

President's Pint of View



So I'm enjoying a nice cool adult beverage on a beautiful April spring day after our 5K 10K run which was once again meticulously planned and executed by John Leonhart and many dedicated volunteers.

A more glorious day could not have been ordered until my "Ed"-itor conveyed some critiques on my prose, telling me I'm not just a calendar of events and I could say more.

So I began channeling James Joyce, Bram Stoker, Oscar Wilde and other Irish writers and now I find myself drinking lots of whiskey and looking for vampires around every corner before I die destitute in some foreign country. I'm sure that sounds like I am drinking too much, but how else did they write that stuff?

So here's to all the Irish authors and with and without flaws I will try to write a little more imaginative POV's. I'm still going to be a bit of a calendar but with more thought.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this next week so we can talk about what I didn't talk about here. Enough blarney for now; see you Monday.

President Mike O'Connell



Wearin' of the Grin

ANAGRAMS

PRESBYTERIAN

When you rearrange the letters:
BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER

When you rearrange the letters:
MOON STARER

DESPERATION

When you rearrange the letters:
A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES

When you rearrange the letters:
THEY SEE

GEORGE BUSH

When you rearrange the letters:
HE BUGS GORE

THE MORSE CODE

When you rearrange the letters:
HERE COME DOTS

DORMITORY

When you rearrange the letters:
DIRTY ROOM

SLOT MACHINES

When you rearrange the letters:
CASH LOST IN ME

ELECTION RESULTS

When you rearrange the letters:
LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

SNOOZE ALARMS

When you rearrange the letters:
ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S

A DECIMAL POINT

When you rearrange the letters:
I'M A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES

When you rearrange the letters:
THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO

When you rearrange the letters:
TWELVE PLUS ONE

And for the Grand Finale:

MOTHER-IN-LAW

When you rearrange the letters:
WOMAN HITLER



Upcoming:

Monthly Meeting

April 11 / 6:30 p.m.

Menu:

Corned Beef w/ Cabbage
Potatoes, Carrots & Bread

Next Meeting

May 9

Irish Open Disc Golf

May 14

Grandview Park

Leprechaun Open

June 11

Copper Creek in Pleasant Hill



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The Blarney

APRIL [AIBREÁN] 2016

Post-Parade Potpourri

St. Patrick's Day is always the "official" start to the string of the Friendly Sons' annual events.

And they come quickly now. As you read this, the 5K/10K is history and very soon we will enjoy the Irish Open Disc Golf outing (May 14), closely followed by the Leprechaun Open (June 11). There's hardly time to catch your breath.

But the post-parade glow is still upon us, to be sure.

All the promenading entries heading along our one-mile route on March 18 were proudly Irish, but judges on the reviewing stand made special notice of these trophy winners:

Best of Parade ♦ **Georgetown**

Judge's Choice ♦ **Melrose**

Best Irish Theme ♦ **Scottish American Military Color Guard**

Best Irish Clan ♦ **O'Brien Clan**



The public reception at the Marriott seemed to be a little bigger and rowdier than normal, no doubt due to the added NCAA crowd who were in the city that week.

Amid the festivities, these Lucky Draw raffle winners were announced:

Grand Prize ♦ **Dan Anderson**

\$500 ♦ **Lily Swedenhielm** \$250 ♦ **Jan Murphy**

\$100 ♦ **Joe Hodapp & D.L. Carlson**

\$50 ♦ **Curt Carpenter, Colin Cunningham, Mikki Griffin & Mike Smiley** 🍀



Passing of the Tiara



Alas, though we must sadly bid adieu to our 2015 Queen Betsy, we find ourselves once again blessed in welcoming another Irish flower, **Queen Natalie Ginty**.

A few words from her regal lips:

"I am delighted to be the Irish Queen for the next year, and am excited to be part of this great organization for many

St. Patrick's Days to come! With the energy and excitement of the NCAA's in town combined with St. Patrick's Day festivities, it was the perfect introduction for me to the many contributions made by the Friendly Sons in the Des Moines community.

I am proud and lucky to be the granddaughter of Winifred and Michael Ginty, who immigrated to the U.S. from County Sligo and County Mayo, Ireland. My grandparents were the most selfless, hard-working, and family oriented people, and I want to do everything I can to be like them. I am eager to spend this year talking about how my grandparents lived their lives, and doing my best to honor them through my actions. They are my role models; I would not be where I am today without their sacrifice and inspiration.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of the FSOSP members, learning more about what your charitable organization does throughout the community, and of course, honoring my Irish ancestry over a Guinness at each monthly meeting!" 🍀

Honor Bestowed



**FSOSP IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR
JIM O'DONNELL**

We take great pride in saluting the achievements and value of long-time member **Jim O'Donnell** by naming him our 2016 Irishman of the Year.

He has a few remarks for his club brethen:

"I have been fortunate in my lifetime to have received a number of awards for various achievements in both my personal and professional life. This one stood out, in a positive sense, for the following reasons:

- 1. I was completely duped. Being on the FSOSP Board, and participating in the voting process, I was led to believe that the vote would be as decided. It is now clear that I have lost all investigative instincts that I may have once had.*
- 2. Not even having a clue that I would be selected for this honor, I chose to wear the green sweater that my Dad brought back from Ireland prior to his passing.*
- 3. It was very clear to me that I was in good company. To be congratulated by so many that do so much for this organization and their community made me extremely proud, and,*
- 4. Most of all, it's pretty neat to have a Father/Son duo listed on the FSOSP website as achieving this most honorable award.*

Thanks to all associated with the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick." 🍀

Board News

Donations were approved at the March meeting to the **Becky Zalek Disc Golf Fund**, directed toward developing a memorial city course at Prospect Park, and to the **Shriner's Hospital** in Minneapolis.

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Huzzah to our 2016 parade marshal, **Greg Edwards**, for elegantly gracing our procession. He says:

"The St. Patrick's Day Parade has a long-standing tradition in Des Moines. I was so honored and humbled to serve as the Grand Marshal. It was even more special to include my wife, Joni, as she was the first St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen in 1983. Many thanks to all of the Friendly Sons who work so hard to ensure a successful event."

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Jerry Grady will stop by the April board meeting to give us the lowdown on all the preparations for the upcoming **Irish Open Disc Golf, May 14 at Grandview Park**. If you've played before, you know what a relaxing "walk in the woods" it is and, if not, come give it a flippin' shot next month.

Some of the registration info will be presented this next Monday and the full picture will be in the May Blarney.

□□□

Lots of changes this year in the **June 11 Leprechaun Open**.

Let's start with the new location...Copper Creek Golf Course in Pleasant Hill. Been there? It's 18 holes of hacker's delight.

You'll enjoy all the classic elements of the day, including the raffle, trophies and the one-armed putting contest, with a steak dinner to follow your round.

[More info is at right & apps are on the website.]

Grand Poobah **Brian Kreps** says...

"FORE!!! Heads up all golfers, the Leprechaun Open is on its way! Our annual 2-person best ball golf tournament is approaching faster than an Augusta green.

"That Saturday two new champions will be awarded the Leprechaun's Cup. Don't miss your chance for a shot at the title!"

So me lads, line up your ringer, er, partner, and sign up at the Monday meeting.

□□□



Moving soon?

Please let the Friendly Sons know your new address, so we can ensure that you continue to receive your monthly copy of the Blarney.

5K/10K scholarship winners Leonhart/ Schaeuble

Once a year, at the spring 5K/10K event so smoothly sponsored by **John Leonhart**, the Sons award two \$500 scholarships to graduating DM metro area high school cross country or track athletes (one boy, one girl). On April 3, almost 400 participated in our 33rd annual race on a breezy and, some would say, chilly morning.

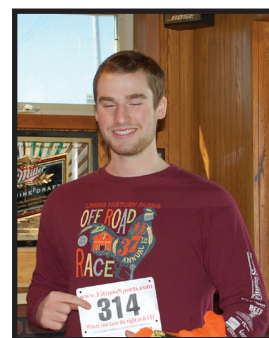
Two of those in the pack were 2016 scholarship winners **Emily Leonhart** and **Harrison Schaeuble**.

The Tuesday before, some board members met at Cooney's Pub in Beaverville to sift through all the nominations sent in by area high school athletic directors.

Time passed as Guinness was drained that evening and eventually these two stood out. Emily has been a longtime participant and volunteer at the race and this year ran the 10K in 52:44, finishing 12th female overall, 2nd in her age division. Harrison ran the 5K finishing in 27:32, the 30th male and 2nd in his division. May the wind always be at your back, you two! 🍀



**EMILY LEONHART
URBANDALE HS
TO IOWA**



**HARRISON SCHAEUBLE
VALLEY HS
TO IOWA STATE**

BLARNEYBITS

We'll all be bosky in a few short days when our own brew-czars, **Ken Murray, Rocky Craig** and **Mike Hall**, bestow their latest creations on us at the April meeting.

Expect two homebrewed Irish ales, a stout and a red. Slainte!

*Let schoolmasters puzzle their brain,
With grammar & nonsense & learning;
Good liquor, I stoutly maintain,
Gives genius a better discerning.*

Oliver Goldsmith

Don't miss the June golf outing! Send in your app or contact sponsor **Brian Kreps**. Details below:

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's

Leprechaun Open



Two Person Best Ball Golf Tourney

Saturday, June 11th
Copper Creek Golf Course, in Pleasant Hill
\$65.00 per person

Registration begins at 11:00 am. Shotgun start at 1:00 pm
Includes 18 holes of golf, a cart & a steak dinner
(Proceeds go to support local charities. Price raises to \$75 on June 1st.)

8 Pin Prizes 8 Trophies 8 Raffle Prizes

Also... One Armed Putting Contest
Special "Talent" Awards for "noteworthy" play.

Payment Is Your Registration!

Send names of team members, phone numbers & checks made payable to:

Friendly Sons of St. Patrick
1620 Pleasant, Room 2+1
Des Moines, IA 50314

Call Brian Kreps at 515-669-2331 with questions

Upcoming events

APRIL 20

STU RYAN O'BRIEN @ SULLY'S PUB, 7-9 P.M.

SING-ALONG TO CLASSIC IRISH TUNES

MAY 4

PIRANHA BROS. 1ST WED. JAM @ SULLY'S, 7-9 P.M.