

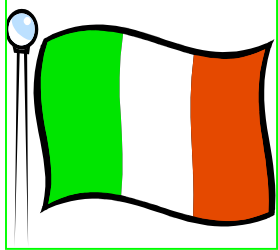


MARIN IRISH AMERICAN CLUB

Volume 4, Issue 2

MAY, 2009

MIAC NEWSLETTER



MIAC Scholarship Awards

It is with tremendous pleasure that the Scholarship of our Membership Drive, the See's Candy Program , Committee and the Executive Board announce the re- the Christmas Party, and the Family Potluck, we were cipients of the 2009 Marin Irish American Club Schol- able to present these three scholarships. We are arships. proud of each of our recipients. Their awards will be presented by members of the Scholarship Committee or Executive Board in the near future.

Due to your generosity we are able to present three, five hundred dollar scholarships this year. The recipients are: Joseph Maloney, Analy High School, Minna Moily, Berkeley City College, and Timothy J. O'Sullivan, St. Ignatius College Preparatory. Joseph Maloney is the grandson of Winnie Coleman, Minna Moily is the daughter of Tom and Patti Egan, and Timothy J. O'Sullivan is the grandson of Patricia Cunningham.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR MIAC SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS**

JOSEPH MALONEY

MINNA MOILY

TIMOTHY J. O'SULLIVAN

We are proud of each of our recipients. Their awards will be presented by members of the Scholarship Committee or Executive Board in the near future.

Please continue to support our fund raising efforts by your continued donations and activities. Remember the amount we present each year will be contingent upon the funds that are available..

Due to generous financial contributions plus the support

Thank You Cathy Starky

The Board would like to thank Cathy for her two years of service on the MIAC Board of Directors. Cathy has been an active member of our Club and contributed to the events and ideas that has made us successful. We hope you continue to enjoy the club and the many benefits it provides.

MIAC Monthly Mayflower Music

A few of the members had a marvelous time at the Mayflower Pub in March and brought back to the Board that this can be an ongoing MIAC event. There was great Irish music and the food was excellent. This happens every Tuesday evening around 7:30. It was decided that the 3rd Tuesday of each month would be a great time to enjoy a MIAC get together and relish great Irish food, music and friends. The pub is located at 1533, 4th street in San Rafael .

2010 Ireland Cruise

In addition to our Irish trip to Ireland, Winnie Coleman provided some information on a Holland American Cruise to Bermuda on May 23rd to 30th, 2010. This will be an All Star Irish Bermuda Charter Cruise and will feature Irish music and culture as part of the literary. If interested, let Winnie know. More information will also be provided in future newsletters.

2010 MIAC Trip to Ireland

We currently have 4 people who have expressed interest (outside the board, that is) and hope that as you formulate your travel plans for the upcoming year, you will consider spring in the greenest of green country! We'll all be part of the planning of this tour of Ireland!

2009 MIAC Board of Directors

Mary McCaffrey	Co President
Tom Egan (wiser)	Co President
Bobbie Danz	Treasurer
Tom Egan (elder)	Secretary
Diane Backstedt	Corre-
spond-	
Secretary	
Philip Terry	Member
Mary Ann Ralsten	Member -
	Membership
Bernie Kelleher	Member
Fr. Cyril O'Sullivan	Moderator

Marin Irish American Club
 PO Box 6025
 San Rafael, 94903

ST. PATRICK'S POTLUCK PARTY!

What a glorious and wonderful event we had this year. More fun and entertainment was shared by Club members and their guests.

We continue the tradition of Irish Dancers, and the spirited Ceoila musicians who were especially wonderful this year while Sister Colleen brought an Irish tear to our eyes with her Irish sing-longs. The Cassidy family surprised us with their Celtic song



and the added joy of having more of the "little people" (our grandchildren) attend was the highlight of the event.

Thanks to our potluck co-chairs Mary and Madeline Egan and others who made this possible and thanks to all who attended. The raffle was great and brought in some funds to our Club.

Next year will even be better and we strongly encourage our younger families to attend.

This is a family oriented event and those "little people" who attend will definitely have a terrific time.

PHILIP TERRY BOOK REVIEW

Now that I am retired and no longer seeking advanced degrees I can read without fear of being tested. I now read simply for pleasure. Since I enjoy reading about Ireland this is a perfect place to pass on tips for some good “reads”. Ireland has produced a legendary number of writers, playwrights and poets who in turn are responsible for a wealth of literature. All of this is available and part of the problem is picking something out to read. Here I can help. What do you like to read – fact, fiction, poetry or something else? I love a book I can’t put down but I’ll settle for one I remember where I put it so I can get back to it as soon as possible. There are over 40,000 new books out each year so it is hopeless to stay up with the latest. Instead, I like to choose an older book. Besides you can usually pick them up on www.abebooks.com www.Amazon.com or www.readireland.com usually inexpensively. Read Ireland is a good place to scan through Irish books in print. I find most of my books in used book stores. Since I am only going to recommend books about Ireland here are several that I enjoyed. Blow-In *A personal view of life in West Cork* by Nora Strong is a collection of columns written for The Southern Star, a weekly newspaper based in Skibbereen. Nora is an immigrant from England who relocates to improve her life and is fascinated by what she finds. Everything is new as she adopts and adapts to her new home. It is a delightful read and I could barely put it down. Although I picked my copy up for \$4 it is fairly expensive for a paperback on the sites mentioned above.

Another book is Oh Come Ye Back to Ireland by Niall Williams (a favorite author) and co-written by his wife Christine Breen. This is one of the books that caused me to go to Ireland. Niall has written a great many more books since this simple narrative. Originally from Dublin, Niall met Christine in the USA. After a few years in the rat race they decided to move to Ireland in live in Christine’s grandfather’s cottage near Kilmihil, county Clare. Two more books followed: When Summer's in the Meadow, and The Pipes are Calling: Our Jaunts Through Ireland.

On a personal note, I met Niall in his cottage twice over the years and I encouraged him to go on a book signing tour and mentioned Book Passage as an example. Two years later he was scheduled to be at Book Passage the same day I was catching a plane to Shannon. After a few quick emails to his agent I was able to meet up with him at Johnny Foley’s in San Francisco the night before. His career as a writer has certainly taken off since then.

If you have not read McCarthy's Bar by Pete McCarthy, this and its sequel are a wonderful read.

If you want something a bit deeper you can try Connemara by Tim Robinson which is a pebble by pebble analysis of the whole Connemara area. It is similar to James Michener’s treatment of his subjects. It is interesting if you are familiar to the area. Until the next newsletter – happy reading. *Philip*

2009 MIAC EVENTS

The Board has approved the Club activities for 2009. We kept some old events and added some new ones. Due to a lack of responses, the casino trip had to be postponed but there are a number of other fun events on our 2009 calendar to ensure we all have something to keep us involved this year.

The Annual Giants game has been finalized as a Dodger /Giants game at ATT Park on Tuesday evening, August 11th. Mark your calendars as tickets will be available soon from the Club. We are purchasing 25 tickets so we can all enjoy the game together.

Irish music will be enjoyed as a club event each month at the Mayflower pub in San Rafael and a special Irish music event is also being planned October 11 at St. Cecilia. These are new events for the Club and it is hoped that many of you will take advantage of them.

Our familiar events are still on the calendar, including the annual trip to Cline Winery and our Memorial mass with Fr. Cyril at St. Cecilia's in Lagunitas.

Don't forget the Christmas Party on December 11th. See the complete schedule on page 4.

OTHER MIAC NEWS

It was recently announced that our 8th grade teacher at St. Isabella has finally taken the plunge and asked his girlfriend, Jessica to marry next February 10th. Yes, our own Rob Pheatt, son of Ginny and Jeff is the next in line to marry and start a family. We congratulate them all and can't wait for new Pheatts' at our future potluck parties.

The Board wishes to acknowledge with utmost appreciation the chairs of the MIAC Scholarship Committee, Pat and Tom McEntee, for their tremendous and thorough work in reinstating the scholarship process. Both Pat and Tom are educators, Pat having taught in the San Francisco Unified School District, for the Archdiocese of San Francisco at St. Rita's School, and in the Santa Rosa School District, and Tom most notably as Dean of Sir Francis Drake High School in Marin County. Both Pat and Tom have served on many scholarship committees and brought this experience to updating the tool and rubric.

Pat and Tom are the parents of one daughter and three sons, all of whom graduated from CA State College at San Luis Obispo, and presently are blessed with nine grandchildren. Again, our many thanks!!!!

Passports do expire, so check yours and renew it early. It can take up to 6 months to renew your passport and it is harder to renew an expired passport. Winnie Coleman.

2009 MIAC Calendar of Events

May 19th	7 PM	Monthly Irish	Mayflower Pub, San Raf
June 16th		Music	
3rd Tuesdays			
Memorial Day	9 AM	Jazz Mass	Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Sacramento
July 18th	10 AM	Jazz festival	Cline Winery
Aug 11th	7 PM	Giants / Dodgers	ATT Park
Oct 11th	Early PM	Irish Music Festival	St. Cecilia's
Nov 13	10 AM	Memorial Mass & Breakfast	St. Cecilia Lagunitas
Fri, Dec 11	6 PM	Christmas Party	The Club at McInnis
2010		Trip to Ireland	TBD