



muskegon
irish
american
society



Quarterly Newsletter

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Summer 2013

Next Event

Summer Barbecue - Mona Lake Boating Club
Thursday, August 29, 2013
5:30 pm Social Time - 6:15 pm Dinner
Entertainment by Crossbow



We return to the **Mona Lake Boating Club** on **Thursday, August 29**, for our summer barbecue, and what an evening this will be! We were able to book the most exciting young Celtic music band to hit our area in many a year - Crossbow! Crossbow is a 13 person band whose members are all college students at GVSU. Their beautiful high energy instrumentals and vocals so impressed many of us at Hennessy's on St. Patrick's Day that they have been booked for the music festival in September—a rare honor for a new band! You won't want to miss this event!

We will have a choice of a steak or chicken dinner for \$14.00 per person, with a cash bar. If it rains we are well sheltered To make your reservation and select your entrée choice, call **Kathleen Marek** at **759-7344**. Please **PLAN AHEAD** and make your reservation as soon as possible, but **no later than Friday, August 23**. If you do not make a reservation, we cannot guarantee you will get a dinner! See you there!

Last Event

Last May 29th we commemorated our club's 40th Anniversary with a special dinner by **McGovern Catering** at the Century Club Ballroom in downtown Muskegon. For many of us this was our first experience with this striking venue in the refurbished Century Club, and we thank our friend and the proprietor, **Gary Post**, for hosting us. We were also joined by members of the Irish Heritage Club of Grand Rapids, and we appreciate their travelling to celebrate with us. Our board member, **Dee Carlson**, prepared an historical display from our club's archives, and our Vice-President, **Kathleen Marek**, was in charge of table decorations. We enjoyed pre-dinner music by our fellow members, **Britta** and **Roy Portenga** accompanied by **Scott White**. Representative **Marcia Hovey-Wright** presented a legislative resolution to our President, **Kevin Donovan**, and **Neil Mullally** read a short history of our club. Our program speaker was **Aidan Cronin**, the Counsel General of Ireland from Chicago. We are grateful that Mr. Cronin was able to come to Muskegon to address our group. Our many thanks go to everyone who helped and attended our 40th Anniversary dinner! We look forward to many more years of accomplishments for our club.

Jack Breslin to be Admitted to Hall of Fame at Boat Club Dinner

Jacweir "Jack" Breslin (1920 -1988) has been admitted into the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame in the sports category by our club's Board, which governs the Hall of Fame.

A native of Battle Creek, Michigan, Jack Breslin was a star athlete in football, basketball, and baseball at Michigan State University in the 1940's. He earned six varsity letters and the MVP award in football. After graduation from MSU, he served in many positions at MSU, including as a Vice-President of the University. Through his advocacy for MSU he became known as "Mr. MSU," and he received several honors from MSU, such as The Duffy Daugherty Award, the Distinguished Faculty Award, and a Doctorate of Law. The Breslin Center at MSU is named after him. He served on numerous boards of public and charitable organizations, and the Jack and Renee Breslin Cancer Center in Ingham County is named as a memorial to Jack Breslin and his wife, **Renee Breslin**.



Jack Breslin

Although each year's inductees are usually going to be admitted to the Hall of Fame at a ceremony during our annual music festival in September, Jack Breslin's son, **Brian Breslin**, who will accept this honor on behalf of the Breslin family, has a schedule conflict that prevents him from being available then. For that reason, we will induct his father into the Hall of Fame at our dinner on August 29 at the Mona Lake Boating Club. Brian Breslin is the Vice-Chair of the Michigan State University Board of Trustees. This will be a great event to invite MSU alumni and supporters to attend!

Michigan Irish Music Festival Returns on September 13 - 15!

Once again, our fellow member **Chris Zahrt** and the music festival **Board** are bringing to our community the best Irish Music Festival you can find anywhere! The popular band **Slide** is returning, and new acts like **We Banjo 3**, **Damien Dempsey**, **Sprag Session**, and **The Irish Descendants** will be here for the first time. And other new activities will be added to enhance family fun, including Celtic Highland Games! To learn more, to volunteer, and to buy tickets, go the festival website: www.michiganirish.org. This will be another top year!

Dues Notice

If you receive a dues bill with this newsletter, that means your dues are still unpaid. To support our club's activities and the newsletter, it is important that we all pay our dues. If dues remain unpaid, those members who are delinquent will be dropped from the membership roster. Thank you to the great majority of our members who pay their dues promptly!

Construction Planned for Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame



In 2012 our club founded the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame, which memorializes our state's Irish American men and women who have had significant impact in the areas of Public Service, Philanthropy, Arts and Entertainment, Business and Industry, Religion, and Sports. The first members were inducted at the Music Festival last September:



Left to right:
Frank Kelley, Thomas Hume, Cathie Ryan,
Henry Ford, and Venerable Solanus Casey

In addition to the website <http://www.michiganirishamericanhalloffame.org/>, the physical display for the Hall of Fame will be graciously hosted by Hennessy's pub in downtown Muskegon. Our President, Kevin Donovan, has designed and created the plans for the wall display at Hennessy's, and above you can see what it will look like. The cost is estimated at \$3,000. To complete this project, our members and friends are asked to consider making tax-deductible donations as founders of the Hall of Fame, and all contributors will be listed as part of the Hall of Fame display. You may wish to make a donation as a memorial to your family or in memory of someone who is deceased. On the donation form below you will see that there are three donation level options available. Please help our club create Michigan's only Irish American Hall of Fame! You may clip and send the form below.

Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Founder's Donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Donation Levels (Please circle your gift level)

Emerald: \$500 or more

Crystal: \$100 - \$499

Shamrock: \$1 - \$99

Please print clearly below how you wish your gift to be listed on the wall display.
If necessary, use a separate sheet of paper.

**Mail your check payable to "Irish American Society" to
Bruce Duff, 800 Ellis Rd #524, Norton Shores. MI 49441**

**At 40th Anniversary Dinner on May 29, 2013
Century Club Ballroom, Downtown Muskegon**

