2019 Walks of Life Honorees Named

On February 28, 2019, at Windows on the River, IAAS will honor five 2019 Walks of Life recipients. All of these persons have not only excelled in their professions, but they have also given generously of their time and talent to make this community a better place for all. Look for more details about our 2019 honorees in our January newsletter:

Veronica “Vera” Casey, Small Business Owner, Casey’s Irish Imports
Charlene Crowley, Landscape Designer, Irish Cultural Garden
Sean W. Hardy, Senior Vice President, Hardy Wealth Partners
James J. McMonagle, Attorney at Law, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease
Christopher Ronayne, President, University Circle Inc.

Thursday, February 28, 2019, 5:30 pm
Annual Walks of Life Awards Dinner
See p. 4 for a preview of our 2019 Honorees!

Windows on the River
2000 Sycamore Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Donation $75 ($55 tax deductible) or $150 VIP ticket ($90 tax deductible)

Contact Margaret Lynch at iaassadmin@gmail.com or (216) 941-5727 by February 4 if you are interested in ad or table sponsorship opportunities.

Invitations will be mailed in January.

Preserving Our Heritage, Sharing Our Stories

In November in Boston, Margaret Lynch, Executive Director of the Irish American Archives Society, received an award for “Outstanding Services to the Irish Diaspora” at the annual “Golden Bridges” conference sponsored by the Irish Echo.

The Irish Echo, established in 1928, is the longest-running Irish American newspaper currently published in the United States. With an editorial staff based in New York city, the paper boasts a 50-state subscription base. In addition to publishing the “newspaper of record” for Irish America, the Irish Echo also sponsors conferences and other recognition events that strive to connect the Irish in diaspora.

One of the Irish Echo’s focal events is the annual “Golden Bridges” conference, held since 2009 in Boston, Massachusetts. Drawing on a distinguished roster of speakers and panelists, the conference highlights the transatlantic bridges that have been built through business and education initiatives between Massachusetts and the northwest counties of Donegal and Derry in Ireland. The conference has also become an occasion for bestowing recognition on a variety of individuals across the county who have worked to promote an appreciation for Irish heritage.

IAAS Executive Director Margaret Lynch was a recipient of one of those awards, in acknowledgement of the book, The Day We Celebrate: 175 Years of Cleveland’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade, which was published in July 2017 by the Irish American Archives Society in collaboration with the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland.

Lynch was nominated by Údarás na Gaeltachta, which is the agency in Ireland responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht or the country’s Irish-speaking regions. Representatives of Údarás na Gaeltachta have been among the delegations traveling to Cleveland each year to attend the Mayo Society Ball and engage in dialogue with Cleveland-area business entities and educational institutions about business and cultural exchanges that can be fostered between Cleveland and County Mayo.
2018 Year in Review

From 2012 through 2018, IAAS talks, displays, and other community programs have directly reached 11,382 people, and that’s not counting the number of people who may have been served indirectly—for instance, people who have enjoyed the Johnny Kilbane Fighting Heart sculpture group at W. 74th Street and Fr. Frascati Boulevard or people who may have seen film documentaries that IAAS helped to research about boxer Johnny Kilbane and aviator Nancy Corrigan.

In 2018, IAAS Executive Director Margaret Lynch gave 19 talks across the city. Libraries were frequent hosts, including the Main Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, the Rocky River Library and five branch libraries in the Cuyahoga County system. But recreation centers, pubs and hotels provided other settings. From the Music Box Supper Club in the Flats to the Solon Senior Center to the Brecksville Chamber of Commerce to the Lake County Bar Association in Mentor, the talks were sponsored by a range of organizations in a variety of locations.

The topics ranged too. Our recent publication, The Day We Celebrate: 175 Years of Cleveland’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade, provided the focus for a number of talks, particularly, and not surprisingly, in March. However, the talks also covered topics as diverse as Irish Entrepreneurs of Cleveland, Irish Gangs, Gangsters, and Gamblers of Cleveland, and aspects of researching Irish family history.

In addition to talks, IAAS developed a table-top display about The Irish and the Near West Side to coincide with the upcoming 50th anniversary of the May Dugan Center, which has served Cleveland’s Near West-side community since 1969. Like all of the displays that we have developed since 2008, the text of the Near West Side display can be found on the “Local History Resources” page of our website at www.irisharchives.org.

For three years, IAAS has also conducted an annual internship program with history students at John Carroll University. Under the guidance of IAAS Executive Director Margaret Lynch, the JCU history students search public documents, such as census and vital records, to track down Irish families from northwest County Mayo who received assistance to immigrate to North America in 1883 and 1884. The financial assistance came from a fund spearheaded by a wealthy English Quaker named James Hack Tuke. Ionad Deirbhile, a Heritage Center on the Belmullet peninsula in County Mayo, first recognized the significance of the “Tuke Emigration Scheme” for communities ringing Blacksoil Bay (from Belmullet to Ballycroy to Achill), then transcribed the passenger manifests for the 15 sailings financed by the Tuke Fund and created a searchable database for the passengers online at www.blacksoilbayemigration.ie. Now college students in Cleveland are, one boat at a time, helping to fill in the picture of the families who immigrated.

The generous support of many annual donors makes it possible for us to research, develop, and present talks, displays, internships, and other community programs throughout northeast Ohio each year. Please consider an “annual donation” to support our mission in 2018!

2018 Year in Review

In late September and early October, IAAS joined forces with a number of educational institutions to facilitate talks by Irish visiting artist Brian Maguire. Brian Maguire is a Dublin-based painter who is internationally known for his portraits of marginalized people, from Irish political prisoners during “the Troubles,” to murdered women factory workers in Juarez, Mexico, to refugees in Sudan today. Several of Maguire’s paintings were included this past fall in a group show, titled Demise, at the Cleveland State University Art Galleries. Maguire’s visit to Cleveland was funded by the Irish American Charitable Foundation, with additional assistance from Collins & Scanlon LLP, Louis Finucane, and the Thomas and Margaret Charitable Trust. Irish American Archives Society was able to draw on ever-strengthening ties with local schools to maximize the educational impact of Brian Maguire’s visit to Cleveland by helping to organize four talks—at St. Joseph Academy, Holy Name High School, and John Carroll University, in cooperation with the JCU Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Program, along with a talk in the CSU Art Galleries, in cooperation with the Irish American Law Society of Cleveland.

IAAS Facilitates Visit of Irish Artist Brian Maguire

The Day We Celebrate: 175 Years of Cleveland’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Our extensively researched, lavishly illustrated, and, now, award-winning 200-page hard cover book is still available for purchase in limited quantities! Free shipping is on offer now through December 31!

Place your order via check with the order form below or via PayPal online on our website at www.irisharchives.org. The $50 price includes sales tax, and shipping and handling are free through December 31. Mail this order form with check payable to: Irish American Archives Society, P.O. Box 91756, Cleveland, OH 44101-3756. Payment can also be made via PayPal at www.irisharchives.org. The book can also be purchased at Casey’s Irish Imports, Mac’s Backs on Coventry, and the gift shop at the Western Reserve Historical Society. Questions? Contact iaasadmin@gmail.com.

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