

Commodore John Barry Division # 1

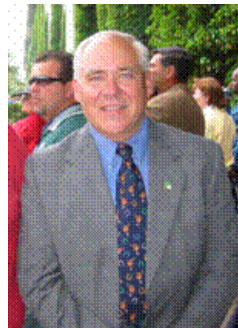
Ancient Order of Hibernians of Saratoga

A Word From Dave

As we enter our eighth year of being brought together in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, the Executive Board encourages members to attend and vote in our November 2nd annual election. More than one nomination has been entered for six of the eight Officer positions and nominations can be made from the floor, right up to the vote for each of the eight positions. However, for you **to vote, you must be present and current in your dues; it would be best for you to bring your membership card.**

Each candidate will be given the opportunity to briefly address the Division, and appoint a person to monitor the vote tally. In the absence of Division specific by-law language, we follow the state and national protocols for the conduct of the election. Copies of the full, relevant section will be posted at this Nov 2nd, 2006 meeting.

The Division President 'appoints two tellers and a judge (role accepted by Mike Smith) who will distribute slips of blank paper prepared by the Recording Secretary. When the ballots



call the roll of all members in good standing, and as each name is called, the brother will advance to the other side of the center pedestal, salute the President, and cast his ballot. The judge announces the result.

have been distributed, the tellers shall secure the Division Ballot Box and place it on the center pedestal.' For each officer position announced, the President reads the names of the nominations and directs brothers to prepare their ballot. The Recording 'Secretary will

State Vice President Nelligan has reviewed the nomination/election particulars with me and will be available to conduct the installation of 2007 Officers on November 30, 2006.

Your Chieftain, Dave

Elections Slate

The following is the current slate of nominations for the officers of 2007. Further nominations will be allowed up to the time of the vote.

President:
Dave Cummings, Steve Curran

Vice President:
Chris Kelly, Paul O'Donnell

Recording Secretary:
Rob Przedwicki, Chris Templin

Financial Secretary:
Chris Bergman

Treasurer:
Emmit Kelleher

Standing Committee Chairman:
Bob O'Rourke, Dick Sheldon

Marshall:
Jeff Carney

Sentinel:
Mike Curran, Chris Templin, Jeff Carney (withdrew)

Please take careful consideration as you vote for those who will lead the division for the next year.



October Happenings Recap

Murphy Memorial

Brothers,

For the fifth year we came together to honor Timothy Murphy at the Murphy Monument at Saratoga National Historical Park. This year was if memory serves to be correct, the first dry wreath laying ceremony we have had. The ceremony went well with assistance from all of the members who attended. In addition to the mem-

bers we had members of the Doyle Family who also laid a wreath in honor of the late Kevin Doyle who owned Smoking Sam's on Caroline St. and who had attended several of our ceremonies. In addition to

the Doyle family, Kevin was honored by Chip Perry who served on our rifle squad. I would like to thank brother Jeff Carney for his assistance in getting the ceremony off the ground, and for

being on the honor guard again. Jeff's musket had a few misfires, (all turned out to be my fault) but it will work next year. I would also like to thank brothers Chris Bergman and Mike Curran for carrying the flags. Well done all. I hope that all of our members who attended will tell those members who could not attend how the ceremony went and hopefully next year they and all of our families can attend.



Fraternally Yours,
Chris Templin

Major Degrees

The start of October brought together the local divisions of the

AOH to the Schenectady Hall for the ceremony conferring the Major Degrees to the

newest members.

As always, Saratoga was well represented and six of our members earned the rights of full brotherhood in the order.

We congratulate Mike Brockley, Jed Ida, Mike Curran and the Quinn family, Keiran, Liam and Kevin. These brothers have earned the highest honor of the brotherhood and are now eligible to lead the division as officers.

Every member is encouraged to attain their Major Degree as it gives each individual a chance to more fully understand the tenets of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.





Gerry Adams' Writings

Lots of political leaders write books. Among these a few--mostly rebels--have produced literature treasured independently from their political careers (though of course not from their ideology). A few prominent examples: José Martí, who died fighting for Cuban independence; world-renowned poets Léopold Senghor and Agostinho Neto, heads of the independence movements and first presidents of Senegal and Angola respectively; Václav Havel, dissident playwright and first president of post-communist Czechoslovakia; and of course poets Mao Zedong and Ho Chi Minh.

Gerry Adams, the President of Sinn Féin and co-initiator of the current peace process in Northern Ireland, is one of these rebel leaders with remarkable literary achievements. Like almost all the others, Adams has spent considerable time in prison. Interned without trial in 1972 on the notorious prison ship Maidstone, he was rearrested in 1973, again without trial or charges, and incarcerated until 1977 in Britain's Long Kesh concentration camp near Belfast. While in Long Kesh, he was finally convicted of a crime--trying to escape--and transferred from a cage for "internees" to Cage Eleven, reserved for those serving actual sentences. His sketches of prison life, smuggled out and published pseudonymously in the Belfast newspaper Republican News, are collected in Cage Eleven: Writings from Prison (first published in 1990 in Ireland).

One of ten children born to stalwart Irish Republican working-class parents, Adams describes himself in Cage Eleven as someone who grew up in a "perfectly normal" West Belfast family; that is, his father and four brothers all shared his experience of the degradation, privation, and occasional brutality of Long Kesh. Yet these twenty-six sketches, told in an often bantering style, are never self-pitying, bitter, acrimonious, or even slogging. One would never guess that their author's body is still maimed from his imprisonment and from being riddled with bullets by a loyalist death squad.

Nor would one guess from these sketches that their author is the leader of a major political force. In Cage Eleven, Adams exists as little more than an unassuming and self-effacing narrator who appears as a minor figure in various anecdotes, often as a straight man for the main characters--and characters most of them are--sometimes wacky but always boisterous, vital, and engaging. Even the heavy political meetings are narrated with whimsy and without a trace of self-importance or self-aggrandizement.

Because these smuggled sketches were written for an Irish Republican audience, American readers may find themselves feeling a bit like eavesdroppers. Many of the Irish and slang terms are translated in a helpful glossary, but both the specific prison experience and the underlying political outlook are unfamiliar.

Long Kesh does not resemble American prisons. Prisoners are not confined in cells. The "cages" are clusters of huts, with four or five huts to a cage and approximately thirty men in each hut. Each hut, each cage, and the Republican section of the camp has its own OC (Officer-in-Charge), elected by the prisoners and granted administrative powers by the prison authorities. The hut OC sets the daily routine and can have offending

guards removed. A more revealing comparison with Long Kesh is Allied prisoner-of-war camps in Europe during World War II. By structuring this prison along the same lines, the British government implicitly recognized the accuracy of the term Adams uses to identify the inmates: prisoners of war.

The short stories and sketches collected in The Street invite comparison with James Joyce's Dubliners. Though certainly not as multifaceted or fully developed as Joyce's, Adams' tales display a deeper sympathy for and identification with the common people of Ireland. Telling their stories from inside their lives, he never looks down on his characters no matter how low their circumstances. A reader can hardly avoid sensing the author's profound humanism.

These are mostly tales of ordinary people severely tested by everyday problems. A father spends a frustrating day at the unemployment office because a computer printed his infant son's age at sixteen years. A middle-aged man finds his first full time job, as a bank security officer, jeopardized by an encroaching streetbeggar. A nineteen-year-old with Down's Syndrome succeeds, when everyone else fails, in quieting a friend. A father and son try to transcend a quarrelsome stage of their relationship.

Even when these problems come from Northern Ireland's strife, the focus is on ordinary folk. "Civil War" tells of an elderly unmarried brother and sister alienated from each other as conflict intrudes on their lives. "Exiles" is the story of an Irishman torn between a yearning for his homeland and his forty years of family life in England.

A strong feminist undercurrent runs through many of the stories and surfaces in a few. A woman twice seduced and abandoned in her youth is now a grandmother who has long given up on men as abusers and exploiters of women. Another grandmother, a Republican activist in her youth, uses her heightened consciousness to shield her IRA grandson from arrest. A docile, subservient 53-year-old housewife becomes a "rebel" when her son is arrested for "riotous behavior," but her rebellion is directed as much against her husband's patriarchal regime as British rule.

One of the three evidently autobiographical stories, "The Mountains of Mourne," is the most explicit about Adams' politics. The narrator, an underground Republican activist with an assumed identity, gets a job as an assistant to an Ulster Loyalist who drives a liquor truck; the two become friends, and a highly charged confrontation between their opposing visions of Northern Ireland takes place in the stunning Irish mountains of the title. Adams' broadly democratic view, explicitly articulated here, is manifest everywhere in these stories, even those that overtly have nothing to do with politics.

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The Ancient Order of Hibernians is a fraternal order of men of the Catholic faith and born in Ireland or of Irish heritage who are residents of the US. The Saratoga Division meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Pine Ave in Saratoga Springs, NY. Information about the Order and our division can be found at our website at www.saratogaaoh.com. Please feel free to contact us regarding membership.

Odds and Ends

2007 Dues

Annual 2007 Dues will be \$30. Dues payments for the 2007 year may begin now. Payments can be made in person at the regularly scheduled meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Knights of Columbus in Saratoga Springs. Dues payments for 2007 may also be sent to the Division, with checks made out to "Saratoga AOH" at PO Box 205, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Also, no lapel pins will be offered with dues payments for the 2007 year.

December Meeting

December meeting has been changed to November 30th, so we do not have a conflict with Saratoga Springs' Victorian Walk. This meeting will include the Installation of Officers who were elected at the November meeting. Please show

respect for the ceremony and attend in coat and tie. Kilts also always welcome. Meeting time will be 7 PM as always at the K of C.

Election Day

After concentrating on the division elections this week please concentrate on the state and local elections on November 7th. Everyone has the right to exercise their vote to determine who leads our country and community. Please don't let this great right of the U.S. to go to waste. Get out the vote.

Samhain

On November 1st we will celebrate Samhain as all good Irish should. This is the traditional Celtic New

Year which gave birth to so many of the current traditions recognized on our Halloween. It is a time to give thanks for the blessings of the past year and prepare for the winter season. It is also All Saint's Day in the Catholic Church and a time to remember those who have led exemplary lives in the name of our Church.



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