from the Boyne Currach Project, Boston, Philadelphia,

Annapolis, Pittsburg, Milwaukee, and New London. A great day out on the Hudson for all the family.



The Palace presents Celtic Thunder and The Lord of the Dance. September 23rd at 8pm September 30th at 8pm

Book your tickets at the Palace for these amazing Irish shows.

Celtic Thunder live shows are known for dramatic effects via lighting and choreography as well as realistic Irish stage sets with authentic Irish instruments. The performances have dramatic solos, compelling ensembles, and comedic acts.

Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games continues to thrill audiences around the globe with its intoxicating mix of dance and music that fuses the traditional with the contemporary in a classic tale that showcases the exceptional talent of the cast.

50th Anniversary of the Fr. Peyton Family Rosary Benefit Dance.



September 30th at 2.30pm

Please contact John Leonard at 518 573 2213 for tickets. Andy Cooney and the Irish Show Band, the Munro Brother Pipers and the Farrell School of Irish Dance will perform. Tickets cost \$25.00 and the event is on at the

CDIAA Hall, 375 Ontario Street, Albany.



Happy Labor Day!

As you gather round the barbecue pit or head to the beach this Labor Day weekend, consider the contribution that the Irish have made, and continue to make to the American labor movement. It was Peter McGuire who first proposed a national holiday

for workers. Born to Irish immigrants on the Lower East Side, New York City, in 1852, Peter became the breadwinner for his family at 11 when his father was off fighting with the Union Army. For a while he made his living as an itinerant carpenter traveling around the country. Eventually he went on to become the co-founder of the American Federation of Labor and propose a day honoring those who "from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

Mike Quill also comes to mind. Quill fought in Ireland's War of Independence as a lad of 14. Making his way to New York in 1926 at age 21, he found employment working on the construction of the new IND subway line - 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. He went on to form the Transit Workers Union in 1934.

Of course, no mention of Labor Day is complete without a salute to Mother Jones, who left for America in her teens when the Great Famine swept through her village of Inchigeelagh, Co. Cork. Jones, who lost her husband and children to yellow fever in 1867, and most of her possessions in the great Chicago fire, turned to politics and went on to become a major figure in the labor movement. She is especially remembered for her work with miners and the plight of child laborers.

The history of the labor movement is littered with Irish names. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, a stalwart of the Industrial Workers of the World, Gurley Flynn

traveled from Montana to Washington to Chicago, speaking on behalf of workers everywhere and earning herself a spell behind bars in Spokane for her troubles.

Bronx native George Meany followed his father into the plumbing trade, but he saw the work only as a means to an end. His real ambition was to become involved in the labor movement, a goal he achieved with spectacular results. By the time he died, at age 85 and only weeks after he retired, Meany had held the top positions of both the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and its eventual incarnation on merging with the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the AFL-CIO. His name is synonymous with the labor movement in the U.S., and especially in his beloved New York City.

Teddy Gleason, was the president of the International Longshoremen's Association from 1963-1987, whose ancestors hailed from Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. One of 13 kids, he left school early and started working on the docks. After Gleason's death in 1992, ILA president John Bowers said: "We have lost a great leader and a great man. I've noted before that Teddy Gleason will go down in history as the president who was able to get the most for his members. His memory will long endure."

John Sweeney president of the AFL-CIO until 2009, America's largest labor union, has long been active in Irish affairs, and is a member of several Irish organizations. In 1995, he accompanied President Clinton on his first visit to Ireland. He was named Irish American of the Year in 2004. Mary Kay Henry is the International President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which unites 2 million workers in healthcare, public and property services. She is the first woman to serve in this position, having been elected in 2010 by a unanimous decision.

We thank all Irish and Irish-American labor leaders, past and present, who helped carve a day of recognition for all the country's workers.

With thanks to Irish America Magazine.

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