

Session this Sunday — February 21
Capital District Irish American Assn. (AOH) Hall, 375 Ontario St, Albany
Learning Session 2:30 – 3:30, Regular Session @ 3:30

Snacks to share are most welcome!

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Colleen O'Sullivan (482-8233)
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Bandleader
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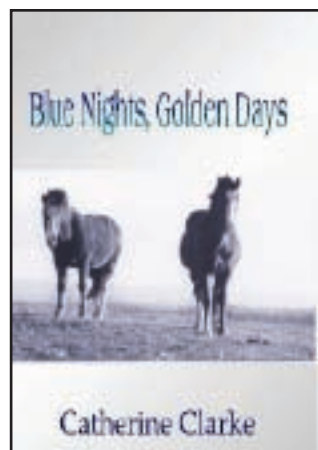
Plans are underway for our 25th Anniversary Bash, so SAVE THE DATE – MAY 16th! A small group led by Marty and Linda Lyden and Anne Marie McLaughlin formed the Sean O'Riada branch of Comhaltas in Schenectady, New York 25 years ago. With invaluable help from Bill McAvoy and Diarmuid O'Caithain, two of the founders of Comhaltas in North America, the Sean O'Riada Branch of Comhaltas was born. Early sessions led by Tim Finley and Lenny Broiles took place at Marty's house. Mary and Eddie Burke and Paul Curry kicked off the set dancing. Many musicians and dancers, singers and storytellers, and people with a love of Irish culture, have shared their time and talents with us along the way. In honor of this great occasion, Steve Schreiber and Marty Lyden are forming a celebration committee. Calling all members - please participate in making this day a memorable one. Contact Steve@ 765-2210 if you would like to join the committee and share your ideas. We need input from our members to make this day a success!

Dues are long overdue so if you haven't renewed your membership, please send your check to Steve Schreiber, 4 Pleasant Street, Voorheesville, NY 12186. The Comhaltas year begins on November 1st and we must send our final membership count to the regional treasurer by the end of this month. This list is submitted to Dublin for your Treoir subscription. Please renew today, we value your membership! The Comhaltas Convention is in Parsippany this year and big discounts are available to members. Also, in honor of St. Patrick, the March ceili will be free for members. If you have paid and not received your new membership card, please contact Colleen O'Sullivan at 482-8233 and I will get it out to you. (*editor's note: a membership form is being forwarded as an email attachment with this newsletter*).

Many thanks to all who have continued their membership for another year.

Colleen

Congratulations to our own **Cathy Clarke** who has just had a book of her poetry published: **Blue Nights, Golden Days**. Critic Myra Sklarew wrote, "So often when I read a new book of poems, not enough real work has taken place, that magic of transformation that literally alters reality as we know it, that deepening of experience. In this work, just about every poem takes us on that journey. It is so seldom that I really love a book of poetry, but I do this one." The book is available at www.finishinglinepress.com; go to "New releases"; or Amazon books, www.amazon.com, or you can contact Cathy at saratogaclarkes@aol.com.



Concerts, Festivals

February 20, Saturday, 7:30pm — Laurel Martin, traditional Irish fiddler from the Boston area, will be playing at the Old Songs Community Arts Center, 37 S. Main St., Voorheesville, NY 12186. Tickets \$12 at the door. Free parking on-street or in the Voorheesville Carpet parking lot down Main Street. Refreshments will be available. Traditional Irish Session immediately following the concert. 518-765-2815. oldsongs@oldsongs.org

March 5, Friday, 8pm — Cara – "powerhouse Irish band from Germany" Female lead singers accompanied by flute, guitar, piano, fiddle, pipes and bodhrán. Old Songs, Inc., 37 S. Main St., Voorheesville, NY 12186. 518-765-2815. oldsongs@oldsongs.org

March 12, Friday, 8pm — Altan "The hottest group in the Celtic realm" – *Boston Globe*. Celebrating 25 years together; touching old Irish songs to hard-hitting reels and jigs. Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, 2nd & State Streets, Troy, NY. 518-273-0038. www.troymusichall.org

March 12, Friday, 8pm — Beoga "The most exciting new band to emerge from Ireland this century" – *The Wall Street Journal*. Performing at Barre Opera House, 6 North St., Barre, VT. 802-476-8188. www.barreoperahouse.org

Seisiúns

First Friday in Amsterdam

Amsterdam Irish-American Club
Yeoman St., 7:30 pm; "mostly Irish"
in a virtually "smoke-free" club room
next to the bar. contact: Paul Gavry,
mgavry@nycap.rr.com

Every Wednesday in Saratoga

alternating at The Parting Glass
Lake Ave., and Olde Bryan Inn
7-11pm, contact: Paul O'Donnell
(Celtic Treasures) 583-9452

Second Wednesday

Old Songs, 37 South Main St.
Voorheesville (slow session)
7:30-9:30 contact: Hilary Schrauf,
756-8273

Third Sunday

Comhaltas, Albany AOH Hall
375 Ontario St., Albany
Slow Session 2:30, Regular at 3:30
contact: Colleen O'Sullivan,
482-8233

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• **April 8-11, 2010 — Comhaltas**
• **Irish Traditional Music and**
• **Dance Weekend and North**
• **American Convention** — Hilton
• Parsippany Hotel, Parsippany,
• NJ. Weekend package for \$175
• includes all events from Fri.
• evening to Sunday afternoon
• plus four meals including the
• gala Saturday evening banquet,
• show and Ceili. Room reserva-
• tions; 1-800-HILTONS, ask for the
• CCE Irish Music Weekend rate;
• www.parsippany.hilton.com. For
• Comhaltas weekend and con-
• vention registration, info: www.
• cceconvention 2010.org.
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Don't forget our friends at
Celtic Treasures in Saratoga
for those special gifts!
518-583-9452

March 14, Sunday, 5pm — Dublin's Traditional Cabarett — "a lively blend of traditional Irish dance, traditional favorites such as "Danny Boy" and "Galway Bay" and modern day classics. The dancers thrill as they twirl and tap with exuberance to the musical accompaniment of the accordion, uilleann pipes, guitar and piano." Palace Theater, 19 Clinton Ave., Albany; 800-745-3000. www.palacealbany.com; ticketmaster.com

March 16, Tuesday, 7:30 pm — Celtic Crossroads, the Egg, Albany. Nine world-class musicians and dancers present inventive arrangements breaking the boundaries of Irish music. Proceeds benefit the Irish American Heritage Museum. Tickets: 518-473-1845. www.theegg.org.

March 17, Wednesday, 7:30 - 9 pm — Comhaltas Band performs at the Saratoga Springs Public Library.

Dance

March 14, Sunday, 3-7pm — Comhaltas Band Ceili at the AOH Hall, 375 Ontario St, Albany. FREE ADMISSION FOR COMHALTAS MEMBERS!

Ceol Agus Rince: <http://www.my.calendars.net/ceolagusrince> : online calendar of "IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE EVENTS IN THE MID-ATLANTIC US...AND BEYOND!" To receive a weekly e-letter, email your request to: ceolagusrince@gmail.com

Irish Set Dancing — on-line community: <http://irishsetdancing.ning.com/>

Communications

www.wgbh.org/celtic: A Celtic Sojourn Radio from WGBH in Boston "exploring traditional and contemporary Irish music from around the world". Broadcasting recorded concerts, commentary and music.

www.liveireland.com: live traditional Irish internet radio station broadcast from Dublin. RTE Radio 1, Saturday nights; www.radio1.ie/weekend/ceilihouse e-mail ceili@rte.ie.

Paul Keating, Irish Voice column, "From the Hob," fromthehob@aol.com or send news directly to Paul at 67 Saddle Ranch Lane, Hillsdale, NJ 07642-1318; (h) (201) 722-0059; cell (201) 965-6598. Read the Irish Voice via internet: www.irishecho.com

The weekly Comhaltas Irish music program; www.comhaltaslive.ie e-mail Willie Fogarty at 11wc@eircom.net.

Lessons ~ Dance, Music, Language

Set Dance — all levels - taught by Ron Bruschi at the Irish Cultural Center, 7pm Tuesdays at the AOH Hall, 375 Ontario St., Albany. fee \$4.00. Info: Anne Marie McLaughlin 518-370-3700

Stepdance — Boland School, Troy; 518-899-7449. Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced

Irish Step Dance — Kelly School of Irish Dance. Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced Levels. Small, personal class sizes to promote skill, self-confidence and discipline. Contact: Celtic Hall (518) 479-1029

Flute and Tin Whistle — Mike McHale, Catskill; 518-943-5575. Private lessons, call for arrangements.



The January session takes a social break.

Comhaltas website - www.albanycce.com

Send newsletter notices to: Mary Beth Vought, 1633 Grovenors Corners Rd., Central Bridge, NY 12035,
518-868-2807, mvought1@verizon.net