



IRISH CULTURAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CT



Cumann Cultúr agus Spóirt na hÉireann Ochtú Lá Déag de Meitheamh

(The Pulse - 18th of June)

A Chairde (Friends),



Social Committee Meeting - Monday 19th June 7.15 pm at the Playwright

Please join us for a social committee meeting this Monday evening before the 8 pm General Membership Meeting. We need to plan events and activities for the second half of the year 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 mprenergast@icsa-home.org or 203-675-6683.

General Membership Meeting - Monday 19th June 8 pm at the Playwright

This is the last meeting until September. We will be discussing the up coming calendar of events, possible fundraisers and the financial stability of the club. There are lots of good ideas to talk about. This is an open forum for all club members, so come on down and get involved. Members are encouraged to attend

and bring a friend that may be interested in our club. Guests accompanying members are welcome. We hope to see you.

6th Annual Gaelic Golf Tournament Alling Memorial GC Saturday 15th July Noon.....

Join us for our annual tournament and have a chance to win \$10k, a 50" tv, Calloway Irons or a \$500 Gift Card for a Hole in One on specified holes! It's time for 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 Saturday July 15th at Noon. Donation is only \$110 per player and includes golf, cart, lunch (hot dog & beer) and dinner at The Playwright afterwards with an open bar. Can't beat it for value! In addition to the HOLE IN ONE prizes, 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 Prenergast (203-675-6686, mprenergast@icsa-home.org), Tim Whalen (203-584-2589, twhalen@icsa-home.org) or Shaun Donnelly (203-387-7999, sdonnelly@icsa-home.org) for information and reservations.

Registration is requested by July 7th. Tee Sponsorships are also available for only \$50, so if you are interested in promoting your business or just helping out, see the attached flyer for more information. This is a very informal day, no handicaps or any of that stuff required, just yourselves and your clubs!

Irish Language Classes

Irish Language 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 beginners class at 7pm and the Advanced Beginners class is at 8pm. Sign up details are available on the club website (www.icsa-ome.org) or contact Cultural Director, Rich Regan (rregan@icsa-home.org).

IRISH CULTURAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CT PRESENTS

6th Annual GAELIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sat., July 15, 2017 @ Noon
Alling Memorial • \$110 pp

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| \$10,000 Hole in One | 50/50 Poker Hand \$10.10 |
| 50" tv Hole in One | Hotdog & Beverage at turn |
| Calloway Irons Hole in One | Dinner at Playwright • Prizes!! |
| \$500 Gift Card Hole in One | |

contact
Tom Prenergast (203) 675-6686
or Tim Whalen (203) 584-2589
by July 7th to register

Cumann Scannán - ICSA Film Club July 23rd 1pm

Coming in July, Cumann Scannán, the ICSA Film Club, will be showing "The Guard", written and directed by John Michael McDonagh and starring Brendan Gleeson and Don Cheadle. An unorthodox Irish policeman with a confrontational personality is partnered with an up-tight F.B.I. agent to investigate an international drug-smuggling ring. This movie is **R Rated**. Click [here](#) for a preview of the movie. This will be a Sunday showing starting at 1pm at The Playwright in Hamden. There is no cost for this event and ICSA members and friends are invited to attend. Come on down and enjoy the show, have a drink and some great food. Stay tuned for other shows!



Foxwoods Casino Trip Saturday August 26th

Join us for a trip to Foxwoods, where you can visit the Tanger Outlet Shops (open until 11pm on Saturdays) and get some great bargains during the sales tax free week, or enjoy a Bingo Session (evening sessions start at \$20), or just enjoy the slots and table games, and some fine dining and entertainment. Ticket price is \$45 per person, and will include vouchers for dining and/or gaming. Bus will leave the North Haven commuter lot (exit 10) at 5 pm, and the Branford commuter lot at (exit 53) at 5.15pm. Tickets will be available in advance from Brownpapertickets.com or contact Margaret at mprendergast@icsa-home.org.



Thimble Island Cruise Saturday, September 9th, 6pm to 8pm

The cruise has become a great annual event and is now our official celebration of half way to Saint Patrick's Day. Join us for a fun day with Captain Mike and the crew of the Sea Mist. The Sea Mist is a 44 ft. Carmen boat of Chesapeake Design. This vessel was designed for sightseeing and private cruises with large removable windows and comfortable seating. There are two decks and the lower can be completely enclosed and heated when necessary. The upper deck is for observation under the sun or stars. We have seen some amazing sunsets over the years.

The boat will set sail at 6pm sharp from Stony Creek Harbor and returns at 8pm. Donation is \$32 and will be strictly limited to 35 people. Your ticket price will include great food from The Playwright and plenty of great tunes. There will be a cash bar available. Come out and enjoy good friends, great food, a few drinks and mighty craic! All reservations must be pre-paid to secure your seat. For reservations please contact Shaun Donnelly (203-387-7999 or sdonnelly@icsa-home.org). Folks are already reserving so hurry up and get your seat!



Great Hunger Museum Summer Program

June 21st, The Shores of Amerikay: How Archbishop John J. Hughes and the Sisters of Charity of New York Met the Needs of Ireland's Famine Refugees - A Presentation by Turlough McConnell.

Blind Contour Sculpture Tours: Assistant Manager Margaret Vaughan will lead several hour-long tours of the Ireland's Great Hunger Museum sculpture collection.

August 16th, The Paintings Speak: Creating Dramatic Monologues Inspired by Artwork in the Great Hunger Museum.

August 20th, Afternoon Tea: Join the Ireland's Great Hunger Museum in celebrating the end of summer with an afternoon tea. For more information visit www.ighm.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 acquired 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 and give our little friends a home for the day!



ATTENTION VENDORS AND CRAFTERS

We're looking for any vendors or crafters interested in taking a booth at the Annual Playwright Holiday Bazaar to be held in November. Contact Margaret if interested. mspren@snet.net

← You wet the bed again!



Calendar

- June 19th - Member's meeting and Social Committee meeting at The Playwright
- July 15th - 6th Annual Gaelic Golf Tournament Alling Memorial GC Noon Tee Off
- July 23rd - Cumann Scannán - ICSA Film Club July "The Guard" 1pm at The Playwright
- August 26th - Foxwoods Casino Trip departs at 5:15pm
- September 9th - Thimble Island Cruise departs at 6pm



Bridges of Dublin City

How many bridges span the Liffey from Heuston Station to where Dublin meets the sea? No doubt you'll get a plethora of answers, but you'll rarely get the right one. You can guarantee people will forget that two bridges traverse the water at Heuston, they'll forget about the little Rory O'Moore Bridge that has more history than most of them, or the DART Loopline at Butt Bridge. They might even forget the ugly abomination that is the East Link, the last connection between Northside and Southside before Dublin Bay separates the two...

The correct answer is seventeen, starting at Sean Heuston Bridge and working all the way along the river to the Eastlink Bridge at Dublin Port. Let's take a look at some of the ones we find interesting due to who they're named after and because of their historical importance.

Sean Heuston Bridge (was called King's Bridge, Sarsfield Bridge) 1829

The first incarnation of the bridge was finished in 1829 and named King's Bridge to commemorate a visit by George IV to Dublin in 1821. After the declaration of the Free State in 1922, it was renamed Sarsfield Bridge, in memory of Patrick Sarsfield, leader of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1641. In 1941 the bridge was again re-named, this time after Sean Heuston, a member of Na Fianna h-Éireann who played a prominent role in the Easter Rising of 1916.

At 19 years of age, Seán Heuston was Captain of a twenty three strong company of men, mostly Fianna h-Éireann members around his own age, who were directed by James Connolly to take "The Mendicity (Institute on Ushers Island) at all costs". Their goal was to prevent British re-inforcements coming into the city from The Curragh Camp and the West. They held out until Wednesday afternoon, until they were scattered by the 10th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. One of the more striking stories of the Rebellion is that of the Lieutenant of the 10th Battalion, Lieutenant Gerald Aloysius Neilan, who was shot and killed by a sniper from the Mendicity, while his brother Anthony Neilan took part in the Rising on the Rebel side. He was one of two Liutenants killed in Dublin that day, with another nine members of the 10th Batt. killed at the Mendicity, as per a report to Prime Minister Asquith by General Sir John Maxwell. Seán Houston was captured with 22 other men. He was executed by firing squad on May 8, 1916 in Kilmainham Jail on the charge that he "... did take part in an armed rebellion and in the waging of wars against His Majesty the king such act of being of such a nature as to be calculated to be prejudicial to the defense of the Realm and being done with the intention and for the purpose of assisting the enemy."

Kingsbridge Station was later renamed Heuston Station in his honor. After the Frank Sherwin Bridge was opened nearby in the 1980s, Seán Heuston Bridge was no longer used to carry road traffic. It was restored in 2003 and now carries Luas tram traffic on the red line.



Rory O'Moore Bridge, (was Victoria & Albert Bridge, Queen Victoria Bridge) 1859

"Oh lives there the traitor who'd shrink from the strife, who would add to the length of his forfeited life. And his country, his kindred, his faith would abjure; No we'll strike for old Ireland and Rory O'Moore."

This is an odd one. While the men charged with taking Dublin Castle in the 1641 Rebellion, Hugh Óg McMahon and Connor Maguire have no streets or bridges named after them in this city, Rory O'Moore (he was seen as one of the principal organizers of the 1641 rebellion) was given the task of taking Derry and other northern towns and yet he gets a bridge in Dublin named after him!

1641 to 1653 were particularly bloody years in Irish History. The Rebellion of '41, where an estimated 4, 000 protestant settlers were killed and many thousand more were ejected from their homes was the catalyst for the Conquest of Ireland. This, as everyone knows, led to the death or exile of an estimated 25% of the Irish Catholic population. What

had started as a Coup d'Etat ended in the abject slaughter of a nation and the inditement into Irish history of a wholly unforgettable name- that of Oliver Cromwell. Little is known of O'Moore's personal exploits in the Rebellion, barring personal accounts and praise from other rebels.

The original wooden bridge on this site, built in 1670, was officially named Barrack Bridge. However, it became known locally as Bloody Bridge, after the deaths of rioting Ferrymen who tried to tear it down at its opening in an ill-fated attempt to protect their livelihoods. The timber bridge was replaced by a stone bridge in 1704, with an elaborate watch tower on the north side of the bridge. That watch tower was later removed, stone by stone and rebuilt at the gates to the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, now the Mueseum of Modern Art. The bridge was replaced by the present day structure in 1859 and opened as the Victoria & Albert Bridge. The bridge was renamed in 1939 after Rory O'Moore.

James Joyce Bridge, 2003

The Dublin Transportation Initiative recommended in 1995 that environmental traffic cells would bring greater fluency to traffic movement within the city. Two bridges were envisaged: one each, east and west of that reliable old work horse across the river, O'Connell Bridge. And there was a local context - the area around Blackhall Place was socially deprived and commercially stagnant. In 1996, Dublin Corporation published a framework for an Historic Area Rejuvenation Project and to this a bridge was also central. Santiago Calatrava, engineer, architect and Joycean scholar, was appointed. With Joyce's House of the Dead - number 15 Usher's Island - bringing a literary notoriety to the area, it was an inspired move. Work



commenced in April 2001 on Calatrava's single span design with a working title of Blackhall Place Bridge. The main contractor was Irishenco and the steel fabricators were Harland and Wolff.

James attended schools and later university in the city - just another Dubliner to raise your cap to or with whom to pass the time of day upon a Liffey bridge. He had taken his first literary footsteps at the tender age of 9, penning an ode to Parnell, a nationalist hero of his father. By the time he was studying at University College, Dublin, he was part of the artistic circle within the city. Upon graduating, it was upon medicine and Paris he briefly settled, returning in 1903 to be at his mother's deathbed. Legend has it that it was on June 16th 1904 that he met Nora Barnacle on a Dublin street - they had two children before marrying in 1931. While writing, Joyce earned life's necessities working as a singer, reviewer, newspaper proprietor, translator, sub-editor, teacher, lecturer, cinema impresario and jailbird journalist.

The James Joyce Bridge opened on June 16th, Bloomsday, 2003.



Liam Mellows's Bridge (was Queen's Bridge, Queen Maeve Bridge) 1768

At 248 years of age, Mellows Bridge is the oldest existing bridge across the Liffey. An initial bridge, funded by William Ellis, a rich land owner to the north of the Liffey with help from the Dublin Corporation (who paid £700 of the £6000 it cost to build) stood on the spot for eighty years before being washed away in a storm in 1763. Ellis' family were also bound to maintain the bridge, and work on a replacement bridge started almost straight away, and in 1768, the bridge we see today was opened as Queen's Bridge. Another landmark to be renamed after the declaration of the Free State, Queen's Bridge became Queen Maeve's Bridge in 1922. In 1942, the bridge was renamed Mellows Bridge, after of War of Independence and Civil War veteran Liam Mellows.



With written history of the 1916 Rising consigning activity outside of Dublin in Easter Week to references and footnotes, the efforts of the 'Fingal Battalion' in Ashbourne, Co. Meath and Liam Mellows activity in Galway go largely uncelebrated. Liam Mellows was active in the IRB and Na Fianna h-Éireann and was a founder member of the Irish Volunteers. He was introduced to Socialism through James Connolly and it is reputed the Commandant of the Dublin Brigade of the ICA was deeply taken with the man, saying to his daughter Nora "I have finally met a man." In Easter Week he was given command of the Western Division, a troop of some seven hundred men. They were badly armed, with no rifles but a large number of shotguns, and provisions were hard to maintain as aborted attempts on the RIC barracks in Oranmore and Clarinbridge led to the Division occupying a field outside of Athenry. They were eventually scattered when British Cruiser Gloucester entered Galway Bay and reinforcements arrived. He played an important role in the War of Independence

as the "Director of Purchases," was elected to the first Dáil in 1918 and was a blazing Anti-Treatyite. After the occupation of the Four Courts in June 1922, he was imprisoned in Mountjoy and was executed by the Free State on December 8th, 1922.

O'Donovan Rossa Bridge (ex- Richmond Bridge, Ormond Bridge) 1816

"The fools, the fools, the fools, they have left us our Fenian dead. And while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." The immortal words of one Padraig Pearse, delivered at an oration over Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa's grave on the 1st of August 1915. For while O'Donovan Rossa was world renowned during his lifetime, raising funds in America for a bombing campaign on English soil, it was undoubtedly in death that he made the greatest contribution to the Republican cause. Born to tenant farmers in Cork in 1831, Rossa founded an organization called the "Phoenix National and Literary Society" for the "liberation of Ireland by force" in 1856, but it was membership of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and alleged involvement in plotting the Fenian Rebellion of 1865, that caused him to be charged, without trial, of high treason and sentenced to penal servitude. Years of ill-treatment in British jails followed and he was eventually deported to America, where, from a base on Staten Island, he established the "skirmishing fund." The fund was hugely successful, earning \$23,000 by 1877 and doubling the figure in that year alone.

Though there was an alleged attempt on his life by a British Agent in 1885, he lived until 1915, when he died of old age. Aware of the political impact of the funeral of Terence Bellew McManus fifty years earlier and the positive propaganda it would generate, John Devoy and Thomas Clarke conspired with O'Donovan Rossa's wife, herself an ardent Fenian, to have his body sent home for burial. Almost 100,000 people attended the funeral at which Pearse made his famous ovation.

The Bridge itself was initially a wooden structure, built in 1682 under the instructions of Lord Mayor of Dublin, Lord Humphrey Jervis. The bridge was a ramshackle effort without even guard railings, and was washed downstream within two years of its creation. It was replaced in 1684 by a masonry bridge named Ormond Bridge which lasted until 1802 when it was swept away in a storm. After eleven years of debate, design and construction, the current bridge was opened, complete with sculptured heads on the keystones. The heads on the keystones represent Plenty, The Liffey herself, Industry, Commerce, Peace and Hibernia. Opened as Richmond Bridge in honor of the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Duke of Richmond. In 1923 it was named after O'Donovan Rossa.



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Millennium Bridge 1999

When opened on December 20th, 1999 it gifted, to citizens and visitors alike, new views of the Liffey and quaysides from the old heart of the city. A millennium Project for Dublin Corporation, the bridge was the subject of a design



competition, in association with the Institute of Engineers of Ireland, which attracted 153 Irish and international entries. Howley Harrington Architects, with Price & Myers as Consultant Engineers, emerged victorious, their light weight steel and concrete structure, a thoroughly modern take on its timeless neighbor, the Ha'penny Bridge.

Approaching Millennium Bridge from the north or south quays, the curving abutment walls gently, yet efficiently, guide you over the threshold and onto the aluminum plank deck. All the while your view of the river is uninterrupted as the solid quay walls give way to the railing topped approaches and the open steelwork of the bridge. As you stride across the river (the bridge span is 135 feet), take note of the granite faced abutments, which swell out from the quay walls and are intriguingly revealed and concealed as the tide ebbs and flows. The gentle slope of the bridge - the gradient is 1 in 20 - the flattening in

the mid section and the absence of any steps makes it user friendly for all ages and range of abilities, including wheelchair passengers.

Ha'penny Bridge (was Metal Bridge, Wellington Bridge) 1816

When the sailing ships, transporting the Ha'penny Bridge from the Coalbrookdale Foundry in England, dropped anchor in Dublin, it was then an outpost of the British Empire with a population of less than 200,000 people. The bridge, assembled on site, opened on May 19th 1816 and citizens enjoyed ten toll free days. Thereafter it was a convenience, paid for in ha'pennies.

Proposed by Dublin city aldermen, John Beresford and William Walsh as a shortcut to Crow Street Theatre the bridge lease was granted to Walsh. It was a lucrative business, yielding £329 and 3s income per annum. Walsh ceased his ferry business on the same stretch of river, in compensation receiving an additional £3,000. The bridge was named, though not officially, for Arthur Wellesley, First Duke of Wellington and victor at the Battle of Waterloo. Dubliners dubbed it the Ha'penny Bridge. Today it is very much cherished as a jewel of the city though was not always so thought of. Unsightly advertising was allowed to adorn the bridge until the 1950s. Around that time the wooden deck was covered with tarmac sheets. In the 1980s inelegant, cast iron lighting columns were placed at the bridge mouths and the national transportation agency, C.I.E., even proposed building a rapid rail terminal near the site. Missing rails were not replaced and unsightly scaffolding propped it up here and there. From time to time a compensatory lick of garish colored paint was applied to the rust and it was at one time improbably bathed in blue light.

A timely, 1998 Dublin City Council assessment called for refurbishment but conserving the bridge as purely ornamental was also briefly considered. In all, fifty two different design options were appraised before the Ha'penny was tented and a temporary Bailey bridge erected. Over 1000 individual rail pieces were labelled, removed and sent to Northern Ireland for repair, restoration and painting. Such were the efforts made, that 85% of the original railwork was retained. The 1980s lighting was removed, subtle recessed lighting installed and the bridge mouths smoothed and curved in granite at either end for the comfort and safety of pedestrians. A stepped ramp replaced the steep gradient of old and the deck was given a modern anti-slip surface. After this year long restoration process, costing €1.25million, the bridge reopened on December, 21, 2001.



O'Connell Bridge (was Carlisle Bridge) 1792

In Dublin the mid 18th century, battle lines were drawn: some citizens desired a new bridge and others decidedly did not. At stake was the dominance of the medieval quarter but when architect James Gandon was smuggled into Dublin to begin building the new Custom House in 1781 the city's eastward shift became unstoppable.

Parliament duly sanctioned a new bridge. In 1791, a Gandon design was agreed - his earlier, magnificent offering with a central triumphal arch, colonnaded walkways and an equestrian statue of the king was rejected as too costly - and the building of a hump backed, three arch bridge, of Portland stone and granite, got underway. The keystones boasted carvings by Edward Smyth representing Anna Liffey and the Atlantic and obelisks decorated each corner. Opened to pedestrians in 1792 and to carriage traffic in 1794, Carlisle Bridge offered a perfect view of a new, elegant, Dublin.

As early as 1818 repairs were required and at a Royal Academy Exhibition of 1841 a model for the widening of the bridge was displayed. By 1852, lying unevenly on its foundations, it was 'the most dangerous bridge in the empire' yet required policemen with batons to clear the traffic congestion. Construction of Bindon Blood Stoney's most elegant, almost square bridge began in 1877.



Adorned with Parisian chic in the form of four ornamental lamp standards on each parapet and three on the central footpath, it also boasted new balustrades. From time to time the architecture of the bridge has been dabbled with - the parapet lamps were brutally reduced to one arm in 1919 but the classical three arm design was restored in the 1990s.

A large copper bowl, filled with plastic 'flames' immersed in water, decorated the bridge briefly in 1953 but met its fate at the bottom of the Liffey. A proposal of 1955, to erect a 20 feet high, domed, perspex traffic tower was, thankfully, rejected though it was once permitted to park on O'Connell Bridge! The history of the bridge is that of the modern city - rebels hung from gallows here in 1798, O'Connell's voice boomed out from here, the leaders of 1916 passed this way, shots rang out across it in the War of Independence and the Civil War and the final address of the 1932 Eucharistic Congress was given from the

bridge. Daniel O'Connell was the Liberator, a peerless political activist, a lawyer, Lord Mayor of Dublin, a family man, a duelist, an M.P. and a bon viveur. O'Connell's political movements were characterized by peaceful, persuasive resistance and brilliant organization. His personal appeal was central to his success in achieving Catholic Emancipation in 1829. The bridge was renamed in 1882 and the original Carlisle name is covered by the O'Connell plaque at the bridge entrance.

Rosie Hackett Bridge 2014

Rosie Hackett Bridge is the newest addition to the family of bridges crossing the River Liffey. Construction began in February 2012 and the bridge opened on the 20th of May 2014. Named after the trade union activist, who was involved in the 1913 Lockout, and later the 1916 Rising, it is the only bridge in the city center named after a woman. The bitterly fought Lockout of 1913 saw Rosie lose her job but she retrained as a printer while joining the Irish Citizen Army. When the call to arms came Rosie served alongside the great and the good - Connolly was about in Liberty Hall, Pearse came and went, she took first aid classes with Dr. Kathleen Lynn and saw action in the College of Surgeons and St. Stephens Green with Constance Markievicz and Michael Mallin. Released from Kilmainham Jail she refocused her considerable talents into re-forming the Irish Women Workers' Union and served the trade union movement for the rest of her working life.



A low, single span, concrete structure, it is simple and sensitive in design - not wanting to compete with its classically elegant upstream neighbor, O'Connell Bridge, or to intrude upon the surrounding historic quayside. That sensitivity and simplicity perfectly complements its purpose - it is a public transport priority bridge, its 85 feet width generously accommodating dedicated bus and taxi lanes, a cycle track for southbound traffic, open spaces for walkers and a LUAS light rail corridor.

Sean O'Casey Bridge 2005

The Liffey was a watery no man's land crossed by functional road bridges upstream and downstream. Everyone was going somewhere else. Then, as if inspired by the words of Seán O'Casey, "Take heart from your city's hidden splendor", a transformation took place. Vital to this transformation was the provision of the bridge. The Dublin Docklands Authority, with statutory responsibility for the regeneration of the area, commissioned a pedestrian bridge. The design by architect Cyril O'Neill and O'Connor Sutton Cronin Consulting Engineers was selected from 80 international entries and in 2006 received an RIAI award and the iStructE Award for Pedestrian Bridges and in 2007 an International Architecture Award. Dubliners have taken the bridge to their heart - the measure of which is to dub it with witty nicknames. For some it is the 'Bingo Bridge', allowing northsiders and southsiders to frequent each other's bingo halls. Others, amused by the apparent bounce they experience as they saunter across, have christened it the 'Quiver in the River'.



Dublin, its self confidence fueled by the roaring success of the Celtic Tiger, began to celebrate its otherness - the unique experience of simply being Dublin - and the 21st century city fathers, Dublin City Council, came to name bridges for men who loved, yet ultimately fled their native city - men of the pen.

Seán O'Casey was such a man, born and bred a northside docklander. By birth a Protestant, by discovery an idealist, a socialist, a rebel and idiosyncratic to boot - he always wore a turtle necked sweater, even to his wedding - O'Casey held a dramatic mirror up to his fellow citizens. In response they rioted in the theatres, then, with the inbred irony of Dubliners, applauded his artistic vision.

Samuel Beckett Bridge 2009

The bridge, which opened on December 10th 2009, had long been planned for this area, once the very definition of urban abandonment. On a practical level, the bridge provides an important river crossing, joining Guild Street on the north bank to Sir John Rogerson's Quay on the south, and facilitates a smoother, more rational flow of traffic within the city. Socially, it unites communities divided by the River Liffey, yet with much shared heritage. Commercially, the bridge is a dynamic branding of this vibrant quarter and of the city itself. A moving bridge, it is a maritime gateway for Dublin, rotating horizontally through 90 degrees, crossing the river at right angles and with a span of 403 feet. It is also a statement bridge and was planned so from the start to fit in with the vision for the whole area - a symbol of change from the past and readiness for the future. The bold design brings definition to the urban landscape. Today, it is about that infinity of possibilities and the humankind vital to a city's prosperity.

Samuel Barclay Beckett was an Irish avant-garde novelist, playwright, theater director, and poet, who lived in Paris for most of his adult life and wrote in both English and French. He is widely regarded as among the most influential writers of the 20th century. Beckett's work offers a bleak, tragicomic outlook on human existence, often coupled with black comedy and gallows humor, and became increasingly minimalist in his later career. He is considered one of the last modernist writers, and one of the key figures in what Martin Esslin called the "Theatre of the Absurd".



President's Message:

Dia Dhaoibh !!

Coming up on the end of the school year and jumping headlong into summer! I hope you all take some time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends.

Speaking of friends, the Irish Cultural & Sports Association's annual golf outing is set for July 15th at Alling Memorial in New Haven. We will be trying to give away \$10,000 for a hole-in-one along with other prizes. Its a fun time followed by dinner and prizes at the Playwright. Get your foursome together and come on out!

Cumann Scannán, the ICSA Film Club, begins it's free Irish movie afternoons next month. All club members and friends are invited to come along to The Playwright.

One item to keep an eye on as we head through the summer is our Thimble Islands Cruise on September 9th! Details are in this An Cúisle. This is always a blast and tickets go quickly. Don't miss out. We hope to see you there.

Hopefully you all were able to make it to the Irish Theater Troupe's production of "Poor Beast in The Rain"! The show was outstanding! Thanks to all who made it out to support the cast, crew and the ICSA. Our thanks to our hosts at Whitneyville Cultural Commons for their support as well as all our ad book sponsors. Please be sure to look for next years production!

The ICSA also sponsored the Irish Flag Raising on the New Haven Green in commemoration of the Easter Rising. My heartfelt thanks to the committee for continuing this event.

I invite all of you to come down to our meetings and get involved, make our existing events more exciting and offer input and suggestions for new events. It's your club and we appreciate everyone's input.

The regular club meeting is set for Monday June 19th 8pm at the Playwright in Hamden. This will be preceded by a meeting of the social committee (everyone is invited to attend and offer input) at 7:15pm.

As we get into July and August, our general membership meeting are suspended and resume in September. So we hope to see you on September 18th!

278 days till St. Patrick's Day!!

Go Raibh Maith Agaibbh,
Tim.

• **Almost there! PLEASE! HELP! Send your recipes!** We are compiling a cook book of favorite recipes from members and friends. Please, if you have a favorite recipe or five or ten, ship them off to 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: 2017 dues are now being accepted. Your dues should have been paid by March 1st to maintain your good standing. Reminders have been sent out. If you have already submitted your dues for 2017, thank you and welcome back! If you have questions, please contact our Financial Secretary, Siobhan Dacey

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.

*** 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.**

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.

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

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

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.

2016 Officers

President - Tim Whalen twhalen@icsa-home.org
Vice President - Margaret Prendergast mprendergast@icsa-home.org
Secretary - Mary Williams mwilliams@icsa-home.org
Treasurer - Shaun Donnelly sdonnelly@icsa-home.org
Financial Secretary - Siobhan Dacey sdacey@icsa-home.org
Cultural Director - Rich Regan rregan@icsa-home.org
Program Director - Meaghan Whalen - mwhalen@icsa-home.org