

Heartland Gallery

May 2010 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Heartland Gallery,

April was filled with many wonderful events that kept us busy throughout the month. The Boneyard Arts Festival alone (April 17<sup>th</sup>) brought in nearly 1000 people, many more than we could have imagined. In addition, we had two concerts (Claire Roche and The Mairtin de Cogain Project), a theatrical presentation ("And I Remember" with Karen Vaccaro), and opening receptions for "Colours of the Soul" and The Station Theatre's production of "Always...Patsy Cline." At the Claire Roche harp concert, we were treated to a special impromptu dance performance by Philip Johnston and Kirstie Simson from the UIUC Dance Department faculty. In between all of these events, I managed to leave town for several days to attend an Irish/Celtic trade show in NJ where I placed orders for many new items and even brought a few back with me. Many of the artisans/vendors were not able to fly over for the show this year due to the Icelandic volcanic ash problem (and those that did were stranded in NJ for a while), but I have since heard that everyone made it back home to Ireland safely.

"COLOURS OF THE SOUL" Art Exhibition

Our current exhibition, entitled "Colours of the Soul", runs through May 22<sup>nd</sup>, so if you didn't get to see it during the Boneyard Arts Festival, there is still plenty of time. This show features acrylic paintings by three Irish artists, Honor Hales of Portlaoise, John Nolan of Dublin and Hilary Nunan of Cork, as well as oil paintings by Marty Maehr of Ann Arbor, MI, formerly of Urbana. Also featured are ceramics by Thomas Diem of Co. Meath, Amanda Murphy of Co. Waterford and Ray Power of Castle Arch Pottery in Kilkenny.

NEW GALLERY ITEMS

With Mother's Day fast approaching, we have some new gift items in the gallery including beautiful porcelain vessels and figurines by Cyril Cullen of Co. Tipperary, Irish Cream Truffles by Wicklow Foods and Book of Kells designed candles by the Fragrance Boutique in Dublin. We are expecting several more international shipments in the next few weeks. In the way of local consignments, we have acquired new watercolor paintings by Shoshanna Bauer and mixed media paintings by Rajni Shinghal, both of Champaign.

RACE DAY/ULTIMATE SATURDAYS KICK-OFF

What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate spring on this coming Saturday, as May 1<sup>st</sup> will mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Champaign-Urbana "Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon." Last year, John and I were proud to participate in the half-marathon event of the inaugural race. As I am not a runner, we

walked briskly most of the way and managed to make our way to the finish line in good time. We will do the same this year, and if you are so inclined, please feel free to watch from the sidelines if you are not planning to participate. The community spirit and support last year was amazing, and we expect this year to be even better. Downtown Urbana is making the most of the fact that thousands of people will be descending on our community for the race by encouraging business owners to open up early. This will be the kick-off for a new summer promotion aimed at increasing traffic in downtown Urbana called "Ultimate Saturdays." Besides the season's opening of the Market at the Square, several businesses in Lincoln Square and on Main St. will be opening at 7:30am for your shopping pleasure. Unfortunately, I will only be open during my regular hours of 10am – 5pm. But, if you stop by the gallery between 2 and 5pm, we will have special treats to celebrate our efforts in the race. As an added bonus, try guessing our race finish time. The person that gets the closest will win a Celtic candle and a box of Irish cream truffles. Also, if you plan to attend the 27<sup>th</sup> mile celebration near the Stadium, you can get a "wooden nickel" good for discounts at participating vendors including Heartland Gallery.

#### "RED MOLLY" CONCERT

On Wednesday May 19<sup>th</sup>, the female folk trio "Red Molly" will perform their repertoire of Americana and roots music at the Independent Media Center, 202 S. Broadway, in downtown Urbana. Heartland Gallery is a co-sponsor for this event which is part of the Folk Music Concert Series of the C-U Folk & Roots Festival ([www.cufolkandroots.org](http://www.cufolkandroots.org)). Tickets are still available here at the gallery. They are \$15 in advance, and will be \$20 if you wait to purchase them at the door. The concert begins at 7:30pm (Please note that the time has changed from the 8pm time printed on the tickets. Call Ed at 217-493-4654 with questions about the concert. Please see [www.redmolly.com](http://www.redmolly.com) for more info on the group.

#### WISHES NEEDED

For those of you who attended the Claire Roche harp concert this past month or in previous years, you are at least a bit familiar with John Wilmott ([www.celticways.com](http://www.celticways.com)), Claire's partner, who entertains us with ancient stories, drives thousands of miles back and forth across the country while touring, and completely takes care of the business side of Claire's music and performances. Well, I received the sad news that not long after returning home to Ireland, John had a stroke. His recovery is progressing well, but he will need several months of rehabilitation. Please keep John and Claire in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with this life-changing event. Slainte(Good health), John!