



Muskegon Irish American Society

# NEWS



Summer 2019

## Enjoy our Summer Barbeque

### Mona Lake Boat Club, Thursday, August 29



*Mona Shores Fiddlers*

Enjoy a hearty meal of grilled burgers, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, and cake for \$15 per person. Adult beverages will be available at a cash bar.

The ever delightful Mona Shores Fiddlers will entertain us with their toe tapping, knee slapping sounds! The Mona Shores Fiddlers is an extra curricular alternative styles ensemble, which performs throughout the Muskegon community, including the *Michigan Irish Music Festival*. The Fiddlers are under the direction of Mona Shores High School Orchestra Director, Mrs. Kelly De Rose. You won't want to miss the fun!

To make your reservation please call Kathleen Marek at (231) 759-7344 as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday, August 23. (If no answer, PLEASE leave a message!)** We need a reservation, so make that call today! See you there!

**WHAT:** Muskegon Irish American Society Summer Barbeque

**WHERE:** Mona Lake Boat Club • 372 Randall Road • Norton Shores, MI

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 29

5:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:15 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Mona Shores Fiddlers

**COST:** \$15.00 per person

Reservations are required by **Friday, August 23** to Kathleen Marek at (231) 759-7344 (PLEASE leave a message!)

## New Member Recruitment

We are looking for new members! If you bring a prospective new member to the Summer Barbeque you will receive a free ticket for a chance to win a bottle of Jameson. If your guest chooses to join the Muskegon Irish American Society and pays their dues for 2019, they will receive their 2020 membership for free!



## 2019 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

The **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame** has announced its 2019 class of inductees. The Hall recognizes Irish Americans who have made important contributions in various fields of life in Michigan. The honorees will be inducted in a ceremony at noon on Saturday, September 14, at the Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon, on the Galway Stage.



In the category of **Public Service**, the Hall of Fame is honoring the most distinguished public leader in Michigan history, **Frank Murphy**. A native of the Lake Huron town of Harbor Beach, Murphy achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel while serving in the U.S Army in both World War I and World War II. After World War I, he served as U.S. District Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. He next was elected as a Judge of Recorder's Court in Detroit, and later was elected Mayor of Detroit. President Franklin Roosevelt then appointed him to serve as the Governor General and High Commissioner of the Philippines. Murphy returned in 1936 to be elected Governor of Michigan for two years, when President Roosevelt appointed him as Attorney General of the U.S. In 1940 President Roosevelt appointed Murphy as a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, where he served for nine years until his death in 1949 at age 59.



Also in the field of **Public Service**, the Hall of Fame is honoring **Austin "Barry" McGuire and Timothy "Tim" McGuire**, the first father and son to be inducted as members. Barry McGuire, who died in 2012, was a U.S. Army veteran, and served as the Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Counties from 1968 until 1984, and Tim McGuire served as Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Counties from 1994 until 2016. Together they served a total of 38 years guiding and improving county government for the citizens of Michigan's 83 counties. Barry McGuire also was the Executive Director of the Michigan Automobile Dealers

Association from 1984 until his retirement in 2001. Both Barry and Tim McGuire were appointed to numerous governmental commissions and committees, and were respected by the leaders of both major political parties in Lansing and Washington. Tim McGuire continues in his public service career as the Administrator of the Michigan Counties Workmens Compensation Fund. Both Barry and Tim have participated in many charitable activities, and Tim currently is a board member of Habitat for Humanity.



In the category of **Arts and Entertainment**, the Hall of Fame is proud to induct the preeminent Irish fiddler **Michael "Mick" Gavin**. A native of Ireland, Mick Gavin immigrated to Detroit in the 1970's. For the more than forty years, Mick has shared his love and talent as an Irish fiddler in Michigan. Over the past decades, Mick has entertained at countless events, both Irish and non-Irish, and he has instructed numerous individuals including his own sons. Many of his students have gone on to win local and international awards. He has been a leader in the Detroit Irish Music Association, and has helped present cultural awareness programs in schools in the Detroit area. Through his performances and other activities, Mick shares his knowledge of Irish traditions, history, music, dance, and language.



In the category of **Religion**, the Hall of Fame is honoring **Brother James Boynton**. He is a native of St. Ignace, Michigan, and attended Lake Superior State College before joining at age 20 the Jesuit order to become a Brother. He devoted many years of his ministry to missionary work in northern India, Mexico, and Haiti, and with migrant workers in northern Michigan. For the past 20 years he has been a Religious Studies teacher at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland and the University of Detroit Jesuit High School. He is also an accomplished Irish fiddle player, and was inspired by Irish fiddler Pat Bonner of Beaver Island, who is also a Hall of Fame member. Brother Boynton's Christian life of service to others has been an example to all who know him.





## 2019 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees



In the field of **Education**, the Hall of Fame has selected for membership **Roger Schlosser**. Roger is the retired founder and Director of the Irish Studies Program at Grand Rapids Community College, believed to be the only Irish Studies Program at a community college in the U.S. In addition to his students studying on campus, Roger also took 14 groups of students to Ireland over the years. As part of those study trips, Roger arranged for the students to meet and interview many of the leaders on all sides of the Irish disputes. As an author, Roger has written 3 historical novels related to the years of the Irish "Troubles." He has also been the long-time President of the Gaelic League/Irish-American Club of West Michigan. As a side note, Roger built his home library to emulate the Long Room of the Trinity College Library in Dublin and his home library has 28 foot high ceilings!



In the category of **Philanthropy or Community Service**, the Hall of Fame is recognizing **Nora Ann Cassidy** for her service to the Detroit Irish community. For more than 40 years she has been a volunteer devoted to all areas of metro Detroit Irish activities. She has held offices and/or been a leader in The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the United Irish Societies, the Gaelic League/Irish American Club of Detroit, and currently is a Board Member of the Motor City Irish Festival. She has been key in the success of the competition for the selection of The Queen of the United Irish Societies, the Court of St. Bridget, and the work in Africa of the Irish Pallotine Fathers. In her youth she was a distinguished Irish step dancer, and she coached her daughter to qualify for the step-dancing "All World Finals" in Galway. She has mentored and promoted Irish dance schools in the Detroit area. In 2013 she was selected as the Grand Marshal of the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Also in the category of **Philanthropy or Community Service**, the Hall of Fame is honoring **Patrick J. Johnson** for his service to the Irish community in Southeast Michigan and beyond. He is the Executive Director of the Michigan Irish American Chamber of Commerce, and hosts a popular weekly Irish radio show from Detroit that also has national and international listening audiences, including Ireland. He has been the owner of Shamrock DJ Services for more than 20 years. He often volunteers his services as Master of Ceremonies at the Great Lakes Feis in Lansing, the Glass City feis in Toledo, the Motor City Irish Festival, the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade, the St. Patrick's Senior Center Irish Festival, the Ardan Academy Celtic Extravaganza, and other events. In 2011 he received the John Heinzman Sr. award for his dedication and support of the Great Lakes Feis. He is an active member of many Irish organizations in the Detroit area.

Celebrating **20** years, **The Michigan Irish Music Festival**, held at Heritage Landing September 12-15, will be bigger and better than ever! Returning this year are Celtic Canines, featuring beautiful dog breeds from the Emerald Isle and the very popular Highland Games. The entertainment lineup is exceptional and will feature Gaelic Storm, High Kings, Aoife Scott, Connla, Brother Crowe, Blackthorn, JigJam, Conifers, Seamus Kennedy and many more!

Don't miss the **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** at noon, Saturday, September 14, on the Galway Stage.

We hope to see you there!





## In Remembrance



**THOMAS A. POWERS**, *Norton Shores* Thomas A. "Tom" Powers, age 76, passed away on Thursday morning, May 2, 2019 at his home surrounded by his loving wife and family. He was born September 25, 1942 in Marion, OH to Francis C. and Mary E. (Lieb) Powers. On December 27, 1966, he married Catherine J. Miller in Toronto, Ontario, Can. Tom attended Marion Catholic High School, Marion, OH. He then attended Mount St. Mary's College, the Mary Knoll Seminary, and The Ohio State University for his bachelor's degrees. He earned a Masters Degree from Eastern Michigan University and his Educational Specialist from Central Michigan University. Tom started his education career at Toledo Central Catholic High School and then moved to Flint, MI as a Community Education Director. After stints in Flint and Oscoda, Tom assumed the Community Education Director position at Mona Shores where he served for 12 years. In 1983, Tom took over as the Superintendent of the Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools (St. Francis). From there, Tom came back to Mona Shores as the principal of Hile Elementary, and then spent the last nine years of his education career as the Superintendent of the Greater Muskegon Area Catholic Schools and was President of the Muskegon County Catholic Education Foundation. Tom loved his schools and his "kids." After retiring from education Tom served as the Director of Mission Services for Mercy Health Partners for 5 years. Tom was always a true community servant. He was instrumental in developing the original May Fest and the Muskegon Area Child Abuse Council. Tom served as a member and as past president for the Muskegon Exchange Club and the Muskegon Rotary Club. In 2008, he led a very successful Muskegon United Way Campaign. Tom was the quintessential Irishman. He was a long-time member of the **Muskegon Irish American Society** as well as the Michigan Irish Musical Festival. Tom served his church parishes of St. Joseph, Our Lady of Grace, and St. Francis de Sales. Survivors include his loving wife of 52 years, Cathy Powers of Norton Shores; 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and a sister.

Our **annual dinner** was held at the Century Club ballroom on May 8, 2019. Our guest speaker was Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame inductee, Kathleen Dewan O'Neill. A great time was had by all!

