

TUCSON ST. PATRICK'S DAY
PARADE & FESTIVAL

Cead Mile Fáilte



St. Patrick's Day Tucson 2020



SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Desert Leprechaun 5K & 1 Mile Run/Walk 8:30AM

Festival at Armory Park 10AM - 5PM

Parade through Downtown 11AM

WWW.TUCSONSTPATRICKSDAY.COM

TUCSON ST. PATRICK'S DAY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES”

Greetings brothers and sisters. The Tucson St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival Committee welcomes you to this year's St. Patrick's Day Celebration and wishes all of Tucson and Southern Arizona a very Happy St. Patrick's Day for 2020. We could not be happier or more proud to bring it to you.

Our theme this year is “Céad Míle Fáilte” – A Hundred Thousand Welcomes. The notorious Irish playwright, Brendan Behan, once said he thought that sentiment seemed excessive. In our current place in history, we don't think so – maybe one hundred thousand welcomes are not nearly enough. We chose this theme because it touches on two significant aspects of the Irish character.

The first is generosity. The Irish have a long-standing tradition from deep in our history of generosity to strangers, travelers and those in need, providing assistance in the form of food, shelter and spiritual support. Turning people away with a blind eye and a cold heart is just not in the Irish character. We pride ourselves in the practice of welcoming our brothers and sisters into our hearts and homes and sharing with them what we have - food, drink (sometimes strong drink), a story, a dance and a song. These acts of kindness and generosity have never been more necessary than at this point in history.

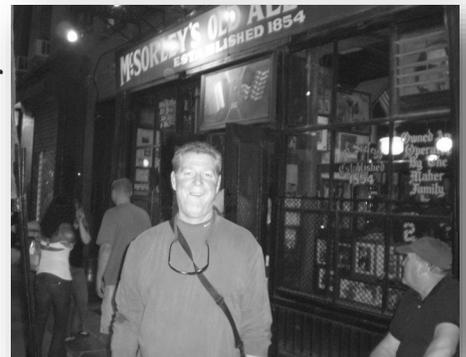
The second is gratitude. There's a joke that asks: “What is Irish Alzheimer's?” and the punch line is “That's when you forget everything but the grudge.” Well, an Irishman also never forgets a kindness. This memory and gratitude is at the core of the Irish American experience and history. This continent welcomed the Irish – many more than one hundred thousand times – and has given them the food, shelter, a story, a dance and a song. It has also provided a purpose – to repay the many kindnesses shown by serving the continent and its people. The concept and practice of service to all our relations has shaped the history and experience of the millions of Irish immigrants to this continent. The concept and practice of service to the Tucson and Southern Arizona community is what motivates those of us at the Tucson St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival Committee. We are proud to carry on this fine tradition.

In this spirit, we are proud to have Tucson Police Captain John Carlson as our Grand Marshal for the 2020 St. Patrick's Day celebration. With his 25 plus years of service to the Tucson community in the police force, John exemplifies the best of the tradition of Céad Míle Fáilte, generosity and gratitude. Thank you, John, for accepting this position, your service to the Tucson community and for carrying the banner of this Irish tradition with grace and dignity.

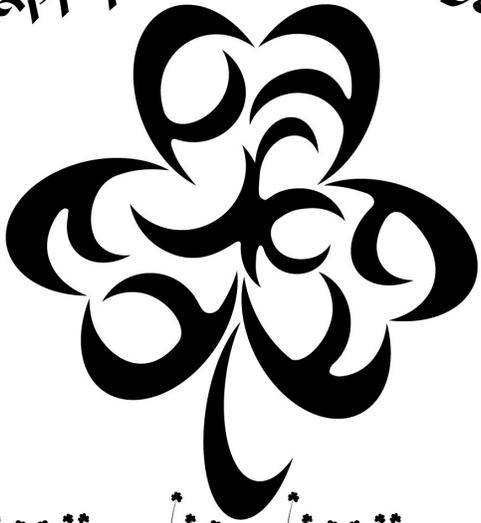
Further in this spirit, the Tucson St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival Committee is proud to continue to support The Scholarship Fund for the Children of Fallen Officers, a charity devoted to providing college scholarship funds to the children of first responders who have passed from us. We honor their service and dedication by assisting their children's educational needs. This is our heart and we are proud of it.

We thank each and every one of the attendees at this year's events for coming out and enjoying the day with us and each other. We take pride in providing you with food, drink, a story, a dance and a song. We wish you Céad Míle Fáilte– a hundred thousand welcomes. Enjoy the day, it's yours. Sláinte, Tucson.

John Murphy, Tucson St. Patrick's Day President



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



TUCSON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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THANK YOU

The Tucson St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival Committee want to say THANK YOU to all our volunteers, advertisers, parade entries, sponsors and everyone else who works so hard to make the event successful. Thank you for helping to keep this wonderful tradition alive in Tucson!

- | | | |
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THE STRUGGLE AND SURVIVAL OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE

By Scott Egan

Yes “céad míle fáilte” (a hundred thousand welcomes) is the wonderful theme of this year’s Tucson St. Patrick Parade. Yet saying these words at one time could have landed you in jail — or worse.

Although the Irish language has been spoken in Ireland for over 2,000 years (the oldest written language in Europe still spoken) the attempted obliteration of the Irish language started with the first Anglo-Norman invasion in 1169. Like most conquerors, the culture of the native population was considered “depraved” by the new occupiers. By 1366 the Statutes of Kilkenny stipulated that “the speaking of Irish in the areas of English settlement was prohibited under pain of forfeiture of land or liberty.”

Such laws were instituted when the overwhelming majority of Irish people spoke only Irish!

From the 16th century onwards, the assumed “superior” English culture helped justify the conqueror’s expansionistic endeavors. By 1653 the Irish life and culture were decimated from Cromwell’s campaign of genocide which reduced the population by half, leaving over 100,000 exiled and 600,000 dead.

By the end of the 18th century, the use of the native language had been banished from the Irish Parliament, town and county governments, Courts of Law, the civil service, and commercial life.

Yet the Irish still preserved their language and culture in spite of all the forces aligned against them. It was this Irish Spirit that would drive their unique resistance against unfathomable odds.

As the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire noted:

“For cultural invasion to succeed, it is essential that those invaded become convinced of their intrinsic inferiority... if those who are invaded consider themselves inferior, they must necessarily recognize the superiority of the invaders.”

The leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising, which established an independent Republic, understood the importance of language and culture. As their leader Pádraig Pearse asserted:

“A Free Ireland must not only be free but Gaelic-speaking, while a Gaelic-speaking Ireland must not only be Gaelic-speaking but free also.”

The new northern “Protestant State for a Protestant People” established after partition in 1921 enacted a Special Powers Act which saw the arrest of hundreds of “un-loyal” subjects — “especially those with the love of teaching Irish language and culture to schoolchildren.”

Over 700 Irish nationalists were locked up in a prison ship “The Argenta” in Belfast Lough for years, where the authorities came down hard on anyone who “encouraged the sense of spirit and intellect by engaging them in Irish class to keep their sense of unity and purpose in mind.” Yet in spite of the repression, more prisoners were recruited with many achieving the gold “fáinne” or badge of fluency.

Rejecting the unified national vote for the Irish Republic with the creation of partition, the resistance in occupied northern Ireland took many forms: political (Sinn Féin), militant republicanism (the Irish Republican Army) as well as culturally — through independently run radical decolonization educational meetings and Irish language classes.

Continued on page 9...

2020 GRAND MARSHAL JOHN CARLSON

Ohhh look at the lot of you.....

Do you all know what today is? It's March 15th...The Ides of March.

For those of you that did not pay too much attention in your ENGLISH lit. class...it is just a little Shakespeare. It is the day that that the Soothsayer warned Julius Caesar to stay home, that danger was upon him. But if young Julius were here today I would tell him, "relax..., today you are surrounded by the luck of the Irish."

I'm truly humbled to be selected as the Grand Marshal. I want to thank the parade committee for this honor. Never in a million years did I ever imagine this.

Growing up on Long Island in NY I had two favorite holidays. 1. The 4th of July and 2. St. Patrick's Day.

Now I know St. Patrick's Day is not really a holiday, but don't tell that to the Irish.

St. Patrick's day to me was always celebration in the street. My dad is retired NYPD and I remember watching the parade on TV when I was just a kid. I recall seeing the pictures, and best of all hearing my dad's stories...stories of my dad's old partner Billy Cutter, the Lion he called him because of his big red mane of hair and his round face, in full NYPD dress uniform, his 8-point hat turned backward, working behind the bar after the parade. I think I knew then I wanted to be a cop.....

Then in high school some 60 plus miles east of the city, the parade would go down main street in our little town. It was like something you see in the movies, small town America. My high school buddies and I beginning to enjoy the "spirit" of St. Patrick's Day just a little more now if you know what I mean...It was not really until I got a little older that I was able to appreciate and understand the meaning of it all a little bit better.

So, When Murph first called me, I thought he was pulling my leg. My first question to him was, "why me, heck my last name is not O'Brien or Lafferty, surely there has to be someone more Irish around? My last name is Swedish." Of course he laughed, like a good Irishman always does, and told me that my dear friend Jack nominated me, and the committee agreed, it had been decided! In the days and weeks following everyone seemed excited for me. I wasn't so confident, but I was humbled.

I've spent the entirety of my adult life in public service. First, in the US Navy where I spent 6 years as a Nuclear Machinists Mate serving in the first Persian Gulf War. Now I have just surpassed my 25th year with the Tucson Police Department. Like so many other cultures, the Irish have a proud history of service to this country, and I feel blessed to walk among them. I am committed to this community, the health and happiness of the men and women who serve their great communities each day and night, particularly those here in Tucson, and the thousands of service men and women who serve, and have served our great nation.

Continued on page 11...



2020 FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT

8:30 AM Desert Leprechaun 5K & 1 Mile Run/Walk by Southern Arizona Roadrunners

10:00 AM Festival opens

11:00 AM Parade begins at 17th Street and Stone Avenue, ending at Armory Park

11:15 AM **OUT OF KILTERS**

Traditional Irish and Scottish music, from rousing ballads to toe-tapping jigs and reels that make you want to get up and dance! www.facebook.com/outofkilters

12:15 PM **FESTIVAL GREETING & OPENING CEREMONIES**

Master of Ceremonies, John Murphy, Paul Stapleton-Smith, Tucson & District Pipe Band. Tucson & District Pipe Band is a family-friendly group dedicated to furthering the arts of piping and drumming in the southwest. www.tanddpipeband.com.

12:30 PM **NANCY MCCALLION & CATHERINE ZAVALA**

Nancy McCallion and Catherine Zavala together again! Founders of legendary Tucson band The Molly's are back together for the 2020 festival!

2:00 PM **CELTIC STEPS**

Celtic Steps is one of the largest Irish dance schools in the United States. CS has won multiple championships and has placed first in the world in figure choreography.

www.tucsonirishdance.com

2:30 PM **KATIE'S RANDY CAT**

Katie's Randy Cat combines traditional Irish folk songs with heavy originals and an upbeat, electric edge. They pay homage to bands like Dropkick Murphys, Flogging Molly, and others in the same genre. www.facebook.com/katiesrandycat

www.facebook.com/katiesrandycat

4:00 PM **MAGUIRE ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE**

A passion for Irish dancing, under the leadership of Darren Maguire, (former lead dancer with Riverdance) has garnered numerous awards and accolades throughout the world. www.maguireacademy.com

4:30 PM **STEAM!**

STEAM! Plays an eclectic variety of tunes modern and traditional Irish, adding a sprinkle of weird and wonderful tunes from around the world. www.dancetosteam.com

5:00 PM **CLOSING CEREMONIES**





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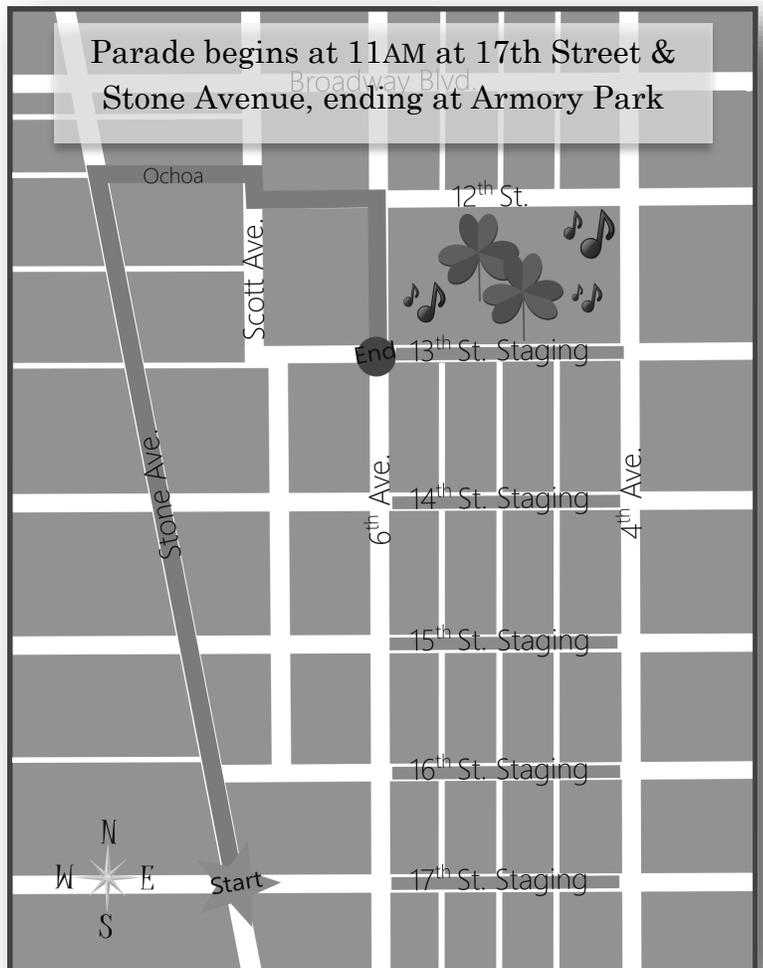


CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte By Jackson Rutherford

In these, as in all times, a worthwhile pondering is that of céad míle fáilte . One Hundred Thousand Welcomes is interwoven deeply into the Irish Culture. Having a full larder, a fire burning, clean linens isn't always about having comforts for yourself as much as being ready to accept a stranger in hardship. To be able to provide sustenance, warmth, safety, and a home to those that need it the very most.

There was a time when the Irish were forced by famine to flee their hearths. Countries across the world extended their arms. Those countless instances of acceptance tend to be the part of that time we forget, but they should be our focus.

Just as now, here we are with plenty, what else is it for, but to share with all those in need? For to witness that moment when someone who has been cold, alone, and afraid, is able to let their guard down and be themselves, to stay their survival instinct and commune. Let's welcome that opportunity every time we get the chance.



**Finding Frances...
Love Letters from a Flight Lieutenant**

Written by Tucson author Catherine Harris this is the true story of a young Royal Air Force pilot who trained at Falcon Field in Mesa, Arizona during WWII. There he fell in love with Frances McKenzie. He returned to England where he flew Spitfires and Typhoons. Throughout the war he wrote to Frances, his special girl. The rest of the story is history.



www.outskirtpress.com/findingfrances

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Nowhere was this resistance more pronounced than in the hell-holes of the British concentration camps known as Long Kesh and the H-Blocks where ten men starved to death on hunger strike to regain their political status as prisoners of war. Incarceration itself was transformed into an arena for political resistance where inmates learned that “The language of the conqueror on the lips of the conquered is the language of the slave.”

It is ironic that the current popularity of the use of Irish language today may be somewhat attributed to British repression. It was after internment and the hunger strike deaths of the 1970s-80s that saw a dramatic impact on the popularity of the Irish language. The motto of the prisoners was:

“Gaeilge más féidir, Béarla más gá” (Irish if possible, English when necessary). As Belfast republican and P.O.W. Jim McCann noted:

“When I was in jail, not only did I learn the language, but I learned why I had went to jail and what was keeping me in jail, and more importantly we learned how to begin breaking all these things down...”

Prison authorities did everything they could to disrupt the teaching of Irish: they banned its use in prison, in correspondence, during visitations, and destroyed Irish-language books. But as another prisoner, Liam Ó Maolchluiche attests: “...their tactics completely failed and had the opposite effect on the will of the prisoners and the status of the language ... the searches increased the popularity of the Gaeltacht and gave political inspiration to more prisoners to recognize that the language could be a means of struggle.”

Indeed, it was Irish Catholic Cardinal Tomas Ó Fiaich who reported that the prisoners maintained their sanity through their tortures and depredations by studying Irish, claiming it an “indication of the triumph of the human spirit over adverse material surroundings.”

In the H-Block where the ten men starved, they shouted Irish lessons from cell to cell, having no books, no paper, no pens, and living in naked filth. Bobby Sands would recite the novel “Trinity” by memory and taught Irish history in Irish. Speaking the native language was an inspirational tool of resistance and identity to oppose the state from inside prison.

Becoming aware of the hardships they faced, many people outside the prisons were inspired to learn the language. Again, as Mr. Ó Maolchluiche explains:

“Given the all-pervasiveness of the Anglo-American culture ... the Coca-Cola culture, I don’t think we can exist as a separate people without our language. Now every phrase you learn is a bullet in the freedom struggle... a brick in a great building of the Irish nation.”

That resistance fuels much of the Irish language activism today. While the language is taught in the south there is still a struggle in the north to gain official recognition similar to what the Scots and Welsh have acquired. Some pro-British unionists of the north object, fearing that allowing the Irish to celebrate their culture could contribute to an erosion of their British identity, **falsely asserting that somehow minority rights are a threat to the majority.**

Yet today, there are thousands of Irish children throughout Northern Ireland — from all religions and traditions — who attend Irish language schools together. Indeed, as Sinn Fein’s leader Gerry Adams articulated, the history of the Irish language “is a rich history that embraces many from the Protestant and particularly the Presbyterian community.” Adams recognizes prominent Protestants like Robert MacAdam who protected and sustained the Irish language, poetry, music, and dance through difficult years of persecution.

Today Adams notes the growth of language and culture “will act as an economic drawing power which can transform areas where a vibrant cultural quarter can also make a neighborhood a more desirable place to live and work ... Successful culture-based projects always attract people and business.” As the world-renowned linguist and current U. of A. professor Noam Chomsky has noted:

“A language is not just words. It’s a culture, a tradition, a unification of a community, a whole history that creates what a community is.”

[Thanks to Salomon Baldenegro and Pernela Jones for their assistance on this article]

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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Continued from page 5— Grand Marshal

When I was selected, I was really troubled by what I might say. St Patrick after all is celebrated for bringing Christianity to Ireland. Heck, I'm not the best Christian. I can only hope that if St Peter was an attorney, he was a civil attorney. I'm confident I get in with 50.1%, but "beyond a reasonable doubt"???? I don't know, the jury could be out a while on that one. But the same could be said for any good Irishman I suppose!

As I began to think about things more and more and I realized, being Irish is like being from Arizona. Who the heck is actually from Arizona, certainly not most people my age.... Most of us have migrated here from somewhere else, both near and far. And, we all bring with us culture and tradition. The beauty of that is, we all get to share it.

I am so fortunate to be surrounded by so many people I love today. So many friends turned out, my in-laws Guy and Donna (maybe??) My beautiful wife of 20 years, Amanda!, seems like 5 minutes babe (personal joke between my wife and I that I usually follow with... under water) along with my greatest accomplishments, my son Shea Michael, and the beautiful Abigail Rhea.

And of course my parents, Ron and Janet. Thanks, Mom and Dad for blessing me with my Irish blood!

My paternal grandmother, Iris, maiden name of Priest. Her grandparents were from County Clare Midwest Ireland, along the River Shannon and her family is traced to the name Kerin. They arrived in the United States via the Prince Edward Island in Canada before heading south.

My mother's maiden name is McKay and her grandmother was an O'Brien. Mary O'Brien, of the County of Cork, SW Ireland. She arrived here in the United States through

Ellis Island at the age of 15 traveling with a cousin.

She worked as a "lady maid" and had 7 children. I think sometimes we take for granted what immigrant families endure.

As I mentioned, we, and our families, have all migrated from somewhere. So I am thankful to the City of Tucson for allowing us to share all of these cultures and traditions with one another and providing me with the opportunity to have served you all. I am blessed for the career I have had, the people who have helped shape this life of mine and those that will help me continue on this journey.

Today however, we celebrate the Irish and we get to share our stories. When you share your story you share a part of yourself that others will remember. So share a gat, share your whiskey and share your story, because today, we are all Irish.

- 2020 Grand Marshal John Carlson



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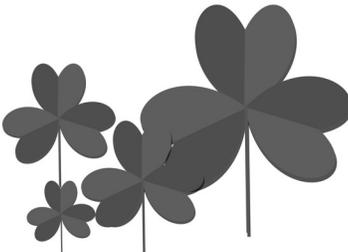
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