

American Irish Teachers Association Fall Newsletter

October 12, 2013

Dear Members of the AITTA,

For all the years I have been president of the AITTA and for all the years before that I was a member, I was always grateful to receive our organization's newsletter, so beautifully written and edited by Vice President John Garvey and Past President Ann Garvey. While John is recovering from surgery, I know you join me in praying that his recovery will be as speedy as possible. Until he does, please accept my humble attempt to offer you this simple missive as something of a temporary substitution.

I hope you had a happy and healthy summer vacation. Our last AITTA event was in June when a group of us attended a performance of the award winning play "Those Halcyon Days" at the Irish Arts Center and enjoyed dinner together after at the historic Landmark Tavern so close to the Hudson River on 46th Street.

The Landmark is a wonderful old restaurant with an interesting (and some say, "haunted" history) and the perfect venue for member Maura Mulligan's annual "Samhain" event on Thursday, October 31st. For more information, please contact Maura at mauramulligan@aol.com or visit her website at www.mauramulligan.com.

For the past five years, we have celebrated the Christmas holidays with the W.B. Yeats Society at the festively decorated National Arts Club in Gramercy Park - thanks to the cooperation of the WBY Society's president president, AITTA member Andy McGowan and his wife Judy. This year, musician and singer Gabriel Donohue is scheduled to perform at the party on December 16th. Please join us for this lovely party!

Members Joe and Ann Cogan report that their son, Dr. Brian Cogan of Molloy College, his brothers Joseph and Sean and a friend Mark Farley, perform in the style of the Clancy Brothers - most recently at the 3013 Irish Fair in Staten Island, just before Brian, past AITTA Conference speaker, had to rush off to London to deliver a lecture.

Joe Cogan is Co-Chair of the Irish American Heritage & Culture Committee, NYC-DOE and I was fortunate to lead the committee with him when I was Chair. As you may know, AITTA member Tom Murphy, UFT-RTC Chapter Leader, ended his term of outstanding leadership as IAH&CC Chair with a great party organized by member Brigid Higgins last June. We now wish all the best to the IAH&CC's new chair,

Kathleen Snow, and hope to support her in all ways possible. If you would like more information about the possibility of joining this committee of teachers, administrators, and related staff, please send me an email (dorismeyer@aol.com).

I urge all of you to review the events calendars for the W.B. Yeats Society, Glucksman Ireland House at NYU, CUNY Institute of Irish American Studies (who named the AITA "Organization of the Year" in 2008), the NY Irish Center in Long Island City so impressively led by AITA member Paul Finnegan, the Irish Rep Theater, the NY Irish History Roundtable and the Irish Arts Center, the IAW\$AA, and other groups.

I'll be in touch again about discounted tickets for an AITA group night out for the annual Christmas concert at the IAC with performances by internationally renowned musician and scholar Mick Moloney and other outstanding performers. All of us who attended the show last year were impressed with its brilliant originality.

Mick Moloney is scheduled to give the third annual Frank McCourt Memorial Lecture on April 3, 2014, 5:00 pm at the UFT, 52 Broadway, 19th Floor, in NYC. This event is fixed way in advance on the calendar of UFT Irish American Committee events. As chair of the committee, I'll be sure to let you know about our annual "Heritage Gala" in early March. I chair the committee and I'm currently ironing out the details.

I hope to see you at the 38th annual conference on November 9th. Enclosed you'll find all you need to pre-register and make your reservations for lunch if you'd like to enjoy fine dining at the Liederkrantz. A conference journal agreement form is also enclosed.

As many of you know, I retired after teaching for 25 years in P.S. 158 in Manhattan. For 15 of those years, I enjoyed maintaining a link with the principal/teacher of a two-room school house, Coolbock N.S., in Riverstown, Sligo, Martin Enright and his students in grades 4 to 6. Martin will be in NYC in November for work on a documentary film about traditional music, and I'm delighted that he will be able to attend our conference. He'd be very happy to meet you and have the chance of a chat.

Thank you for your membership and active support of the AITA. Once again, I'm looking forward to seeing you at the conference and catching up on all the news that is not possible to print in this letter. We have a great 2013 - 2014 year ahead of us - the annual conference, Christmas party, holiday show, lectures, special events, and our St. Patrick's Day celebration and parade march. You make it all possible!

See you on November 9th!

Doris