



Ladies AOH
 Division 5, "Mary of the Gael"
 Division Happenings



Volume 11, Issue 9 Division 5, Orange County, NY, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians January 2011

President & Editor

Gail Cane

Upcoming Events

Friday,
 January 28
 LAOH Mtg,
 8 pm

Sunday,
 January 30
 Feast of St.
 Brigid,
 12 Noon
 Mass
 St. Columba
 Church
 Chester

Tuesday
 February 1
 Feast of St.
 Brigid

Ongoing Events

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

Irish Set Dancing
 Will resume
 in March

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I look back upon the last 2 years as President of Division 5. I have had the honor to be our first President, and to work with such devoted charter members. Thank you to each and every one of you for making this a great experience. I wish Gail Cane, Division 5's new President & her new Board all the best in their upcoming years.

I think back on what we have done: we have grown, got our website up and running, submit a monthly newsletter, joined the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee (and are quite active), held 2- Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Parties (which hopefully have lead to the revival of the Festival), hosted Celtic art classes, yard sales, charity concerts, hosted Masses, including Our Lady of Knock where the National President and Right to Life Chair attended, forming our County's only Junior Division....we have raised so much money for Charity.... all in the name of our Motto: Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Along with the hard work and devotion of many of our Ladies, we received 110% support from our fraternal friends, the men of AOH Division 1. Thank you to all, sisters and brothers for getting Division 5 to where we are right now. Together. The way our National President urges us to act.

I myself, hope to continue in this fine organization, on many levels. I am honored to be working with our Juniors, in the footsteps of Peggy Walsh (RIP) & Gail Cane. I invite any member with daughters to consider joining us. I hope to continue to work hard for our division, and hopefully move on up the ranks.

I leave you with one final thought: "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as you ever can." Division 5.
 Yours in Our Motto,
 Gail Edmonds

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! It is an honor and a privilege to have been elected to the position of president. I will give my best efforts to serve you well. Gail Edmonds began this journey, embarking into unknown territory, and giving every ounce of dedication a person can possibly give. Please join me as we profoundly thank Gail for a "job well done"! I will never be able to fill her shoes; the joint efforts and support of the newly elected board as well as the members of this division will enable me to accomplish this job.

After the Christmas holidays, sometimes we feel a little "down"; and who knows this better than our own division considering the losses we have suffered this past year. Losses of family and friends came one after the other. One of the most grievous loss we share is that of our own member, Peggy Walsh. I am sure that Peggy is watching us from heaven, guiding us in the right direction. When death challenges our faith in God, we are awed by the birth of a new life, one of God's true miracles, which can rejuvenate that same faith. During the month of January, when we celebrate the right to choose life, let us pray for all those faced with that choice.

January also brings some hope for a New Year. Our future events planned will again focus on fundraising, as we work together for the benefit of various charitable organizations. Our division will be hosting the Mass at St. Columba Church on Sunday, Jan. 30, in honor of St. Brigid, our patron and for whom we are honorably named, "Mary of the Gael". Please make every effort to attend this Mass as we begin a new year of "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity."

Please see a more complete "Calendar of Events" in the newsletter, giving you a "sneak peak" of the planned events, not only by our division but our very enthusiastic juniors, ably led by our Immediate Past President Gail Edmonds. But please remember to check our website, www.maryofthegael.org, which Gail Edmonds updates regularly.

May you all have a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year!

Yours in our Motto,
 Gail Cane

GOODWILL & WELFARE

Our division members have suffered many losses in recent months. Our prayers and condolences go out to:

~ Gail Edmonds - on the passing of her mother-in-law, Josephine.

~ Noreen McGovern - on the sudden passing of her 14 year old niece, Christalin Mary Catherine Canavan

May they rest in eternal peace in the arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

BUNCO NIGHT!

If you missed Bunco night on Friday, Jan. 22, you missed a great night! Kathleen Metcalf and Barbara Slifkin did a terrific job of organizing and setting up our "Tropical Getaway" for Bunco night. The games, refreshments and company were well worth the night out on a snowy winter's night! Of course, money raised from this night will benefit our Hibernian charities. Please watch for the date of our next Bunco night!

Feast of St. Brigid

Please join our division as we celebrate our patron's feast day at St. Columba on Sunday, Jan. 30, 12 Noon Holy Mass. Donations of refreshments and paper goods are needed for the gathering we will be hosting following the Mass. Please RSVP to Gail Cane at canelog@optonline.net.

Calendar of Events 2011
"Sneak Peak"

Jan 28 - LAOH Div 5 Meeting – meet the new Board!

Jan 30 - Mass for Feast Day of St. Brigid, St. Columba, Chester

Feb 25 - LAOH Div 5 Meeting

Mar 5 - AOH Div 2 St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance, Anthony's Pier 9

Mar 6 - Mid Hudson Parade Comm. Irish Day, American Legion Hall, Greenwood Lake

Mar 9 – Ash Wednesday

Mar 13 - Mid-Hudson Parade, Goshen

Mar 17 - 250th St Patrick's Day Parade in NYC

Mar 19 - AOH Div 4 St. Patrick's Day Dinner-Dance

Mar 25 – LAOH Mtg.

Apr 24 – Easter Sunday

Apr 29 – LAOH Mtg.

May 20 – LAOH Mtg.

June 17 – LAOH Mtg.

Sept. 23 – LAOH Mtg.

Oct. 28 – LAOH Mtg.

Nov. 18 – LAOH Mtg.

Spring Yard Sale - date to be announced

Summer – no meetings but stay tuned for the date of our annual summer get-together

Please be sure to check our website regularly as new events and dates are always posted at www.maryofthegael.org

JUNIOR DIVISION

The Junior Division will hold their meetings on the 2nd Sunday of the month; dates/times are posted on the division's website

Future events the juniors are planning:

- April – plant sale
- May -- Mother's Day Brunch
- June – Father's Day – picnic
- Bake sale at the yard sale (date yet to be determined)
- Summer pool party/bbq

Stay tuned for details as the juniors are always adding another great activity and/or fundraiser to their list!

A special thank you to Carrie Ann Mullahy, our new Treasurer. The profits (\$65) from the sale of her special "Christmas Chocolate Houses" are being donated to the division! We are fortunate to have Carrie Ann as a member!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Friday, January 28, 8 pm

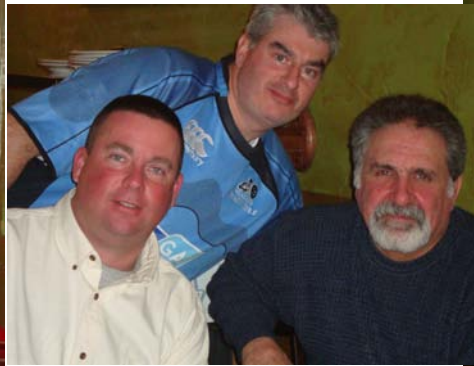
2011 Membership Dues - \$35

Please remember to bring a check or cash to the meeting on Friday.

Mid-Hudson Parade Committee

Volunteers are needed to help with the preparations for the parade. Please contact Janice Reynolds by email at pennypen83@aol.com for further info.

***LAOH Christmas Party....**after a few postponements, we were finally able to hold the division's Christmas party at Logan's Well on December 27. At the party, the Hibernian of the Year award was presented to Briega Debold for her tireless devotion, enthusiasm and efforts towards Division 5. Congratulations, Briega, it is well deserved!!! A memorable night was had by all who attended!*



For more photos, please see our website at www.maryofthegael.org

A Bit of Irish History.... by Kate Moloney, Irish Historian

“St Brigid, Mary of the Gael”



St Brigid was born in a quiet village named "Faughart" located near Dundalk in County Louth. Her father was a distinguished chief of Leinster and it is reported that her mother was in fact a "slave" of the chief. At the time of her birth, St. Patrick was in the midst of his glorious career and when he died, St. Brigid made the sheets in which his body was buried. At a young age, Brigid had moved to the Province of Leinster and resolved to become a nun. Where he received her "veil" from St. Mel of Ardagh. On professing her vows, St. Mel was inspired by God to make Brigid a bishop. St Brigid is known for being the only female bishop of the early church. Brigid became beloved for her piety and sweet disposition that many young women in her companionship asked to become nuns and follow in her footsteps. The fame of her group became widespread throughout the country.

Her first establishment was conducted strictly under a set of rules drawn up by Brigid herself and to this day, many convents throughout Ireland still adhere to these rules. By the time she was thirty years of age, St Brigid had established convents in Longford, Tipperary, Limerick, and Roscommon. It was at this time that the people of Leinster requested that she make her permanent home there. The Leinster people gave her some land where she built a little church under the shade of a wide-spreading oak tree which became known as Kill-dara (Church of the Oak), or more commonly known today as Kildare. This oratory became a center of religion and learning. She founded two monastic institutions, one for men and one for women.

St Brigid is sometimes known as the patroness of Ireland. She is buried in Downpatrick along with St Patrick and St Columba. Along with this, she is also the Patron Saint of: babies, children whose parents are not married, children whose mothers are mistreated by the children's fathers, midwives, poultry farmers, blacksmiths and dairy workers.

St Brigid's latter relic, which is the lower part of the head, remains in the Tabernacle in Kilcurry Church in County Louth, and is taken to the old Faughart graveyard in a procession to a shrine honoring St Brigid. The relic remains at the shrine for two days, 31st of January and February 1st, La Fheile Bhríde (St. Brigid's Feast Day). Hundreds of people line up at the shrine to be blessed with the Relic. Also, located at the shrine are a number of "stones" believed to hold cures for several ailments. The Head Stone holds a cure for any head ailments. The Eye Stone always has holy water in it for pilgrims to bless their eyes with for any eye ailments. Also if the pilgrim lays down on the eye stone any back ailments will be cured. The Knee Stone is where a pilgrim will kneel, and in the kneel marks in the stone, prayers can be said for any cure. Along with these, the Stations of the Cross are placed along the Holy Stream which runs to St Brigid's well. St. Brigid is also well known for the cross which she wove from rushes on the floor of a dying chieftain's house as she sat talking to him about God and Christ as the chieftain lay dying. The "St Brigid's Cross" is known to protect your home from fire and evil and is still a very common sight in Irish homes today.

Editor's Note: *Many thanks to Gail Edmonds who works diligently on our division's website. Please check it frequently for updated Division information.*

www.margofthegael.org