

9th Annual Sober St. Patrick's Day® - March 17, 2020

World-Class Musicians, Singers, and Dancers Once Again Take Part In

"The Ultimate Family-Friendly Party on St. Patrick's Day"

* The 2020 Emerald Spirit Award Recipient - Ellen Morehouse *

In addition to NYC, Dublin, Ireland; Richmond, VA; Centerport, LI;
West Warwick, RI; and Mystic, CT will also Hold Sober St. Patrick's Day® Parties This Year.



(New York, February 25, 2020) "As part of our mission to 'change the perception and experience of what St. Patrick's Day can be,' we're very excited to continue the tradition of hosting Sober St. Patrick's Day® where the world's oldest parade first began – while continuing to reclaim the true spirit of the day," said **William Spencer Reilly**, founder of the event. "We will celebrate the depth of Irish culture in an alcohol-free, family-friendly environment - and do so with extraordinarily talented artists once again this year. Providing an alternative experience on St. Patrick's Day is at the core of this ongoing movement and its success," added Reilly.

Sober St. Patrick's Day® has garnered much attention since its inaugural party in New York in 2012. This year's party in Manhattan will feature **John Whelan** - 7 Time All Ireland Champion Button Accordion Player, **Brian Conway** - 5 Time All-Ireland Champion Fiddle Player, **Donie Carroll** - beloved Irish vocalist and "Cork's 2015 Man of the Year," **Brendan Dolan** - master keyboard player, **Flynn Cohen** - singer, guitarist and mandolin, **Liz Simmons** - singer and guitarist. All are recording artists. And finally, **Donny Golden School of Irish Dance** regarded by many as among the best step dancers in the Northeast.

The NYC event, to be held at St. Patrick's Youth Center, part of the Old St. Patrick's Cathedral, at 268 Mulberry Street, will celebrate the rich history of New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade on the very street where the world's most famous parade formerly stepped off in lower Manhattan. This celebration of what St. Patrick's Day is truly about - Irish pride, Irish culture, and an Irish saint - will take center stage at this year's party.

“We are pleased to welcome a new location for our Sober St. Patrick's Day® Parties – Mystic, CT. with host **Fr. Tom Hoar** and his event team at Enders Island. Mystic’s event will be held over two days on Saturday, March 21st and Sunday, March 22nd. Also returning this year, for their second year are West Warwick, RI hosted by **Cathy Schultz** and Centerport, Long Island with host **Elizabeth Reilly**. Richmond VA returns for a 7th year and is hosted by **John Shinholser**. Finally, Dublin, Ireland returns for its 3rd year hosted by **Ciaran Hogan**, at The Clockwork Door in Temple Bar” said Bill Reilly.

Mr. Reilly also welcomes back to this year's party Platinum Sponsor Pepsi and the NY State Bottling Association. "I really enjoy this partnership." said **Peter Wilcox**, PepsiCo Senior Director of Government Affairs and NYSBA spokesperson. "This initiative is so important, such a great idea, and a real fit for us."

Annually, the Sober St. Patrick’s Day Foundation’s board presents The Emerald Spirit Award to honor extraordinary dedication and devotion to improving the lives of family members of alcoholics and addicts. Board members **Sis Wenger, Patricia O’Gorman, and John Coppola** chose this year’s winner. The award is presented at the New York City Sober St. Patrick’s Day® party. This unique honor is for professionals active in the field of family recovery from addiction.

The 2020 recipient of the **Emerald Spirit Award** is **Ellen Morehouse**, the Executive Director of SAS Corp (Student Assistance Services) a non-profit mental health, substance abuse, bullying, & problem gambling prevention agency based in Tarrytown, NY. SAS provides school & community-based prevention & early intervention services for youth, as well as training & consultation for adults in a position to assist them. Mrs. Morehouse developed 3 national model alcohol/drug abuse prevention & early intervention programs implemented in over 80 secondary schools in NY State, and replicated nationally. She has been a consultant for treatment programs, schools, various organizations, and state agencies in planning & implementing prevention programs. She has published in professional journals and received grants for her work from several agencies including the Natl. Institute on Alcoholism & Alcohol Abuse and the CDC. Mrs. Morehouse is a founder & board member of the Natl. Assn. for Children of Addiction (NACoA), and Prevention Committee Co-Chair for the NY Assn. of Addiction Services and Professionals (ASAP). She has a BA from Cornell & an MSW from NYU. She is a Clinical Social Worker, Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Counselor & Prevention Professional.

Ellen Morehouse joins the ranks of the other previous winners who are **Patty McCarthy Metcalf, John Coppola, Sis Gallagher Wenger, Jerry Moe, Fr. Bill Hultberg, Frances Black, Dr. Patricia O’Gorman and Linda Ventura**.

More information at www.SoberStPatricksDay.org and a short five-minute video of the New York party is found on the homepage. And, please like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sober.st.patricks.daynyc/> to be updated on this fun event.

Tickets for the New York party (\$10-\$25) are now on sale via the website - www.SoberStPatricksDay.org. Sober St. Patrick's Day Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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