
MOHAWK VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL EVENTS NEWSLETTER

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There's a Gaelic Storm Brewing!

On Sunday, November 24th, the genre-bending Gaelic Storm makes a return to the general area with a very special 7 PM show at Daryl's House, in Pawling NY. With a career that began as a pub band, through their appearance as a Third Class party band ("third class" is a location, not a rating!) and now to the present, they've topped the Billboard World Chart six times and regularly headline the largest Irish Festivals across the country. While Gaelic Storm plays Celtic music that harkens back to the traditional music of Ireland, they are hardly traditionalists, adding modern sounds and drawing influences from American rock and pop as well as music styles from around the world (my favorite quote describes them as "...nicely out of sync with the norm").

This show supports their latest CD, "Go Climb a Tree," which features Patrick Murphy and Steve Twigger at their song-writing best, gluing all the tracks together with the spark and spirit of a band that's spent over 20 years on the road.



Tickets for the show are \$30, and are available [on-line](#). Daryl's House is located at 130 Route 22 in Pawling, NY.

Enter the Haggis Returns to Syracuse

On Friday November 29th, Toronto's Enter the Haggis comes back to the area, visiting one of their favorite local haunts, Syracuse's Westcott Theater. Long-time Central New York favorites Enter the Haggis has built an international touring and recording career based on its unique approach to Celtic-based music and high-energy performances. The group's constant touring schedule has made them one of the biggest draws at Celtic and folk festivals throughout the world.

The Westcott Theater – its canopy calls it simply "A theater and Performing Arts Center" -- is a 700 capacity venue, located at 524 Westcott St., about two miles from Syracuse University. Debuting in September 2008, the Westcott Theater is breathing new life into what began as The Harvard Theater, one of Syracuse's first cinemas, over 80 years ago. Doors open for the show at 7 PM, with music starting at 8 PM. Tickets, which are available [on-line](#), range from \$15-\$20.

Cherish the Ladies (and Hallmark Movies) – Must Be Christmas!

One of the most engaging and successful ensembles in the history of Celtic music, Cherish The Ladies have shared timeless Irish traditions with audiences worldwide for over thirty years. Hailed by The New York Times as "passionate, tender and rambunctious," Cherish The Ladies have released three critically acclaimed holiday albums, *On Christmas Night*, *A Star In The East*, and 2015's *Christmas In Ireland*, and have recently released their 17th CD, "Heart of the Home." This year, their "Celtic Christmas" tour kicks off on November 30th at the Walton Theater (30 Gardiner Place, Walton, NY).

In their Celtic Christmas program, the Ladies put their signature mark on classic carols such as "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night," in arrangements that highlight the group's unique Celtic instrumentation, beautiful harmonies, and spectacular step dancing. Tickets for the 7:30 PM show are \$20, and are available [on-line](#).

Ten Questions Answered About Utica's Irish Cultural Center

By Peter A. Karl III, reprinted from the October 27, 2019 edition of the Utica Observer-Dispatch

1. What is the Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley?

The Irish Cultural Center (ICC) is the abbreviated name of the organization formally named the Irish Cultural & Historical Society of the Mohawk Valley. It is a 23,500 square foot multi-use facility encompassing a museum, event center and an authentic 19th century Irish tavern-restaurant (Five Points Public House) located in Utica's Brewery District at 623 Columbia Street, Utica, NY.

2. Why was the location in Utica's Brewery District chosen?

It is the site of the first Irish Catholic Church in Utica (St. Patrick's, which subsequently merged with St. Joseph's). During the excavation, stonework from the original Church's foundation was preserved and used on the site.

3. Who is the owner of the ICC realty?

The owner of the realty is the ICC, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The ICC owns a separate for-profit entity, Five Points Hospitality, Inc. (FPH) that operates the tavern-restaurant and event center. As with any commercial enterprise, FPH will be subject to the payment of all applicable taxes including real property tax assessments.

4. What is the significance of the Five Points name?

Five Points is derived from the epicenter of the Irish in New York City during the 1800's having the same name (as seen in the movie, Gangs of New York, starring Leonardo DiCaprio). It was called that because that area in NYC contained the merger of five corners. The ICC also sits at the confluence of a four-street intersection (Columbia, Varick, Huntington Street and St. Marianne Way).

5. What type of cultural activities are anticipated at the facility?

A wide range of Irish cultural activities will be held at the ICC including Irish music, movies and dance performances. In addition, it is anticipated that workshops will be offered in Irish cooking, language and crafts. The building will be providing meeting space for various Mohawk Valley Irish organizations (which currently do not have any central location) such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the University of Notre Dame Alumni Club of the Mohawk Valley.

6. Is the ICC open to the public?

Yes, the entire facility is open to the public. The Irish tavern and restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner (except Sundays) from 11AM to as late as midnight on weekends. The event center is available to host a number of activities such as wedding receptions, reunions, business meetings, and holiday parties. The event center has a capacity for 285 attendees with the ability to be separated into three smaller rooms.

7. What does the tavern/restaurant feature?

The tavern restaurant portion of the ICC, the Five Points Public House, offers an American and Irish menu. There is an outdoor patio that will in the future feature a large gas fireplace, while inside there is a music stage for performers. All of the furniture, tile, wooden bar and room dividers were built in Ireland and shipped in three containers to Utica in order to provide patrons the feel of a 19th Century establishment in Dublin.

8. What does the second-floor museum offer?

The current exhibit "Irish in Music - Traditional and Rock" is from Milwaukee's Ward Irish Music Archives. In Spring 2020, the next revolving exhibit (also from the Ward Archives) will be "Irish in Sports," encompassing boxing and baseball. This is intended to take advantage of the 2020 Cooperstown Hall of Fame Induction of Derek Jeter,

along with Canastota's Boxing Hall of Fame. Subsequently, the museum will feature displays of Upstate NY Irish history, featuring items that will be donated or loaned to the ICC. The ICC has a separate Museum Committee which includes Brian Howard, Executive Director of the Oneida County Historical Center.

9. How will this affect the Brewery District and its other businesses?

Our goal is to truly make this as the "second anchor" to the Brewery District and a magnet for regional tourism. The ICC is working with both the Oneida County Visitor's Bureau and NYS Tourism Department in order to bring tourists from outside the area (including tour buses) to our area and the Brewery District. The expectation is that all nearby businesses will benefit from the additional traffic.

10. Where can additional information be obtained about the ICC?

The ICC phone number is (315) 733-4228 and e-mail is events@fivepointspublichouse.com. Contact us to make dinner reservations at the Five Points Public House, schedule a function at the Event Center, volunteer at the Museum and for ICC cultural event programming, donate or loan Irish memorabilia to the ICC or to make a tax-deductible contribution. (The ICC has partnered with the [Community Foundation](#) and established an ICC fund for individuals who wish to either donate tax deductible gifts during life or at death. These monies will be used for enhancements to the facility along with assuring that the highest quality of programming will continue over the decades at the ICC. Donations can also be made directly to ICC at our mailing address, 623 Columbia Street, Utica, New York 13502. Donors may also be interested in one of many [naming opportunities](#) (including "in memory of") that will be memorialized by a plaque which are being granted for rooms within the ICC and its furnishings.

For more information about the ICC on the Web, check its Facebook page or Google "Irish Cultural Center of Utica," as the web page will be operational in the near future.

Peter A. Karl III is Vice President and Counsel to the ICC and President of the Great American Irish Festival

And On a Related Note: The Irish Cultural Center Wants You!

Do you have an overabundance of time on your hands, a willingness to help your community and don't care about money? Really? Okay, do you have any objections to submitting yourself to human cloning experiments?

On the off-chance that no one fits that call, here's a more open one: We need volunteers!

The Irish Cultural Center's museum was granted 501(c)(3) status in 2009, having been chartered by the NYS Education Department as a Historical Society with Collections. A Historical Society with Collections is "...an institution which gathers, preserves, advances or disseminates knowledge about the past through research, collections acquisition and management, preservation and/or interpretation, which carries on educational and public programs on a regular schedule, which makes its programs and resources accessible to the public."

Ours is a totally volunteer-run museum. To that end, there are several opportunities for volunteers on the ICC's second floor, supporting both the museum proper and the cultural/entertainment activities that will take place in presentation spaces within and throughout the museum.

If you would like to volunteer some of your time and talents to helping us set up and grow the area's first Irish Museum and Research Library, we would love to hear from you. We have a need for support in the following areas: Research Assistant, Collections Assistant, Artifact Cataloguing, genealogical research, tour group leader, custodial support, administrative support, membership support, history detective, grant writer, etc.

There are also plans to have a continuous and robust weekly/monthly series of cultural presentations, lectures, performances, movies, etc., and volunteers are requested to schedule and organize these events and to help maintain a persistent event calendar on the soon-to-be-live web site.

Anyone interested should e-mail pak@attorney-cpa.com. We promise you a rewarding (if non-paying) experience!

Well-Traveled “Old Fitzgerald Irish Decanters” Find a Home

If you’ve visited the Five Points Public House, you might have noticed some Irish-themed decanters displayed among the various antiques and artefacts in the beautifully appointed barroom. These decanters comprise a complete set of the Old Fitzgerald (and later, Old Commonwealth) Irish Decanters series, and were generously donated to the Pub by the Fox/Hoke family.



The decanters, widely collected since 1968, both for their appearance and the whiskey they contained, promoted a different Irish theme every year; e.g., Irish Sayings, Songs of Ireland, Coins of Ireland, Dogs of Ireland, Irish and the Sea, etc.

Julian Van Winkle III -- grandson of the legendary Julian “Pappy” Van Winkle -- provided a little background on the set, saying “The Old Commonwealth decanters are from a series of St. Patrick’s Day apothecary styled decanters that we produced until 1996. My dad started the series at Old Fitz in 1968. When we sold Stitzel-Weller in 1972, the new owners continued the series until we took it over again in 1978 under our Old Commonwealth label. Before that, they were all labeled Old Fitzgerald. A different design was produced each year. I stopped the series in 1996 as the market for decanters was dying.”

This near-mint set of 28 gilt-edged porcelain decanters (there are two of the 1987 “Sports of Ireland” theme) spent several years with different members of the Fox family before finding their way to their final destination, earning the distinction of being the first local donation made to the Cultural Center.

Of its provenance, Chris Hoke reports: “Our bottles were bought year by year beginning in the late 1960’s by my father for my mother, Patti Fox. They were always displayed in our home [see photo below, where the collection is being partially blocked by some guys named Makem and Clancy], and the collection got larger every year.

After my father died and my mom was selling the house, she gave the collection to my older brother Marty, who also lived in Binghamton. The collection was also displayed in his home. When Marty and his wife were re-locating to North Carolina about 7 years ago, he gave the bottles to his youngest daughter who had just moved to NC and was renting a house. Elizabeth also displayed the bottle collection. When she bought a home a few years ago, she did not have room and the bottles were packed away. In early 2018, Elizabeth asked if we would want the collection for the Irish Cultural Center.”

And of course, they did. The decanters sat carefully wrapped at the Hoke’s for a few more months, waiting for the last of the pub’s construction dust to be swept up, at which time they were catalogued, delivered and placed in ornate display cases, to be enjoyed by generations to come.



Photo at left: Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy in the Fox family room, 1982. Submitted by Marty Fox.

Photo at right: When Mrs. Fox came to Utica for the Makem and Clancy concert in September, she was very happy to see the bottles so prominently displayed in the Five Points Pub! Submitted by Chris Hoke.



Craobh Dugan News – by Chris Hoke, Craobh Dugan Chair

Our Annual General Meeting was held on the 18th. We had a small contingent present, but we had a nice variety of foods and great craic! The activities of our branch for the past year we reviewed and goals for the 2019-2020 year were discussed. Officers elected that night are Chris Hoke (Chair); Skip Mansur (Vice-Chair); Colleen Martin (Secretary); Mike Hoke (Treasurer), Sue Romero (PRO); Tom Malley (Language Officer); Mike Carroll (Auditor); Margaret Carroll (Youth Officer); Gracie Schell and Tom Malley (delegates). Thank you to each of these folks who volunteer to give that little extra to help Craobh Dugan work towards its mission of promoting and preserving our Irish Culture.

Craobh Dugan had the honor of hosting the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Northeast Regional Annual General Meeting this past weekend. We had 13 visitors from the Connecticut, Boston, Albany, Rochester and Buffalo branches of Comhaltas. The meeting was held Saturday afternoon in the Utica Public Library. Our friend, Tom Kernan, presented a program on the History of the early Irish in the Mohawk Valley. It was very interesting and was held in the museum of the Irish Cultural Center. About 20 of us then gathered for dinner at the Five Points Pub, which was followed by a session--a great group of musicians from the Northeast!

Speak for Yourself – contributed by Tomás Maol O’Meallaigh (Tom Malley)

Sez Tom: “It’s about time I sent a language lesson. In fact, it’s about time.

If you want to say...	Say...	Pronounced as...
Second	soicind	sih-kind
minute	nōiméad	no-made
hour	uair	oo-er
half hour	leathuair	leh-oo-er
hour and a half	uair go leith	oo-er guh leh
morning	maidin	mwa-deen
noon	nóin	no-in
midday	meán lae	myawn lay
afternoon	trathnōna	trah-no-nah
night	oíche	ee-ha
Days of the week	Laethanta na Seachtaine	Lay-an-ta na shock-t-an-uh
Monday	Dé Lúain	Day loo-in (moon)
Tuesday	Dé Mairt	Day March (Mars)
Wednesday	Dé Céadaoín	Day Kay-deen (first fast)
Thursday	Déardaoin	Day-ar-deen (high fast)
Friday	Dé hAoine	Day hee-na (fast)
Saturday	Dé Sathairn	Day Sah-hern (Saturn)
Sunday	Dé Domhnaigh	Day Do-nee (Lord’s)

Questions? Contact Tom at pingin3@localnet.com. Next lesson: Months and more (yesterday, tomorrow etc.)

It’s Beginning to Look...Sound... a Lot Like Christmas

Make plans today to attend “A Christmas Celebration” with Andy Cooney and His Band, on December 1, 2019 at the 5 Points Public House and Event Center, 623 Columbia St., Utica. Enjoy a great night of Irish, Christmas, oldies and pop favorites and dance to America’s Premier Irish Band. Doors open at 4 PM, dinner is at 5 PM, Andy and the band take the stage at 6 PM. Tickets for the dinner/show are \$50 (cash bar is available). For more information, call (315) 796-9916.

Proceeds from the event, which is sponsored by the John C. Devereux Division 1 Ancient Order of Hibernians, will benefit the Utica Food Bank.

“Rewind” -- Book Review by Mark Sisti

One of these days, Catherine Ryan Howard is going to run out of original ideas. Judging from her third novel, “Rewind,” she’s not close to that point yet.

While her first two books were strikingly original stories, “Rewind” is more of a straightforward psychological thriller, at least in terms of plot; it’s the manner of the telling that makes it stand out.

“Rewind” is set up to read like a videotape that begins playing halfway through. To get the full picture you must rewind the tape. At times you’ll jump forward and, at times, you simply let it play. The events unfold out of order and it isn’t until you get to the end that the whole story coalesces. Much like a jigsaw puzzle, each piece gives you a small portion of the overall picture but means little on its own, and it isn’t until all the pieces are put together that it all makes sense.

PLAY: the grisly opening scene sets the stage for all that follows. A woman checks into a shabby cottage in a semi-deserted small village on the coast of Ireland. She is unaware that there are hidden cameras in the room, and they catch a gruesome scene, as an unknown figure enters, gently wakes the guest and brutally stabs her to death. As the manager of the cottage watches the horrifying event, he is even more stunned when the killer looks directly at the hidden camera and switches it off.

REWIND: Natalie O’Connor is a social media influencer (apparently, this is now a thing) living in Dublin. She has the perfect husband, the ideal job and is financially well off. Unexpectedly, and without explanation, she heads out to the small village of Shanamore on the coast and rents a room from the creepy proprietor of the Shanamore Cottages. After checking in, Natalie starts exploring the room and finds a book she had bought for her husband. Natalie has never been to Shanamore and her husband Mike denies ever having been there, yet there is an entry on her husband’s credit card bill and a corresponding receipt from Shanamore Cottages.

FAST FORWARD: the disappearance of a well-known instagram celebrity (apparently, this is now a thing) does not go unnoticed, and a low-level reporter from an internet tabloid site is assigned to write a piece on it, strictly as entertainment news. Audrey, however, sees a chance to move upstairs to the “real” news department, and begins investigating in earnest. What she finds, however, is well beyond anything she could have expected.

As several well-placed twists take the story back to where it started, Ryan Howard’s confident writing deftly wraps things up with every loose end firmly and logically resolved.

The concept of the non-linear layout is very effective in building the suspense, but I will tell you it can be difficult to follow at times. It would be best if this is read in one or two sittings if possible; if you put it aside and pick it up later, you may have to backtrack through chapters to establish where you are in the timeline.

But while it can be challenging, frustrating and, at times, even annoying, it’s well worth the effort. The plot is fairly mainstream and the mystery is easily solvable, but it is the clever structure and the excellence of the writing itself that make it work.

The author creates a shadowy and eerie atmosphere that makes the secluded village seem downright claustrophobic, and the numerous creepy characters that populate the book give the whole village a menacing feel. There’s Shanamore Holiday Cottages’ on-site manager, Andrew (a not-so-subtle nod to Norman Bates), a pathetic pervert with a predilection for young girls and voyeurism. There’s the village oddball Richard, who appears to hate women in general, and has anger and personal hygiene issues, as well as a questionable past. There’s the many internet fans who are overly obsessed with living their lives vicariously through this lifestyle blogger (apparently, this is now a thing.) And there are others who are even worse. They are not all likeable, but they are all complex and interesting.

“Rewind” is a dark and disturbing tale accenting the sinister aspects of social media and the dangers that are lurking there. There is delicious irony in the fact that we are repulsed by the hidden camera and other intrusions into Natalie’s private life, yet this is what she invites people to do on a daily basis.

Catherine Ryan Howard has established herself as one of the most intelligent writers of mysteries and psychological thrillers working, and nothing in “Rewind” will damage that reputation.

RANDOM RAMBLINGS

☘ **“Nuacht as Craobh Dugan”** ---news from the Dugan Branch Chris Hoke writes: “... Performances this month include: Nov 5 - Five Points Pub Session, 7:30 PM; Nov 8 - Ceili Dance Class, Seton Center, 7 PM; Nov 15 - Ceili Dance Class, Seton Center, 7 PM ; Nov 19 – Stockdale’s Session, 7:30 PM; Nov 22 - Ceili Dance Class, Seton Center, 7 PM; Nov 29 - Ceili Dance Class, Seton Center, 7 PM.”

☘ **Kilrush Featured at Brae Loch’s “St Andrew’s Night Celebration”** On Saturday, November 16 from 7-10 PM, the Brae Loch (5 Albany Street in Cazenovia, New York) will host its annual “St Andrew’s Night Celebration,” with music being provided by Kilrush. “St. Andrew’s Night” commemorates the life and death of the apostle St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland. The celebration at Brae Loch will also feature complimentary Scotch tasting, Scottish finger foods and bagpipers.

Celtic Club Calendar Finally, here’s the Irish Musical and Cultural calendar for November:

Nov 2	The Mighty Craic	Stockdales’s	Oriskany	8 PM	Free
Nov 3	Donal O’Shaughnessy	Coleman’s Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Nov 3	Traditional Irish Session	McCarthy’s Irish Pub	Cazenovia	4 PM	Free
Nov 5	Five Points Sessions	Five Points Pub	Utica	7:30 PM	Free
Nov 8	Fàrsan	Old Songs	Voorheesville, NY	7:30 PM	\$25, \$12 (13-18), \$5 (<13)
Nov 9	Brothers Flynn	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	\$5
Nov 10	Blarney Rebel Band	Coleman’s Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Nov 10	Kevin McKrell	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	7 PM	Free
Nov 10	Arise & Go “Bound for Glory”	Cornell/Taylor Hall	Ithaca	8 PM	Free (also on WVBR)
Nov 15	Arise & Go	Fredonia Opera House	Fredonia	7:30 PM	\$17; \$15 mbrs, \$10 student
Nov 16	The McKrells	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	\$10
Nov 16	St. Andrew’s Night w/Kilrush	Brae Loch	Cazenovia	7 PM	Free
Nov 16	Archie Fisher	Old Songs	Voorheesville, NY	7:30 PM	\$25, \$12 (13-18), \$5 (<13)
Nov 17	The Stoutmen	Coleman’s Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Nov 17	Traditional Irish Session	Irish Amer Ass’n	Albany	2:30-6 PM	Free
Nov 19	Traditional Irish Session	Stockdale’s	Oriskany	7:30 PM	Free
Nov 20	Traditional Irish Session	Kitty Hoynes Pub	Syracuse	6:30 PM	Free
Nov 22	Blarney Rebel Band	Five Points Pub	Utica	7 PM	Free
Nov 24	Gaelic Storm	Daryl’s House	Pawling, NY	7 PM	\$30
Nov 24	Flyin’ Column	Coleman’s Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Nov 29	Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat’s	Washington Mills	7-10 PM	Free
Nov 29	Enter the Haggis	Westcott Theater	Syracuse	8 PM	\$15-\$20
Nov 29	Rick Bedrosian	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	Free
Nov 30	Cherish the Ladies Christmas	Walton Theatre	Walton, NY	7:30 PM	\$20
Nov 30	Get Up Jack	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	7 PM	\$12

If you have anything you want to share with us, feel free to send it to us (sistia@roadrunner.com or marksisti@roadrunner.com), and we’ll be happy to include it. As always, while our goal is to not make errors, sometimes we fall short. Often we fall short... okay, usually we fall short. But there was this one time... Anyway, it always makes sense to call ahead to confirm some of these further-out trips. A few reminders: 1) Set your clocks back one hour on November 3rd; 2) November 5th is Election Day. It is your right and obligation to make your voice heard; 3) November 28th is Thanksgiving...loosen your belt, check your politics at the door and enjoy your family. And most of all, on Nov. 11th – Veteran’s Day – be sure to pay tribute to all the brave men and women who fought, and in many cases died, to preserve, defend and advance the rights that America’s founders imagined for all of us.

To Benefit the Utica Food Bank
John C. Devereux Division 1 Ancient Order of Hibernians present

Christmas Celebration



with
Andy Cooney & His Band

*Enjoy a great night of Irish, Christmas,
oldies and pop favorites and dance to
America's Premier Irish Band...*

DECEMBER 1, 2019

**5 Points Public House & Event Center
632 Columbia St. • Utica, NY 13502**

**Doors open 4:00 • Dinner 5:00
Andy & His Band 6:00**

**Tickets \$50 • Cash Bar
For Information Call: 315-796-9916**