

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

Happy St. Patrick's Day. I hope you have plans to celebrate in a way that will bring you happiness and good luck!

It's probably fitting that someone named Erin would be wishing you a Happy St. Patrick's Day on this fine day.

I was never one for green beer and corned beef, but I did love slipping into the Dubliner on the Hill in Washington, D.C. to sing at least one only-slightly-drunken verse of the Irish Rover's hit the Unicorn Song complete with the gestures signifying each animal listed going on Noah's ark—green alligators and longed necked geese, humpty back camels and some chimpanzees. Doesn't it make you want to hear the song right now? Or stop in at the Dubliner?

My Irish hangout in New York was a dark hole-in-the-wall on the upper West Side called the Emerald Inn. I stopped there once to catch a football playoff game before heading to Lincoln Center to see a play and it stole my heart. A real bar, real food, no ferns or brass railings to be found. I'm not even sure if it's there anymore as it seems the all the great Manhattan dive bars are being remade into touristy upscale joints.

Tonight in Fortuna we have a special St. Patrick's celebration. Cornerstone Realty on Main Street is hosting our Chamber Mixer. But more than that—they are also celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> year in business. 10 years for any small business in this day and age is worth celebrating and celebrating big. So tonight they are cooking up corned beef and cabbage with all of the trimmings and everyone is welcome to stop by. Did I mention Cornerstone Realty is Sally & Milton Conley—yes, the legendary Milton Conley who just cooked dinner for Library Day at the Veteran's Memorial Hall on Saturday. It will be worth a stop by.

Fortuna also has a rare-these-days custom frame shop—How's It Hanging—celebrating 13 years in business on Main Street in Fortuna in a few weeks. A framing shop. How many towns the size of Fortuna have their own locally owned and operated framing shop? We're fortunate. Congratulations Dawn on your lucky 13 anniversary.

But back to St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The next best thing to being in Ireland may well be Eel River Brewing Company's Irish Feast tonight. Loleta Meat Market Bangers steamed in their California Blonde beer over a Porter Cabbage, served with mashed sweet potatoes--they don't need to know we started at Cornerstone before stopping in. Who's counting?

Don't forget to bring your designated driver if you are celebrating tonight with a pint or a few fingers of Irish whiskey!

I'll close with an Irish blessing I ran across yesterday:

May those who love us, love us;  
And for those who don't love us,  
May God turn their hearts;  
And if He doesn't turn their hearts,  
May He turn their ankles,  
So we will know them by their limping!

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