



CEILIDHE CLUB NEWS

January 2024

RECURRING EVENTS



**MONDAYS
SET DANCING**
7:15-9:15 pm



**FRIDAYS
PUB NIGHT**
6-12 pm



**3rd
FRIDAY/MONTH
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**
5:30 pm-6:00pm



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"Irish Ceilidhe Club of
RI"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Club dues are \$50 per person. Dues are renewed each April. You may mail dues to Ceilidhe Club.

OFFICERS & BOARD

- Acting President: Patrick Harrington
- V.P.
- Treasurer: Joanne Mollica, Rose Durette
- Recording Secretary: Sara Benz
- Acting Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Langford
- Sergeant at Arms: Glenn O'Gara
- Trustees: Dennis Hughes, Maureen Murphy, Kathy Greenwell, Ann McCarthy, Heather Pearson

Happy and Healthy New Year to All of our Members and Friends!

2024 looks to be an exciting year for the Ceilidhe Club.

Concerts, Friday pub nights with music and our ever-popular Irish open sessions, trip to Ireland raffle, new bathroom in the hall and of course our much-anticipated St. Patrick's Day weekend celebration.

I would like to take a moment to extend a huge thank you to two members who very generously donated to our club. Ernest Crivellone gave a \$500 donation and Richard Jordan a \$1,000 donation. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU BOTH!

Construction is under way in the upstairs hall on the new handicap bathroom and we hope to have it completed by the end of the month. The monthly 50/50 raffles have subsidized this undertaking so as not to take from our general fund. So please buy these raffle tickets monthly. This month's winner walked away with \$285.

Also rising costs have forced me to have to raise the mixed drinks price to offset the cost. Don't worry the price is still very reasonable and a great pour. Having only one night a week open in most cases to generate income to support the club plays into this decision. Not only has the price of food and alcohol risen, but also utilities forcing this decision.

Sincerely,
Patrick Harrington, President (acting)

January Happy New Year 2024!

January	Calendar	
Mondays 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th	7:15pm-9:15pm	Set Dancing Class with Barry and Pat Callahan in the upstairs hall.
Friday 1/5	6pm-12pm	Pub Open with Music by "Sean Connell" and 1916 Lecture see page 2
Thursday, 1/11	1pm	Book Club at Ceilidhe Club
Friday 1/12	6pm-12pm	Pub open Card and Game Night
Friday 1/19	5:30pm-6:00pm Pub open 6pm-8pm-12pm	General Membership Meeting Music by "Wet Paint"
Friday 1/26	6pm-12pm	Pub open with Traditional Irish Session.



We would like to welcome (6) six new members to our club:

Richard Jordan, Steven Williamson, Kathleen Ann Santos
Gladys Telang, Clement Gormley, Blanche M. Milligan

The 1916 Committee lecture scheduled for January 5th at 7:30 in the upstairs hall will be a round table discussion on the origins and present-day positions of the three major political parties in the Republic of Ireland - Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and Sinn Fein. Three of our members, Marie Magee, Ann McCarthy and Tricia McIvor will be describing one of the political parties that are leading in support in the 26 counties. This is a difficult topic to condense into an hour lecture but an understanding of how the three parties differ on certain issues can help Americans understand the complexity of Irish politics. There are several issues that will be covered, such as each party's position on Brexit, the Legacy Issue, reunification, the historical relationship with the UK over the years, the birth of each party and how it relates to its founding principles, support for the armed struggle among many other topics. This could be very educational for our members so let's spread the word and get people to the lecture.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB

RIICC St. Brigid's Day: February 2nd at 6pm

The RI Irish Ceilidhe Club was early on the scene in celebrating St. Brigid's Day, a February 1st, Irish saint's feast day on the Friday closest to the beginning of February during the years before the pandemic. Music, poetry, fun, raffles, tributes and toasts to Irish heritage were on the agenda! Wishes were written down and tied to the Club's own "cloutie tree," a feature often found near holy wells in Ireland.

In 2021, legislation was submitted in Ireland to add recognition of Brigid (patron of the dairy and of beer) to the nation's formal calendar of bank holidays, and she joined her mentor St. Patrick for her first holiday in 2023. Another day to celebrate the wearing of the green...or in Brigid's case, the color white!

This year, the Club will return to its traditional St. Brigid's Day celebrations for the first time since 2020! In addition to the usual fabulous open pub & delicious menu on Friday, February 2, the Club's Brigid's celebrations in the pub will offer:

- Two Guest Artists: Sheila Falls (fiddler-music in the pub); Laura Travis (upstairs hall-visual artist & Brigid's Crosses)
- Free door prize raffles
- Irish Trivia prizes
- Special Ladies of Irish music-pub playlist
- Cloutie tree
- Crowning of the first RIICC "Brigid '24" (think our own Rose of Tralee!)
- 1916 Committee's February Lecture (Upstairs Hall)
- Fabulous Pub Menu for dinner and appetizers

A night of wonderful fun and Irish culture! Wear a bit of "white" in honor of St. Brigid!

Put Friday, February 2 on your calendar and be sure to be at the Club in honor of Ireland's newest official national holiday!

For more info on this new Irish holiday, visit: <https://www.officeholidays.com/holidays/ireland/st-brigids-day> or for a more in-depth festival look: <https://brigid1500.ie>

Email info@riirishclub.org if you would like to receive this newsletter electronically.

Weave a Brigid's Cross with Laura Travis on February 2nd

Two seatings, first at 6pm, second at 6:45 pm in upstairs hall

Limited spaces so sign up in advance is a

Contact Heather Pearson to sign up at 401 578-5132

Celebrate St. Brigid's 1500 with a handwoven Brigid's Cross! All materials and tools provided. Weave one Brigid Cross, choose option with paper straws (easier and can be decorated!) or choose the natural traditional reeds version. \$5. Cash, card, check or Venmo accepted.

Brigid Crosses in gift packaging will be available for sale later in the evening.

Kevin Doyle's Roscommon Soles at the Blackstone River Theatre Riverfolk Concerts: For a Winter's Night

Attention: Members, family, and friends of the RI Irish Ceilidhe Club! Please join *Kevin Doyle's Roscommon Soles* for the performance *For a Winter's Night*, a new show presented at the Blackstone River Theatre on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 3:00 PM. This event is part of the BRT's Riverfolk Concert Series.

Featuring Paul Laurence Dunbar's poem "The Dance," *For a Winter's Night* is themed to embrace the traditions of late winter as spring peeks around the corner and as St. Brigid's Day, Valentine's Day, and St. Patrick's Day offer respite from the cold blow and the rainy night!

Music, dance, song & story are presented by Rhode Island's National Endowment for Arts National Heritage Fellow, Irish step dancer Kevin Doyle and *Roscommon Soles*, an ensemble of the region's foremost traditional musicians and performers. Bring your favorite *Valentines and Palentines* to celebrate the closeness of winter and the spirit of spring at the BRT!

Event: *Kevin Doyle's Roscommon Soles* perform Irish music, song, dance & story concert: *For a Winter's Night*

When: Saturday, February 10, 2024, 3:00 PM

Where: The Blackstone River Theatre, 549 Broad Street, Cumberland, RI

Details: \$25 Advance Tickets. \$28 Day of Show (401-725-9272 for Reservations)

Note: BRT's January-2023 *Roscommon Soles* show *Health to the Ladies* sold out two weeks in advance! Reserve your February 10th show seats ASAP!

Saturday, February 17th at 7pm Turas will have a concert in the upstairs hall. More info to follow

Prayers and Get Well Wishes to: Virginia Hall who fell and injured her shoulder. She is recovering at home and

Also, to Liz Hughes who was recently in the hospital.

Book Club for January: the group is reading "**The Pull of the Stars**" by an Irish Author, **Emma Donoghue**. We meet once a month at the club to discuss the book. For more information about joining the book club contact Maggie Lenau at (401) 569-8118.

