

Newport *this week* Newport *now*

Irish History Celebrated at Beach Benefit

By Newport This Week Staff on September 12, 2019

Photos by Allan Millora Photography



Rosemary Danforth and Kathy Gallagher

The 10th annual benefit for the Museum of Newport Irish History, “Shamrocks & Seashells,” drew 175 of the organization’s members and community supporters to Easton’s Beach Rotunda ballroom on Aug. 17. Guests of the sold-out event were welcomed to the rotunda by bagpiper Michael O’Connor, and traditional Irish music was performed throughout the evening by the five-musician group, “The Exiles.”

Mike Slein, president of the museum's board of directors, welcomed guests and provided highlights of the organization's upcoming activities, including the kick-off of the 18th annual Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series on Sept. 26.

Guests rode the beach's vintage carousel and captured the evening's festive mood at the Irish-themed photo booth. Many took in the ocean views from the ballroom's wrap-around deck during the balmy summer evening. The popular silent auction included such unique items as an escorted climb to the top of the Newport Bridge Tower for two, an award-winning oil painting of an Irish step-dancer by local artist, Jonathan Small, and a replica of a Titanic lifeboat.



Megan Hanrahan and Dr. Joe Farnam

The event proceeds will help defray operating expenses of the museum's Interpretive Center, fund enhancements to center displays, and bolster the center's endowment. The Interpretive Center, located at 648 Lower Thames St., is open for the 2019 season Thursdays through Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m., through Oct. 27. Private tours at other times may be arranged by appointment.

The Museum of Newport Irish History is a nonprofit, volunteer 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. To learn more or to join, please visit newportirishhistory.org.



Glenn Carpenter and Barbara Bessette



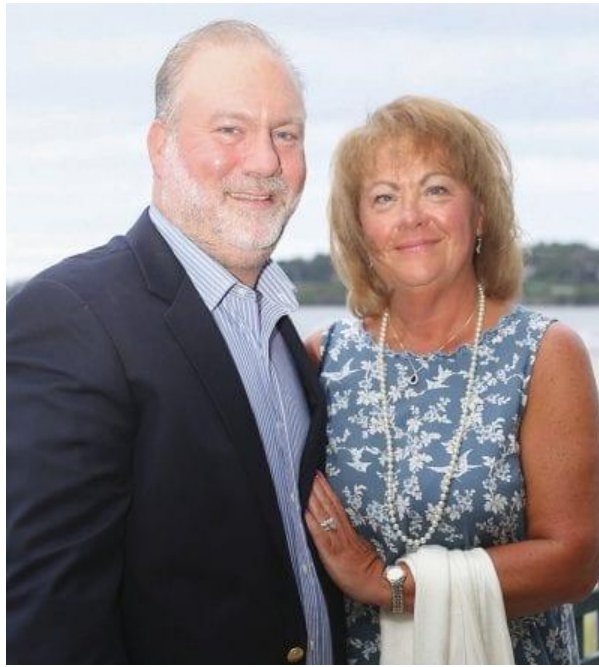
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