



JUST THIS PAST WEEKEND a handful of Sons and I headed down to the Kiwanis Miracle League Park to volunteer as buddies. I don't know who had bigger smiles on their faces, the kids or us! What a great opportunity to help our community. A big "thank you" to those that attended.

Seeing as it is October, the German side of me always looks forward to Oktoberfest and all of the great seasonal beers that come with it.

But the Irish side of me is inquisitive and wanted to know if there were similar such traditions in Ireland. Researching this led me to info about the Irish Halloween.

It originated from the Celtic festival of Samhain which dates back over 2,000 years; this important festival marked the end of the "bright" half of the year and the start of the "dark" half of the year. It is this festival that became what is now known as Halloween throughout the world.

Interestingly enough, traditionally in Ireland, Halloween was a day of feasting but they would eat no meat, and instead make various breads and of course potato dishes. Custom said to leave a bit outside your front door before going to bed so any passing fairies or spirits may feast as well, thus bestowing good luck upon your household.

Perhaps this Halloween I'll try a traditional Irish barmbrack bread or potato farl and leave a bit of it outside my door per tradition (I mean who can't use a little extra luck and good tidings?). But I'll probably hold off on handing it out to beggars at my door, for I am certain that good luck wouldn't last too long.

Stay classy, Sons.

President Tim Schuck

## Wearin' of the Grin

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and asked his father when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal. "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

The father says, "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"



At Friday night services, Morris goes to his friend Irving and says, "I need a favor. I'm sleeping with the Rabbi's wife. Can you hold him in synagogue for an hour after services for me?"

Irving is not very fond of the idea, but being Morris' lifelong friend, he reluctantly agrees.

After services, he strikes up a conversation with the Rabbi, asking him all sorts of stupid questions, just to keep him occupied.

After some time the wise Rabbi becomes suspicious and asks, "Irving, what are you really up to?"

Irving confesses, "I'm sorry, Rabbi. My friend's sleeping with your wife right now & he asked me to keep you occupied."

The Rabbi smiles, puts a brotherly hand on Irving's shoulder, and says, "You better hurry home, Irving. My wife died two years ago."



## Upcoming:

### MEETING

October 9

Menu:

Brats & Dogs

Granny Hedding's Potato Salad

Beans, Kraut, Pasta & Fixin's

### BAG TOURNAMENT

Oct. 14

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

Dec. 11

### NEXT MEETING

Nov. 13



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Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick  
The Mickie Center #241  
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Des Moines, IA 50314



# The Blarney

OCTOBER [DEIREADH FÓMHAIR] 2017

## St. Pat's ride was terrific trail craic

Even some intermittent showers didn't dampen our spirits at the **Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride** on Sept. 16.

Ride entries were a little down from last year but the profit from our annual outing was substantial. Mostly that was due to member efforts in selling raffle books. Fundraising was in high gear with almost 40 books sold.

Our lucky winners were: **Donna Smith, Todd Ray, Bret Weber, George Hedding** (\$50 each) and **Ben Lund** (\$250).

The grand prize of \$500 went to **Jason Simpson**.

But only for a little while because Jason donated his winnings back to the FSOSP on behalf of his restaurant, Sakari Sushi Lounge at 26th & Ingersoll.

Kudos to you, Jason! Everyone, try to stop in there sometime soon for a little Sashimi Carpaccio and give him a high five! 🍀





Bags tourney on Oct. 14

Bag boss **Mike O’Connell** has dubbed our new upcoming event the “**World Famous 1st Annual Leprechaun Bag Toss.**”

Come to **Sully’s Pub** on **Oct. 14** and be a part of this contest hullabaloo. Tossing begins at 12:00.

Teams of two can enter for \$20 and two sets of boards will keep things hopping. Posters are up we are hoping for 20 teams or more.

Custom bags are being supplied, courtesy of **Mike Dennis.**

First prize is \$50 and both Sully’s and Carl’s bars are donating lots of prizes, as well.

You say you need a little “corn-hole” inspiration? Check out a tune by Rhett & Link on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/Io8X4pz\\_QJ0](https://youtu.be/Io8X4pz_QJ0):

.....  
Everybody used to call me un-athletic & granted my vertical leap is still pretty pathetic  
But now I’m the champion on the tailgate scene, 8 bags 2 boards, two holes that’s all I need  
Most sports require all sorts of skills, but I prefer the ones I can do while consuming meals  
You gotta try it before you knock it, try to name another sport to top it, when you can win with an open cold one in your back pocket

CHORUS  
Singing, corn hole (corn hole), good for your soul  
Corn hole (corn hole), an Olympic sport by 2024

Half way through the game we don’t remember the score, but we’re happy to start all over cause it means we get to cornhole more  
Who would have thought that a couple of guys could contribute so much to the greater good just by cutting a little ol’ hole in a piece of plywood  
There’s a void in my soul, shaped like a cornhole  
I love it so much from this moment on, I’m changing my name to Don Cornholie

Everybody was cornholing, bag throwing  
The man with the boards is a man never bored I say,  
(Hey, thanks Stewart!)

Everybody was cornholing, bag throwing  
It’s good for your soul (corn hole), and good for your back  
And better for your image, no pressure my brother, cause there’s always a scrimmage

I’m tailgating, party making  
I’m throwing my sacks and there no debating  
This has got to be the greatest sport ever invented  
There’s a hole over there, Imma throw my bag in it.  
The Corn Hole! 🍀



FSOSP donation supports the debut of ‘Art of Compassion’ on Oct. 12

Compassion is at the core of the fifty-plus programs offered to Iowans by HCI Hospice Care Services, Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa and Amanda the Panda Family Grief Center.

These three 501(c)3 non profits have come together to premiere The Art of Compassion to bring to the forefront the care, empathy and financial support needed for effective community-based care of Iowa’s individuals and families.

“Before I Die” is the 2017 theme for this annual signature event. Kicking off the campaign is a participatory art component that captures the hopes of individuals and the wonder of their lives. Chalkboard walls were erected this summer at several heavily trafficked central Iowa locations. With chalk provided at each location, the public was encouraged to share their dreams and struggles.

The campaign will culminate with The Art of Compassion’s celebratory event on Thursday, October 12 at the Capital Square Atrium in downtown Des Moines. A program, dinner, silent and live auctions, and sponsorship recognition will be held.

The FSOSP has donated \$1500 as a Premier sponsor and will be honored that night.

We will be represented by a table of four of our members and their partners.

Blair Rosenberg, HCI Development Coordinator, thanked us and said:

“*The Friendly Sons have been so kind and so generous to HCI Care Services for years now. Your support helps all we serve live their best life. This year, we are especially grateful to have your support for our first annual, signature event, the Art of Compassion.*

*You make incredible things happen through your gifts...thank you!*” 🍀

Board News

From the Can We Afford A Parade Anymore Department:

Treasurer **Josh Soliday** is grinding away at efforts to latch onto one or two grants to help fund our annual March street celebration.

In the meantime, we are waiting to get on the city’s meeting calendar and plan to make our case for getting help in reducing costs. Also, we still need to know why our parade needs so much more security (fencing, police, etc.) than other DM area parades.

Film at eleven.

☐☐☐

Donations:

**Celtic Music Association - \$1,000**  
**HCI Hospice of Central Iowa - \$1,500**

☐☐☐

Several FSOSP members were on hand Sat., Sept. 30 to be “Angels in the Outfield” for the special-needs kids at the **Miracle League** ballgames and our \$500 donation check was delivered that morning.

It’s a rewarding feeling to be involved and you should consider coming to help next year.

☐☐☐

Beer news: Octoberfest is the rearview mirror but it’s always a good time to see homebrew on tap at our meetings and **Mike Dennis** promises us an exceptional Irish Red this month.

☐☐☐

Need a beer joke fix?  
Q: What is a man’s idea of a balanced diet?  
A: A Budweiser in each hand!  
Q: What did the man with slab of asphalt under his arm order?  
A: “A beer please, and one for the road.”  
Q: Why does Corona go through your system so fast?  
A: It doesn’t have to stop to change color.

Requiescat in pace

Sadly, we report that Melrose’s own **George Conway** passed away on Sept. 13.  
He was a long-time member of the FSOSP and among his many accomplishments, he was one of the first real estate developers at Lake Rathbun.  
Any memorial contribution you’d like to make in his name can be directed to St. Anthony Catholic Church or the American Diabetes Association.

BLARNEYBITS

Celtic music is alive and well in Des Moines thanks to the efforts of the Celtic Music Association, whose yearly concert season is always eagerly anticipated.



### 2017-2018 CONCERT SEASON

**Skipper’s Alley** - October 21, 2017 - Holy Trinity Hall  
**Tallymoore** - January 13, 2018 - Holy Trinity Hall  
**Dàimh** - February 10, 2018 - Holy Trinity Hall  
**Socks in the Frying Pan** - March 9, 2018 - Hoyt Sherman Auditorium

All concerts start at 8:00 p.m. doors open at 7:00 p.m.  
Holy Trinity Hall: 2926 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA  
Hoyt Sherman Auditorium: 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines, IA  
[www.facebook.com/celticmusicassociation](http://www.facebook.com/celticmusicassociation), [www.thecma.org](http://www.thecma.org)

skipper’s alley

Tallymoore

DÀIMH

Socks in the Frying Pan

First up on **Oct. 21** catch **Skipper’s Alley** at Holy Trinity Parish Hall at 8 p.m.

From their PR:  
“*Skipper’s Alley is a modern Irish folk band with an old-school approach. Their influences range from folk revival bands such as Planxty and The Bothy Band to rare, experimental solo players like Tommie Potts and Séamus Ennis.*

“*Once described as ‘a young Irish ensemble who look like a punk band and sound like The Chieftains’, the band specializes in gritty, high-octane Irish dance tunes on Uilleann pipes, whistles, fiddle, bodhrán, bouzouki, flute and harp, with occasional detours into the dark, somber melodies of the Irish song tradition.*” 🍀

- .....
- Sully’s Irish Pub** in WDM has lots on their schedule for the next few weeks:
- ☐ **Oct. 7 - 21 -28**  
**Hawkeye I-Club Game Watches**  
**w/ prizes & drink specials**
  - ☐ **Oct. 11**  
**Ed “Ceolman” Kelly @ 8 p.m.**
  - ☐ **Oct. 18 (and twice a month)**  
**Trivia Contest**
  - ☐ **Oct. 25**  
**Stu Ryan O’Brien @ 7 p.m.**  
**& Irish Food Special**