



Ladies AOH

Division 5, "Mary of the Gael"

Division Happenings



Volume II, Issue 10

Division 5, Orange County, NY, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

Feb. 2011

Gail Cane -
President & Editor

A Message from the President...

Sisters,

As I sit down to write my first "solo" president's message, (which last month I followed on the tails of our Immediate Past President and good friend, Gail Edmonds), I am forever grateful for Gail's continued support and advice; without her, I wouldn't be writing this message. Following the installation and first meeting of our new board in January, I am truly honored to be working with such fine Irish women who join me in the true Hibernian spirit of service to our membership and community.

In February, we celebrated our first event of the New Year, the Feast of St. Brigid, at a Mass held at St. Columba in Chester. All members who attended worked together to bring this special celebration of Hibernian fellowship to the parishioners of St. Columba. It's through these events that not only brings our division together, but also sends out the message of our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Next month we begin 40 days of sacrifice, with Ash Wednesday beginning the Lenten season on March 9. Not only can we find ways of self-sacrifice, but we can also perform works of charity to those in need, the main focus of our Order. During this difficult economy, there are many in great need of food, clothing, and shelter. Let us not forget the simplest act can affect another, just by bringing a canned food item to the local food pantry makes a difference.

It has truly been a long winter and be assured Spring is on the horizon. The month of March turns all things "green". The kick-off to the St. Patrick's Day Parade season is **Irish Day** on **March 6**, a true taste of Irish culture celebrated with music, food, and dance, to share with family and friends. The following **Sunday, March 13**, is a day to celebrate our Irish Heritage, beginning with the **9 am Holy Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**, followed by the **Grand Marshal's Breakfast at Kuhl's Highland House**. This fortification of body and soul will sustain us as we proudly march together through Goshen, where the **Mid-Hudson Parade** kicks off at 2 pm. On **Thursday, March 17**, New York City celebrates the **250th St. Patrick's Day Parade**. So join together with your Hibernian family to get "**your green on**" and celebrate these events as we pay tribute to our Irish Heritage and remember those who came before us.

This month I'm inspired by some words of the prayer to our great St. Patrick: *"...I arise today through God's strength to pilot me; God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me, God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me, God's hosts to save me from the snares of the devil, from everyone who desires me ill, afar and a'near, alone, or in a multitude..."*

St. Patrick's Day Blessings On You - "Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig ort!

Yours in our motto,

Gail

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 25
LAOH Mtg., 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 27
Junior Division 5
Mtg., 2 pm

March 6 –Irish Day
American Legion Hall,
Greenwood Lake
12-6 pm

March 9 –
Ash Wednesday

March 13 – Mid Hudson
St. Patrick's Day Parade
Celebration
9 am – Holy Mass –
Our Lady of Mt.
Carmel, Middletown
10:30 am – Grand
Marshall Breakfast –
Kuhl's Highland House
2:00 pm – Parade,
Goshen

March 20 – Pearl River
St. Patrick's Day
Parade

March 25 –
LAOH Mtg., 7:30 pm

Traditional Irish
Music Seisiun
Monroe Irish Center
Sunday, 2- 5 pm

Irish Set Dancing
Monday nights, 7-9pm
Monroe Irish Center

February Meeting
Friday, Feb. 25, 7:30 pm;
please note new meeting time

At the next meeting, new committees will be formed for the upcoming year. Please consider contributing your efforts to the following committees:

- Membership Recruitment
- Audit Committee
- Grievance Committee

Many thanks to Helen Moloney, who just joined in January; she took on the job of Publicity Coordinator for the division.

Dues

Membership dues are \$35; if you haven't paid them by now, please do so at the February meeting.

JUNIOR DIVISION NEWS

The juniors will meet on Sunday, Feb. 27, at 2 pm, at the Hall. They will start planning their upcoming spring events:

- The juniors will be marching in the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13. Attire is the same as the ladies- Aran sweaters, dark pants and shoes.
- Even though there's a blanket of snow on the ground it's not too soon to think about your spring/summer gardens. The juniors will hold their annual flower sale in April. Watch for details.
- ***Mother's Day, May 8*** - the juniors will hold their famous Mother's Day Brunch again this year. Stay tuned for details.

New members are welcome. Please contact Gail Edmonds for further details at gailedmonds@frontiernet.net.

**DIVISION 2 AOH ST. PATRICKS' DAY DINNER
DANCE**

Saturday, March 5

Anthony's Pier 9, 8pm - Midnight
\$65/person

*contact John Greehy at johnbfg@aol.com for details/
reservations*

APRIL 1 – SAVE THE DATE

Bunco will be back.

Check your email for details to follow.

Check our website, www.maryofthegael.org for up-to-the-minute info on Division happenings.

March 6 – Irish Day
**American Legion Hall, Greenwood
Lake**
12-6 pm
Food, Music and Dance

Volunteers needed for set-up, raffles, food service, clean-up. Please see Patty Ryan or Gail Edmonds if you'd like to sign up to help make this a wonderful day!

Sunday, March 13
Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade
Events

9 am Holy Mass
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Middletown
Followed by the
Grand Marshal's Breakfast
10:30 am, Kuhl's Highland House
\$20/person buffet breakfast

*Contact Patty Ryan or Gail Edmonds
to save your seat at the Division 5
table.*

Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade



Get your marching shoes ready! Division 5 LAOH will be proudly showing our colors in the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade in Goshen. We will meet at the County Center at 1 pm; step-off is 2 pm. Marching attire will be Aran sweaters, black pants and shoes, tricolor sashes if you have them. (Sashes available for purchase at the Hall. Please see Gail Edmonds). Join together with your sister Hibernians as we proudly march in tribute to our heritage.

LADIES DIVISION 5 BOARD INSTALLATION

In case you missed our January meeting, the new officers of Division 5 were introduced to the membership. The installation was held on Jan. 15. Outgoing and incoming officers were in attendance for this event.



Pictured above are: Kate Moloney, Historian; Brieger DeBold, Missions & Charities; Patty Ryan, outgoing Historian; Barbara Slifkin, Mistress-at-Arms; Mary Myers, Recording Secretary; Maureen Kopping, outgoing Treasurer; Gail Cane, President; Janice Reynolds, Sentinel; Eileen Gertzki, outgoing Vice President; Mary Luciana, Vice President; Gail Edmonds, Immediate Past President; Carrie Ann Mullahy, Treasurer.

Mary Luciana and Gail Cane, presented Gail Edmonds, immediate Past President, with a plaque and flowers at the January meeting, thanking her for her devotion to Division 5.



A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS

Dear Gail and Members of LAOH Division 5,

Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers and plaque presented to me at our January meeting. The plaque is proudly hung in my house!

I wish you all every bit of success in your future endeavors.

In Our Motto,
Gail Edmonds

The Feast of St. Brigid



*Pictured left:
Fr. John Bonnici with the
ladies of Div. 5*

*Pictured right:
Gail Cane &
Bill O'Donnell, Div. 1/
Orange County AOH*



A Bit of Irish History.... "The Brigits" submitted by Kate Moloney, Historian

In the history of American immigration, Irish women were unique. Unlike other immigrant groups, more Irish women than men immigrated to America in the great diaspora of the 19th century. Many came with husbands and children, but large numbers came alone. This was due to the conditions in Ireland. With few options for work and frequently lacking marriage dowries, Irish girls left their homeland and bravely set out for the New World.

In America where few women worked outside the home, jobs for women were limited. Skilled Irish girls found work as seamstresses and milliners. Many of the unskilled took position in the textile mills of New England, there they worked long hours up to 12 hours each day with little or no rest. The vast majority of Irish girls, however, went into domestic service. They were the maids, cooks, laundresses and nannies of America's wealthier classes. These girls became commonly known as "The Bridgets". By the time of the civil war, "Bridgets" were found in almost every well-heeled home in the country. There was little competition for work; American women considered domestic work demeaning and black Americans were generally excluded from live-in positions. The Irish monopoly in domestic work was so complete that one wealthy matron in Vermont, when looking for help, stated she could get nothing but Irish.

For single Irish girls, domestic service had certain benefits. Besides steady pay, it provided them with the security of a home no small matter when living alone in a strange land. And if the pay was low, so were the living expenses. Money was put aside for their dowries, for contributions to the church or more often than not, sent home to family in Ireland. One estimate calculated that between 1848 and 1864 Irish immigrants sent \$65 million to Ireland to help sustain family members and to help others emigrate much of this money came from the savings of servant girls.

It was common in Ireland at the time for an anxious family member to ask the postman if he had an "American" in his mailbag, an "American" being a letter from the States presumably containing sorely needed money.

A Connecticut seamstress writing home to Ireland says, "I am getting along splendid and likes my work...I will soon have a trade and be more independant.... you know it was always what I wanted so I have reached my highest ambition".

One other benefit of domestic service was that Irish girls coming from impoverished rural backgrounds learned the etiquette and properties of middle-class American life and in time passed these traits onto their families.

Nuns comprised another group of immigrant Irish women who played a courageous role in America, particularly the Sisters of the Presentation and the Sisters of Mercy. These orders and others attracted thousands of Irish women who selflessly devoted their lives to the care of the sick and the education of the young. That the Irish eventually became one of America's great success stories was in large due to the efforts of these brave women.