

December 2011 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Heartland Gallery,

During the past month, we had the pleasure of participating in a very uplifting cultural event at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. "iBAM Chicago" turned out to be a wonderful networking event for us, as well as a great opportunity to sell our collection of art and crafts from Ireland. The musicians were outstanding and many performed directly in front of our booth in The Four Provinces pub, on the main floor of the center. We will definitely participate next year in whatever capacity we are able, and I will be sure to remind you about the event then. We are also looking forward to increased sales in the new location of our Chicago booth, now on the main floor of the Andersonville Galleria in Chicago. We are located directly behind the checkout desk on the right hand side as you enter from the sidewalk.

Our priority, however, has always been to provide the best service we possibly can to you, our Urbana customers, and we hope you will let us know how we are doing in this area. As always, we will be offering free gift wrap on all of your purchases, so please consider a visit to the gallery to check out our new items for all of your holiday shopping needs.

Our extended hours for December are as follows:

(DECEMBER 1-23)

Sundays – Noon to 4pm

Mondays – Closed, except by appointment

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays – 10am to 6pm

Thursdays & Fridays – 10am to 9pm

DECEMBER 24 (Christmas Eve) – 9am to 3pm

DECEMBER 25-26 – CLOSED

DECEMBER 27-30 – 10am to 6pm

DECEMBER 31 – CLOSED

Our events calendar in the gallery tends to slow down a bit during the holiday season, as we try just to keep up with the increase in holiday traffic, but we will have cookies and warm cider available at the very least on Friday evenings, as well as on Saturdays and Sundays. And please do note the following upcoming events and their locations:

Friday, December 2 (6-10pm) Late Night Andersonville (in the Andersonville Galleria at 5247 N. Clark St., Chicago) – Browse the 90+ shops under one roof, including Heartland Gallery. The Galleria will offer free refreshments for late night shoppers, and many other businesses on Clark St. will also be open late. In addition, artist demonstrations will take place in the shopfront window. I plan to be there in my booth on the main floor, so please drop by and say "hi."

Saturday, December 3 (1-4pm and 5-8pm) Folk Art and Crafts of Latin America (Kalarte Gallery, inside Heartland Gallery in downtown Urbana) – This exhibition and sale of folk art from many different Latin American countries opens with a reception on Saturday and will be up through January 7. Bernard Cesarone, proprietor, will be available to answer questions about the pieces on display. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday, December 11 (4-5:30pm) Holiday Stories with Dan Keding (at Heartland Gallery in downtown Urbana). Join us for an entertaining afternoon of holiday-themed stories for all ages with internationally acclaimed storyteller/folksinger Dan Keding. Refreshments will be served. Admission will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Children 5 and under are free. Call [217-337-4767](tel:217-337-4767) to make a reservation, so we know how many chairs will be needed.

Friday, December 16 (6-10pm) – Late Night Andersonville (in the Andersonville Galleria at 5247 N. Clark St., Chicago) – A repeat of the event on December 2, the Galleria offers two chances for late night shopping this month. Other outside events you may be interested in this month:

Sunday, December 4 (2-4pm) – Holiday Tea with Mrs. Claus (at Sylvia's Irish Inn, 312 W. Green St., Urbana) – Call Sylvia at [217-384-4800](tel:217-384-4800) for more info and to purchase tickets.

Friday, December 16 (8-10pm) – Michael Cooney & Pat Egan Concert (at the Independent Media Center in the old Downtown Urbana Post Office at 202 S. Broadway) – This Piper's Hut Concert Series Event promises to be an entertaining evening of traditional Irish music with Uilleann piper Cooney and singer/guitarist Egan. See www.pipers-hut.com for more info and to purchase tickets.

New items in the gallery this month include Irish-themed, sculptured ceramic art pieces by Wisconsin artist Joyce Diveley, as well as some new pieces by local potter Ingrid Melief. We also have new hand-crafted Celtic ceramic tiles mounted on wood by Manitoba, Canada-based Wild Rose Pottery. Shipments are arriving daily from many of our current vendors.

As we celebrate the winter solstice in addition to the many other seasonal holiday traditions this month, I'd like to leave you with the following 9th century poem translated from Irish, and as you celebrate in your own personal way, please stay warm, safe and healthy and have a joyful holiday season.

*"I have news for you: The stag bells, winter snows, summer is gone;
Wind high and low, the sun low, short its course, the sea running high
Deep red the bracken, its shape is lost;
The wild goose has raised its accustomed cry,
Cold has seized the birds' wings;
Season of ice, this is my news."*

As always, thanks for your continued patronage,