



# NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer Issue - May/August 2004 Volume 5: Issue 1

Correspondence to [editor@celticwomen.org](mailto:editor@celticwomen.org)

Become actively involved in your organization

*By Peggy Cassidy, President of CWI*

As the year flies quickly by, your Board of Directors continues to strive to accomplish the mission and goals of Celtic Women International. The tasks are formidable, but the individuals who serve on the Board of Directors are committed, dedicated women who believe in CWI.

Several of us were able to meet in Memphis in February. Director Maureen Holland hosted us in her home and at her office. Over two days, we reviewed our progress and identified areas and projects that needed attention.

## SOUND FINANCIAL BASE

As always, finances are a major concern. At this point in time, membership dues are the main revenue source. Last October, the Membership Committee was charged with cleaning up the membership list and getting out dues notices. They have met those goals. With the invaluable assistance of Paula & Bob Harrold, we now have an accurate database with a coding system to identify the type of membership. An appeal was made to Charter Members to also become regular dues paying members. Many responded positively to our need for sustaining funds. Other members included donations with their renewals.

Dues alone will not allow us to accomplish the goals we have set. The Finance Committee will be asked to look for other potential revenue sources. The Annual Conferences have not provided the profits we had hoped. The 2001 and 2002 conferences left the organization hobbled with debt. The Toronto Conference broke even. An annual conference requires immense effort by the Conference Committee and a substantial financial commitment. With these experiences in mind, the Board has decided that a conference in 2004 is not feasible.

## MEMBERS SERVICES

As part of the database creation, members were asked to indicate permission to share their information with other CWI members. The hope is that members within a geographic area can get to know one another and perhaps expand membership.

To that end, the Board has authorized a subcommittee to formulate branch policy. Members in several areas have expressed interest in forming local branches. In Chicago and Milwaukee, members hosted events in April. One alternative to an annual conference could be to organize smaller, regional activities for members.

## NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is charged with finding members to serve on the Board of Directors. The committee proposes candidates to the Board of Directors and proposes a slate of officers at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

Directors are elected for three year terms. Only CWI members are eligible to serve on the Board and to nominate persons for consideration. The by laws allow for 12 members. We will be looking to fill several spots. Please contact the committee no later than September 1, 2004, by regular mail to Maureen T. Holland, c/o CWI, PO Box 371174, Milwaukee, WI 53237-2274 or by e mail to [mtholland@aol.com](mailto:mtholland@aol.com).

## PARTICIPATION

This is a member based organization. Become actively involved. Share your ideas and suggestions. Serve on the Board or committee. By joining Celtic Women International, you showed a commitment to our mission and goals. Now, help us to achieve them.

## LOGO CHANGE

The history of our logo, as you may know, is that the artist Patrick Gallagher originally designed it. When we thought of updating our image, of course we spoke to Patrick, and he generously said that he was happy when his designs could go out in the world and grow on their own. We hope that the growth of the logo can come to symbolize the growth of the organization. We kept the spirit of the old logo - but gave it more movement. As we move into the new century our hope is that CWI can also move forward and be more fluid in the coming fast paced world. We hope to bring people together in bonds of friendship, camaraderie and vision.

**Friendships** as we meet and discover all that we have in common and honor our unique individuality.

**Camaraderie** as we build an international community together celebrating our strengths.

**Vision** as we pass our knowledge on to the next generation and support them in their new visions for the future.

We hope that you will actively join us in this endeavor.

## Committee Seeks Nominations

*By Maureen Holland, Director and Chair  
Nominating Committee*

### September 1 is Nomination Deadline for Board Membership

I am honored to again serve as chair of this year's Nominating Committee. The Committee seeks your help and input to nominate four new Board members.

Each year the Nominating Committee has the task of finding those regular members who are willing to serve as directors and of proposing a slate of nominees, along with nominations for officers, at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors. In addition, the Nominating Committee proposes nominees to fill board vacancies as they arise during the year. Currently, each director serves a three-year term and these terms are staggered so that in any given year there are at least four openings on the Board of Directors.

The CWI Bylaws allow for twelve directors. Currently the CWI Board of Directors has ten members. Some of these dedicated directors have been serving for

extended terms and are not able to continue on the Board. Of that ten, four Board members' terms are expiring. Therefore, the Nominating Committee plans to identify between four and eight nominees for Board membership.

The CWI Board meets at least quarterly via phone (teleconference) and has at least one face-to-face yearly meeting. Board membership provides an opportunity to support the work of CWI and its mission, and to network with other wonderful, Celtic-spirited, CWI members. I personally have a deep respect for the other Board members I have come to know. I have truly enjoyed our work together, the laughter, songs, food, oh yes, and drink.

As soon as the board seats have been filled, officers will be nominated from among the board members. The current board of directors will ratify the 2005 slates of nominees for directors and for officers at the annual meeting.

At this time the Nominating Committee requests that you, as a CWI member, send a written letter of nomination by September 1, 2004 for any CWI member or members who you know to be willing to serve as a director. Address it to me, Maureen T. Holland, c/o CWI, PO Box 371174, Milwaukee, WI 53237-2274 or send an email to me now by clicking [mtholland@aol.com](mailto:mtholland@aol.com). If you know someone who is willing to serve as a director, but is currently not a member, you or that person can submit a membership application with payment of membership dues prior to submitting the nomination letter. Membership application forms are available by [clicking here](#) or by contacting any current CWI officer and requesting a membership application. Please help, we need you and your ideas to move CWI forward.

A good season is summer for long journeys;  
quiet is the tall fine wood,  
which the whistle of the wind will not stir;  
green is the plumage of the sheltering wood;  
eddies swirl in the stream;  
good is the warmth in the turf.

Irish, attributed to Amergin

## Benefits of Being a Member

In addition to meeting and building relationships with other Celtic women, who share a common heritage there are many opportunities open to Celtic Women.

Some of the **tangible benefits** of CWI membership include the following:

- Receiving information about Celtic events via the website, newsletter, E-Bulletin and special mailings
- Access to the CWI tartan and/or accessories made with the tartan
- Member-only discounts for certain events
- Opportunities to make tax-deductible gifts to CWI

Some of the **intangible benefits** of CWI membership include the following:

- Annual opportunities to nominate persons for consideration as new directors for the international Board of Directors
- An opportunity to nominate an Exceptional Celtic Woman of the Year
- Eligibility to serve as a director and participate directly in the governance of CWI
- Provide input to the board and have voting privileges as a member of a standing CWI committee working to enhance the stature of Celtic women worldwide

Extend the value of your membership! Volunteer for CWI committee work! If you will and/or you know of someone who will volunteer, please let our President, Peggy Cassidy; know of your interest by phoning her or sending her an email.

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*Rosemary Baumann, Sheila Isakson and Gail McAleese at the Milwaukee Fundraiser sales table*

## Milwaukee Fundraiser

CWI members in Milwaukee organized their first fundraising event on April 18, 2004. by sponsoring a play through the purchase of a block of tickets at The First Act Theater. The tickets were then sold to members and friends. Along with the play there was a raffle of donated items. The two activities raised over \$300. Not bad for the first event.

The play was "Stones in His Pockets", a comedy set in Ireland and written by Marie Jones. The uplifting and entertaining story details the effect of a film crew's descent on a rural village in County Kerry. The play is partly based on Marie Jones' experience of acting roles in films shot in Ireland.

After the play many members and friends gathered at Slims, a nearby watering hole, for some pub food and conversation. All who took part in this event really enjoyed it. More events and "get-togethers" are planned in the near future. We hope you'll join us!

## Milwaukee First Friday Lecture

Once again CWI finds it necessary to clarify the fact that the First Friday Lectures held in Milwaukee, WI, are not a Celtic Women International, Ltd. event. Jean Bills, who is solely responsible for the lecture series, created First Friday Lectures. The CWI Board

## **Chicago Chapter of CWI Is Coming**

After enjoying CWI events and conferences in Milwaukee, two Chicago women are organizing a chapter in their hometown. Dana McDermot and Maureen Smith are leading the effort; this summer they and a founding committee of six are building a mailing list which will be put to use in the fall when they plan to begin a series of monthly events.

They are drawing interest from the large Chicagoland area including Cook and the surrounding five collar counties...ranging from Wilmington, 60 miles to the south, to Lincolnshire, in the northern suburbs.

If you know a Celtic Woman in the Chicago area who might be interested please pass along this information; you can contact Maureen Smith at [msmith@luc.edu](mailto:msmith@luc.edu).

## **CWI Tartan Featured**

The tartan of Celtic Women International was featured at two events in North Carolina this summer. Our thanks to Marjorie Warren of Thistle Studios for these wonderful opportunities to spread the news about Celtic Women International.

The first time was at The Taste of Scotland held in Franklin, North Carolina. Marjorie Warren made it the feature presentation of her tent at this event held June 11 & 12. The Taste of Scotland is sponsored by the Scottish Tartans Museum and the City of Franklin. Also, the well known singer, and CWI member, Flora MacDonald Gammon was one of the featured performers. The museum's website is [www.scottishtartans.org](http://www.scottishtartans.org).

In July, the tartan was again featured by Marjorie Warren at a Scottish event in North Carolina. The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games were held July 8-11. Founded in 1956 and modeled on the Royal Braemar Gathering, the Grandfather Mountain Games are recognized as one of the premiere annual Scottish events in North America. For more information, check the website at [www.gmhg.org](http://www.gmhg.org).

## **THE FORUM 2004 - A TAPESTRY OF IRISH WOMEN**

By Peg Reid

**Saturday, October 2, 2004, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 a.m.**  
**The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL**

Features West Coast author and noted speaker: Vicki León of Irish and Scottish extraction. Her books burst with power women who had attitude to spare and gambled on themselves. Demure to rascally, well educated to street wise, these gals, both Irish and Irish American, rocked their worlds. Vicki will introduce you to "Uppity Irish Women Who Made History!"

Also, Californian Robin Maxwell, noted screenwriter and author of the Wild Irish, a book that relives a thrilling, undiscovered slice of Irish History, will speak on the Saga of Grace O'Malley, Ireland's most forgotten freedom fighter and "Mother of the Irish Rebellion."

Another keynote speaker, Father Kevin O'Neill Shanley O Carm, a prominent educator and columnist for the Irish American News, will address the topic of Republican women who have made a difference.

Our final speaker is Katherine Parr, Ph.D., and Professor, of English, at North Central College. Her topic is "Irish Women Poets." Her dissertation, "Sense and Sensibility: Rescuing Ireland's Poetic Grandmothers" examines Famine poetry. Bridget McQuinness, long time member of the IAHC will recite the poem The Weavers' Tapestry.

Another California team: Melanie O'Reilly and Seán Ó Nuallain's production includes songs in English and Gaelic. A worldwide performer, Melanie has received many awards from the Arts Council of Ireland. A well-known Irish radio host, she is currently a visiting scholar in the Celtic Studies Program at UC Berkeley. Her current project celebrates the lives of emigrant Irish women. Seán Ó Nuallain, currently a visiting scholar at Stanford, comes from Kilkee. Steeped in the traditional music of West Clare, he has toured Ireland, France, and the United States. Melanie and Seán together recorded "House of the Dolphins," "Aisling Ghear/Bitter Vision," and their forthcoming album "Women Who Left." Finally, we have an art exhibition and reception celebrating the artwork of Jane Elizabeth Looby. Cost for all programs is \$30

and includes a luncheon. Call 773-282-7035 for further details. The annual Forum is dedicated to the memory of Finley Peter Dunne.

## **BOOK NEWS**

Ann Trevenen Jenkin, winner of the 2000 Exceptional Celtic Woman Award, has published a new book. A story and poem written for children, and adults who are young at heart, *The Dog Who Walked to London* is a true account of one of the dogs who walked from Cornwall to London on the Keskrdh Kernow March in 1997. Also included is the story by Will Coleman of the original journey in 1497 led by Michael Joseph Angove, Thomas Flamank and others.

The book is lavishly illustrated with color photographs from many sources and line drawings and illustrations by Craig Weatherhill.

To order a copy, contact Ann Trevenen Jenkins at [trevenen@tesco.net](mailto:trevenen@tesco.net)

## **North Texas Irish Festival**

**March 5-7, 2004 at Fair Park in Dallas**

The North Texas Irish Festival (NTIF) is sponsored by the Southwest Celtic Music Association and features various aspects of Irish, Scottish and Gaelic culture. The theme for the 22nd Annual North Texas Irish Festival was Celtic Women and focused on art, drama and song of Celtic women. Two CWI directors (Betsy McGovern and Sheila Isakson) attended. Betsy McGovern performed several times during the weekend and was able to introduce Sheila Isakson to one of the organizers, Judy Lanahan. Judy told Sheila that it took ten years to get the organizing committee to accept her ideas about the relationship between the Celtic women's oral traditions and a swelling interest in Irish, Scottish and Gaelic culture. One result of Lanahan's persistence was the Celtic women theme for the festival and events that included the recognition of some Celtic women who fought wars, negotiated treaties, and were instrumental in politics. One of the women celebrated was Kate Cumming, a Scottish-born nurse who lived in Alabama. Kate kept a diary of her experiences as a confederate nurse during the Civil War. Selections from her diary were woven into a drama that was presented on the cultural stage Saturday and Sunday. In addition, there were cultural workshops, music with headline performers, and two massive exhibit halls where hundreds of vendors peddled their Celtic

and Gaelic wares. About 30,000 people attended the 2004 festival.

Mark your calendars to save the weekend of March 4-6 for the 2005 NTIF....stay tuned for a possible weekend gathering of Celtic Women International, Inc. that includes the 23rd North Texas Irish Festival in Dallas, Texas. As the date approaches, you might wish to visit their website <http://www.ntif.org/> or contact an officer of CWI.