



# IRISH CULTURAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CT



## Cumann Cultúr agus Spóirt na hÉireann Cuigiú Lá Déag de Aibreán

(The Pulse - 15th of April)

### A Chairde (Friends),

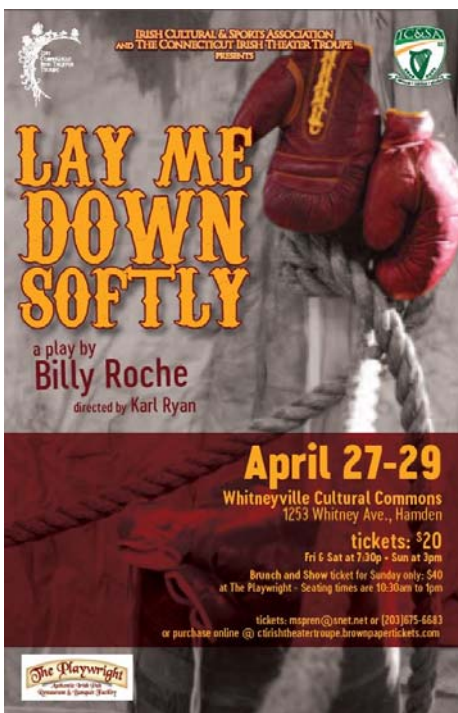
#### Membership Meeting - Monday 16th April @ 7:15 & 8pm at the Playwright

At 8pm we will begin the Members' Meeting. We will discuss the upcoming events and all club business. All members are encouraged to attend and you can bring along a friend that may be interested in our club. If you have not paid your dues for 2018 yet, you can pay them at the meeting and make sure you get the members' price for tickets for the up coming drama production. We will have a door prize to give away for attending members!

The Members' Meeting is preceded by the **Social Committee Meeting** on Monday evening at 7:15pm. We need to plan events and activities for the spring and summer and we would love to have your input and your help. Come on down and visit with friends and help make our Club a success! Please contact Margaret if you have any questions: Margaret [mspren@snet.net](mailto:mspren@snet.net) or 203-675-6683.

#### Irish Flag Raising on New Haven Green and Breakfast - April 22nd @ 9am

On Sunday, April 22nd at 9 am, on the New Haven Green, there will be a Mass for Peace and a Flag Raising ceremony to commemorate the 102nd anniversary of the 1916 Easter Uprising. Ceremonies will start at 9am and conclude at 10:30am. Following Mass there will be a ceremony to honor the patriots of 1916. This annual public ceremony serves as a reminder to all ethnic groups that freedom and liberty carry a high price. Local honorees are remembered in a roll call and the original "Proclamation of Freedom" will be read. For information about the mass or ceremony, please contact Margaret Prendergast at [mspren@snet.net](mailto:mspren@snet.net). This event will take place rain or shine. Immediately following the event, the New Haven Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee will be holding there annual breakfast at The Playwright, Hamden. Cost is \$15.



#### CT Irish Theatre Troupe Production of Billy Roche's "Lay Me Down Softly" April 27th, 28th, 29th

The Connecticut Irish Theater Troupe in conjunction with the Irish Cultural and Sports Association presents their annual spring play "Lay Me Down Softly" written by Billy Roche and directed by Karl Ryan.

Early 1960s: Delaney's Traveling Roadshow tours the Irish countryside with bumper cars, bearded ladies, rifle ranges and the main attraction: the boxing ring. The Roadshow invites all comers to fight them to win a prize. Theo, the iron fisted patriarch, struggles to keep his crew in line and when his long abandoned daughter arrives, the patchwork family is thrown against the ropes, the gloves come off and the boys in the boxing tent come out swinging." Please be advised this play contains adult language and situations.

We are also happy to announce that once again we are working in conjunction with the Playwright Restaurant in Hamden and will offer a Brunch and Show ticket for \$40 for Sunday only. Regular tickets are \$20 and IC&SA members receive a discount. Staring: Paul Tynan, Patrick Lillis, Seamus Lonigan, Doreen Keogh Busca, Katie Santacroce and Jason Santacroce.

We will once again be joined by **Brennan-Lucey Irish Dance Academy** on Friday night with an exhibition of Irish dance and **No Worries Brewing** with some free beer samples on Saturday night.

Performances will be held at the Whitneyville Cultural Commons located at 1253 Whitney Ave in Hamden.

For tickets and info please contact: Margret at [mspren@snet.net](mailto:mspren@snet.net) or call (203) 675-6683 or purchase online at [ctirishtheatertroupe.brownpapertickets.com](http://ctirishtheatertroupe.brownpapertickets.com) Volunteers are always needed to help make this production great. Please consider helping - contact Geoff Herpok ([gherpok@icsa-home.org](mailto:gherpok@icsa-home.org)).

### Whiskey Tasting - May 17th

We will be bringing back the Whiskey Tasting event that we have had so much fun with in the past. Pernod Ricard will be showing up to talk to you about their whiskeys. We are not sure about what they will bring yet but they do carry all Jameson brands as well as others. We will have a buffet of great food for you too. The location is The Playwright, Hamden. Start time is set for 7:30pm and the cost of tickets will be \$45 (\$25 for designated drivers). This is always a great time and very informative with regard to what a good whiskey is. Please contact Geoff at [gherpok@icsa-home.org](mailto:gherpok@icsa-home.org).



### Annual Golf Tournament, Saturday 21st July, Noon, Alling Memorial G.C.

Another chance to have some fun on the golf course. Get your foursomes together for what is always a great time with great people. We will be playing at Alling Memorial Golf Course on July 21st at Noon. Your tournament fee of \$110 includes golf, cart, lunch (hot dog & beer) and dinner at The Playwright afterwards with an open bar. There will also be a poker run 50/50 on the par threes and plenty of prizes when we get back to The Playwright for food and a few drinks with friends. Dinner is also available for \$30 for friends that do not golf or just enjoy the great food at The Playwright. Sure the craic last year was mighty! Contact Tom Prendergast (203-675-6686, [mprendergast@icsa-home.org](mailto:mprendergast@icsa-home.org)), Packy Lillis (203-823-2603, [plillis@icsahome.org](mailto:plillis@icsahome.org)) or Shaun Donnelly (203-387-7999, [sdonnelly@icsa-home.org](mailto:sdonnelly@icsa-home.org)) for information and reservations. Registration is requested by July 14th. Tee Sponsorships are also available for only \$50, so if you are interested in promoting your business or just helping out, contact the boys for more information. This is a very informal day, no handicaps or any of that stuff required, just yourselves and your clubs!



### Irish Golf Society of Southern Connecticut

The ICSA has an official USGA recognized golf society which will have seven monthly outings this year, all at different courses in Connecticut. The first outing this year will be on April 21st at Orange Hills GC. The IGS gives all its members an official USGA Handicap managed using the Connecticut State Golf Association GHIN Handicap software system. This opportunity is open to all ICSA members, women and men, for a cost of \$80 per year. Non-members can join the IGS to get there handicap and join the outings after they sign up as members of the ICSA. We play an aggregate stableford scoring tournament running for all seven outings with gross and net winners at the end of the year. If you are interested in joining the Irish Golf Society, please contact Shaun Donnelly ([sdonnelly@icsa-home.org](mailto:sdonnelly@icsa-home.org) or 203-387-7999).

### Irish Language Classes

Irish Classes have just started up after the winter break. If you are a beginner, now is a good time to come to a class and see if you like it. Classes are available to all ICSA members for no charge. Classes are also open to non-members for a nominal fee, so you can try it out and see how you like it. Classes take place every Wednesday night in North Haven with the beginners class at 7pm and the Advanced Beginners class is at 8pm. Sign up details are available on the club website ([www.icsa-home.org](http://www.icsa-home.org)) or contact Cultural Director, Rich Regan at ([rregan@icsa-home.org](mailto:rregan@icsa-home.org)).

### Sheep Flock Fundraiser



The sheep are back in the spring after their winter hibernation. Do you want to trick your friends! The club has a flock of sheep that you can borrow for 24 hours to graze on your friends lawn. The flock is completely harmless and has been trained to stay where they are told to. There is no danger of them wandering off and annoying anyone else. They are also branded with the club logo in the unlikely case they do go for a stroll. Your donation for a flock of 10 sheep is only \$10, a flock of 25 sheep is \$20 and a flock of 50 sheep is \$40. Please contact Siobhan Dacey to order your flock at [sdacey@icsa-home.org](mailto:sdacey@icsa-home.org) and give our little friends a home for the day!

**Memberships Dues:** Membership dues should have been paid before March 1st. Contact Siobhan

Dacey at [sdacey@icsa-home.org](mailto:sdacey@icsa-home.org) or mail your dues to ICSA, PO Box 6562, Hamden, CT 06517.

### Ireland's Great Hunger Museum - A Tribute to the Irish Brigade - Saturday, May 5 at 1 - 3 p.m.

Charlie Zahm is one of the most popular soloists at Celtic music festivals, maritime, and American traditional music events anywhere east of the Mississippi. Charlie weaves magical moments of Scottish and Irish history for the listener and viewer, with passion for the performance and a chosen repertoire pleasing to all members of the family. Zahm will take the audience on a journey in song and story through the Civil War guided by heroic Irish-American Capt. James Haggerty of the 69th New York State Militia, who so boldly fought in the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861. The Donegal immigrant who rose through the ranks of the state militia system in New York, and took the field knowing full-well he and his men were watched by both the United States (the land of his adoption) and Ireland (the land of the exile's birth). This program is made possible by the support of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

This event is free and open to the public. However, space is limited and registration is required.

## Calendar

April 22nd - Irish Flag Raising and Breakfast

April 27th, 28th, 29th - CT Irish Theatre Troupe Production of Billy Roche's "Lay Me Down Softly"

May 5th - A Tribute to the Irish Brigade @ Ireland's Great Hunger Museum

May 17th - Whiskey Tasting

July 21st - Golf Tournament

September 8th - Thimble Island Cruise



# Jonathan Swift

Jonathan Swift was born on 30 November 1667 in Dublin, Ireland. He was the second child and only son of Jonathan Swift 1640-1667) and his wife Abigail Erick (or Herrick). His father was a native of Goodrich, Herefordshire, but he accompanied his brothers to Ireland to seek their fortunes in law after their Royalist father's estate was brought to ruin during the English Civil War. His mother returned to England after his birth, leaving him in the care of his Uncle Godwin, a close friend and confidant of Sir John Temple whose son later employed Swift as his secretary.

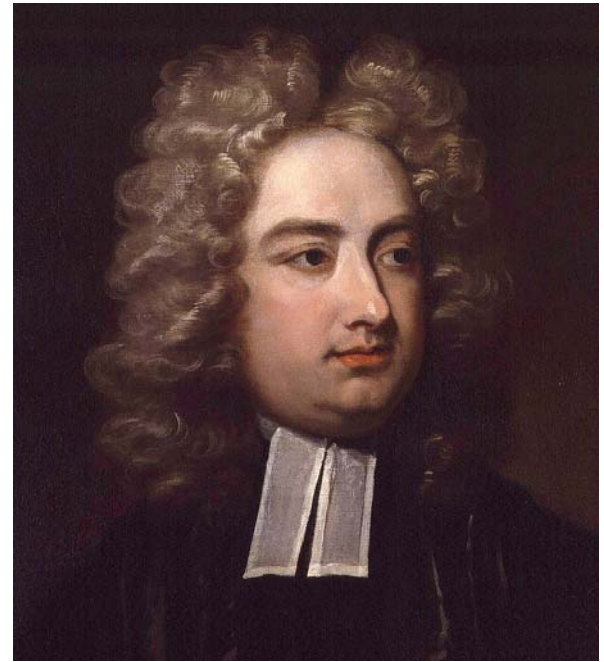
Swift's family had several interesting literary connections. His grandmother Elizabeth (Dryden) Swift was the niece of Sir Erasmus Dryden, grandfather of poet John Dryden. The same grandmother's aunt Katherine (Throckmorton) Dryden was a first cousin of Elizabeth, wife of Sir Walter Raleigh. His great-great grandmother Margaret (Godwin) Swift was the sister of Francis Godwin, author of *The Man in the Moone* which influenced parts of Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. His uncle Thomas Swift married a daughter of poet and playwright Sir William Davenant, a godson of William Shakespeare.

Swift's benefactor and uncle Godwin Swift took primary responsibility for the young man, sending him with one of his cousins to Kilkenny College. He arrived there at the age of six, where he was expected to have already learned the basic declensions in Latin. He hadn't and so started at a lower form. Swift graduated in 1682, when he was 15. He attended Dublin University (Trinity College, Dublin) in 1682, financed by Godwin's son Willoughby. The four-year course followed a curriculum largely set in the Middle Ages for the priesthood. The lectures were dominated by Aristotelian logic and philosophy. Swift was an above-average student but not wonderful, and received his B.A. in 1686 "by special grace."

Swift was studying for his master's degree when political troubles in Ireland surrounding the Glorious Revolution forced him to leave for England in 1688, where his mother helped him get a position as secretary and personal assistant of Sir William Temple at Moor Park, Farnham. Swift took up his residence at Moor Park where he met Esther Johnson, then eight years old, the daughter of an impoverished widow who acted as companion to Temple's sister Lady Giffard. Swift was her tutor and mentor, giving her the nickname "Stella", and the two maintained a close but ambiguous relationship for the rest of Esther's life.

In 1690, Swift left Temple for Ireland because of his health but returned to Moor Park the following year. The illness consisted of fits of vertigo or giddiness, now known to be Ménière's disease, and it continued to plague him throughout his life. During this second stay with Temple, Swift received his M.A. from Hart Hall, Oxford in 1692. Then he left Moor Park, apparently despairing of gaining a better position through Temple's patronage, to become an ordained priest in the Established Church of Ireland. He was appointed to the Diocese of Connor in 1694, with his parish located at Kilroot, near Carrickfergus in County Antrim.

Swift appears to have been miserable in his new position, being isolated in a small, remote community far from the centers of power and influence. While at Kilroot, however, he may well have become romantically involved with Jane Waring, whom he called "Varina", the sister of an old college friend. A letter from him survives, offering to remain if she would marry him and promising to leave and never return to Ireland if she refused. She presumably refused, because Swift left his post and returned to England and Temple's service at Moor Park in 1696, and he remained there until Temple's death. There he was employed in helping to prepare Temple's memoirs and correspondence for publication. During this time, Swift wrote *The Battle of the Books*, a satire responding to critics of Temple's *Essay upon Ancient and Modern Learning* (1690), though *Battle* was not



published until 1704.

Temple died on 27 January 1699. Swift, normally a harsh judge of human nature, said that all that was good and amiable in mankind had died with Temple.

Swift's next move was to approach King William directly, based on his imagined connection through Temple and a belief that he had been promised a position. This failed so miserably that he accepted the lesser post of secretary and chaplain to the Earl of Berkeley, one of the Lords Justice of Ireland. However, when he reached Ireland, he found that the secretaryship had already been given to another. He soon obtained the living of Laracor, Agher, and Rathbeggan, and the prebend of Dunlavin in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

In 1701, he anonymously published the political pamphlet *A Discourse on the Contests and Dissentions in Athens and Rome*.

Swift had residence in Trim, County Meath after 1700. He wrote many of his works during this time period. In February 1702, Swift received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Trinity College, Dublin. That spring he travelled to England and then returned to Ireland in October, accompanied by Esther Johnson—now 20—and his friend Rebecca Dingley, another member of William Temple's household. There is a great mystery and controversy over Swift's relationship with Esther Johnson. Many, notably his close friend Thomas Sheridan, believed that they were secretly married in 1716; others, like Swift's housekeeper Mrs Brent and Rebecca Dingley (who lived with Stella all through her years in Ireland) dismissed the story as absurd.

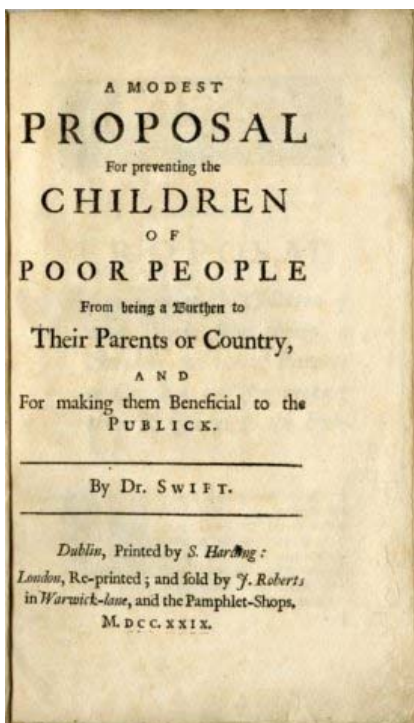
Swift published *A Tale of a Tub* and *The Battle of the Books* (1704) and began to gain a reputation as a writer. This led to close, lifelong friendships with Alexander Pope, John Gay, and John Arbuthnot, forming the core of the Martinus Scriblerus Club (founded in 1713).

Swift became increasingly active politically in these years. He found the opposition Tory leadership more sympathetic to his cause, and, when they came to power in 1710, he was recruited to support their cause as editor of *The Examiner*. In 1711, Swift published the political pamphlet *The Conduct of the Allies*, attacking the Whig government for its inability to end the prolonged war with France. The incoming Tory government conducted secret (and illegal) negotiations with France, resulting in the Treaty of Utrecht.

Swift was part of the inner circle of the Tory government and often acted as mediator between Henry St John (Viscount Bolingbroke), the secretary of state for foreign affairs (1710-15), and Robert Harley (Earl of Oxford), lord treasurer and prime minister (1711-1714). Swift recorded his experiences and thoughts during this difficult time in a long series of letters to

Esther Johnson, collected and published after his death as *A Journal to Stella*. The animosity between the two Tory leaders eventually led to the dismissal of Harley in 1714. That year, the Whigs returned to power, and the Tory leaders were tried for treason for conducting secret negotiations with France.

Also during these years in London, Swift became acquainted with the Vanhomrigh family (Dutch merchants who had settled in Ireland, then moved to London) and became involved with one of the daughters, Esther. Swift furnished Esther with the nickname "Vanessa" (derived by adding "Essa", a pet form of Esther, to the "Van" of her surname, Vanhomrigh), and she features as one of the main characters in his poem *Cadenus and Vanessa*. The poem and their correspondence suggest that Esther was infatuated with Swift, and that he may have reciprocated her affections, only to regret this and then try to break off the relationship. Esther followed Swift to Ireland in 1714, and settled at her old family home, Celbridge Abbey. Their uneasy relationship continued for some years; then there appears to have been a confrontation, possibly involving Esther Johnson. Esther Vanhomrigh died in 1723 at the age of 35, having destroyed the will she had made in Swift's favor.



Before the fall of the Tory government, Swift hoped that his services would be rewarded with a church appointment in England. However, Queen Anne appeared to have taken a dislike to Swift and thwarted these efforts. Her dislike has been attributed to *A Tale of a Tub*, which she thought blasphemous, compounded by *The Windsor Prophecy*, where Swift, with a surprising lack of tact, advised the Queen on which of her bedchamber ladies she should and should not trust. The best position his friends could secure for him was the Deanery of St Patrick's; this was not in the Queen's gift and Anne, who could be a bitter enemy, made it clear that Swift would not have received the preferment if she could have prevented it. He returned to Ireland in disappointment, a virtual exile, to live "like a rat in a hole".



**Cave hill near Belfast, where you can see the giants face in the rock. This inspired Jonathan Swift to write about giants in *Gulliver's Travels*.**

Once in Ireland, however, Swift began to turn his pamphleteering skills in support of Irish causes, producing some of his most memorable works: *Proposal for Universal Use of Irish Manufacture* (1720), *Drapier's Letters* (1724), and *A Modest Proposal* (1729), earning him the status of an Irish patriot. This new role was unwelcome to the Government, which made clumsy attempts to silence him. His printer, Edward Waters, was convicted of seditious libel in 1720, but four years later a grand jury refused to find that the *Drapier's Letters* (which, though written under a pseudonym, were universally known to be Swift's work) were seditious. Swift responded with an attack on the Irish judiciary almost unparalleled in its ferocity, his principal target being the "vile and profligate villain" William Whithed, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland.

Also during these years, he began writing his masterpiece, *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World, in Four Parts, by Lemuel Gulliver, first a surgeon, and then a captain of several ships*, better known as *Gulliver's Travels*. Much of the material reflects his political experiences of the preceding decade. For instance, the episode in which the giant Gulliver puts out the Lilliputian palace fire by urinating on it can be seen as a metaphor for the Tories' illegal peace treaty; having done a good thing in an unfortunate manner. In 1726 he paid a long-deferred visit to London, taking with him the manuscript of *Gulliver's Travels*. During his visit he stayed with his old friends Alexander Pope, John Arbuthnot and John Gay, who helped him arrange for the anonymous publication of his book. First published in November 1726, it was an immediate hit, with a total of three printings that year and another in early 1727. French, German, and Dutch translations appeared in 1727, and pirated copies were printed in Ireland.

Swift returned to England one more time in 1727 and stayed with Alexander Pope once again. The visit was cut short when Swift received word that Esther Johnson was dying, and rushed back home to be with her. On 28 January 1728, Esther Johnson died; Swift had prayed at her bedside, even composing prayers for her comfort. Swift could not bear to be present at the end, but on the night of her death he began to write his *The Death of Mrs Johnson*. He was too ill to attend the funeral at St Patrick's. Many years later, a lock of hair, assumed to be Esther Johnson's, was found in his desk, wrapped in a paper bearing the words, "Only a woman's hair".

Death became a frequent feature of Swift's life from this point. In 1731 he wrote *Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift*, his own obituary published in 1739. In 1732, his good friend and collaborator John Gay died. In 1735, John Arbuthnot, another friend from his days in London, died. In 1738 Swift began to show signs of illness, and in 1742 he may have suffered a stroke, losing the ability to speak and realizing his worst fears of becoming mentally disabled. ("I shall be like that tree," he once said, "I shall die at the top.")



# Gaeilge - Irish Language

## Birds of Ireland

### Éin na hÉireann

as Gaeilge



Cíorbhuí  
"Goldcrest"  
(keer vwee)

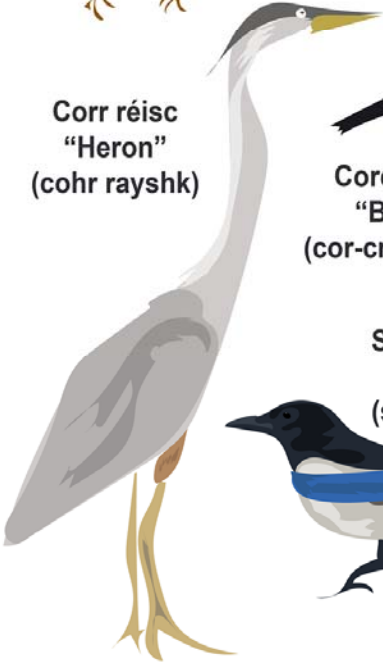


Préachán dubh  
"Rook"  
(prey-chawn duv)



Glasóg shráide  
"Pied Wagtail"  
(glas-ohg hrai-djeh)

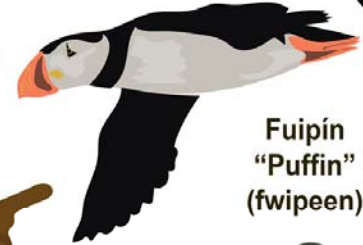
Corr réisc  
"Heron"  
(cohr rayshk)



Corcrán Coille  
"Bullfinch"  
(cor-crawn cwi-leh)



Cearc Uisce  
"Moorhen"  
(keark ishka)



Fuipín  
"Puffin"  
(fwipeen)

Snag breac  
"Magpie"  
(snag brak)



Colm coille  
"Wood Pigeon"  
(col-um cwi-leh)



Dreoilín  
"Wren"  
(droleen)

Spideog  
"Robin"  
(spidohg)



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Saotharlann.com

Ba mhaith liom an banna a chur in aithne daoibh...Ar an gcláirseach tá Seán againn..agus ar an gcláirseach tá Seosamh ann, agus sin Ciarán ar an gcláirseach. Maidir liomsa de, seinnim an chláirseach.



I'd like to introduce the band to you...  
On the harp we have John..  
And in the harp is Joe,  
And that is Ciarán on the harp.  
For my part, I play the harp.



President's Message:

A Chairde!

There is a lot coming up, especially in the next few weeks, but we'll get to that. Remember, the club meetings are the third Monday of the month! Please come out and say hello! Bring a friend and some ideas for events! We really look forward to seeing you!

The ICSA is again sponsoring the Irish Flag Raising on the New Haven Green in commemoration of the Easter Rising. This years flag raising will be on Sunday April 22nd and commence at 9 am.

The Connecticut Irish Theater Troupe is hard at work on the spring theater production, Billy Roche's "Lay Me Down Softly". Show dates are April 27th 28th and 29th. Tickets are on sale now and include a brunch option for the Sunday show! We welcome back the Brennan-Lucey Irish Dance Academy on Friday night and No Worries Brewery on Saturday night. We hope to see you there.

The Irish Cultural & Sports Association's annual golf outing is on track for July 21st at Alling Memorial in New Haven. Its a fun time followed by dinner and prizes at the Playwright. Start getting your foursomes organized!

336 days till St. Patrick's Day!!

**Go Raibh Maith Agaibh,**

Tim

• **Almost there!** The Cook Book is being edited as we speak! If you have a favorite Recipe or two, you can still send it along. Ship them off to [sdonnelly@icsa-home.org](mailto:sdonnelly@icsa-home.org) with the subject line "Cook Book". When the book has been completed we will make it available to members and friends for a nominal fee. Thanks in advance for your support. **We're almost there!**



**House Keeping:** 2018 dues are now being accepted. Your dues should been paid by March 1st to maintain your good standing. If you have already submitted your dues for 2018, thank you and welcome back! If you have questions, please contact our Financial Secretary, Siobhan Dacey at [sdacey@icsa-home.org](mailto:sdacey@icsa-home.org).



← Take it easy.

**A Club Fundraising Opportunity!** Don't forget to use the Amazon Smile portal and then list the Irish Cultural & Sports Association your non-profit of choice, when shopping on-line. A link to Amazon Smile is on our web page at [www.icsa-home.org](http://www.icsa-home.org).

**\* Irish Language Classes \* Wednesdays @ 7pm and 8pm** - Classes are **free** to ICSA members and are also open to non-members for a nominal fee so you can try it out and see how you like it. Classes take place every Wednesday night in North Haven with beginners class at 7pm and the Advanced Beginners class is at 8pm. **Sign up details are available on the club website or contact Cultural Director, Rich Regan at [rregan@icsa-home.org](mailto:rregan@icsa-home.org).**

**Irish Radio Show: Echoes of Erin.** We encourage you to listen to our friends and club supporters at Echoes of Erin Radio show (88.7FM), broadcasting live every Sunday from 12 to 2 p.m. and Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. from the University of New Haven in West Haven CT and over the internet at <http://www.wnhu.net/> This is your source for Irish music, news, sports and community events. Hosted by Pat and Joan Kennedy, Mike McGrath, Pat Hosey and Siobhan Dacey.

**Irish Radio Show: Ceol na nGael.** Club member Molly Monahan used to host this show on Fordham Radio (90.7FM). Now she is part of the production team. Listen in on Sundays from noon to 4pm. You can also listen to archive shows at [WFUV.org](http://WFUV.org).

Go raibh mile maith agaibh (Thank You)  
Irish Cultural and Sports Association

<http://icsa-home.org/>

[www.facebook.com/IrishCultureCT](http://www.facebook.com/IrishCultureCT)



If you do not wish to be included in these email updates please respond to this email and you will be taken off the list.

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<b>Program Director</b>	- Meaghan Whalen - <a href="mailto:mwhalen@icsa-home.org">mwhalen@icsa-home.org</a>