



Celtic Women International

Newsletter

www.celticwomen.org

P.O. Box 58, Butler, WI 53007

Spring 2007

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

I hope everyone has a chance to indulge in a little St. Pat's Day revelry. We've had some celebrations for the Welsh and Scots too so there have been some high points in this cold spell. I enjoyed a Breton experience at Mardi Gras in Louisiana and am constantly finding new places and events which incorporate Celtic elements. Look around you - we are everywhere! Again, a reminder to support CWI with your membership - you're the reason we exist!

Slainte,
Mary McGough Schultze
President - CWI

Upcoming Events

March 31 – April 1 • “Imperfect Balance”
at the Irish American Heritage Center,
4626 N. Knox , Chicago. *See schedule on pg 6.*

CWI has created a Reading List of recommended resources in connection with “imPerfect Balance”. The Reading List will continue to evolve. We welcome your suggestions for additional authors, poets, CDs, etc. Visit the Reading List at www.celticwomen.org/WASCbooklist.htm.

April 17 Chicago Branch “Third Tuesday” meeting at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. • **7-9pm**

The speaker will be Sharon Shea Bossard, author of *Finding My Irish*, the story of the author’s ‘quest to unlock her Irish heritage’.

For more information about the author, visit her website www.findingmyirish.com.

For more information about the “Third Tuesday” gatherings in Chicago, check our link on the CWI website, www.celticwomen.org

April 20 - April 22 • CWI Weekend
“Galena Getaway Gathering” in Galena,
Illinois. **Details on page 10.**

Other Celtic Events

March 2 - March 25 Contemporary Celtic Art Exhibit “*New Visions 2007*” and **March 25**, 2 pm - *Transforming Ireland Into A New Nation: The Yeats Family*; Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago www.irishamhc.com

April 18-21 American Conference of Irish Studies. CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. www.apsanet.org/content_7741.cfm

June 20-23 Canadian Association for Irish Studies Conference, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John’s, NL, Canada www.irishstudies.ca/2007-Conference.html

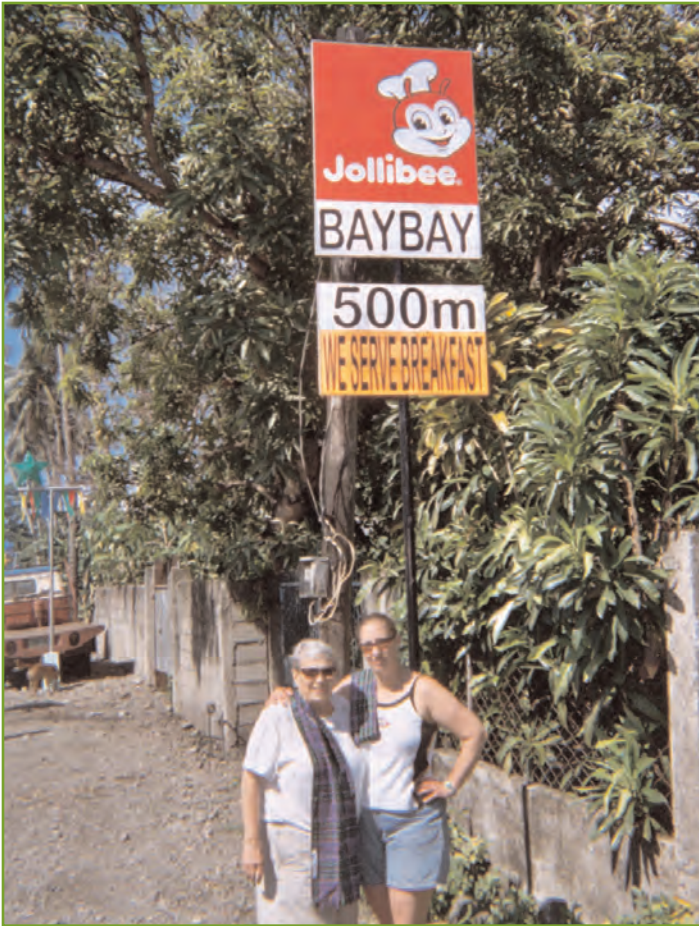
June 15 & 16 Illinois St. Andrew Society Highland Games www.chicago-scots.org

June 17 Potomac Celtic Festival www.potomaccelticfest.org

July 12-15 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games www.gmhg.org

July 25 to 29 The 14th Gathering of Cornish Cousins *far from 'ome* - Immigrant Experiences on the Keweenaw Peninsula www.keweenawkernekek.org

Where in the World is the CWI Tartan?



Sheila and Emily Isakson visiting in BayBay (pronounced bye-bye), a small town on the island Leyte, in Dec. 2006. Leyte is one of 7,000 islands in the Phillipines, and is well known as the site of General Douglas McArthur's "I shall return." The temperature was in the 90's so one does not see very many scarves--let alone CWI tartan scarves!! The tartan also made its way to Hong Kong on the trip.

HOW ABOUT YOUR CWI TARTAN? Bring your CWI tartan with you on vacation, have someone take a picture of you and send it to us. We'll put it in the next CWI newsletter, and put another push-pin on the map.

If you don't have any items with CWI tartan, you can order scarves, visors, luggage tags and tartan yardage from Marjorie Warren at Thistle Studios. More information, including pricing and an order form, is available on our website.

Marjorie L. Warren, Owner
350 Crum Drive
Lake Junaluska, North Carolina 28745
Phone: 828-452-0782
Fax: 828-452-4225
Email: mwarren@bellsouth.net

News from the Local Branches

CHICAGO

January Meeting

Our January meeting brought us **Lawrence McCaffrey**, Professor Emeritus, Loyola



University, to present a special program "*The Irish in the Silver Films.*" Larry took us on an historical tour of the Irish and Irish Immigrants as portrayed in film. Early Irish film fell neatly into stereotypical categories such as mobsters, policemen and priests. Later these evolved into leprechauns, viragos, rogues, charmers, drunks and long-suffering women. He traced the rising role of the Irish in society with their changing roles in films. The meeting ended with a short clip of Gene Kelley's "step dance" in "Take Me Out to the Ballroom."

Lawrence J. McCaffrey is professor emeritus of Loyola University of Chicago. He is the cofounder of the American Conference for Irish Studies and the author of numerous books and articles, including *The Irish Question: Two Centuries of Conflict*, *Textures of Irish America*, *The Irish in Chicago*, and *Ireland from Colony to Nation State*. He is frequently interviewed by the major television networks.

February Meeting

The Chicago Branch welcomed back Patricia Monaghan to speak about Brigit: Goddess, Saint, Bridge. While Pat referred back to some of the history and details of her January 2005 program when she first presented this topic, much of her program focussed on her recent travels to St. Brigit's Garden in Ireland.

continued on page 3

Local Branches cont.

Brigit's Garden is a not-for-profit organisation and a registered charity set up by Jenny Beale of her passion for nature and the environment. Brigit's Garden is actually 4 gardens, each garden representing one of the Celtic festivals: Samhain, Imbolc, Bealtaine and Lughnasa.

Each of the gardens forms a quarter of a rectangle, with a large roundhouse in the middle, paths leading one from one garden to the next, and unique designs for each "separate" garden. These are wildlife gardens, designed to reflect the West of Ireland landscape and managed to encourage biodiversity.

Other features of Brigit's Garden include a huge, bog oak sundial, half-mile natural trail through woodland, meadow and lakeshore, Children's Discovery Trail, Living Willow Play Area, Ring Fort, Ogham Trees, workshops, and other special activities. The gardens were designed by Mary Reynolds, winner of the Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2002. Visit Brigit Garden's website for more information, photos, map of the 4-seasonal gardens, and upcoming events. Better yet, put it on your itinerary the next time you visit Ireland.

We finished the meeting by invoking the blessing of Brigit with a prayer found on page 4.



Anne McCaffery and Pat Monaghan

Patricia Monaghan is an author and poet whose work revolves around the intersection of myth and everyday life. She has published several books of nonfiction and two of poetry. Much of her work explores the role of feminine power in our world, in an inclusive and multicultural way. *"The Red-Haired Girl from the Bog: The Landscape of Celtic Myth and Spirit"*, explores the way that Irish mythology expresses the

power of the Irish land. In her most recent work, *Homefront: Silenced Voices of War*, Pat uses medieval Irish poetry forms and Irish myth to highlight the effect of war on children. Pat teaches at DePaul University's School for New Learning, including an Irish studies class tour to Ireland in the fall. More information about Patricia Monaghan, her books and her poetry, may be found on her website at www.patricia-monaghan.com.



SHEBOYGAN

On St. Patrick's Day every year, 52 Stafford on Stafford Street in Plymouth sponsors an Irishman's Walk. This was instituted by Rip O'Dwanny over 20 years ago. He insists that it is not a parade but a walk and he is right. As many as 100 marchers, depending on day of the week and the weather, meet at the corner of Eastern Avenue and Highland Avenue in Plymouth Wisconsin. At 10:30 sharp, the police car and the fire truck head out.

The marchers, most dressed in green and some in outlandish costumes, including children and dogs (often also in costume) follow the vehicles. We have on occasion had someone with a boom box playing Cd's or even less often a bodhrun or tin whistle player, but mainly we just walk and talk as we make our way down Eastern Avenue, turn left onto Mill Street and left again on Stafford Street where we finish at the 52 Stafford Irish Inn. Our "crowd" consists of preschool kids and any of the business owners and customers that happen to notice.

Upon arrival at the Inn, we stream into the pub area to partake of a free shot of good Irish Whiskey followed by music, good food and lots of story telling.

I have been walking for about 15 years now and wouldn't miss it unless it was called off. All are welcome. Everybody becomes Irish on St. Patrick's Day. *Mary (Deeley) Kunert*

continued on page 5

INTERESTED IN CELTIC MUSIC?

Chuck Kessell is in the process of starting a pan Celtic choir called Celtic Fire in Chicago. If you would like more information, contact Chuck at perc55@juno.com.

Celtic Quills

Brigidine Prayer for Peace

Brigid,
You were a woman of peace,
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness.
You brought hope to the downcast.

May the mantle of your peace
Cover those who are troubled and anxious,
And may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts
And in our world.

Inspire us to act justly and to reverence
All god has made.

Brigid, you are a voice for the wounded
And the weary,
Strengthen what is weak within us,
Calm us into a quietness that heals
And listens.

May we grow each day into greater
Wholeness in mind, body, and spirit.
Amen

*Source: prayer card from the Brigidine nuns
of Kildare.*



May God keep you safe,
mayGod keep you warm
may Bridget keep you and yours from all harm
May she bless your kith and kin, the hearth
the house and all within

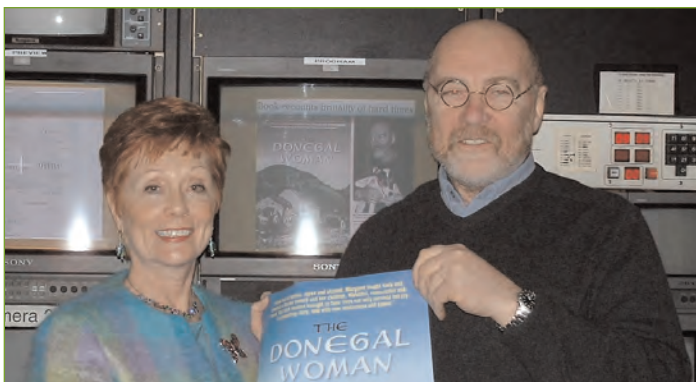
Traditional Scottish House Blessing.



Author Interviewed

John Throne, author of *The Donegal Woman* appeared on Avila Fine Arts Lovers/Books to speak about his book. *The Donegal Woman* tells the story of the author's grandmother, born to the poorest of farmers, who was hired out at the age of 12 to a local farmer - part of the hiring fair system.

The interview will air on March 17 at 9:30 am. on CAN-TV.



Sherry Avila and John Throne

NEW Liffey Rivers Irish-Dancer Girl Detective MYSTERY!!!

The Mystery of the Winking Judge
Brenna Briggs

There is more intrigue in London than 13-year-old Irish dancer Liffey Rivers could have ever imagined!

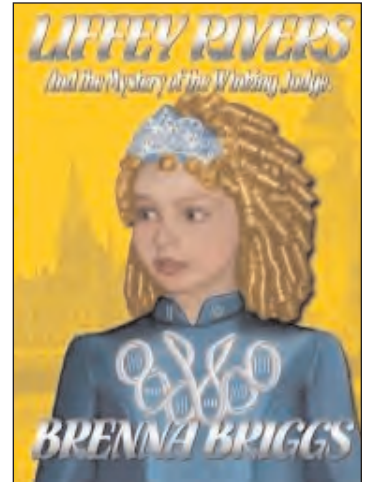
How will she tell the smug-looking security guard at the National Portrait Gallery that something is WRONG with one of the portraits of Queen Elizabeth I, hanging in the Tudor Gallery?

And how can she even pretend that she is ready to dance next week at an Irish dance competition in County Sligo?

And WHY is the Irish judge at the Prizewinner Jig stage winking at her? Liffey has seen those eyes before....

About the author

Brenna Briggs lives in County Sligo, Ireland with her family and bog dog Cooga. She is the author of Liffey Rivers and the *Mystery of the Sparkling Solo Dress Crown*, and a former documentary file producer-director.



In this new story the author has subtly fused the backdrop of a feis with "disguised" Irish history and culture information. She introduces ancient Ogham stone letters into the design of Liffey's first solo dress as a kind of secret code,

and fills the story with highlights of Dublin City and Knocknarea.

For more information, visit her website www.liffeyrivers.com.

continued on page5

Local Branches *cont.*

Start Your Own Local Branch

CELTIC WOMEN INTERNATIONAL (CWI) ENCOURAGES GROUPS OF WOMEN TO FORM LOCAL CWI BRANCHES.

Local branches are formed and operated according to CWI bylaws and policies; branches are authorized by and with the support of the CWI Board of Directors.

The leaders of each local branch assist members in planning and organizing events that reflect the needs, preferences and resources of the local branch. The "branch" could be as simple as a book club, theater interests, arts or hobbies or other small groups organized around a common interest related to Celtic women.

For information about forming a local CWI branch, e-mail editor@celticwomen.org or write to Celtic Women International, P.O. Box 58, Butler, WI 53007.

Current Branches

Chicago Maureen Smith • 312-915-7399
msmith@luc.edu

Denver Eileen Niehouse
madgrace@rmi.net

Toronto Catherine Crowe
imagecorvi@yahoo.ca

Sheboygan Mary Kunert
mary.kunert@gmail.com

**Winona/
Minnesota** Jean Whalen
jcwhalen@hbc.com

Celtic Quills *cont.*

Cranky Old Man

by Mary J. Kunert

Cranky old man sucks joy out of the world.
Cold and harsh is his way.
Life retreats in to the ground, away from his fury
As Winter marches in, cold and forbidding.
Snow covers ground, trying to protect,
To shield the earth from his wrath.

Some of God's creatures sleep away his reign.
Some flee South before his rage.
Some Timidly creep out to search for food.
Cold and hungry they nip at weeds and tree bark,
While struggling to survive
Then rush back to shelter among the trees.

Cranky old man stays much too long.
The earth sleeps and gains the strength
To finally answer the call of sun and light
And dare to bring color back to the world.
Winter grows empty and weak

Resurrection

by Mary J. Kunert

Sap pulses to the fingertips of naked twigs.
Tiny buds erupt on reaching branches.
Signs of life after months of dormancy.
Hibernation,
Sleep and
Death
Do not last forever.
And falls before the strength and joy of Spring.

J. O'Reilly Productions, WASC, and the Irish American Heritage Center
present

imPerfect Balance



Image by Cathal Rich

A Women's Art Series March 27 – April 22

Irish American Heritage Center

4626 N. Knox

Chicago, IL 60630

(773) 282-7035

www.irishamhc.com

www.chicagowasc.com

Schedule of Events

March 25 – 8 am **Preview Interview with Jamie O'Reilly and Anne Hills**
RICK KOGAN'S "THE SUNDAY PAPERS"
WGN Radio 780AM

March 28 – 7 pm **Literary Event with Jamie O'Reilly and Anne Hills**
"EXPLORING THE IMPERFECT BALANCE" A TALK WITH MUSIC
Oak Park Public Library (708) 697-6915 www.oppl.org

March 27
through
April 22 **Art Exhibition: imperfect Balance**
Irish American Heritage Art Gallery, 2nd Floor
Curated by Deborah Maris Lader

April 1 – 1:30 pm **Gallery Talk**

March 31 – 7 pm
and
April 1 – 3 pm **Performances** FEATURING ANNE HILLS, JUNE SHELENE,
SHEILA DONOHUE, MONICA KASS ROGERS, EMILY ROGERS
AND JAMIE O'REILLY

April 21 – 10 am Follow up workshop Memoir Writing
FINDING YOUR VOICE, TELLING YOUR STORY
with Carol La Chapelle Info at (312) 458-0822

Booklist available at
www.celticwomen.org
and IAHC Library
throughout series



Women's Art Series Connective is an independent,
self-sustaining group of women connecting art and
culture with community.



RECIPE II: CORNISH PASTY continued

Filling:

You can dice lean round steak and vegetables into a small 1/4" dice, but I used ground round and a food processor to combine the meat with the other ingredients into a rough paste.

2 pounds ground round or chuck	1 medium sweet onion
2 small raw red potatoes	1 1/2 t. salt
2 large carrots, peeled and chopped	1/8 t. pepper or more to taste

Mix and spoon carefully onto 1/2 of pastry. Fold over and seal edge well with a mixture of 1 whole beaten egg mixed with 1 T. water. Crimp or use the tines on a fork to seal edge. Do not prick pastry for steam holes. Brush top with egg wash of 1 egg yolk and small amount of whipping cream for a shiny golden finish. Place on parchment paper on a jelly roll pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes.

There's a trick to sealing the edge that comes with experience; the pasty should not lose steam or liquid. Diced rutabagas may be added instead of carrots. Serve hot or may be carefully reheated. Serve with Marcia's Wonderful Tomato Sauce.

Tomato Sauce:

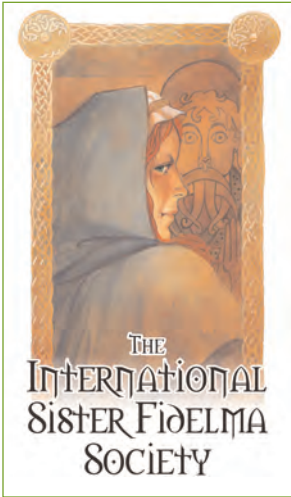
1 28 oz. can diced tomatoes	1/4 c. drk brown sugar (or more to taste)
1 medium sweet onion, chopped	1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
1 medium green pepper, chopped	1/2 teaspoon celery seed
1 medium red pepper, chopped	1/2 t. whole mustard seed
1 cup unsweetened applesauce	salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in saucepan and cook until thickened about 20-30 minutes. When done, if desired, put in a food processor or blender to make somewhat smoother but not pureed. Frequently in restaurants pasties are served with ketchup. There is no substitute for this tomato sauce. It reminds me of a chutney my Welsh mother canned every year.

GOOD LUCK! Any questions, email jstanicek@intergate.com or call 630-859-0506

We would love to include your stories, poems, pictures, recipes, Celtic links, favorites and any upcoming Celtic events! E-mail your items to editor@celticwomen.org

Our summer issue is scheduled to be out in July 2007.
Please submit items by June 10.



THE INTERNATIONAL SISTER FIDELMA SOCIETY WAS FORMED

in January 2001, to provide a forum through which the fans of the Sister Fidelma Mysteries could come together, discuss, support and propagate the work of the books and their author Peter Tremayne.

WHO IS SISTER FIDELMA?

Sister Fidelma is one of the most iconic Celtic women to appear in modern literature, She is the heroine of a series of mysteries set in Ireland during the 7th Century in which she is not merely a religieuse of the Celtic Church but a trained advocate of the ancient Irish law system (the Brehon Laws) through which she solves the crimes that she has to investigate.

Sister Fidelma first appeared in print in 1993 as short stories. From short stories they then started to appear in novel form in 1994 and, to date, some 17 books have appeared – 15 novels and 2 volumes of short stories.

Sister Fidelma achieved a resonance in many cultures and is now appearing in 14 languages. A recent issue of *Femina* magazine, the Netherlands-based international magazine on women's issues, hailed Fidelma as a Celtic female symbol in the modern world.

THE AUTHOR

The pseudonymous author of these historical crime stories, Peter Tremayne, is actually the well-known Celtic scholar Dr Peter Berresford Ellis, who admits to first inventing his Irish sleuth to demonstrate the status of women in 7th Century Ireland. He wanted to show women's co-equal role under the ancient legal system, the fact that women could aspire to become lawyers, judges, doctors, and poets, even leading their clans in battle. The stories also illustrate the friction between the Celtic Christians and the incoming practices from Rome, which sought to curtail the rights of women. It was a time when there was no

enforced celibacy in either church and the religious could and did marry. Peter also wanted to show that Ireland was, at that time, the centre of learning and literacy in 'Dark Age Europe' – a time when the great Irish secular and ecclesiastical colleges attracted students from all over Europe – even the sons of the Anglo-Saxon Kings were sent to study there.

Of course, Peter is probably better known to members of Celtic Women International as the author of *Celtic Women: Women in Celtic Society and Literature* (published in the UK in 1995 and the USA in 1996).

As a history major, I came to know Peter through his non-fiction work on the Celts. That led me onto the Sister Fidelma Mysteries. In the year 2000 I approached him for permission to set up a website support these books and their author - www.sisterfidelma.com. The response from those contacting the website was tremendous, and there were an overwhelming number of requests from fans asking whether a society could be formed. Again, I sought permission from the author, who not only agreed, but also became our official patron.

THE SOCIETY

The Society was launched in January 2001, not only producing the website but also a thrice-yearly print magazine, *The Brehon*, which is distributed to all members as part of their subscriptions. Our membership is almost worldwide – we have members in all those countries where the Sister Fidelma books are available and read.

In September 2006 the first international gathering of the fans of Sister Fidelma was held in Cashel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, the main location of the stories. Fans from nine countries attended to hear the author and some distinguished academics talk about the background of the stories. Among these was Professor Máirín Ní Dhonnchadha of the National University of Ireland, Galway, who not only specializes in Old and Middle Irish and Brehon Law but also contributed the section on Irish women writers of the period AD 600 to 1900 in *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writers Vol. IV and V (2002)*. Her talk on 'Trials of Love in Sister Fidelma's Ireland: The Tale of Liadin and Cuirither' was impressive.

So successful was the gathering, opened by the Mayor of Cashel. Cllr. Patrick Downey, that plans are afoot to hold a second such gathering in 2008.

During the same weekend, one of our members, Olivia Quinlan, manager of the Cashel Heritage Centre, opened her Georgian guesthouse as a theme Sister Fidelma guesthouse with rooms named after characters, illustrated with posters and other materials connected with the series and with her own extensive library of Sister Fidelma books in many languages. Bruden Fidelma, The Sister Fidelma Guesthouse, was officially opened by Peter Tremayne. It has its own website www.sisterfidelmabandb.com, and it is a must for fans to stay there when in Cashel.

The Society also has links with the Sister Fidelma Yahoo Discussion Group linked to the Society website.

MORE TO COME!

The Society fully believes that the Fidelma Mysteries will eventually emerge on film or television. A Dublin production company currently holds the rights to develop the books for a television series. Some of the stories have been dramatized on German radio, WDR5, and one of these performances is currently available on a commercial CD.

There author has already received several accolades of his work – from an Hon. Life Membership in the Irish Literary Society, founded by Nobel Literary Laureate W.B. Yeats in 1891 (whose current Hon. President is another Irish Nobel Literary Laureate, Seamus Heaney) to a civic reception and presentation by the Mayor and Town Council of Cashel in 2004, and last year an Honorary Doctorate of Literature from the University of East London (UK).

From Japan to Russia, from Greece to Argentina, from Estonia to the USA and Canada, and from Ireland to Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Holland, the UK, Czech Republic, Poland et. al. ... it seems everyone is talking about Sister Fidelma.

And that can't be bad for the image of Celtic women!

The Society is now entering its sixth vibrant year of existence and with a constantly growing membership. If you haven't discovered Sister Fidelma, please pick up one of the books. You'll be hooked. If you have, why not join us. You can do so via our website www.sisterfidelma.com, by email at david@sisterfidelma.com, or by contacting us at 1836 Ashley River Road, Suite 396, Charleston, South Carolina 29407-4781, USA.

Galena Getaway Weekend Gathering

Before the "Gold Rush" there was the LEAD RUSH. Galena (Latin for Lead), Mineral Point, New Diggings - are all towns connected to the mines and worked by Cornish miners.

Join us as we explore the fascinating history of this Celtic area, walk the Labarynth at the Sinsawa Mound, enjoy the complete Irish Breakfast buffet, visit the local shops, sample wine at the local winery shop, share song craigh in the Irish Cottage pub, have plenty of time to meet new CWI friends, experience Galena's quaint shopping, schedule spa visits, enjoy dining and pub entries, share stories, and just relax and enjoy each company with other Celtic women, and the weekend "getaway" will be complete.

We have requested that Frank O'Doyd's Irish Cottage set aside some rooms for us, but there are many other hotel and B&B options in different price ranges available in Galena. The Irish Cottage phone number is 866-284-7474. Be sure to mention you are with Celtic Women International! A list of other options is available at www.galena.org/index/G5button/69.

Sharing rooms and rides is a possibility, and we will try to help you connect with others via the CWI Yahoo Group. Make your reservations as early as possible! There is a \$35 gathering participation fee which can be paid at the gathering in Galena.

We'll gather Friday late afternoon/early evening for a reception at the Irish Cottage, and the chance to make our plans for the week-end. Be sure to let us know if you plan to attend so we can include you in the arrangements.

Celtic Women International Membership

CWI memberships run from January through December each year. Annual dues are \$25.
CWI membership:

- ◆ helps support a world-wide network connecting you with other women interested in Celtic culture.
- ◆ provides an opportunity to share in CWI's mission - to honor, celebrate and promote Celtic women and their heritage.
- ◆ makes you eligible for an elected office and serve on committees.
- ◆ entitles you to participate in our own private CWI Yahoo Group and communicate with other CWI members on an informal, yet private and secure basis.
- ◆ receive quarterly CWI newsletters.
- ◆ automatically makes you a member of our Chicago Branch or any local CWI Branch in your area.
- ◆ makes you a member of a global community of Celtic women

To join, complete and return the membership form included with this newsletter along with your \$25 dues.

The membership form can also be downloaded from our website – www.celticwomen.org and click on Membership on the sidebar menu.

CWI Yahoo Group

DO YOU YAHOO? Or want to know how? It's easy to join the CWI Yahoo group - just follow these easy steps....

To create an account: Go to the CWI website (www.celticwomen.org), select "Yahoo Group" from the sidebar menu, and then Login to the Celtic Women International Yahoo Group.

In the light gray box on the right hand side, select Sign Up under "Don't have a Yahoo! ID". Complete the next screen.

Once you have created your account: Go back to the CWI Yahoo page and click the bright blue Join This Group box. Once you have been "accepted" into the group (takes a few days), you will be able to return to the CWI Yahoo page and read or post messages. You can also choose to receive newly posted messages by e-mail, so you don't have to return to the CWI Yahoo website unless you want to post new messages.

The next time you return: Login to the group at the top of the screen "Sign In" using your e-mail address or username and password that you selected when creating your Yahoo account

2007 CWI Board of Directors

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CWI By-Laws provide for a Board of up to 12 members. We welcome volunteers on the various CWI committees. Contact any of the Board to express your interest in serving.