Muskegon Irish American Society

NEWS

SPRING 2015

"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

EXTRA 5:30 A.M.

LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Stirred by the Loss of American Lives.

SOME DEAD TAKEN ASHORE

Several Hundred Survivors at Queenstown and Kinsale.

The Lost Cunard Steamship Lusitania

Experience History at Spring Dinner.

Spring has arrived at last, and it is time for our annual educational dinner dedicated to our Irish history and heritage. This year we have an especially intriguing and timely program.

Exactly one hundred years ago, on May 7, 1915, the German submarine U-20 torpedoed and sank the world's most renowned luxury liner, the Lusitania. This took place just 11 miles off the coast of Ireland, and changed the course of history. Many Irish were involved in the aftermath of this tragedy. Our fellow member, Neil Mullally, has seriously studied the Lusitania for many years. He has visited the wreck site by surface boat, has interviewed the head diver of the exploration team, and is familiar with the American owner of the salvage rights to the Lusitania. You will enjoy this fascinating story of mystery and controversy, along with accompanying photos.

For our dinner we return to the beautiful Century Club Ballroom. Our entertainment will again be the outstanding guitar and fiddle music of our fellow members Roy and Britta Portenga. Our full course dinner will be prepared by Mike McGovern, and with main entrees of roasted pork loin and chicken breast. The dinner cost will be only $15.00 person! PLEASE NOTE: This is a bring-your-own beverage event. If you wish to have beer, wine, or spirits, you must bring your own. Some members have found it convenient to purchase beer downtown and bring it to our event.

For reservations, please call Kathleen Marek 231-759-7344 by Thursday, May 7. Don't miss this memorable event!

Next Event

WHAT: Annual Spring Dinner
Wednesday, May 13, 2015
5:30 p.m. Social Time
6:15 p.m. Dinner by McGovern's
7:00 p.m. Program: Ireland and the Mysteries of the Lusitania
Entertainment by Britta and Roy Portenga
WHEN: Century Club Ballroom
356 W. Western Ave., Muskegon
COST:$15.00 per person

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE EVENT. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE WINE OR SPIRITS,YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN.

Raffle Winner Kathy Walson

At our pub party in January, the winner of our first annual raffle was Kathy Walson. Kathy and her husband John are not members, but are well known by many of us. Kathy is now the proud owner of a crystal vase worth more than $300, and we thank and congratulate her. We will be announcing the details of our next great raffle shortly!

Past Events

15th annual pub party

On Sunday, January 25, we had a capacity crowd at Hennessy's Pub for our 15th annual pub party to kick off 2015. It was a grand day, and we began with a musical warm-up by our fellow members David McIntire, Jim Mayo, and Kevin Donovan. Next our great friends, the Conklin Ceili Band, filled the house with their vocals and instrumentals in their unique, inimitable style. Our members were able to see the updated impressive installation of the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame display, and we held our first annual raffle. Many thanks to Hennessy's, to our musicians, to our board members, and especially to everyone who attended! See you next year!

St. Patrick's parade

On Saturday morning, March 14, our club was represented in the St. Patrick's parade in downtown Muskegon. However, only a few members attended and we need to have a better turnout in the future. We give Sue Donovan special recognition for providing treats to give away along the parade route. Let's improve our participation next year!

St.Patrick's Party

On March 13 and 14 several of us were volunteers and many of us attended the St.Patrick's Party sponsored by Michigan Irish Music Festival at Fricano's Event Center. Seamus Kennedy led the high energy entertainment line-up, and we thank the Music Festival and everyone else who made this event another great success!

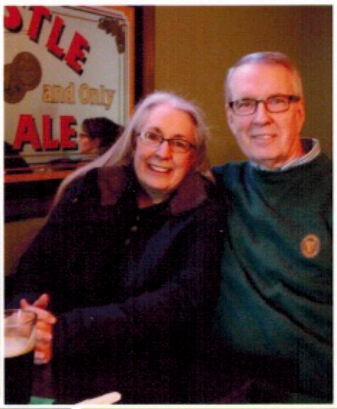
42nd annual raising of the Irish Flag

On March 17, the Great Day itself, we gathered at Hennessy's at noon for our 42nd annual raising of the Irish Flag in downtown Muskegon. John Tyler led off our celebration with his bagpipes, and our fellow member Mike Walsh presented a reading about our Irish heritage. After our President, Kevin Donovan, hoisted the flag, David McIntire led us in singing "When Irish Eyes are Smiling." Thank you to everyone who helped us carry on this tradition!

DUES NOTICE

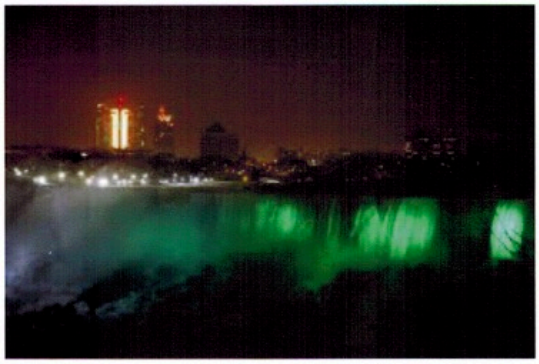
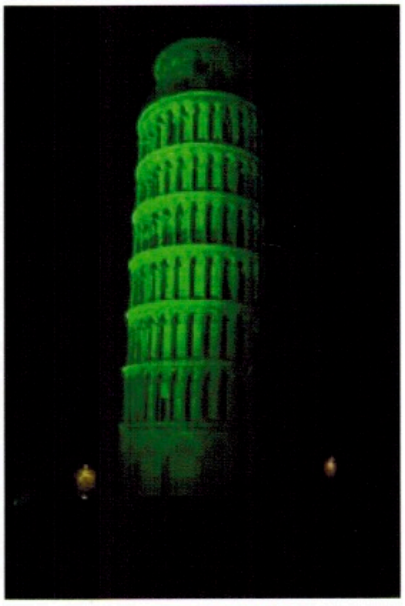
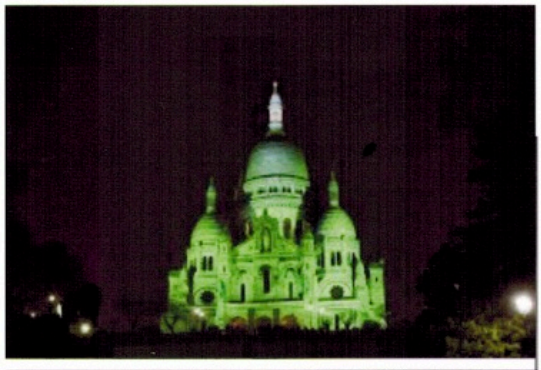
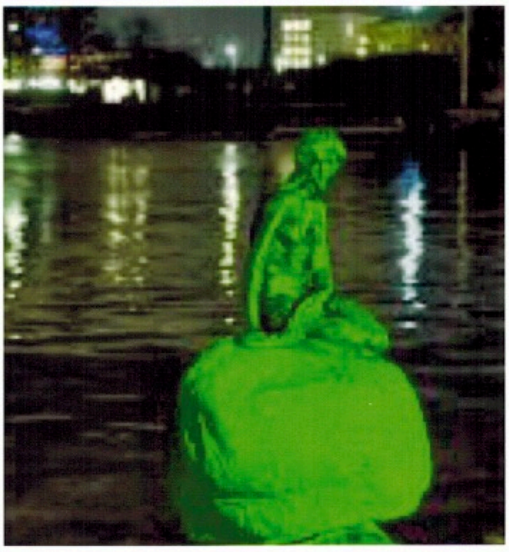
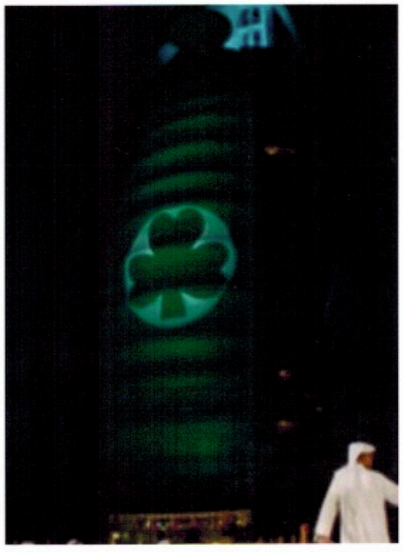
If you have not already paid your 2015 dues, your dues bill is included with this newsletter. Our dues remain a bargain at $20.00 per family, and are essential to support our club's activities and the newsletter. As a new convenience, you may pay your dues by using PayPal. Just go to our club website listed below or use google to get to our website. At our website click on the "Members" section, and follow the easy instructions. There is a $1.50 service fee for using PayPal. Of course, dues paid by check are still welcome. Thank you!

IRISH PUB



West Michigan Gaeltacht

West Michigan Gaeltacht
Dea-Chraic, Daoine Maithe agus Gaeilge Mhaith
Good Fun, Good People, Good Gaelic

Tourism Ireland's Global Greening

In recent years Tourism Ireland, Ireland's tourist marketing agency, has been spreading internationally its "greening" program for celebrating St. Patrick's Day. This year nations around the globe illuminated hundreds of landmarks in green, and here are a few examples from China, Copenhagen, Dubai, Egypt, London, New York, Niagra Falls, Paris, Pisa, Rio de Janiero, Rome and Sidney.