

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 10, Number 9

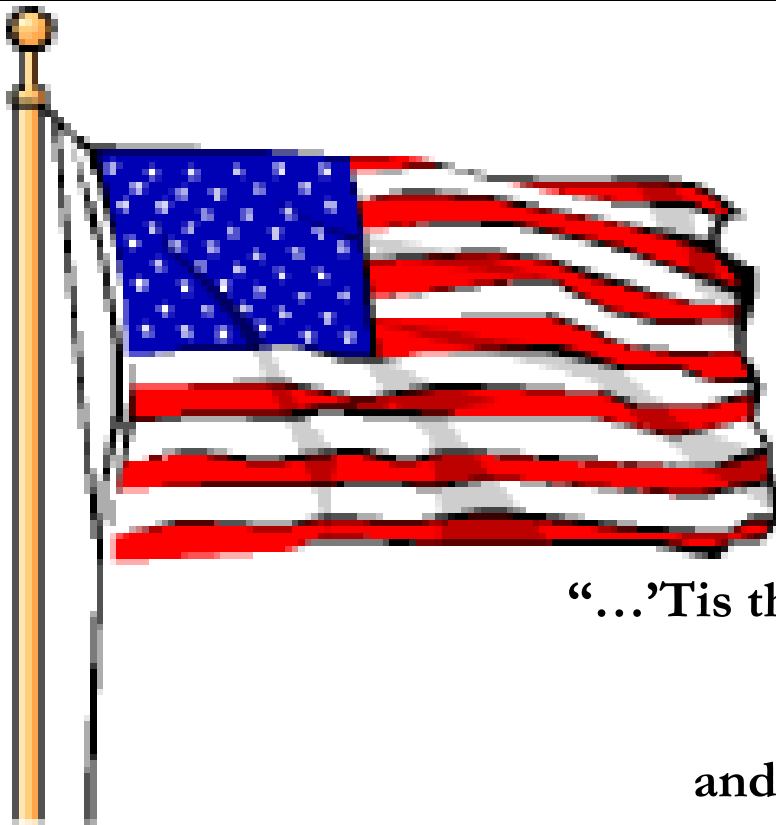
March 2004



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington VA 22201
703-525-0108 / fax 703-525-8055
<http://www.vfw3150.org>



The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999 and 2003 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of Second Place Award for 2000, 2001
Ladies Auxiliary Award: Best Newsletter in Virginia, 1999, 2001, 2003; Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999



“...’Tis the star-spangled banner!
O long may it wave
O’er the land of the free
and the home of the brave!”
(second verse)

3 March “Star Spangled Banner” Day

Written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812,
it was made the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

From the Commander:

It pains me to have to write this, but I must as one of our sisters has been under attack. For whatever may be their personal agendas, some people have been spreading malicious rumors about the departure of our previous Canteen Manager **Barbara Brickhill**. I repeat that Barbara decided to leave the Post for a new job which provided her better pay/benefits to meet her family's requirements. She was hired by a Past Post Commander who has known her for several years. If anyone hears of “news” to the contrary, please correct the gossipers and suggest they check with the Post Commander for the real story before opening their mouths. The same technique will work with **any** rumor regarding the Post. Check with the Post Commander and learn the real story. Don't rely on what some gossip has told you. And remember that what some people “know” is not necessarily the truth!

J.Gary Wagner



From the President

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all! I am really hoping that March heralds the coming of a warm and pleasant spring this year.

I want to offer my congratulations to Barbara Brickhill, who was the winner of the afghan we raffled off in January. In all, we were able to raise almost \$400. All the proceeds from the quilt raffle are going to support our Department President's Special Project, Alzheimer's. On behalf of all of our Auxiliary members, I would like to offer my many thanks to the generous donor!!!!!!

A quick glance at our March calendar of events shows me that the highlight of the month will be the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner in honor of St. Patrick's Day. The dinner will be held on March 20th from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at the Post. The reviews from previous years have been fantastic, so make plans to attend this event!! A sign-up sheet is available at the Post.

The Auxiliary will again hold its annual Crab Cake dinner this spring. The dinner will be April 2nd, from 5pm to 8 pm at the Post. There are three dinner packages available: a crab cake sandwich and 1 side dish for \$ 7, one crab cake and two sides for \$9, or two crab cakes and two sides for \$11. Reservations must be made in advance, by calling or stopping by the Post. In order to ensure that we have an adequate number of crab cakes available, please specify your meal choice at the time of your reservation.

As an early reminder, election of officers for the 2004-2005 Auxiliary year will be held during the April meeting on the 15th. This is a very important meeting, as the officer corps carries a heavy responsibility to you, the members. While you may be busily trying to get your income taxes mailed off, please try to take about an hour of your time to attend the meeting.

Finally, a huge THANK YOU to everyone who joined the Auxiliary, renewed, or recruited a new member. The Auxiliary was able to achieve its 100% membership goal for the year, which makes us eligible for recognition at the Department Convention. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Without you, this wouldn't have been possible! Additionally, I wanted to let everyone know that our Auxiliary has received recognition from National for our support for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Escrow Fund. You may remember it was through the creativeness of the Auxiliary members that we were able to raise our contribution through a craft and bake sale. Another huge THANKS to all who donated something for the sale.

Jodie

Marching off...

George L. Anderson, 71, on 11 February 2003, according to a family representative. He was an Army veteran who saw service in the Korean War. He was buried at National Memorial Park.

David "Winky" Gordon, 69, on 14 February 2004. Winky was an Army vet who was stationed in Germany during the post-war occupation. He was interred at Columbia Gardens. Two of his brothers, Carey ("Chuck") and John are also members of Post 3150/

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members: Donald Benzing, Robert Collier, Thomas Frankfurt, and Gene Culbertson (transfer), all elected at the February meeting.

A John Lyon Hello ...

To Post 3150 member Don Gordon who recently returned from nearly a year's tour of active duty in Kuwait and Iraq. Welcome Home, Don!

House Committee Meeting

The Post 3150 House Committee shifts to the Monday night before the second Thursday, that is the Monday prior to the Post meeting. The first Monday meeting will be held 8 March at 8 pm. Officers Call, also shifting to Monday, will begin the evening at 7:30 pm.

Post Awards Ceremony 29 February

John Lyon Post will hold an awards ceremony honoring our Post participants and winners in VOD and Patriot's Pen essay and Teacher of the Year competitions on Sunday, 29 February at 2 pm. Everyone is invited to join our congratulations and thanks to these outstanding individuals.

Hospital Visit

A Hospital Visit to the Washington VA Hospital Nursing Home is scheduled for Saturday 27 March. Meet at the Post at 1230 and car pool to the hospital. Come help us bring a bit of cheer to our veterans.

There have been some reports that certain vaccinations may be required for hospital volunteers and visitors. Post Surgeon Pando is checking on this but there is no definite answer yet. Check with the post in the several weeks on new developments.

New Officers to be Selected

Post officers for the Year 2004-2005 will be nominated during the March meeting and elected in April. All members are urged to consider one of the positions. Contact the commander or one of the other current officers for more information on the positions. All positions are open to be filled. The elected positions and some of their areas of prime interest are commander, senior vice commander (membership), junior vice commander (activities), quartermaster (finances), chaplain, advocate (parliamentarian), surgeon (welfare and hospital), three year trustee (oversight), and three year house committee member (post home). Additionally, there are appointed positions such as adjutant (admin), officer of the day, and publicity chairman to be filled.

The Ladies Auxiliary will both nominate and elect new officers during their April meeting. Contact the President or one of the other officers for further information

While the new officers will be installed in May, they will assume their duties when the new state officers are installed at the end of the state convention in Richmond in June.

**Post Happy Hour
Monday - Friday
4 - 7 pm
Reduced Prices**

From the John Lyon Past...

“Dr. Bell, Immediate Past Department Surgeon, Dies

“Both the Department and the entire V.F.W. sustained the loss of one of its leading medical authorities, when Dr. Robert A. Bell, of Arlington, died June 26th (1966), just one week after the expiration of his third term as Department Surgeon. Ill health had prevented his attendance at the Department Convention in Richmond.

“Services memorializing Dr. Bell were conducted by Arlington Post 3150 on June 30th. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery July 1st, with full military honors. Following his retirement from the U.S. Navy with the rank of Captain in 1955, he was appointed National Medical Consultant of the V.F.W. the same year. Dr. Bell served as Department Surgeon for three terms from June, 1963, to June 1966, and brought to the office a high degree of professionalism equipment (sic) in his active participation in Department affairs.” (The *History of the Department of Virginia - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 1919 - 1969: A Half-Century of Veteran Service*, p. 617).

Your Membership Has Expired!

If you have not renewed for the Year 2003-2004, your membership expired at the end of December. Please send in your dues for 2004 now. If you cannot find your renewal notice, mail a check for \$23 (VFW) or \$25 (Ladies Auxiliary) to the address on the front page of the newsletter.

VFW National Winter Conferences in Washington, D.C.

VFW's two national winter conferences will be held in Washington, D.C. in March: The Community Service Conference, 7-10 March 2004, and the Legislative Conference, 8-11 March 2004. Both at the Omni-Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend these conferences.

Alexandria National Cemetery Plans to be Discussed on 11 March

Plans to renovate and enlarge Alexandria National Cemetery will be the topic of .Michael M. Reddan, President of the Alexandria National Cemetery Preservation Foundation, who will appear at the Post on Thursday, 11 March at 7 pm. Additional burial space for veterans is seen for the future. All members are invited to attend this presentation.

New Veterans Care Center for Richmond

“Richmond - Governor Mark R. Warner today announced that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has made two long-awaited grant awards on behalf of Virginia veterans. One grant provides federal matching funds for a new Veterans Care Center to be built in Richmond, and the second provides funding to renovate the existing Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke... This new facility in Richmond and the renovated Veterans Care Center in Roanoke will better serve our aging veteran population. ‘These projects also reflect the gratitude of the nation and our Commonwealth for the military service provided by Virginia’s 780,000 veterans’, Governor Warner said.” Details available at <http://www.vdva.vipnet.org/>. (Excerpted from Governor's News Release, February 25, 2004)

St Patrick's Day Dinner

John Lyon will go green again this year on Saturday, 20 March 2003, with its renowned corned beef and cabbage dinner. Salad, potatoes, and dessert will complete the meal, which will be served from 4pm to 7pm. Price is \$8.00. Reservations are a must for this popular event: call the Post Home at 703-525-0108 or sign up in Canteen by 17 March to get your name on the list.

Boys State

If you have a son, grandson, or other young relative who is currently a junior in high school and who would be interested in attending Boys State, please contact the Commander.

Teachers of the Year Announced

Robert Guerin of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School was named 3150 High School Teacher of the Year, and Barbara Wilson of St Thomas Moore School was named 3150 Middle School Teacher of the Year. Each advanced to competition in the Tenth District. The teachers were to be honored during ceremonies at the Post on 29 February.

Post 3150 Nominees Win at District

Stephen P. Dronfield, Post 3150's nominee for Patriot's Pen Contest took the first place in the Tenth District Contest, and Barbara Wilson was named Tenth District Teacher of the Year for grades 6 - 8. The winners were announced at the Tenth District Meeting held 22 February.

Canteen Corner

Hello VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Members. My name is Scotty Wood and I am the new Club Manager here at Post 3150. Since I've taken this position, I've come to know a few of you and it's been a pleasure so far. However, I hope to know all members. The 3150 canteen now offers a full menu of great food at great prices. We also now offer Happy Hour, and with your support we will continue our offerings and develop new ones. As the new kid on the block, I also wanted to let you know that I am open to all suggestions to make the canteen even better. So stop by and say hello as I look forward to seeing you. Thank you for your past and future support.

Scotty Wood

Spaghetti Dinner, 6 March

In connection with the VFW Community Service and the Legislative Conferences held in Washington in early March, Post 3150 will hold a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, 6 March. The cost for John Lyon members and others who walk-in (i.e., those without the cost of bus transportation) will be \$8.00. Dinner will be served 5 - 9 pm.

Crab Cake Supper

The 3150 Ladies Auxiliary will again hold its annual Crab Cake dinner this spring. The dinner will be April 2nd, from 5pm to 8 pm at the Post. There are three dinner packages available: a crab cake sandwich and 1 side dish for \$ 7, one crab cake and two sides for \$9, or two crab cakes and two sides for \$11. Reservations must be made in advance, by calling or stopping by the Post. In order to ensure that we have an adequate number of crab cakes available, please specify your meal choice at the time of your reservation.

Baggage Locking System

"If you are not in the immediate area of your bags while traveling, TSA inspectors at airports will break the locks of your suitcases to inspect their contents if the luggage has already been checked in and requires inspection. A way to prevent damage to your luggage is to simply leave your luggage unlocked. However, many travelers are uncomfortable leaving their suitcases unlocked. Now there appears to be a solution. An organization called Travel Sentry was created in 2003 in cooperation with leading luggage and accessory manufacturers and a national network of authorized retailers. Travel Sentry has developed locks that can be opened by TSA inspectors through the use of special codes that can be recognized by screeners. Once the bag is inspected the inspector relocks the bag. The lock can be purchased at many popular retailers, and the price is about \$20 for a set of two. For more information go to www.travelsentry.org [Source: MOAA Travel Tips DEC 03]" and ROA Bulletin Update 15 February 2004

World War II Memorial Dedication Info

Last month we provided initial information on the dedication of the World War II Memorial. We indicated that that the following would appear this month:

America Celebrates the Greatest Generation (ACGG) Fact Sheet

The American Battle Monuments Commission and other Washington, D.C. area organizations recognize the significance of the Dedication of the World War II Memorial and the millions of Americans it honors. To keep the spirit of Dedication Weekend ringing throughout the summer, area cultural and hospitality groups will work together to bring a national celebration called America Celebrates the Greatest Generation.

This celebration kicks off on Memorial Day 2004, following dedication of the World War II Memorial, and concludes 100 days later on Labor Day. Nearly 80 groups are planning events to mark this celebration, including:

- The Smithsonian Institution
- The Associated Press and Union Station
- National Museum of Health and Medicine
- National Museum of American History
- U.S. Holocaust Museum
- Corcoran Gallery of Art

Highlights of the 100-day America Celebrates the Greatest Generation include:

Images of World War - Union Station and The Associated Press will feature more than 100 photographs of World War II, including Joe Rosenthal's iconic picture of the Marines raising the flag on Mt. Suribachi at Iwo Jima.

America's Four Freedoms from the Norman Rockwell Museum - The Corcoran Gallery of Art will display four of Norman Rockwell's most famous works of art from the Norman Rockwell Museum, made to illustrate President Roosevelt's 1941 speech to a joint session of Congress.

Spies Among Us - The International Spy Museum will examine espionage during World War II through real-life spy stories. Activities and exhibits explain the Enigma cipher machine, the Navajo Code Talkers, the use of propaganda during the war, intelligence failures surrounding the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and more.

Tourism organizations are planning to offer special hotel and travel packages for those coming to Washington, D.C. for the summer long celebration honoring America's heroes. For a complete lineup of events, hotel packages, and more, log on to www.americasgreatestgeneration.com or visit the Washington, D.C. Convention and Tourism Corporation website at www.washington.org.

Provided by
Bob Patrick
Director
National WWII Memorial Dedication



Welcome to Military Order of the Purple Heart

Post 3150 welcomes Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter 353 (Greater Washington area) which will be meeting at the Post on the third Saturday of the month at 12 Noon, except in August and December. Some members attending the first meeting on Feb 21 are seen above.

DoD Announces Korean Defense Service Medal

The Defense Department announced the creation of the Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM). The KDSM is a service medal to give special recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the U.S. armed forces who have served or are serving in the Republic of Korea. Members of the armed forces authorized the KDSM must have served in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the Republic of Korea, and the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land and water areas. The KDSM period of eligibility is July 28, 1954, to a future date to be determined by the secretary of defense. Service members must have been assigned, attached, or mobilized to units operating in the area of eligibility and have been physically deployed in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days or meet other criteria.

Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for administrative processing, awarding and wearing of the KDSM and ribbon for their service members, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees, and next-of-kin.

More than 40,000 members of the U.S. armed forces have served in the Republic of Korea or the waters adjacent thereto each year since the signing of the cease-fire agreement in July 1953, which established the Demilitarized Zone. For more than 50 years, U.S. Armed Forces' efforts to deter and defend the Korean Peninsula have helped maintain democracy and preserve the indomitable spirit of freedom. For additional information, see <http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2004/nr20040209-0334.html> (Excerpted from DOD Press Release of 9 February 2004)



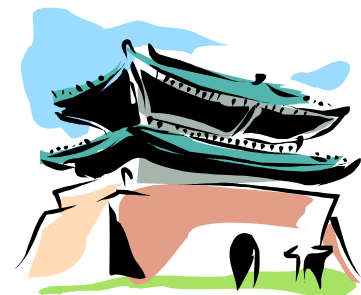
Agresti, Gibadlo, Post 3150 Cited

Past Post Commander Michael C. “Connie” Agresti and Past President Jeanne Gibadlo received awards at the recent state Winter-Conference held at Williamsburg, VA.

Agresti was cited for his work with the Military Assistance Program (MAP) and specifically for organizing the clothing drive for wounded soldiers and Walter Reed Medical Center. He solicited donations of clothing and personal items from various clothing manufacturers and ensured inventory and delivery to Walter Reed. Some items not appropriate for the wounded were sent to the VFW National Home or other appropriate organizations. He is seen accepting the award from Past Commander in Chief John Gwizdak.

Gibadlo received National Awards and was cited for her work as Ladies Auxiliary state Membership Chairman and for achieving the best membership returns among Group 7 in the Ladies Auxiliary.

Post 3150 --- and four other posts --- also received a MAP citation for contributing to an emergency mortgage fund for a reserve soldier returning from Iraq. His home was about to be foreclosed upon his return and while he had a job waiting, the mortgage company would not wait. The VFW, including National Headquarters, came to his rescue.





**2003 - 2004
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS
ANNOUNCED**

John Lyon Post and the Ladies Auxiliary are pleased to announce the winners of the 2003-2004. For this year's competition, we had thirty-nine outstanding students participate in our program. This year's theme, "*My Commitment to America's Future*" elicited some very thought provoking and original ideas from our participants. Our First Place winner, who advanced to the District level of competition, is Ms. Jessica Ocasio, a junior at Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School here in Arlington. Mr. Bush B. Hamdanl, a senior at Bishop O'Connell placed Second in this year's program. Because of changes in the program's guidelines, Bush's entry was also forwarded to the District level of competition. Third Place honors go to Ms. Renee M. Shear, currently a junior, who is home-schooled. The entries in this year's program were all so outstanding, and, as it turned out, we had a three-way tie for Honorable Mention. Honorable Mention recognition goes to Mr. Danny E. Soto, Ms. Jaclyn M. Tinsley, and Ms. Cara V. Caputy, all currently sophomores at Bishop O'Connell. All of the entries this year were outstanding and the judges commented that they had a very hard time trying to select any one entry over another. Clearly, our Voice of Democracy Program has had a positive and enduring impact on all of our high school students.

Congratulations to Jessica, and to all of our winners and a special thanks to the school officials, the parents, and the judges who took the time to support our efforts. Most especially, we want to thank the students themselves for taking the time and making the effort to participate with us in this year's program. What you think and how you feel does make a difference and all of us here at VFW Post 3150 appreciate that you have shared your feelings with us.

**2003 - 2004
PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS
ANNOUNCED**

While the Post and the Auxiliary were conducting the VOD program we were also reaching out to our younger students, asking them to participate in the VFW's annual Patriot's Pen program. This program is an essay competition for 7th and 8th grade students designed to foster patriotism and promote Americanism while simultaneously giving our youth the chance to share with us their ideas on specific themes, improve their writing skills, and be eligible for valuable awards and scholarships. We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2003-2004 "Patriot's Pen" competition. The theme, "*My Dream for America*," elicited some very thought provoking and original ideas from our participants.

For the past two years, we've had the privilege of hearing from a young gentleman who was eager to share with us his thoughts and ideas on the themes presented. In 2001-2002, Mr. Stephen P. Dronfield was only in 6th grade, and not "officially eligible." However, he did an outstanding job with his essay and was awarded a special Honorable Mention. Last year, Stephen, a home schooled student from Herndon, Virginia, not only entered the competition legitimately, he went on to win First Place! Clearly, it was no surprise to learn, that once the judging had been completed for this year's program, Stephen once again took top honors and won First Place in the competition. Additionally, Stephen's entry went forward and won First Place in the 10th District competition and was forwarded on for consideration at the Department level. Our Second Place winner in the competition for this year is another home-schooled student, and a first time participant, H. Michael Ipsan. Michael lives in Annandale Virginia and is currently in the seventh grade. Needless to say, we'll look forward to hearing from Michael again in next year's program

A special thanks to the parents, and the judges who took the time to support our efforts. Most especially, we want to congratulate and thank Stephen and Michael for taking the time and making the effort to participate with us in this year's program.

Recent Events Around the Post



<<< District Chairman Ken Ward presents the Tenth District First Place Award for the Patriot's Pen essay contest to Stephen P. Dronfield, sponsored by John Lyon Post.

Cathy Kerns, Greg Moscatel, Gail >>> Hoffman, and Tom Kane display the results of their efforts while Doc Crouch looks on following the Doc's Cheesecake Cooking Class recently at the Post. Several other student chefs completed the course and took their personally designed cheesecakes home with them.



<<< A scout and a sibling try their turn in correctly folding the American flag while Commander J.Gary Wagner provides guidance. Post 3150 hosted Cub Scout Pack 104 Wolf Den 2 from nearby Key Elementary School and provided a class on flag etiquette and procedures. Past Commander Connie Agresti assisted in the class and distributed flag pamphlets, patriotic rulers, and bicycle safety information.



March 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	 3 STAR SPANGLED BANNER MADE U.S. NATIONAL ANTHEM (1931)	4	5	6 NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE/ LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE THRU 03/1304 SPAGHETTI DINNER 5:00PM - 9:00PM
7	8 POST OFFICERS' CALL 7:30PM HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 8:00PM	9 VFW/LADIES AUXILIARY "ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS" BANQUET AT OMNI SHOREHAM 5:00PM	10 ALEXANDRIA NATE CEM 7PM →	11  POST MEETING AND NOMINATIONS 8:00PM	12  GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S.A. FOUNDED (1912)	13
14  SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM	15	16	17  ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18  AUXILIARY MEETING 7:30PM	19	20 M.O.P.H. MEETING AT 12:00 NOON  ST. PATRICK'S CORN BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER 4:00PM - 7:00PM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27  HOSPITAL VISIT AT V.A. NURSING HOME 12:30PM
28  SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM	29	30	31	 <p><i>Don't forget to make your Reservations for our Annual St. Patrick's Day Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 20th, 4-7pm!</i></p>		



JOHN LYON POST # 3150
"All American Post"
Veterans of Foreign Wars
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22201-3514

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Merrifield, VA
Permit No. 9209

Dated Material Please Do Not Delay



St. Patrick's Day
Dinner
Saturday
20 March 2004
4 - 7pm

Reservations Required