



Muskegon Irish American Society

# NEWS



Spring 2019

## Annual Spring Dinner at Century Club Wednesday, May 8



On May 8 at our annual Irish heritage dinner at the Century Club Ballroom, our speaker will be Kathleen Dewan O'Neill, a distinguished member of the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame. Her topic will be: *Intriguing Michigan Irish Facts*. For more than three decades Kathleen has been a leading voice in Michigan's Irish community. The list of her achievements is far too long to state here, but certainly her greatest role has been to host for nearly 25 years a weekly Detroit Irish Radio Show. Over those many years Kathleen has shared with her audience countless interesting facts of Irish people, places, events, and enterprises, and their impact in Michigan and beyond. Kathleen has made presentations at

**Kathleen Dewan O'Neill** numerous cultural institutions, schools, and community events, and we are very fortunate to have the chance to hear her right here in Muskegon.

Additionally, our annual raffle will be held! As a reminder ... **First Prize** is an Irish Fest Experience: Pair of passes, two room nights and a pair of ferry tickets for the Milwaukee Irish Fest **and** pair of passes and two room nights for the Michigan Irish Music Fest. **Second Prize** is an Aquastar cruise for two on beautiful Muskegon Lake. And **Third Prize** is dinner for four at Hennessey's Irish Pub and Restaurant.

Please be sure to submit your sold tickets before the drawing!

This is an event not to be missed! **To reserve your seat and meal, please follow instructions below.**

**WHAT:** Muskegon Irish American Society Annual Spring Dinner

**WHERE:** Century Club Ballroom, 356 W. Western Avenue, Muskegon, MI

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019

5:30 p.m. Social Hour with entertainment by Britta and Roy Portenga

6:15 p.m. Dinner by McGovern's

7:00 p.m. Presentation by Kathleen O'Neill

**COST:** \$15.00 per person. **Reservations are required by April 30th. Call Kathleen Marek (231) 759-7344, and please leave a message!**

**PLEASE NOTE:** This a BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE EVENT. If you wish to have beer, wine or spirits, YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN!



## Annual Pub Party

On January 27th we had a great time at our annual Pub Party at Hennessy's. *Uneven Ground* provided our musical entertainment, while members and guests enjoyed a variety of fabulous food and drink!



Additional Pub Party photos on page 3



## Saying Goodbye



**Collet, Lee E. Muskegon, MI** Lee Edward Collet, noted sculptor and art educator, died Monday, December 31, 2018 in Muskegon, surrounded by his loving family. Lee was born on July 23, 1941 in Bay City, Michigan to Amos Frederick and Edith Irene (Blasdell) Collet. In 1959, Lee graduated from Midland High School in Midland, Michigan where he played violin in the orchestra. In 1963, Lee obtained a BA in Art Education at Central Michigan University where he was a member of the Sigma Theta Tau fraternity. From 1963-1966, he taught 5th and 6th grade art in the Flint Public Schools in Flint, Michigan. On August 13, 1966, Lee married the former Darlene Jeanette Owen in the Mio Methodist Church in Mio, Michigan and they moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan. Lee obtained an MFA in Sculpture at the University of Michigan in 1968. That same year, he accepted a position in the Creative and Performing Arts Department at Muskegon Community College (MCC) in Muskegon, Michigan. Between 1968 and 2003, when he retired from MCC, Lee taught Sculpture, Design, Drawing and Art History, and served as Department Chair. During this time, he also taught Sculpture at Kendall School of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In addition to teaching, Lee was very prolific in his artistic endeavors, creating multiple small and large scale sculptures and wall reliefs. His work has been in numerous art exhibits and shows, including the Detroit Institute of Arts, Muskegon Museum of Art, and Frederick Meijer Gardens. A number of his sculptures and reliefs are on public display in Muskegon. In his personal life, Lee enjoyed music, theater, history, especially Egyptian art history, and fine wine. He loved gardening, camping and staying in cabins with family, going on annual family trips to Traverse City, Michigan and Florida, and watching his sons participate in art, athletic, band, choir and theater events. Lee leaves behind his beloved wife of 52 years, Darlene Jeanette Owen. They were blessed with two sons, Corbin Lee and his wife April, Cary Owen and his wife Kimberle and eight granddaughters, Tracy, Olivia, Jenna, Emme, Hadley, Chloe, Brynn and Savannah and one grandson, Brendan. Lee also leaves his brother, David Lee and his wife Christine and family.



Good food, good times,  
and great friends!

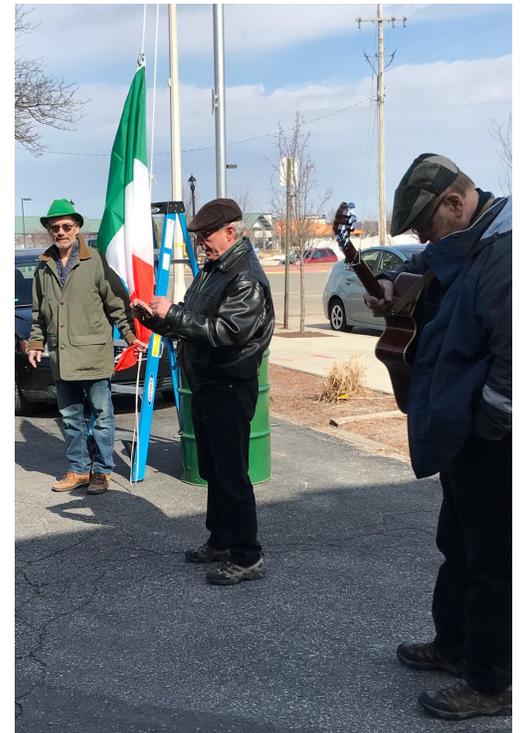




## 2019 St. Patrick's Day Parade



## 46th Annual Flag Raising



## 2019 Dues Can Be Paid with PayPal

Just a reminder...your 2019 dues need to be paid as soon as possible! Our dues remain a bargain at \$20 per family, and are essential to support our club's programs and the newsletter. An added convenience, is the ability to pay your dues on PayPal. If you wish to use PayPal, go to our website and click on the "Members" section. There is an added service fee of \$1.50 to use PayPal. Payment by check is always welcome!

