



Mission

Preserving, promoting, and celebrating the unique cultural heritage of Ybor City and supporting the Ybor City Museum State Park

NEWS BRIEF



With so much to celebrate in March, we are sending you a special edition of our newsletter to commemorate St. Patrick's Day. In modern times, Ybor City is known for its annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, which of course will not take place this year. But wait... is it possible that there are other Irish connections in this community built by Spanish, Italian, Cuban, German and Jewish immigrants? The map at left, compliments of the Arizona Celtic Heritage Society, shows eight areas of Celtic influence. Read on and,

"May love and laughter light your days." ~ Chantal Ruilova Hevia, President & CEO

An Old Irish Blessing

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.

May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!

A Celtic Connection



Most anthropologists consider the six primary Celtic Nations to be Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man, and Brittany (France). More interestingly, Galicia, in Northern Spain, is now considered the seventh Celtic Nation. The criteria used is a noticeable Celtic influence in the written and physical culture, along with a Celtic language --- such as Gaelic --- having been spoken within a certain number of years,

and/or still spoken.

Galicia is clearly Celtic in culture and history. However, the Celtic language has not been used for many centuries, possibly millennia. Therefore, Galicia is included in Celtic festivals but not in organizations focusing on current literature, language, and other aspects of the Celtic culture. Asturias, also in Northern Spain, is unofficially recognized as Celtic, but less so than Galicia, a point of contention amongst the Asturianos.

Bagpipes are an important element of the music of these two areas of Spain. In fact, the Banda de Gaitas de Corvera (Asturias) is a regular in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City. On several occasions, they have won the prize for best bagpipe band!

Back to Ybor City... though not as prominent as the other ethnic groups in the area, Ybor and Tampa in general did have a small population of Irish immigrants, many of whom were personnel in the Catholic Church. Most of the Spaniards who immigrated to Tampa in its early days were either from Galicia or Asturias. There you have it... an Irish connection right in our own backyard.

COOKING CORNER

Colcannon is a favorite Irish recipe made of potatoes, lots of butter and cream, and cabbage or kale. Although usually associated with St. Patrick's Day, colcannon is actually mostly seen on Irish tables on Halloween nights when the cook hides little trinkets in the mash, each representing fortune, poverty, or perhaps the chance of a future marriage.

There are as many recipes for this dish as there are cooks in Ireland. Each household and region has a favorite way of cooking the colcannon.

Colcannon



[Get the Recipe](#)

Recipe and Photo
Courtesy of Food Network

Around the Neighborhood

If you are looking for a place to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this



year, head over to James Joyce Irish Pub at 1724 E 8th Ave, located only 350 feet from the Ybor City Museum State Park and across the street from Centennial Park. This neighborhood favorite is just the kind of vibe you may be looking

for this St. Patrick's Day. They serve both traditional Irish fare and a number of American favorites, along with their wide range of beer and spirits. Cheers!

A St. Patrick's Day Memory

During Casimiro Hernandez Jr.'s (second generation) ownership of the Columbia, the kitchen would prepare a special meal for St. Patrick's Day. This meal consisted of corned beef and cabbage, pea puree salad, and lime sherbet. Cooks would dye the boiled potatoes green, calling them "Potatoes O'Hara" after Phil O'Hara, an Ybor City merchant.

The Ybor City Museum State Park is Open

The Ybor City Museum State Park is again open to the public. To ensure your safety, masks are required to be worn during your visit.

Admissions can be paid by cash or credit card, however you are requested to bring exact change if you are paying by cash. The "casita" portion of the museum tour is closed due to



Covid-19 restrictions but you can enjoy the Museum Garden during your visit. **You can also enquire about renting the Garden, a beautiful 10,000 sq. ft. outdoor space, by [clicking here](#).** It is a unique venue that creates its own ambience for your special event.

New Hours of Operation : 9 am - 4 pm Wednesday - Sunday
Admission: \$4 per person, free for children 5 years and younger
1818 E. 9th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605, 813.247.6323

Please Join Us

Member benefits make it easy for you to strengthen your connection to Tampa's roots and experience the unique cultural heritage of Historic Ybor City. Now that

With Gratitude

History teaches many lessons and gives us a lens to the future. While 2020 was a year to pause and reflect, we have benefitted in many ways as our friends

the Ybor City Museum State Park is reopening, you can use the free admissions included in your membership. Thank you to our current members, whether you have been part of our family for years or have just joined us. For your convenience, new or current members can [join or renew your membership online.](#)

and followers came together to celebrate the landmark events that make Ybor City such a unique community. Thank you who supported our programs and educational activities last year. For those who enjoy this newsletter and learning more about Ybor City's cultural heritage, please consider a donation to support our 2021 programming.

DONATE

The Ybor City Museum Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID No. 59-2274494. While we do not give tax advice, donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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