

# New Jersey's First Rose of Tralee

T H E I R I S H J E W E L R Y C O M P A N Y N E W S L E T T E R

## THE ROSE OF TRALEE

Amazing news! Ridgewood Irish Dance has been named as the New Jersey Center for the Rose of Tralee.

The Rose of Tralee is one of the premier events of all of Irish culture. The festival takes place each year during August in the town of Tralee in the west of Ireland, and it draws contestants from around the world.

The Rose of Tralee International Festival is based on the love song The Rose of Tralee, by William Mulchinock a 19th century wealthy merchant who was in love with Mary O'Connor, his maid. Mary was born in Broguemaker's Lane in Tralee and worked as a nanny. When William first saw Mary he fell in love with her, but because of the difference in social class between the two families their love affair was discouraged. William emigrated, and some years later returned to Tralee only to find Mary had died of tuberculosis. He was broken hearted and expressed his love for her in the words of the song.

The Festival as it is today stems from Tralee's Carnival Queen, once a thriving annual town event, fallen by the wayside due to post-war emigration. In 1957 Race Week Carnival was resurrected in Tralee that featured a Carnival Queen. A year later a group of local business people met in Harty's Bar in Tralee and decided to revamp the Carnival in a way that would regenerate the town, encourage tourism and keep the race crowd in town overnight.

The new event would be called a festival and the carnival queen contest turned into a celebration of the Rose of Tralee song.



**The Irish Jewelry Company's Celtic Weave Tiara on display at the Ridgewood Irish Dance School. Visit them at [www.ridgewoodirishdance.com](http://www.ridgewoodirishdance.com)**

Young women would also be sought from outside Tralee, and heats were held as far away as London, Birmingham, New York and Dublin with the help of local Kerry people living abroad.

The New Jersey winner will receive an all expenses trip to Ireland in June to represent the Garden State in the Preliminary International Festival. If she is successful, she will return to Ireland in August, once again with all expenses paid, for the experience of a lifetime as she competes in the Festival's Final. The contest is based on

personality and overall inner beauty, with a strong emphasis on the ways in which the contestant embraces her Irish Heritage.

The Irish Jewelry Company is sponsoring the New Jersey Rose of Tralee by donating their Celtic Weave Tiara to crown the New Jersey Rose of Tralee. For more information about purchasing the Celtic Weave Tiara visit The Irish Jewelry Company at [www.theirishjewelrycompany.com](http://www.theirishjewelrycompany.com)



**The Celtic Weave Tiara donated by The Irish Jewelry Company**