

Autumn *in* MORRISTOWN

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Dublin Pub celebrates 50th anniversary in Morristown

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Special to The Star-Ledger

In 1973 Jim and Colette Mongey proudly founded the one-room Dublin Pub, naming it after Colette's home county and the well-known capital of Ireland. The Dublin Pub, or 'The Pub' as it's commonly called, opened its doors nestled at the top of Pine Street, just off busy South Street, nearby an area at the time referred to as the 'Little Dublin' neighborhood.

Fifty years later, thanks to a strong Irish presence in the community and an appreciation for great food and drink, The Mongeys' labor of love remains a long-standing local favorite gathering place and draws visitors from far beyond Morristown's borders.

It was April 1959 when Jim and Colette both boarded the HMS Britannica in Ireland. Jim left his hometown of Navan, County Meath and Colette hailed from the beautiful capital city of Dublin. With a promise of work for Jim from the Keller family, they left the shores of the Emerald Isle for a new home in America.

Just like many of the Irish that worked for the Keller's restaurants, especially Rod's Ranch House, Jim and Colette settled in Morristown and began a different kind of journey. They married in 1963,



Courtesy of Michelle Mongey

settled into their new hometown, raised five children and ultimately were blessed with 59 years together.

Beginning his career as a busboy at Rod's Ranch House, Jim's confidence, hard work and determination led him all the way to general manager. So, it was no surprise that when he ventured out to open the Dublin Pub, success followed.

In 1981, eight years after their initial opening, the first of what would be several renovations began with the addition of the O'Connell Room, named in honor of the great Irish Statesman Daniel O'Connell. A second major renovation would follow in 1994 with the addition of the Kells Room and a new façade. The Kells Room is named after Ireland's treasured Book of Kells, which is on display at Trinity College in Dublin. The Celtic Dog, an elegant room for private parties and casual gatherings, was the next addition to The Pub in 2000.

It was in 2003 that The Pub began televising Gaelic games direct from Ireland and the sports fans poured in. Visitors were drawn in to the décor, including murals of downtown Dublin, an original street lamppost, antiques and Irish artwork, all emanating a warmth and welcoming atmosphere of a traditional Irish Pub. On a balmy

evening, diners can venture out to the outdoor terrace and, on most Friday and Saturday nights, The Pub offers live entertainment.

Famous menu items include Jimmy's Special Reuben, Traditional Beer Battered Fish and Chips, 8 oz. burgers, Colette's Shepherd's Pie, Corned Beef and Cabbage, Bangers and Mash and homemade Irish Whiskey Cake. Enjoy it all with a pint or some Irish whiskey.

In 2023 the Dublin Pub remains a family operated business. When Jim took ill in 2016, Colette stepped up to lead the Mongey family business. Her hard work and devotion to her husband and family never wavered, and when Jim was no longer able to, she skillfully took the reigns of the restaurant.

Jim's passing in September of 2022 was a loss to the community at large, where he had committed himself for decades to a wide variety of organizations and his Catholic faith as a longtime member of the Assumption Church and Loyola Jesuit Center. Jim's community leadership positions included President of the Morristown Rotary Club, as well as being a founding member and trustee of the Morristown Partnership. As one of the founders and a longtime member of Morris County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, it was a high point for him to be honored as the Grand Marshall in 1996. Similar to the restaurant, Colette honors her husband's memory, and the life they built together, by continuing to give back to the community through service, most notably at the Morristown Rotary Club.

All five of Jim and Colette's children, plus many of their 10 grandchildren and nieces and nephews have worked in the Dublin Pub over the last 50 years. Jim's brother Pat was also vital in the establishment of the Dublin Pub, as well as three other pubs and restaurants they established over the years. The family atmosphere shines through and makes The Pub an ideal place for happy hour with friends, private cocktail parties on the terrace or even a small Irish themed wedding.

Visit the Dublin Pub on your next visit to Morristown and enjoy a taste of Ireland. The Pub is located at 4 Pine Street. Reservations are not necessary but can be made by calling 973-538-1999. For additional information, visit www.dublinpubmorristown.com.



Courtesy of the Dublin Pub



Courtesy of the Dublin Pub

Grand Harvest Wine Festival set for Oct. 14-15

GRAND HARVEST
WINE FESTIVAL

Once you spend a day at this event you will know why so many people mark their calendars every year to attend this fabulous, seasonal festival. There is nothing like sitting in the back field surrounded by autumn leaves, enjoying great wine, listening to fabulous bands, enjoying culinary cuisine from some of New Jersey's best food trucks, shopping artisan crafters and just relaxing with family and friends.

New Jersey wineries always embrace this event as a time to salute autumn and unveil some of their newest offerings for the fall. Excitement for this annual event is quite astounding, with attendees inquiring about tickets months in advance. Pumpkin spice coffee, apple cider, and hot cocoa are great, but nothing compares to a lovely fall afternoon surrounded by great people



The Grand Harvest Wine Festival is back again to celebrate a wonderful time of the year.

There is no better place to enjoy New Jersey wine on a crisp autumn afternoon than on the grounds of Fosterfields Living Historical Farm in Morristown. The event will be held Oct. 14-15 from noon to 5 p.m. both days.

and even greater wineries. So come enjoy a crisp fall weekend at New Jersey's salute to autumn.

For advance discount tickets and more information, visit newjerseywineevents.com.

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morristourism.org/events
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