



Irish Community Newsletter

Arkansas | Colorado | Kansas | Kansas City, Missouri | Louisiana | New Mexico | Oklahoma | Texas

March 2021

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh! Happy St. Patrick's Day y'all!

A chairde,

Welcome to the St. Patrick's Day edition of our Consulate newsletter.

With so many events happening online to celebrate our national day, it is hard to choose just some to feature but we do hope you will join us for a celebration of Irish-America, 'Shades of Green' from 6.30pm CST/5.30pm MST on 17 March, hosted by the Irish Ambassador to the US, Dan Mulhall. There are more details of this special event on our website and social media - we'll see you there!



An important update for many of you if that paper based passport applications are no longer being accepted. When the Passport Office reopens, all passport applications, for adults and children, will have to be made online.

If you have a paper application, please do not submit it at this time. There is more information on our website or you can call the Consulate with any queries you might have.

Finally, we are happy to let you know that the Consulate has finally caught up with the rest of the world and joined Facebook. We look forward to seeing you there and enjoying your St. Patrick's Day photos.

From the Consulate team, we hope that you can enjoy some celebrations and wish you all a safe and happy St Patrick's Day. Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh – Happy St. Patrick's Day y'all!

Claire, Paul, Laura and Cecilia

First Choctaw-Ireland Scholar graduates

The first Choctaw-Ireland scholar, Jessica Militante, graduated with a First Class Honours MA in Creative Writing from University College Cork on 15th March.

The Choctaw-Ireland Scholarship was established to commemorate the solidarity shown by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to the people of Ireland during the Great Famine. In response to hearing about the victims of the Great Famine in 1847 – less than sixteen years after their own dislocation which became known as the 'Trail of Tears' – the Choctaw people made a generous contribution towards Irish famine relief efforts.

Comhghairdeas Jessica!



Leadville Irish Miners' Memorial

Alan Goarke, President of the Irish Network Colorado



In the summer and fall of 2020, we officially began constructing the Leadville Irish Miners' Memorial. Ground penetrating radar was performed on the area where the memorial will be built, ensuring no unmarked graves existed there. Scrubbing and tree clearing of the site was completed by our wonderful Leadville local team lead by Luke Finken and Kathleen Fitzsimmons. Almost 2,000 cubic feet of soil, donated by Lake County, CO, has been moved to the site and the mound has been formed to set the foundation for the memorial sculpture being created by artist Terry Brennan of Wicklow, Ireland. On track to be completed this summer are the unique spiral-walkway landscape design and glass panels containing a wall of names of the deceased, designed by Barnabas Kane of Consilium Design Denver. We plan to unveil the completed memorial in September 2021.

Over one thousand Irish and other immigrants, buried in unmarked sunken graves, will soon be honored in an unveiling of the artfully landscaped and curated "Leadville Irish Miners' Memorial" in the Catholic Free (Pauper) section of Leadville, Colorado's Evergreen Cemetery.

Leadville, a beautiful two hour drive west of Denver, Colorado was a Native American summer-time hunting region for thousands of years. Then in 1860, gold prospectors struck fortune here and it would soon become one of America's largest and most notorious silver mining camps. Leadville incorporated in 1879 with 100+ miles of railway tracks and 30,000+ residents to support the mine and its miners. Almost one-fifth of these townspeople had Irish heritage making it the largest Irish immigrant community in Colorado history, surpassing even San Francisco and Chicago! These men, women, and children were a proud working-class community. About one-

third of them hailed from the copper mining regions of West Cork, Ireland, and many others from areas such as Tipperary, Waterford, Kerry, Mayo, and Donegal.

Miners were hired by large corporations for back-breaking work that earned them only \$3 a day to support their families. They faced exceptionally high death rates due to terrible working and living conditions typical of mining camps at the time. In the traditional Irish spirit of resistance, the Leadville miners twice led massive strikes, walking out of silver mines and bringing the Colorado economy to a halt. But, demands of pay raises, eight-hour work days, better safety codes, and the right to unionize, were met with martial law response by the U.S. National Guard. Strikers were arrested, forced to work in road building chain gangs, and were never able to win any concessions in their favor. Average age of death among those buried in the Catholic Free section of Leadville's Evergreen Cemetery was 23 years.

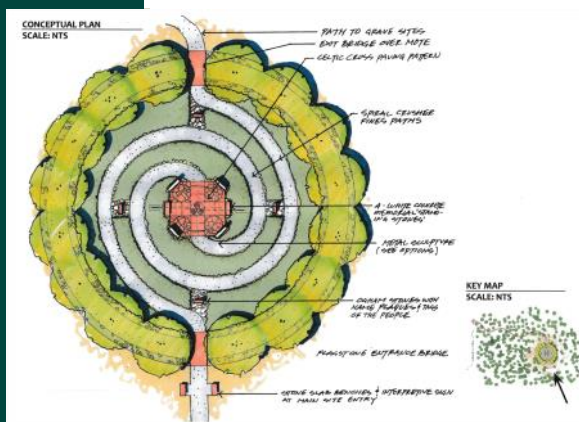


For more information on the memorial or to make a donation please visit www.irishnetworkco.com and look for the "Donate Today" button.

Go raibh mile maith agat. A thousand thanks!

Alan Goarke

Dr. James Walsh, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Colorado, has made it his life's work to memorialize the lives of these Irish miners. With his help, the help of the Irish Network Colorado (INCO), along with generous grants & donations from the Irish Government, local businesses and organizations, and many patrons and volunteers, we will now share the historical experience of their enduring struggle for workplace rights and human dignity, in the 19th century Rocky Mountain mining region.



St Patrick's Days gone by

With special thanks to Marie O'Shaughnessy-Martin, Austin, and Pat O'Neill, Kansas City, for sharing some of their personal collection of photographs of St. Patrick's Day celebrations in our region in years past.



Ancient Order of Hibernians in San Antonio, 1908, John O'Brien (with blackthorn stick), Hugh B. Rice (standing), Tom Conroy (driver), Gilbert O'Shaughnessy, Matthew Cody, Father Quinn, Mayor Bryan Callaghan Jr. and others



Eileen Burke-Faught at the laying of the wreath ceremony at The Alamo, San Antonio, TX, 1967



St. Patrick's Day Parade, Kansas City



Children from St. Regis School, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Kansas City in the 1980's



The O'Neills, Kansas City, 1929



Grand Marshal Monsignor Arthur Tighe and parade co-founder, saloonkeeper Danny Hogerty, St. Patrick's Parade, Kansas City, 1975



Kansas City Irish Ambassador to Schools, Danny O'Mara, with Grand Marshal Marge Browne



San Antonio, 1908, Gilbert O'Shaughnessy, Matthew Cody, Peter O'Brien, John O'Hara and others



Kansas City's Celtic Fringe organization members, Kansas City 2005



Earliest St. Patrick's Day parade in Kansas City, 1874



Michael Emmett O'Shaughnessy, Austin, 1980

Global Greening

This year marks the 12th year of the 'Global Greening' initiative where every St Patrick's Day hundreds of iconic landmarks and sites from around the globe light up in green. At a time when Irish people overseas cannot travel home, it is hoped the Greenings will give our community a sense of connection with home.

Special thanks to the Irish organisations and individuals in region that have once again helped us with this project.



A Farther Shore: Reflections on the Advent of Irish Independence (1921-22)

Since 2012, Ireland's Decade of Centenaries has seen us explore the series of seminal events that politically and socially shaped our island a century ago. From the introduction of the third Home Rule Bill and the Ulster Covenant in 1912, through the first World War and the Easter Rising of 1916, and on to the formation of the first Dáil and the onset of the War of Independence in 1919. We have marked crucial moments, recognising that the historical experiences of those years gave rise to very different narratives and memories.



The Embassy of Ireland and the Irish Consulates across the US have joined the American Conference for Irish Studies and Irish Studies programmes across many of this nation's leading Universities to host a series of lectures and panels reflecting on the final, and perhaps most contested, years of this formative decade.

On May 25, University of St. Thomas Flynn Center for Irish Studies will host a webinar on The Irish Civil War and Society at 12:00pm CST.

More information will be available on the Consulate and Flynn Center websites soon.

The Ireland Funds

For 45 years, [The Ireland Funds](#) has harnessed the power of friends of Ireland to strengthen the work of non-profit organizations across the island of Ireland. Today, it continues to raise much-needed support for communities facing [the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 crisis](#). Thanks to the generosity of donors here in Texas and around the world, over 40 organizations working in the areas of food distribution, disability support, domestic abuse, elderly services, access to education, mental health and community support have received financial support since the pandemic began.



To learn more about the Ireland Funds chapter in Dallas please, visit [The Ireland Funds](#) or contact Darina Padian or Judy Curtis at (469) 232-9601.

Got a suggestion?

Let us know if you have an idea or a suggestion for the next edition of our newsletter!



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SEODA

Over 100 artists will be featured in SEODA a global celebration of Irish culture that runs March 17 – 21.

SEODA (Irish for 'jewels') celebrates Irish arts worldwide at a time when Irish artists would normally be travelling the globe. Click [here](#) to find out more about the festival.

We know everyone has screen fatigue but this is one to make an exception for!



The Consulate is delighted to bring you 'Playback X DIFF' a dynamic programme of the best contemporary Irish Hip Hop + R&B music videos.

Screening on Friday, 26 March at 8:00pm CST.

More information is available at <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-consulate/austin/>

Better late than never...



Be careful what you wish for! We have had a few requests for a Consulate Facebook page so, about ten years after the rest of the world, that page is now live. Please follow us and share your St. Patrick's Day photos! @IrelandCGAustin