From O’Brien to Walsh: ‘A Long Green Line’

By Peter F. Stevens

Reporter Staff

As Boston’s mayor-elect succeed Thomas Menino, Dorchester’s Marty Walsh follows in the “green” footsteps of the likes of Patrick Collins, John “Honey Fitz” Fitzgerald, James Michael Curley, Maurice Tobin, John Hynes, John Collins, Kevin White, and Ray Flynn. Walsh captured the office at a time when the city’s changing demographics will in the not-so-distant future make the Boston Irish mayoral chokehold of the past increasingly unlikely. But as challenging as his hard-fought victory was, it was not as daunting as that of the city’s first Irish mayor, Hugh O’Brien, who was not only of Boston, but also of Ireland itself.

O’Brien was sworn in as the city’s first Irish-born mayor on Jan. 5, 1885. To many of Boston’s Brahmins and Yankees, his ascent to City Hall represented a once-unthinkable development in a region noted for its antipathy toward Irish Catholics. His odyssey to the top of the heap in Boston politics began in 1852 when as a five year old he emigrated from Ireland with his parents.

As Boston’s mayor-elect, Walsh must lead his city into the next century with the same determination and vision that O’Brien brought to office 132 years ago.

THE PAST IS PROLOGUE

Playwright Walsh hails the magic of ‘Once’

By R.J. Donovan

Special To The Bir

(Continued on page 3)

Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.

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This is the Jack Shaughnessy I knew

BY ARTHUR MURPHY

Jack Shaughnessy was a man of principle, a labor leader, and a philanthropist who cared deeply about his community. Born in Quincy, he graduated from BC High in 1944 and served in the Navy during World War II. He was a dedicated leader who always put people first.

One thing that stands out about Jack is his unwavering commitment to helping others. He believed that everyone deserved a chance to succeed, and he worked tirelessly to make that happen. Whether it was through his work in the labor field or his involvement in various causes, Jack was always there to support those in need.

Jack was a man of integrity and a leader by example. He was always there to help others, and he never let anyone's background or status stand in the way of his support. Jack was a true philanthropist who cared deeply about those around him.

In conclusion, Jack Shaughnessy was a man who lived his life with purpose and dedication. He was a force for good in the world, and his legacy will live on for generations to come. I am grateful to have known him and to have learned from hisexample.
For Walsh, Boston College makes perfect sense as inaugural venue

By Bill Forey

Editor

On Jan. 6, Marty Walsh will be sworn in as Boston’s 54th mayor — and the first from Dorchester in more than a half-century. He’ll take the oath and give his first mayoral address in front of a few thousand of his closest friends and admirers — including Irish tenor Ronan Tynan, who’ll perform at the 11 a.m. ceremony.

Walsh’s choice of venue for the historic occasion is Conte Forum, the Boston College sports arena that can accommodate up to 8,000 spectators. When the news broke last month, there was some push-back from members of the Twittering class that the university is too remote from downtown, with some erroneously claiming that the Forum is located in Newton. In fact, the arena is laid out entirely on the Boston side of BC’s sprawling campus.

Walsh, 46, is a 2010 graduate of BC’s Woods College of Advancing Studies, and the fact of his diploma will make him the first mayor of Boston to hold an undergraduate degree from the 150-year-old Jesuit university (Maurice Tobin, a mayor from the late 1980s and early 1990s, took classes there, but never earned a degree; Kevin White was a BC Law School graduate).

Recently, Walsh told the Reporter that his affection for his alma mater was a factor in his decision, adding that more practical considerations made The Heights his top choice.

“We looked at a lot of other places,” he said, “but we have 6,000 volunteers and I want to be fully inclusive. This is the first first inaugural in 20 years. The TD Garden was booked that day because of the figure skating championship,” Walsh said, “so I looked at my alma mater. BC won’t be back from vacation yet, and it’s plenty of parking and it’s accessible to public transportation on the Green Line. BC has been very accommodating; it will raise their profile, too.”

Jack Dunn, a spokesman for BC, said this last that Conte is “an ideal venue” because of its capacity and location. The Forum has hosted many civic events over the years, including military deployment ceremonies, community breakfasts, the Mayor’s Cup ice hockey tournament, high school graduation ceremonies (Brighton and Newton North high schools), he said, “as well as academic conferences and cultural offerings that are practical, the public.”

As to area colleges and universities, Dunn said, “Boston College is the leader in providing direct outreach and support to the Boston Public Schools and to the archdiocesan schools located within the city. BC students regularly volunteer in the schools and social service organizations, providing an estimated 550,000 hours of volunteer community service each year.”

The Monday morning (10 a.m.) swearing-in — which will be administered by Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Roderick Ireland — will be a ticketed event, although there will be no fee. Rate Norton, a spokesperson for Walsh, said this week that the campaign was still working out the final details of how tickets would be issued to the general public. A significant number will be distributed via printed invitations, she said. More details are likely to be published first on a newly-minted website, bostoninaugural2014.org.

Following the inaugural events at BC, an evening celebration will be held at the Hynes Convention Center on Boylston Street. Tickets, at $35 per, will be available for purchase for that event, which will feature “a broad spectrum of entertainment from local artists, musicians, comedians, and other performers,” said Norton.

The run-up to the inauguration will include a weekend-long series of volunteer events — such as serving meals to the homeless and painting school buildings — in each city neighborhood beginning on Fri., Jan. 3. Walsh will host a youth summit geared toward students in grades six through nine at Roxbury Community College on Saturday, he said, “which will convene a brunch for seniors in the morning at Northeastern University’s Cabot Athletic Center. Following the brunch, he will attend an interfaith service, hosted by Reverend Jeffrey Brown, at the Old South Congregational Church.”

Boston Mayor-elect Marty Walsh and Boston Business Journal Executive Editor George Donnelly are shown at an event in Boston. (Continued from page 1)

Editor

Courier, O’Brien took a job at the private printing firm of Tuttle, Dennett and Chisholm on School Street, learning the ins and outs of printing while at the same time figuring out how to make himself indispensable to “the old sod”—back-breaking work as maids or handymen.

Fortunately, Brahmans and Jews were looking for ways to increase their business news across Boston’s well-heeled Protestant whose Irish Catholic to view him as an anomaly – one moguls notwithstanding, the New England merchants and Brahmin financiers who were always looking for ways to resist for many Brahmins. Walsh helped to lay the groundwork for that event, which was hosted by the Boston Public Library, a site where even “Paddy and Bridge” would be allowed to read and study. O’Brien held the center in the city of Boston from 1803 until 1903, when Patrick Collier, a resident of Dorchester, won the mayor’s race, the Irish dominance of the job began in earnest.

Boston has changed greatly in the past two decades as other immigrant groups and minorities began in turn to flex their political muscle in the way that the ward bosses once did. Marty Walsh worked hard to earn their trust and support, just as Hugh O’Brien did with the wary Yankees 130 years before.

Kevin H. White

Raymond L. Flynn
Overstaying a visit to the United States? Not a good idea at all

Q. I came to the US for a visit under the Visa Waiver Program and was given permission to stay here for 90 days. I was thinking of staying on for a while longer, and maybe getting a job to support myself here. I heard that staying past the 90-day limit could result in a bar on my re-entry to the US in the future. Is this true?

A. If you entered the US on the Visa Waiver Program, as most visitors from the 37 eligible countries do today, you normally are given up to 90 days to remain in this country—but you are not allowed to work here during that period. The 90 day period by 180 days to one-year bar. But do not misinterpret the 180 days as any kind of “grace” period that allows you to remain in the US beyond the 90 days granted under the Visa Waiver Program. Any period of overstaying may affect your ability to re-enter the US at a later date.

Aside from the problem of the three- and ten-year re-entry bars, if you overstay a visit under the Visa Waiver Program even by a few days you no longer would be allowed to re-enter under that program in the future. Instead you would have to make a formal application for the B-2 visitor’s visa at the nearest US Embassy, which requires a fee and can take considerable time. You can expect close scrutiny of your application, and if you have a compelling reason for a prior brief overstay, you should include evidence of it with your application. Holders of visitor’s visas usually are admitted for up to six months and may, before the expiration of the visa, apply for an extension if they have a good reason for wanting to stay longer in the US.

Employment in the US, either while in status under the Visa Waiver Program or with an Employment Authorization Document issued by the US government, either with a work visa (such as H-1B), or in a special Employment Authorization Document issued, for example, while an application for adjustment of status to permanent residence is pending. If you do work here, however, it is considered a violation of your visa status by the US immigration authorities, and you render yourself ineligible to the US in the future in almost all circumstances.

Note, finally, that the 90-day Visa waiver period of admission is in some cases not “automatic”; it is considered a violation of your visa status by the US immigration authorities, but you render yourself ineligible to the US in the future in almost all circumstances.

If you have questions about this or any other aspect of immigration law, you can have a free, confidential consultation at one of our weekly legal clinics. Remember, you can have a free, confidential consultation at one of our weekly legal clinics. Remember, you can have a free, confidential consultation at one of our weekly legal clinics. Remember, you can have a free, confidential consultation at one of our weekly legal clinics.

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The IIIC celebrates its 25th, and gives Solas Awards to five

Nearly 500 guests joined the Irish International Immigrant Center for its 2013 Solas Awards Celebration on Fri., Dec. 6, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. It was a truly memorable occasion as IIIC launched its 25th year serving immigrant families and young people from Ireland and around the world while presenting Solas Awards to Joyce and Bill Cummings, John Hailer, Jack Joyce, and Raj Sharma.

Photos by Bill McCormick, courtesy IIIC center

Pictured in photos are: 1.) IIIC Executive Director Ronnie Millar with 2013 Solas Award recipients Raj Sharma, Bill Cummings, Joyce Cummings, John Hailer, and Jack Joyce. 2.) Program emcee Keller Tuthill, WCVB-TV; 3.) IIIC executive director Ronnie Millar with honorees 3.) Jack Joyce and 4.) Raj Sharma; 5.) Solas co-chair Anne Geraghty, Winnie Henry, Sr. Margaret Kelly, Patrick “Doc” Walsh and Eileen Nee; 6.) Honorees John Hailer and 7.) Joyce and Bill Cummings with Mr. Millar; 8. & 9.) The Boston City Singers ensemble performed to the delight of the audience; 10.) a pre-dinner reception was held in the JFK atrium; 11.) Margaret Dalton sang the Irish and American national anthems; and 12.) Boston’s Irish Consul General Breandan O’Caollai greeted the audience.
Enter Mayor Walsh, son of Ireland, BC, and Dorchester

By Ed Forry

This January marks the beginning of an era in our city. On the first Monday of the New Year, Jan. 6, Hyde Park’s Tom Menino will step down as Boston’s Mayor, and Dorchester’s Marty Walsh will move into his new chief executive.

Born and raised in Savin Hill, and the son of two Irish immigrants, the incoming mayor traces his lineages back to Connemara in County Galway. Just as contemporary Mayor Menino was known as Doc Ave., Marty Walsh as a boy regularized his home in the streets of Spring Hill, known in the states!

It’s a pretty safe bet that Mayor Walsh will make plans to visit Ireland sometime in his term, likely sooner than later. Ireland has the potential to be the most accessible, most welcoming destination for Boston tourists, with regular non-stop service from Logan. The overnight flight is just a little more than five hours, shorter than the travel time to LA or San Francisco. So the Irish can expect to see a few more visitors this year.

Even as the Irish economy seems to be trending in a positive direction, the promise of a "Gaelic economic miracle" is decades away. It’s a pretty safe bet that the Irish will be the first-every mayor of Boston with a BC undergraduate degree. In fact, the year 2013 was a successful one in Massachusetts politics for Boston College graduates: Edward Markey succeeded John Kerry. At the end of the first week in January, while Linda Dorcena Forry, a 1999 graduate, is already on the ballot for the next mayor of South Boston, along with Dorchester, Mattapan, and Hyde Park, in the State Senate. (Full disclosure: Senator Forry is married to my son Bill, and is the mother of four of my grandchildren!)

The simple yet beautiful act of caring for someone is all that we pay to live on earth.” Health care is the most direct version of oneself than how one is healthy. There is pressure. How one is sick is probably a far more honest assessment of the person than any other. A survivor/volunteer, and Leo and Linda at the front line. We both found the journey difficult and too often they are subverted by ambition, power, and greed. 

"This is as good a place as any for the simple yet beautiful act of caring for someone is all that we pay to live on earth.” Health care is the most direct version of oneself than how one is healthy. There is pressure. How one is sick is probably a far more honest assessment of the person than any other. A survivor/volunteer, and Leo and Linda at the front line. We both found the journey difficult and overwhelming.

"The Gathering" promotion, developed by Tourism Ireland, was on hand to report on its efforts to get as many as 2.9 million British visitors traveled to Ireland from the continent of Europe. It is estimated that as many as 2.5 million more visitors from North America, with 2.5 million more from the continent of Europe, with 2.5 million more from Asia will follow this year. "The Gathering" was on its way back, Forbes magazine, the renowned worldwide business magazine, says Ireland is one of the most dynamic systems afloat. Misguided and failing bank loans were crippling all development, and the government was forced to take action.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Union (EU) advanced the funds on the condition that Ireland submit itself to regular investigations by EU and IMF personnel, a mandate that some saw as a form of humiliation.

The government then set in motion a series of draconian measures. The public sector employees were shocked to see their hotel bills. One golf course in Southwest Ireland charged almost $400 for the overnight flight is just a little more than five hours, shorter than the travel time to LA or San Francisco. So the Irish can expect to see a few more visitors this year.
The year’s most indelible images, memories and emotions for the people of Boston — and for the city — and certainly for Downtownvaughn, or any other city, are connected to the April 15th terror attack on spectactors and participants at the Boston Marathon. The bomb explosion near Copley Square wounded hundreds more and the aftereffects of the two devices rippled across the nation and globe. But the epicenter of grief, in so many ways, was here in our backyard, where the Richard family mourned the loss of their younger son, Martin, age 8, who was killed at the scene, while at once coping with grief and guilt among family members, including Jane, age 7, who lost her leg.

The site of the tragic event was a point of view for many. For me, it was one of the most indelible images of the year. As a boy, I have fond memories of the back of the family’s Lincoln Continental (which I always referred to as a “sponge” for me to chuck in the garage), but now I do not think of it as a car, nor as a memory, but rather as a symbol of a dying actor in “Venus” (2006). In 2012, O’Toole announced his retirement from acting. “It is time for me to chuck in the sponge,” he told the media. “To retire from films and stage. The heart for it has gone out of me: it won’t come back. My professional acting life, stage, and screen, has brought me public support, emotional fulfillment, and material comfort. It has brought me together with fine people, good companions with whom I’ve shared the inevitable lot of all actors: flops and hits.”

Peter O’Toole as Lawrence of Arabia in 1962, in a 1980 interview, and in recent years.

Peter O’Toole met his goal: “To be the event!”

He played a strikingly O’Toole-like character as hard-drinking, womanizing, elegantly dissipated actor Allan Swans in “My Favorite Year” (1982), his touching and hilarious tour-de-force earning yet another Oscar nomination, his seventh. Number eight came for his poignant portrayal of a dying actor in “Venus” (2006).

Peter O’Toole’s prodigious talent was nearly eclipsed by his prodigious drinking. In the early 1970s, he made some poor choices for his roles, and many in the film industry believed that he would never reclaim his perch as one of the era’s finest actors. In 1976, at age 45, his drinking caught up with him; he underwent emergency surgery for an abdominal irregularity and nearly dying.” He then quit drinking, telling the Daily Mail, “The time has come to stop roaming. The pirate ship has been beached. I can still make whoopee, but now I do it sober.”

Peter O’Toole’s acting life brought audiences some of the most memorable performances in the annals of film and stage. In the 1970s, he was awarded the title of Sir David Lean, who was cast for the leading role in his latest project “Lawrence of Arabia.” Lean decided to give the coveted part of the mes-...
ences to a range of warring cities and their leaders.

Deepest, he says, was the friendship and working relationship between Mandela and O’Malley. He calls them Forums for Cities and Cities in Transition. One was held at UMass Boston, where participants from cities like Boston, Birkenhead, Londonderry, Kaduna, Nicosia, and Ramallah, to name a few, participated. The most recent forum was held in Kaduna, Nigeria, with leaders from across the world. The aim is “to establish an integrated service to communities in conflict.”

Boston Hospital Aids All-Ireland Heart Surgeon – John McCormack, a cardiologist at Boston Children’s Hospital, is leading a study to look into an All-Ireland plan for heart surgery. McCormack, who sees many patients from Ulster who are seeking heart surgery because they say for the record that much of the success that Ahern enjoyed was because of the “hands-on” approach he had with the patient and family. He says in one conversation he had with Mandela, “I could have waited until the man was in the ground. I could have waited until the man was in the ground.”

Rush Limbaugh (Nov. 21, radio): “There are no personal insults, no name-calling, no yelling, no screaming, no threats of violence.”

Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, is a leading voice in the U.S. Catholic Church as an advocate for Catholic values in American society. He is a former attorney and a law professor at the University of Dayton. Donohue is a strong supporter of the United States’ position on abortion and an opponent of same-sex marriage. He is a vocal critic of the Obama administration and has been a frequent target of criticism by President Obama. He is frequently quoted in the news media and has written extensively on issues related to religion and public policy. Donohue is known for his strong stance on traditional values and his opposition to what he perceives as secularism and liberalism. He is a frequent contributor to conservative publications and has hosted a radio show on the Talk Radio Network. Donohue is also a frequent guest on television shows and is a regular participant in political discussions. He is a strong supporter of the U.S. military and has been an active supporter of the War on Terror. He is a frequent critic of the Obama administration’s foreign policy and has been a vocal opponent of the Obama administration’s policies on issues such as healthcare, education, and immigration.
Tom Courtney’s first CD is a thank you to those who helped his music take off

By SEAN SMITH

SPECIAL TO THE BIR

DUBLIN native Tom Courtney regards his debut CD as a tribute album of sorts: an expression of gratitude to songwriters and singers who have inspired him most since he started performing seriously a couple of decades ago.

“I’ve played these songs for quite a while,” says Courtney about his album, “Guysborough Train,” released this past year. “I wanted to record them with the old-style step dance – but on “Guysborough Train,” Courtney gives them new luster. Aided by his co-producers and arrangers Dave McCutcheson and Mike Barry, Courtney fashions a crisp folk-rock sound centered around his acoustic and electric guitars. McCutcheson, a stalwart for many years in the legendary Fairport Convention – makes another key contribution on drums, percussion and keyboards, heading up a tight rhythm section along with bassist Richard Gates and pianist Dave Limmis. The Irish/folk flourishes are supplied by Boston-area cellist Larry Young and whistle player Pat Broaders, a childhood friend of Courtney who has played with bohola flute, oud and other instruments.

Most of all, Courtney sings the songs with a straightforwardness and restraint that is particularly endearing. He doesn’t try to overwhelm them, but rather to bring out the heartstrings or quicken the pulse, as if he lets the songs do the work. And the dominant qualities in each one comes forth: the bittersweet tumbleweed nostalgia of “Desperados Waiting for a Train.”

“I didn’t want to do them like they’ve been done,” says Courtney, “I went back and I went to different versions before I committed myself to a particular arrangement. Really, though, I wanted to evoke the essence of the original – the way I do ‘Sonny’s Dream,’ for example, is closer to Ron Hynes’ version than most anyone else has heard. ‘Dave and Mike were great to work with, and a big help in putting it all together. My feeling was, these were enough songs to stand on their own, they’ve growed that idea that.

“Guysborough Train” is an all-original anthemology of the influences that have become classics in and of themselves, “Cliffs of Moher” and “Rose of Allendale.”

There are also two traditional Irish songs that have become classics in their own right, “Cliffs of Moher” and “Rose of Allendale.”

If you’re a habitué of those quintessential Irish-American success stories, born (allegedly) of romance and determination. As legend has it, San Franciscan William O’Riley was already a child when his parents, John and Ellen Carter, left Ireland and arrived in Pennsylvania, taking with them their only child – the well-known guitar lick throughout the world.

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Playwright Walsh hails the magic of One's... (Continued from page 1)

adaption of Roald Dahl's "The Twits" for a run at The Royal Court Theater, a play with Cillian Murphey for London's National Theatre plus a new Broadway project. Speaking by phone from his home in London, Enda Walsh said: "I've done the odd movie and theater for me, still holds that draw. It's still extraordinary when you get it right. It's still, for me, the most beautiful and the most dangerous medium."

Here's a condensed look at our conversation about "One's," coming to Boston's Opera House from Jan. 7 - 19.

BIR: Boston audiences feel a kind of ownership for "One's," considering it all began with a workshop at the American Repertory Theatre in 2011. Audiences just fell in love with the show’s intimate, breathtaking magic.

EW: It rarely, rarely happens. I've been making work now for about 16 years... and this was the moment when the alchemy was really right... I swear there was just something about doing it all living together. First of all, it wasn't our own town. We were all sort of top of one another and meeting and socializing and trying to make the work and talking about it. And making a work about people who are transient in a city. Immigrants in a city, really, who are rubbing up against one another and forming friendships... there was a lot of correlation between what we were going through and what the characters were going through... It became much, much bigger that the sum of its parts.

BIR: The musicians and choreographers of the audience come into the choice from the beginning? EW: That came really, really early. Actually that was (director) John Tiffany's initial (idea)... it's so extraordinary... you can feel people in the audience bringing their own love story to it, their own experience. It's an amazing thing.

BIR: Most theaters want to keep the public completely away from the performance area. Have there been any issues with people socializing too much on stage? EW: Yeah, there's been a lot of that (laughing). There's guitars all over there and banjos, and a number of times we've had people grab a guitar and try to play along. The thing about it, that would have been fine in a session, but actually some of the guitars are tuned (laughs). And/or dancing. You know, it's the sweetest thing. Watching the audience – I didn't understand until we got to the end and could feel the audience was reacting just like the characters in the story on stage, but somehow, by handing it over to them, and forming a thousand love stories to bounce off one another... It's the most extraordinary...

The grand finale at BCMFest will feature Celtic dance, created more on the stage than on paper. EW: Absolutely. We believe in ensemble and working with actors. Believe the power needs to be in the stomach of the actors. If the (play's) in any way sort of "authored" by the writer or the designer, it just doesn't seem to work. There's great power for the actors... It's that great thing about theater. It's only true to the effort of the actor, sort of pushing words into space and taking it forward that the thing happens and the magic begins to happen.

BIR: Great theater really has that ability to transport, doesn't it? EW: There are so many variables in the air. And there's that thing that it's such a daft medium, you know? It's all complete make believe. It's all lights and sets and actors, followed by something that happens, with the deal that an audience comes, and there's that suspension of disbelief, of just going in and watching the imagination of that world happening in front of you. When you get it right, it's an extremely powerful medium.

R. J. Donovan is Editor and Publisher of online stageboston.com.


Dublin-born playwright Enda Walsh, winner of the Tony Award for "One's" playing Boston's Opera House from Jan. 7 - 19.

The Tony Award-winning musical love story, "One's," plays Boston's Opera House from January 7 - 19. Photo by Joan Marcus

(Continued from page 9)

dancers and to encourage a lifelong appreciation for the tradition. O’Riley has performed with “Atlantic Steps,” an international sean-nós dance show organized by Conamara dancer Brian Cunningham, and has collaborated on projects with friend and fellow dancer Rebecca McGowan in Washington, DC – the two share an interest in the BCMFest 2014 as part of the production “Stepping Back,” with which they have occasionally choreographed both solo and group pieces, and calls dances at weddings and ceilís.

Schools have performed Scottish dance at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and “Good Morning, America,” and appeared at the Chestico Days stepdancing festival in Cape Breton; she also was a co-choreographer for Bonnie Rideout’s national production, “A Scottish Christmas.” Local performances include the Gaelic Roots festival at Boston College and the New England Folk Festival Association, as well as BCMFest as a member of Highland Dance Boston.

In addition, Schoonover has been active in modern dance, appearing at the Theater Outlet in Allen- town. Pa. The dream of an Ensemble Project and Voice/Word/Youth Theatre in New York City, and as part of the Back Porch Dance Company and the Willing Suspender Players in Boston.

“Over the years, these dance traditions have filled a number of roles,” says O’Riley. “A dance might be a ‘party-piece’ someone would share at a gathering of friends and family. Or perhaps it was for a competition, or – has been the case in more recent years – used in a performance setting, perhaps with influences from other kinds of dance, like tap, modern or even ballet. And of course, in addition to solo dances there are also duets and more social dances.

Among the musicians slated to take part are John Byrne (bouzouki, vocals), Mairiu Ó Cheide (vocals), Joe the jurga (uilleann pipes), Chris Stevens (accordion, concertina), Neil Farquhar (piano) and Katie McLane (fiddler).

BCMFest 2014 begins on Fri., Jan. 10, with the "Roots and Branches" concert at Club Passim, which will feature NORM (Torrin Ryan, Mark Osen and Stuart Peake), Cat and the Moon (Kathleen Parks, Ricky Mier, Eamon Sefton, Elias Alexander and Charles Berthoud), and the trio of Mark Kilianis, Bronwyn Keith Rimes and B.B. Bowser. Also that night will be the Boston Urban Ceilidh, held at The Attire (50 Church Street), featuring participation and social dances from the Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton traditions, all with live music.

The festival continues on Sun., Jan. 12 with "Stepping Back," an event-oriented entertainment at Club Passim and the Waltz Church, Cambridge. Performers include: Matt and Shannon Houston, Lu Simons, Katie McD; Owen Marshall and Lindsay Straw; Flynn Cohen and the Deadstring Ensemble. Jenna Moynihan; Joey Ab- arian: Sky Flark; Beata Gas- la; Sparrow's Joy; Oran Mor; Highland Dance Boston; sean-nós singers led by Bridget Fitzgerald; Step About Boston; Fresh Haggis; Diane Taras; Lindsay Adler; Elizabeth and Ben Anderson; Molly Pinto Madigan; Wisp of Thistle; Royal Scottish Country Dance Society; Alba’s Edge; Sean Smith; Soundscapes – a special performance of Irish mu- sic and dance featuring Kieran Jordan and Sean Clehosey – and Jigs & Saws.

Updates on BCMFest 2014 performances and other events, and other details about the festival, are available at passim.org/bcmfest.
The Murphy Beds – Jefferson Hamer, left, and Eamon O'Leary – performing at The Burren in Somerville last year.

Sean Smith photos

The Murphy Beds: Laid back, but also deceptively elaborate

(Continued from page 9)

blessed with Dublin ac-
cent and intonation, while Hamer is a little higher up on the register and with no obvious affectation to his vocals.

When it comes to song selection, The Murphy Beds boast a distinguished pedigree: some from the repertoir of traditional singers like Donegal’s Lillia O’Laoure (“Rise Up, My Darling”), Arkansas’ Almeda Riddle (“The Old Churchyard”) and others from the movie Singin’ in the Rain.

All of which begin at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 795 Adams Street. The public is encouraged to create, and helped us define what we wanted to be.”

The Western Massachusetts-based trio Mint Covered Mountains will make its Gaelic Roots debut on Feb. 27 with a concert in the Walsh Hall Vision Room.

The Murphy Beds – Jefferson Hamer, left, and Eamon O’Leary – performing at The Burren in Somerville last year.

Sean Smith photos
Courtney's first CD

Liz Carroll, *On the Offbeat*

Let's get this out of the way first, and fast: No, John Doyle does not appear on this album — counting the CDs they've made as a duo, it's the first time since 1988 he hasn't played on one of her projects (excluding Carroll's recordings as part of Trian and the String Sisters). If that's a disappointment to you, you'll get over it very quickly once you start listening to *On the Offbeat*.

Not that Carroll hid her All-World fiddle talent under the carpet, or under Doyle. She's kept a busy schedule. Doyle, after all, is her true front and center, and her power, control, plus her sheer ability to swing seemingly every possible tone and mood to perfection while -- at full deployment. Carroll's faculty for composition also is in full gear, with one exception, every tune on "On the Offbeat" was written by her. (Oh, and her flair for naming tunes is pretty impressive, too: "Barbara Streisand's Trip to Sagamore Hill," and Seamus Egan (mandolin, percussion) -- he also

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**Courtney’s first CD is a thank you note**

(Continued from page 9)

music has had on Irish singers like Courtney, who can't get enough of 1950s listening to the likes of Rock N Roll, Solomon Burke, and Thin Lizzy and was also drawn to trad-oriented acts like Planxty -- in fact, Andy Irvine was a neighbor of his.

"Dublin was a thriving place for music when I was growing up," Courtney recalls. "But it wasn't so much the traditional stuff -- the old tunes and songs -- that was the big deal, although it was certainly around. You'd go into a pub and people would be playing Woody Guthrie, or Johnny Cash, or Stan Rogers or especially 1970s listening to the likes of Rory Gallagher and Thin Lizzy and also drawn to trad-oriented acts like Planxty -- in fact, Andy Irvine was a neighbor of his.

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The Ireland I know: A list of my favorite things

BY JUDY ENNERT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

A new year has dawned, bringing with it the potential for many new adventures. Readers might find them enjoyable, too, when visiting Ireland.

FIVE FAVORITES

• Ireland has amazing ancient churches, friaries, and ruins where you can spend hours reading inscriptions, combing through and admiring detailed carving, architecture, and Celtic art. In Co. Offaly, the Clonmacnoise settlement, founded by St. Ciaran in 548, is awe-inspiring and well worth visiting. There, on the edge of the Shannon, you can see the ruins of an earlier monastery, sited next to the Giant’s Causeway. Co. Galway, founded in 1216, has been said there every day by thousands of tourists. Co. Laois native, Sir John George Adair (1823-1885), a Co. Laois native, who conceived in the 1970s by Dan Dooley (dandooyle.com) and the greatest number.com for details on the free-range environment. It’s a fun activity there that I had an excellent visit. In Co. Dublin, the Glenveagh to see the variety of historic homes and gardens there. Visit discoverornithi-reland.com for details on these and other tourist attractions, accommodation, and more.

• In Co. Kerry, my favorite accommodation is Heaton’s Guesthouse (heatonguesthouse.com) in Dingle. Heaton’s is clean, welcoming, and comfortable, with beautifully appointed rooms and delicious meals. I have stayed there a number of times and have always had an excellent visit.

• If we were to name my favorite hotel, I wouldn’t hesitate to say it’s the lovely, small, and homely Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel in the Inagh Valley, Connemara. Rooms are large, bathrooms have been updated from bath-only to walk-in showers, the food is delicious, and everyone there is very friendly and welcoming. I have returned every year. In short, it’s a wonderful place and I’m looking forward to spending more time there one day soon. Each year, I have been welcomed by a friend with a time-share there. He has booked us a room for the day and we can enjoy the hotel and the surrounding area.

• In Co. Tipperary, the Rock of Cashel is a "must see" and in Co. Meath, be sure to visit Newgrange, Knowth, the Hill of Tara, and Trim Castle.

• Northern Ireland boasts many splendid attractions, too. Don’t miss the Giant’s Causeway, Dunluce Castle, Batllintubber is the only church in Ireland founded by King Cathal O’Conor. Ballintubber is the only church in Ireland founded by King Cathal O’Conor.

In Co. Clare, the Kilfe-
nora Cathedral is sited next to the Shannon, which can be reached by the Shannon, you can see the ruins of an earlier monastery, sited next to the Giant’s Causeway. Co. Galway, founded in 1216, has been said there every day by thousands of tourists. Co. Laois native, Sir John George Adair (1823-1885), who conceived in the 1970s by Dan Dooley (dandooyle.com) and the greatest number.com for details on the free-range environment. It’s a fun activity there that I had an excellent visit. In Co. Dublin, the Glenveagh to see the variety of historic homes and gardens there. Visit discoverornithi-reland.com for details on these and other tourist attractions, accommodation, and more.

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In Co. Clare, the Kilfe-
**The Irish Language** by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

**Biliana Maith Úr Dhúibh** — “Happy New Year to You-all!”

Until now I have avoided the grammatical term, Nominitive Case. Not because it is difficult but I don’t believe in throwing the names of technical grammatical categories around. Actually, the Nominitive Case is quite simple. The term “Case” tells you that it is applied to nouns. The Nominitive Case or “Naming Case,” is the form that you will find first in a dictionary – the form used as either the subject or direct object of a sentence.

Tá Cúit ag caint le Nóra. “Kate is talking to Nora.” Here both “Kate” and “Nora” are in the Nominitive Case. You can substitute any noun in the Nominitive Case for “Kate” and “Nora” and the sentence will still make sense.

The reason that you now know what the Nominitive Case is so that you can understand when some one quotes the rule, “The Genitive Singular is the same as the Nominative Plural and the Nominitive Singular is the same as the Genitive Plural.” This is best illustrated by the word cat “Kátht, “cat.”

Chonaic cat an madra 
\(\text{HROH-eh kahht uh MAHD-ruh/}\)
“A cat saw the dog.”

Chonaic cat an madra.
\(\text{“Some” Cuts saw the dog.”}\)

Chonaic madra thíl na cat.
\(\text{“A dog saw an eye (of) the cat.”}\)

Chonaic madra thíl na cat.
\(\text{“A dog saw eyes (of) the cat.”}\)

Or even better ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cat</td>
<td>caith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitive</td>
<td>cat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This rule does not take into account all of the “irregular Genitives” although it does apply to many if not most.

bean /bunn/ “woman”
mána /mrah/ “women” / Genitive singular
düine /BEAHNKH-uhh/ “Genitive singular”

In these cases (pun intended) you will have to memorize them – but I will be sure to tell you the Genitive. Most of these are nouns making plurals ending in -anna and are newer words in Irish. Now, did you notice how this column began? Biliana Maith Úr Dhúibh “Good New Year to You-all!” Here is another example of dialects in Irish. The “Official Irish” is that recognized by the Irish Government and used in all governmental documents and in Irish courses taught in schools with the blessing of the Irish Ministry of Education. The Cois Fhairrge or “Sea Coast” rules is the one spoken in Galway where the majority of native speakers now reside.

The difference is in the pronunciation of the initial consonant of the Prepositional Pronoun, d- in “Official” but dh- in Cois Fhairrge. We will not concern ourselves with the plurals ending in -anna and are newer words in Irish. This is a “glik” sound made with the top back of the tongue not quite touching the roof of the mouth, characterized by some as a “gagged g.” From here on we will represent this sound by the Greek lower case Gamma “\(\Gamma\),” a “v” with a little loop on the bottom, not to be confused with the English letter “y” as in “eye.”

**Ireland in Crosswords ©-bigwood.com**

**ACROSS**

1. A cell dustbin goes astray in Irish capital strong-hold wherein is St. Patrick’s Hall used for many state functions. (6,6)

11. Electron deficient learner fails to start jungle king. (3)

12. Conditional return of plant container. (3)

13. Wants to be born a detective sergeant. (5)

14. I must badly in the last month in beautiful Timoleague. (6)

15. ‘Bath of Ireland’ where Thomas Davies was born. (6)

16. Brute dug up the root crop. (5)

17. Grand let in prosperous Cork town, known as the “Bath of Ireland.” Where Thomas Davies was born. (6)

18. “No, there’s nothing half so sweet in life As love’s young —-.” Moore. (5)

20. Made haste along in Maghera navigation. (3)

21. Tip of the separate legend! (3)

22. All one’s hair (anag.) Galway horse town with a well-known castle adjoining Galway park. (11)

23. “There was —- ground where a man might linger, For a week or two for time was not our master.” Ewan McColl “The Travelling People.” (4)

24. Noble but not quite on time. (4)

25. Cut back and see where the zloty goes round. (6)

26. “To the — — ground where a man might linger, For a week or two for time was not our master.” Ewan McColl “The Travelling People.” (4)

27. Sam’s coming over for the celebration. (4)

28. Southern, yet upset about what’s causing a pain in the eye. (4)

30. Tie in the back room of the hospital. (4)

31. “Where fierce indignation can no longer bear his ——” Epitaph of Jonathan Swift. (6)

32. Drunkard returns to south. (3)

33. “Nothing is —- done in this world until men are prepared to kill one another if it is not done.” Shaw (4)

9. Elf room passkey. (anag.) Galway beauty spot near Letterfrack with 3 lakes and a famous abbey. (4,2,8)

10. No, touch, many can be broken in Ulster region of many lakes, known as the MacMahon country. (6,8)

15. Engaged in banter seated around. (6)

16. Birate dug up the roof crop. (5)

17. Grand let in prosperous Cork town, known as the “Bath of Ireland.” Where Thomas Davies was born. (6)

18. “No, there’s nothing half so sweet in life As love’s young —-.” Moore. (5)

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**Irish Sayings …**

“People live in each other’s shelter.”

“The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey.”

“You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail.” “and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner.”

“There is no strength without unity.”

“You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me come and live with me.”

“Praise the young and they will blossom.”

“The raggy colt often made a powerful horse.”

“Age is honorable and youth is noble.”

“Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.”

Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.”

“The well fed does not understand the lean.”

“He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you.”

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The official photographers of the Boston Irish Reporter
This acclaimed photograph taken on the night of Oct. 11 by The Boston Globe’s Stan Grossfeld as David Ortiz’s eighth-inning home run soared into the visitors’ bullpen in Game 2 of the American League championship series says it all about the 2013 Red Sox: A beaches their new manager, John Farrell, with the American League’s selection of the three baseball managerial icons—Torre, Cox, and LaRussa—for the Hall of Fame. As well as deserving, they are highly popular picks and Cooperstown ever craves to appease the popular fancy. But was it necessary now, their first year of eligibility? Boader, even smarter choices might have been characters who’ve been waiting patiently for their turn, including a fascinating trio, each of whom had genuine historical impact: Marvin Miller, whose continuing rejection borders on the scandalous; George Steinbrenner, who is certainly as worthy as Tom Yawkey; and the chap who is No. 1 on my list, Tommy John. How can the Superior craftsman, John do with his 298 games, while playing a historic role in sports medicine, remains beyond me. Choosing Miller, Steinbrenner’s and John would have required a bit more imagination, along with a deeper sense of history, and would have, thereby, made the list a little bigger, most impressive.

With their garrison finishes at last, the swapped-buckling Patriots owe up to nothing in terms of entertainment. It’s as if their playbook were taken from the Rams of Paul Brown: is this bode well for the post-season? Not likely. Not only to the point, of their seven thrilling and epic finishes this season, three resulted in losses, with two of them to teams presumed to be decidedly inferior. You should keep the lucky beneficiaries of this wobble imbalance at this moment, are unlikely to demand answers. They well know as a class act and team guy, etc., Dunlap’s situation is to demand a re-opening of his contract negotiations now that he will be earning less than half of what Robinson Cano will drag down in Seattle. Nor is it a knock on Cano to that most baseball GMs, given the choice, would prefer a spunky lad who plays for Boston. Brady clearly has greater talent, but there’s some- thing special, indeed rare, about Pedroia much as was cited about Derek Jeter over the years when he was oft compared with A-Rod. You can safely bet Pedroia will remain in on the matter. It’s, as it were, what he is thinking?

On the other hand, it’s fair to wonder what Cano was thinking when he was accused of being a ‘jerk’; but the 19-year-old had ‘distracted’ him by only offering a seven-year, $150 million contract. Was there no one in his wing, someone able to advise, ‘Don’t go there’. Regarding the severe suspension and censure the Bruins’ Shawn Thornton got socked with for his smack-down of the Penguins’ Brooks Orpik. Yes, a stiff penalty was fair, but it will be longer than Orpik, who was at this writing. Having sustained two concussions in less than two months, the very clean-playing and virtuous Thornton is at considerable risk henceforth.

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LEDGE KITCHEN & DRINKS is a neighborhood restaurant located in historic Lower Mills, Dorchester. Constantly striving to bring the freshest and most exciting dishes to our diverse clientele is our number one goal.

Our garden style patio is an urban oasis - lush plantings, stone walls and intimate corners and seating make this a special retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city.

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HAD A HARD DAY AT WORK?
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At Slate Bar and Grill. Our fast, friendly bar staff, inviting atmosphere and inspired selection of cocktails will help you put it all behind you. We're reviving the lost art of bartending—not to mention our customers' spirits. Come for the drinks, or come for the exceptional dining. Open for lunch and dinner, we serve American comfort food with a mouthwatering international flair... Lively. Creative. Exciting.

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