

MAINSHEET

Benefit a Blast at the Beach

One-hundred and fifty Museum of Newport Irish History supporters gathered at Easton's Beach Rotunda ballroom on Sept. 23 for "Shamrocks & Seashells," the annual benefit for the museum's Interpretive Center. Guests enjoyed a bagpiper greeting, traditional Irish music by "The Exiles," featuring award-winning Irish step dancer, Kevin Doyle. Impromptu ballad singing and dancing by inspired guests added to the evening's festive mood. Vintage carousel rides, creative cuisine by Kitchen Companion Catering, and an extensive silent auction, which included stays on Ireland's Dingle Peninsula, overnights at top Newport hotels, and tickets to a N.Y. Giants game rounded out the evening.

Proceeds from the benefit will defray operating expenses of the museum's Interpretive Center and fund enhancements to Center displays. The Museum of Newport Irish History is a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization of 800 members. Founded in 1996, its mission is to tell the story of Irish immigrants in Newport County from the 1600s to the present, to preserve artifacts and mementos of their experience and to facilitate research into Irish heritage.

The Center, at 648 Thames Street, is open until Oct. 29, from noon-5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday. Tours at other times may be arranged by appointment.

To learn more about the organization, visit the museum's website, newportirishhistory.org.



Photos by Allan Millora Photography



Dan Fitzgerald and Mary Hastings



Bonnie Slein, Mary Ellen Bronson and Ann Gizzi



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