

and devotion of people like Maureen Hansen Keohane (who opened her school in 1947 at the age of 15), Rita O'Shea (who began teaching in 1954), and Maureen King Haley (who has taught in Boston since the 1970's), that we are able to enjoy this taste of Irish culture.

Many of these former stu-

dents have gone on to become instructors themselves, as is the case with Dedham's own Alanna (Keohane) Maida. Alanna has danced with her mother as long as her memory serves. She is now a mother herself, passing along the knowledge and life-lessons she has learned to her own five children.

All of the instructors agree, it is important to carry on this tradition. The dancers perform throughout the year, at various shows, parades and festivals across the country. Ms. Armstrong, along with her teachers and students, sat spellbound as the Irish music played and the dancers took to the stage, entertain-

ing the crowd!

(Above): Oakdale Elementary School Principal Holli Armstrong with the dancers at the school's annual St. Patrick's Day assembly.

Photo by Joe Kibe

Local Students in New England Premiere of Opera "Dead Man Walking"

(Right): Two Dedham Middle School students were in the New England premiere of the opera "Dead Man Walking," staged this past weekend at the Somerville Theatre by the Boston Opera Collaborative, and got to meet Sister Helen Prejean, the author of the book *Dead Man Walking* that inspired the movie.

The members of the Boston City Singers (BCS) in the opera met Sister Helen Prejean, pictured at right, before the final performance of the opera. *Dead Man Walking* is based on Sister Helen Prejean's book about her work on both ending the death penalty and providing better support for victims of violent crimes.

In the photo, Foster Staton-Todaro, on the left side of the back row, and his brother Wyatt, on the right of the same row, are 6th graders at Dedham Middle School and members of the Boston City Singers Cantare choir.

Photo contributed to The Dedham Times

