



Muskegon Irish American Society

NEWS



Summer 2016

It's Summertime, Summertime...

Join the fun for a summer barbeque at **Hagar's Hideaway**, along the shoreline of beautiful Muskegon Lake, on Wednesday, August 24.

Catered by Hennessy's Irish Pub & Restaurant, we will have a **choice** of a marinated sizzler steak or herb grilled chicken dinner for \$15 per person. Dinner includes rolls, rice pilaf, mashed potatoes, roasted vegetables, tossed salad, antipasto salad and cake. Coffee and iced tea is included, but this will be a **Bring Your Own Alcoholic Beverage** event!

The entertainment for the evening will be the ever delightful Mona Shores Fiddlers! These young people will have us tapping our toes, slapping our knees and getting our 'celtic' on! You won't want to miss the fun!

To make your reservation and select your choice of entrée, please call Kathleen Marek at 759-7344 as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday, August 19**. If you do not make a reservation, we cannot guarantee you will get a dinner.

WHAT: Muskegon Irish American Society Summer Barbeque

WHERE: Hagar's Hideaway, 3156 Lakeshore Drive

WHEN: Wednesday, August 24

5:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:15 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Mona Shores Fiddlers

COST: \$15.00 per person

Reservations and entrée selection are required by **August 19** to Kathleen Marek at (231) 759-7344

PLEASE NOTE:

This is a *Bring Your Own Alcoholic Beverage* event!

There is limited parking in front of Hagar's Hideaway. Please use the lot across the street (Viking's overflow parking lot). Do not park in the Viking's lot as you will be asked to move your vehicle.



The Mona Shores Fiddlers is an extra curricular alternative styles ensemble, which performs throughout the Muskegon community, including at the *Michigan Irish Music Festival*. The MSF hosts an annual Fiddle Fest which has featured guests artist including Detour, Barrage, Finvarra's Wren, and The Moxie Strings.

Mona Shores High School Fiddlers is under the direction of Mrs. Kelly DeRose.



Annual Spring Dinner





2016 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

On Saturday, September 17, at noon, the following individuals will be inducted into the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony takes place at The Michigan Irish Music Festival at noon on the Galway Stage with a meet and greet immediately following.



Public Service: Governor James Blanchard

Former Governor James Blanchard will be honored in the category of Public Service. Blanchard, a member of the U.S. Congress from 1975 – 1982, served as Governor of Michigan from 1983 – 1991. He was U.S. Ambassador to Canada from 1993 – 1996. He has been consistently active in Irish-American affairs, and has been Grand Marshall of the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade. As Governor he hosted the Lord Mayor of Dublin in Michigan. In Congress he was a member of the Irish Caucus and championed the McBride Principles to fight discrimination in Northern Ireland. He is a member of the international law firm of DLA Piper, and remains active in state and national matters.



Arts & Entertainment: Michael Patrick Shiels

Mr. Shiels will be honored in the area of Arts and Entertainment. Shiels is the star of "Michigan's Big Show," a syndicated morning radio talk show. Named "Network Radio Personality of the Year" by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters on multiple occasions, Shiels hosts his show live from Ireland each St. Patrick's Day and, as a travel writer and author, has written extensively about the Emerald Isle.



Education: Kathleen Dewan O'Neill

Kathleen is a retired special education teacher who taught in the Detroit Public Schools for over 30 years. As the President of the Gaelic League/Irish American Club of Detroit, and host of the weekly Irish radio show on WNZK, Kathleen has been a leading voice in Michigan's Irish community. She also orchestrated calls to Ireland on her radio program to provide listeners with news from Ireland. She has co-authored and published a book of the Irish in Detroit and has made countless presentations at cultural institutions, schools, community and civic events on the impact of the Irish in the United States and Michigan.



Education: James O'Kelly

Mr. O'Kelly has been involved with the Ancient Order of Hibernians for over 50 years. He is the past president of the Stephan Walsh Division, past AOH Michigan President, delegate to the national AOH, and currently serves as the National AOH Historian. He assisted in writing *Modern Journey*, a two volume history of the Irish in Detroit. He actively participates in all of the UIS, AOH, and Knights of Equity functions and other events in the Irish community. O'Kelly is an adjunct professor at Schoolcraft College.



Education: Michael Kerwin

Michael has been involved in the Detroit Irish American community for several decades, serving on the Gaelic League Executive Board, Chairman of the Cultural Committee, founder and chair of the Detroit Ethnic Riverfront Festivals Cultural Committee, Chair of the Tri-Centennial Committee of the UIS, and the Chair of the Committee to establish "The Archive of the Irish of Detroit and Michigan" at the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library. He was also named Honorary Chairperson of the Gaelic League's 100th Anniversary of the Easter Uprising. Michael served three years in the United States Army Air Corp and attended the University of Chicago.

Michael Hennessy, Irish Person of the Year!

Michael S. Hennessy was named the 2016 Irish Person of the Year at our Spring Dinner. Mike and wife Nancy own and operate three Little Caesar's, Hennessy's Irish Pub & Restaurant, and Boar's Belly Brewhouse. Mike is the father of five; Michael, Andrew, Will, Patrick, and Clare. He has been married to his lovely wife, Nancy, for 17 years. He loves to sail and would like to one day sail around the world! Congratulations Mike!





In Remembrance



Father Donn Patrick Tufts, age 70, of Silver Lake, retired Roman Catholic Priest in the Grand Rapids Diocese, passed away unexpectedly on Tues. July 19, 2016. He was born July 2, 1946 in Muskegon, the son of Hiram Defoe Tufts and Patricia Ruth Manning Tufts. Father Donn was ordained as a priest on Aug. 2, 1980. Prior to his ordination, he served St. Gregory's in Hart, St. Joseph's in Elbridge and Our Lady of Fatima in Shelby. During his career he also served at St. Francis de Sales, as head chaplain at Blodgett and Butterworth Hospitals, at Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. James, St. Mary's of the Woods, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. John the Baptist, St. Michaels, parishes in Edmore and Stanton, and Christ the King. Fr. Tufts served as Chaplain of the *Muskegon Irish American Society* for several years. He was still very active in retirement. Father Donn was a "people person" who enjoyed cross stitch, sculpting bonsai trees, baking and cooking, traveling, gardening, trains and he loved American Indian art. He started the Blessing of the Jeeps at Silver Lake. He is survived by his siblings, William (Kathy) Tufts of Ferry, MI, Thomas (Kaye) Tufts of Alpena, MI, Daniel (Wendy) Tufts of Montague, MI, Teresa Grey of Portland, MI, Richard Tufts of Tampa, FL, Victor (Debbie) Tufts of Hudgins, VA, Matthew (Lisa) Tufts of Fruitport, MI, Martin (Leandra) Tufts of Coopersville, MI, Ruth (Calvin) Cox of Belleville, MI and John (Terri) Tufts of Twin Lake, MI; many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews; and his god son, Michael Sawdy. He was preceded in death by his parents; twin sister, Doreen Tufts and brother, James Defoe Tufts.



John Harold McGarry III, born July 25, 1952 died too soon on May 12, 2016. This very public figure was a very private man. He loved Susan, the out-of-doors, fishing, carrot cake, Teddy Roosevelt, his dogs, and being Uncle Big John was a most cherished role. Born in West Virginia, he spent his formative years in Harrisburg, PA and after high school moved to Baltimore, MD. His education was completed there. He and Susan met there. His field was history and education, explaining why his life brought so many teachable moments to so many. John loved it when a school child would stop him in the museum and they would share some history. His favorite statistic was the number of school children who visited the museum. His nieces and nephews believed he was indeed special. For starters, he had the keys to the Hackley and Hume homes and could open the magical world of the museum just for them. How many uncles have a mastadon? Michigan came into his life when he married Susan Kay Elliott in 1975. With that union, John became part of the very big clan that is Susan's family. In 1990, Muskegon welcomed the McGarrys warmly. This place and its people became his extended family. He donated his organs to others, a public servant to the end. An outstanding moment for John happened almost exactly one year ago at the Community Foundation Annual Meeting, when he received the Patricia B Johnson Award for Community Service. Job well done, John McGarry. May the road rise up to meet you, May the wind always be at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rain fall soft upon your fields, And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

2016 Dues

Just a reminder...If you are not current you may be dropped from the club roster!



Upcoming Events



The Michigan Irish Music Festival, held at Heritage Landing September 15-18, will be bigger and better than ever! New this year are Celtic Canines, featuring beautiful dog breeds from the Emerald Isle. The very popular Highland Games return following rave reviews! The entertainment lineup is exceptional and will feature Scythian, JigJam, Tupelo, Dallahan, Aoife Scott, and many more!

Don't miss the **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** at noon, Saturday, September 17, on the Galway Stage.

We hope to see you there!