

Seanchaí Cois Fharráige

THE SEASIDE SEANACHIE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH JERSEY

P.O. Box 195, Absecon N.J. 08201

Website: <http://home.comcast.net/~iacssj>

NO BROADWAY
MUSICAL

BUT

AN IN-LAW OF
THE OUTLAW
GRACE O'MALLEY
WILL SHARE
THE STORY OF
THE PIRATE
QUEEN

TUESDAY
NOV 17, 2009
7:30

SOCIAL,
SHOPPING, AS
WELL AS
IMPORTANT
BUSINESS

A Broadway musical spectacular complete with period costumes, sets that included a ship, and soaring musical and dance numbers brought the story of Grace O'Malley, the Pirate Queen to the American people...for a short time—the show was a flop. However, undaunted, the Irish American Cultural Society will bring the Grace O'Malley story to its membership and guests, albeit without the period costumes, the sets that included a ship and the soaring musical and dance numbers. Grace will be the topic for the November meeting when Eddy O'Malley (yes, a distant in-law of the outlaw) will tell us about one of the most famous women in Irish history and legend. (See this month's Piper for a preview). Eddy's interactive program may call on you to take part as crew. Look forward to an entertaining and informative presentation. Eddy will begin about 7:30, November 17 at the American Legion, Mill Road and New Jersey Avenue. She will be followed by a short social and a business meeting opportunity to return chance books, pay dues, drop off food donation, sign up for the Christmas dinner and a whole lot more things. Don't miss it. Four vendors of Irish good, all club members, have been invited to bring some of their wares to the November meeting to facilitate your Christmas shopping.

See article top of page 3. If you are mailing in your reservations for the Christmas dinner to PO Box 195, Absecon, NJ 08201, include the following information. You can clip this if you don't mind desecrating the newsletter.

Name _____ Phone _____

Menu choice Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Beef _____ Total attending _____

I'd like to be seated with _____

I have enclosed my check for \$20 per person, made out to IACS.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to our raffle winners! And a big thank you to Eileen and all the volunteers who helped sell tickets and to all who sold tickets. Without your help and support our raffle would not be a success. As we move toward the new year, mark your calendars for all the events that are planned (see the attached schedule). Keep the date open for our Christmas Luncheon. I hope everyone will plan on attending this new event and make this the start of a new tradition. This year, think about giving a little of your time to the club. Your support can make us better each year.

BILL GOTTSBALL

WINNERS ALL

BUT ONE WITH AN ESPECIALLY GOOD STORY

It's a great story with a happy ending. Two years ago, longtime club member Kathy Sarkos sold five chance books to her Margate library friend, Jim Cahill. Last year, he asked for ten. This year, he told Kathy he felt lucky and would take the rest of her unsold books (there were 14 because Kathy always requests and sells more than her allotment). Persistence paid off, Jim is the winner of our first prize, round trip tickets for two to Ireland. The Irish crystal prize went to Brenda Dunfee who bought her ticket from one of the dedicated workers who manned the tables at Smithville Irish Fest. The third prize, the Irish sweater went to R. Gleason from Ship Bottom, who supported us by buying from our members who made the trip up to the AOH Festival in Ship Bottom.

WHAT'S TIMELY?

MORE IMPORTANTLY

WHICH CATEGORY DO YOU FALL INTO?

It is too soon to threaten expulsion from the club; too late to appeal to the ego to be "one of the first on your block to join". I guess the only thing that is timely is a reminder if you haven't paid your dues since September, you are a non paid up person, freeloading on the newsletter, contributing nothing to the cost of the meeting (except maybe the 50/50) and generally an all around deadbeat as far as the IACS is concerned. Or maybe—you are an all around good person, a lover of things Irish, an avid supporter of the club who just hasn't gotten around to sending the check (IACS for \$10 or \$15 to PO Box 195 Absecon 08201) or plan to bring it with you to the November meeting.

2009 CHRISTMAS
PARTY ATTEMPTS
TO STAND ON THE
SHOULDERS OF A
GIANT-

WILL TRY TO
REPEAT THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY
LUNCH SUCCESS

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6, 2009

1PM SOCIAL HOUR
2 PM DINNER

AT THE MAYS
LANDING
COUNTRY CLUB

\$20 PER PERSON

CHECK AT NOV
MEETING OR TO
PO BOX BEFORE
NOV 25

OCTOBER FOOD
DONATION AT 110
POUNDS SHOWS
YOU HADN'T
FORGOTTEN HOW

By now, we hope you know and agree with the rationale of this year's Christmas party. On one hand, we had the overwhelming success of the 25th anniversary dinner which aimed to correct the problems of past dinner/dances, cost, nighttime driving and the perceived emphasis on dance. We had requests for more of the same. On the other hand, the annual Christmas party at the Legion was less and less festive with crowded conditions, subs for dinner, and what one party goer described as a "tacky" night. A Christmas party along the lines of the 25th anniversary dinner seemed like a good solution. The date is Sunday, December 6th (which is close to the date we normally choose) and the location is the Mays Landing Country Club. We will have a pay as you go social hour beginning at 1 PM with lunch at 2 PM. Your menu choices are Roast stuffed chicken with wild rice, baked Atlantic salmon or London broil Bordelaise. Needless to say, reservations are a must and we must have them by November 25. We will have assigned seating, so if there is someone you would like to share a table with, you need to let us know. Here is your reservation check list: we need a note with your name, phone number, menu choice and request if you want to be seated with someone in particular. You can send that with your \$20 per person check made out to IACS to the P.O. Box 195 Absecon, NJ 08201 or you can bring it to the November meeting where Helen Riso will insure you don't miss the season's highlight. This is probably your only Seanachie reminder because you probably won't have the December issue before the dinner. So sign up now!

We often use the expression "like riding a bike, you never forget how" to describe picking up something we haven't done in a long time. That was certainly true with your October food donation. We hadn't brought food since June, a four month lull, but the heavy and numerous bags you hauled to the October meeting showed you hadn't forgotten how. It was timely as well, the Atlantic County Food Bank had sent out an SOS because of low supplies. So that's where our 110 pound gift went. Now for our annual Thanksgiving Day appeal. Please bring your non-perishables, particularly those with a Thanksgiving Day dinner theme, to the November meeting.

RAFFLE CHAIR
PERSON EILEEN
DE BIASE
REPORTS ON A
SUCCESSFUL
EFFORT

TOTAL TAKE WAS
CLOSE TO \$11,000

MEMBER SALES
IN THE \$4300

STORES TOTAL
LIKE AN ADDED
FESTIVAL

FESTIVL TOTALS
REWARD THE
HARD LABOR

Eileen DeBiase, our outstanding raffle chairperson reported an over all sales figure of close to \$11,000. The final figure was about \$400 less than last year, which considering the economy and the fact we didn't sell at Earth Day or the Tuckerton Seaport this year, was amazing. The members sold \$4305. We had outstanding support from the two Irish shops in Smithville owned by club members. The trio of Kathleen, Vincent and Christine from Out of Ireland produced a record \$649. Kelly Coleman sold \$384 from her shop, Ireland and Old Lace. Alex McKee added \$105 from his Irish Pub in Egg Harbor City. I know we do, but we should always remember to thank them by our patronage. In addition, Ireland and Old Lace and Out of Ireland permit us to set up for Smithville festivals and we know the festivals are our best opportunity. As usual the Smithville Octoberfest was our top money getter. It is labor intensive, two locations, two days, all day, but this year we took in \$1362. Its spring counter part resulted in just under a \$1000. Ship Bottom continues to be a good location producing \$933 in the two day period. The Celtic Festival at Cold Spring added \$858 and the one day Irish Festival on the Village Green in Smithville produced \$664. Eileen organized a table at the Egg Harbor Hometown Festival for an addition \$335 while John Corey and his loyal band of sellers in their annual effort garnered \$253 at Somers Point Shoprite.

WERE YOU AN
ALL-STAR,
A PLAYER,
OR DID YOU
WATCH FROM
THE SIDELINES?

Individual club members are the heart and soul of our raffle sales and every year they fall into three groups: those that sell their allotted books and then some, those who don't sell any of them at all and still have them, and the group that falls in between. This year's top sellers include Kay Noble with 54 books, Charlie and Marie Eberle, 40, Kathy Sarkos, 25 Eileen Cooper Nolan, 24 and Charlie and Eileen McFadden with 20. They are special people who made an extraordinary effort. At the other end of the spectrum are the 19 of you who still have your chance books. We know who you are but won't list your names. Please return them to us either at the meeting or the P.O. Box 195 Absecon NJ 08201. We need them to be accountable to the state. For those who fall in the middle, perhaps having sold none but returned them as requested or those who sold some and returned the rest and especially to those who sold all, and maybe a few more, we offer a heartfelt thanks

LIST OF CLUB
MEMBERS WHO
MANNED THE
TABLES AT
WEEKEND
EVENTS
COMPLETE

EXCEPT
FOR THE
“UNKNOWN
SELLER”
(YOU IF YOUR
NAME DOESN'T
APPEAR HERE)

BUT THANKS TO
THE KNOWN
AND THE
UNKNOWN

LET US GIVE
THANKS....

FOR THE
MONTHLY CEILI

SATURDAY
NIGHT,
OCTOBER 31
8 PM

SHORT DRIVE TO
ELMER, NJ
GIVES
YOU OPTIONS
FOR
CHERISH THE
LADIES

NOVEMBER 21

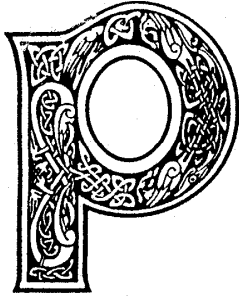
We have outstanding records regarding the whereabouts of each raffle ticket, thanks to Eileen's meticulous record keeping. Because the individual teams that sold on location didn't always have that type of oversight, there is a chance that you sold and your name is not mentioned. That's not Eileen's fault and we hope you understand that we appreciated your effort as the unknown seller as much as we did these. Of course some members should be thanked over and over because they helped out at many events. Our "knowns" include Ginny Atkinson, John Corry, Walt Cottrell, Pat Creegan, Laurie Crowell, Eileen and Rick DeBiase, Pat DeLuca, Marge and Steve Disbrow, Marie and Charlie Eberle, Mike Farrell, Cathy Ferrick, Isabel Gallagher, Bill Gottschall, Larry and Cathy Hughes, Pat and Pat Hughes, Marie and Bud Knight, Bob and Gerri Lakatus, Dan and Claire Lawler, Jim and Dolores Logue, Doris Lopez and Hailey, Betty Ann MacNaughton, Nancy McCarten, Pat McCullough, Don McDougall, Charlie and Eileen McFadden, AnnCarol Mullins, Walt Murphy, Dick and Kay Noble, Ellen Olsen, Sandy Ordille, Sally Picardo, Pat Scully, Ed and Ann Triggs, Betty Weber and her sister, and Kathleen Wilkins.

During this time of Thanksgiving, have you ever thought to be thankful for the SJ Ceili Band, the Jersey Shore dancers, and the IACS monthly ceili? You should. These are the people and the event that projects the music and dance heritage of Irish culture to our community, thus furthering the club's mission. They also provide an inexpensive night of entertainment with songs, dances for all levels as well as first timers, and great camaraderie. You could thank them in person, Saturday night, November 28th at this month's IACS ceili. Come around 8 Pm to the American Legion in Somers Point, 1st and Pennsylvania avenues.

Club members seemed energized by the October program to want to travel to nearby Monmouth University for high quality Irish programs. We can offer a shorter trip with the same high quality entertainment at the end. Appel Farm Arts and Music Center in closer by Elmer will present Cherish the Ladies, the premier Irish American traditional band on Saturday, November 21, 2009. You can attend the show which begins at 8:00 for \$28. Or you can opt for a preshow conversation with the band starting at 6:45 for an additional \$10, or finally for \$45 a person, you can enjoy a buffet dinner and the concert. Call 800-394-1211 for info.

I.A.C.S. 2009-2010 PLANNING SCHEDULE

Sept	8	Board meeting and newsletter deadline
	20	Meeting-Picnic
	26	Ceili (no ceili in September)
Oct	6	Board meeting and newsletter deadline
	20	Meeting-Stan Green-Prehistoric Ireland
	31	Ceili
Nov	3	Board meeting and newsletter deadline
	17	Meeting_Eddy O'Malley-The Pirate Queen
	24	Board meeting and newsletter deadline
	25	Christmas Dinner Reservation Deadline
Dec	6	Meeting-Christmas luncheon
	26	Ceili
Jan	5	Board meeting and newsletter deadline
	19	Meeting- Mike Garvin History of Irish music
	30	Ceili
Feb	2	Board meeting and newsletter deadline
	16	Meeting- Irish Love Songs Mary Kay Mann
	23	Board meeting and newsletter deadline
	27	Ceili
Mar	10	Meeting-St. Patrick's Mass
	14	Boardwalk Parade
	27	Ceili
Apr	6	Board meeting and newsletter deadline
	20	Meeting TBA-hopefully Tim Smith
	TBA	Earth Day –first raffle sale
	24	Ceili
May	4	Board meeting and newsletter deadline
	18	Meeting-TBA-hopefully Stockton Players
	25	Board meeting and newsletter deadline
	29	Ceili
Jun	TBA	Cold Spring Festival
	TBA	Meeting-Kate and Amy
	26	Ceili-No ceili in June



THE PIPER

NOVEMBER 2009

Grace O'Malley Lives at Westport House

About ten years ago, the Piper visited Westport House on the rugged west coast of Ireland near Clew Bay. Here many manuscripts relating to the life and adventures of Grace O'Malley are stored. By a happy coincidence, the visitors were greeted by the author of a newly published revision of "Granuaile", her book about the escapades of Ireland's "Pirate Queen". Anne Chambers, the author, was there to promote her book (She had spoken to the IACS in the 1980'). When I mentioned my fascination with her subject, and my use of her life as an example in teaching both Irish and Women's History, she spent the rest of the afternoon acting as my private guide and tutor. It was a most fascinating experience and an afternoon spent with a charming and delightful woman. Sadly for them, the other visitors were left on their own to browse, read and speculate.

With the purpose to give the reader an exciting as well as accurate account of the life of Grace O' Malley, I decided to let the author of this treatise tell you in her own words what she accomplished in this intriguing volume.

“There came to me also a most feminine sea captain called Granny Imallye and offered her services unto me, wheresoever I would command her, with three galleys and two hundred fighting men, either in Scotland or Ireland. She brought with her her husband for she was as well by sea as by land well more than Mrs. Mate with him... This was a notorious woman in all the coasts of Ireland.”

Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy of Ireland, 1576

This tantalizing cameo is one of many descriptions in the Elizabethan state papers of a most remarkable Irishwoman. This 'notorious woman' provoked awe, anger, revulsion, admiration and pity in the sixteenth century administrators and military men who came to conquer the land of her birth. But in Ireland for over four hundred years she was destined to become a prisoner of indifference, as Irish history chose to ignore the unique contribution she made to the social, political and maritime history of her time. However, folklore, poetry and fiction showed no such bias, thus preserving the memory of one of the most remarkable women of history, Grainne O'Malley, better known in Ireland as Granuaile.

As were the other women, Granuaile was a victim of the male orientation of historical

record. But in her case more than male chauvinism ensured her dismissal from the pages of history. By not fitting the standard determined and demanded by later generations of Irish historians, Granuaile committed an additional transgression. Irish heroes and heroines of the time were required to be adorned in patriotism, their personal lives untainted, and religious beliefs unwielding. An occasional exception was sometimes made for 'rebel Protestants'. As one of her male detractors wrote of her, Granuaile was 'a woman who overstepped the part of womanhood.' In not allowing political, religious or social norms to deter her, she did not readily fit the mould.

She brazenly superseded her husband in his anointed role as chieftain, thereby contravening the Salic law on which Gaelic succession was based. She assumed personal command of her father's fleet of galleys and was accepted as undisputed leader, living in close proximity with her hardbitten all-male sailors. She traded and pirated for the space of fifty years from Ireland to Scotland, possibly as far as Spain. She led rebellions against English administrators, yet allied with the Queen of England when it was to her political advantage. She attacked her own son when he dared to side with the enemy, trained another son so well in the art of survival that he fought with the English forces at the Battle of Kinsale, the last stand of the Gaelic world that bred and bore her. Granuaile allowed nothing to deter her ambition. She took a lover, divorced a husband, gave birth to her youngest son on board her ship at sea, and made no distinction as to nationality when plundering Irish, English or Spanish ships. Granuaile was labeled the 'chief commander and director of thieves and murderers at sea' by her adversaries, She hardly fit the rosy-hued picture of Gaelic womanhood portrayed by male historians of the day.

Her role in sixteenth century history was allowed to lapse into folklore and fiction, The Irish "Annals of the Four Masters" was compiled shortly after her death and is a seminal source of Irish history. There is no mention of Granuaile there, The English state papers, on the other hand, contain references to her as late as 1627. This bias which is noted by the absence of her name in the archival material of Ireland, yet appears in that of England, erased the memory of a most remarkable woman in Irish history. By doing so, it diminished our understanding of the period.

It is a measure of Granuaile's greatness that her memory was at least preserved by legend and by lore. As to the factual evidence, it was left to her contemporary English administrators and generals in Ireland to record aspects of the extraordinary role she played. From the squirls and flourishes of the sixteenth century scribes, the story of Granuaile O'Malley springs to life.

When the evidence relating to her life is examined within the context of the traumatic times in which she lived, she emerges as a fearless leader, by land and by sea, a political pragmatist and tactician, a ruthless plunderer, a mercenary, a part-time rebel, a shrewd and able negotiator, and above all, a woman who broke the mould and played a unique role in history.

Source for the Piper was: GRANUAILE by Anne Chambers 'The Life and Times of Grace O'Malley ' c. 1530-1603 A New and Revised Edition 1998