

October 2014

VOL. 25 #10

\$1.50

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Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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BIR will honor 7 at luncheon on Oct. 24

**Mayor Martin Walsh,
S.B.'s Burke family,
Katherine Craven**

The *Boston Irish Reporter*, the region's leading chronicler of all things Irish-American, will host "Boston Irish Honors 2014," its annual anniversary luncheon, on Fri., Oct. 24, at 11:45 a.m. in the main ballroom of Boston's Seaport Hotel.

The 35-member luncheon committee is chaired by Peter Meade, former director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

The 2014 honorees are: The Burke Family – Jacquelyn, John, Paul, Dennis and Michael; Katherine Craven; and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

"We are especially pleased that this year's honorees have agreed to share their stories with us," said BIR publisher Ed Forry. "In keeping with our heritage, the newspaper will recognize special achievements in business and public service, and salute an estimable family that shares our common roots in Boston and Ireland.

"The Burkes are an exemplary family, and their story is a wonderful example of our Boston Irish culture. In a similar vein, Katherine Craven has a legion of admirers for her roles in several public agencies. A former staffer in the House Ways and Means committee and the mother of four, she was chief of the state's School Building Authority, and oversaw the University of Massachusetts's \$3.8 billion five-year capital plan. This spring, she was named chief administrative officer at Babson College.

"And I am delighted," said Forry, "to acknowledge the leadership role of my longtime friend Marty Walsh as he nears completion of his first year as Boston's chief executive. Mayor Walsh has served on our honors luncheon committee each and every year, and he truly embodies the spirit of the very best of what it means to be Boston Irish.

"It will be an honor and privilege to tell their stories at our Oct. 24 luncheon," Forry said.

Luncheon tickets are at \$150 each; a table of ten is \$1,500. More information on sponsorship and ticket sales is available at bostonirish.com, via e-mail to honors@bostonirish.com, or by phone at 617-436-1222.

MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH GOES 'HOME' TO CARNA

'You have a story to tell'

By BILL FORRY
EDITOR

Mayor Martin Walsh returned to Carna, Co. Galway on Tues., Sept. 23, where he attended a ceremony to launch a planned Emigrants Commemorative Center in the town of his father's birth. The mayor dedicated a foundation stone at the site and pledged to help support the centre by working to raise funds and awareness in the Boston Irish community.

The mayor was joined at the ceremony by former Irish Prime Minister (Taoiseach) Liam Cosgrave, age 94, who in the 1930s attended primary school on the site of the planned centre. The mayor and his traveling party, including partner Lorrie Higgins and mother Mary Walsh, visited six schools in Rosmuc and Carna, the Irish-speaking villages where his parents grew up. He left the Connemara region the next day for a fast-moving swing to the north, with stops in Donegal, Derry, Belfast, and after that, Dublin.



Boston Mayor Martin Walsh unveiled a stone marker at the site of a planned Emigrant Commemorative Centre in Carna, Co. Galway. Máirtín Ó Catháin, the chairperson of the group planning the centre, is at left. Bill Forry photo

The emigrant centre is to be built overlooking the sea on what is now a dilapidated parish hall and former school near St. Mary's, a Catholic church where Walsh's father was baptized. The centre, which is scheduled to be built over the next two years, will feature a visitor's facility and library and meeting rooms for

the community. In a ceremony that preceded the unveiling of the foundation stone bearing Mayor Walsh's name, he and his family were hailed as prime examples of the generations of Connemara people who left this region over the centuries to seek better lives abroad.

"You know the story of

people leaving the west of Ireland. You know my parents' story and as I look out across the room, it's your story, your family's story," Walsh told an overflow crowd of several hundred who packed into a tent next to the ruined building, which dates to the late 19th century. "The people left the west of Ireland, not to get away from the land, as people thought it was, but they actually left the west of Ireland to strengthen their own land here in their native areas," he said.

Then, to great applause, he pledged: "I'm here today to tell everyone that I'm here to commit to you that we will build this center and we will open this center."

"It's a great pleasure to meet Mayor Walsh because I knew the family," said Cosgrave. "He deserves the height of praise for the success he made of himself, and his family contributed as well. Mayor Walsh is typical of people from this area who when they went abroad, they left their mark.

(Continued on page 7)

Hailing the Eire Pub, and Dot's Irish roots



It was come one, come all as the Eire Pub celebrated 50 years as a mainstay of the Adams Village neighborhood with a birthday party on Sept. 16. The local landmark, named for the Irish word for Ireland, was founded by Irish-born Tom Stenson, a native of Co. Sligo. Ed Forry column is on Page 4.

Photo courtesy Bill Brett

Irish Heritage Fest set for Oct. 12: Let the music, fun begin

Dorchester's Irish Heritage Festival is back for its fourth year, with a full slate of Irish music and dance performances, family entertainment, and cultural activities, as well as food and vendor booths. The festival will take place on Oct. 12 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Florian Hall (55 Hallet Street) and the John McKeon Post AmVets 146 (4 Hilltop St.); there will be a suggested donation at the entrance of \$5 per person, or \$20 per family, to support the event.

Among the acts appearing this year will be acclaimed Maine-based traditional Irish trio The Press Gang; innovative dancer and choreographer Brian Cunningham; Medford resident George Keith, a mainstay of Boston's Irish music scene; and TR Dallas, one of Ireland's best-known country singers.

As always, the Irish Heritage Festival

(Continued on page 11)

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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

There was action and good fellowship aplenty at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton over Labor Day weekend as the facility played host to the 2014 finals of the North American Gaelic Games that involved 2,500 competitors and some 120 teams playing more than 100 games.

1.) Mike McDonagh, Canton; 2.) Fraser Coleman, Brighton; 3.) Action on the field in Canton 4.) Gary Kelly, Enna Rourke, Chris O'Donoghue all of Quincy; 5.) Martin O'Connor, Jamie Kehoe, both of Brighton; 6.) Cornelius Cunnea, W. Roxbury; John O'Driscoll, Quincy; 7.) Liam, Alana (5 yrs.); Becky, Liam Jr, (3 yrs.), Worcester; 8.) Pat and Theresa McNulty, Fermanagh, Ireland; 9.) Ryan Nugent (6 yrs.) and dad, Peadar Nugent, Braintree; 10.) Aogan O'Fearghail, Pres. elect of the G.A.A; Bernie O'Rielly, Newton; 11.) Fans; 12.) Margaret Monagle, Canton; Lorna Lindsay, Donegal; Cheryl Ramsey Kelly, Tyrone; 13.) Robert Comerford and Maureen Malloy, both of Quincy; 14.) Rosai Slevin, Aisling Slevin, Aisling McHale, Kelley Aylward, all of Vancouver, Canada.



Good news from Ireland Tourism Minister Donohoe: Visitors from United States up 18 percent in summer '14

By BILL FORRY
EDITOR

In remarks to a Boston audience on Sept. 26, Ireland's chief tourism minister hailed newly released figures showing a big jump in summer tourists from the United States as the latest indicator of a recovering economic situation in the country.

Paschal Donohoe, TD, who serves as Irish Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport, told a Boston lunch gathering of the Irish American Partnership that he had been given figures that morning showing US tourist visits between June and August 2014 up roughly 18 percent over the previ-

ous year— a figure that is approximate to about 450,000 new tourists.

"We've had about one-fifth more American tourists this summer," said Donohoe, who told his audience at the Boston Harbor Hotel that he had been awakened to the good news in a text message. Donohoe was visiting the US as part of a Tourism Ireland tour to key American cities.

"The reason why it's all happening is that we have a private sector who have responded to the challenge of putting together a touring offering that is second to none," said Donohoe, who pointed to the statistical leap as the latest in a string of indica-



Minister Paschal Donohoe, TD, hailed latest US-Ireland tourism stats in remarks to a luncheon sponsored by the Irish American Partnership on Fri., Sept. 26 in Boston. *Harry Brett photo*

tors of a resurgent Irish economy. Ireland has added 70,000 jobs over the last year, a pace of about

1,000 per week, Donohoe noted. Latest projections show the Irish economy growing at a rate of about

4.5 percent, he said.

Stephen McNally, president of the Irish Hotels Federation, noted that the numbers released by the Irish government are in line with what the industry's figures show as well. "From the Irish hotels point of view it's been a tremendous year. We've had a record number of visitors which is fantastic," said McNally. "A lot of the hotels around the country are experiencing a much better time and as a result have been doing a great deal of refurbishment and renewal work, so the product will only increase."

McNally said that the number of flights coming into Dublin Airport

in August, for instance, was up by 70 flights per week over last August. "It shows that there are a lot more visitors coming in," McNally said in noting that aside from America, the biggest tourist sources for Ireland are Britain, France, and Germany.

Shannon Airport is also experiencing strong growth after a period of reduced flights. "Now, thankfully it's all coming back again," said McNally. "It's a great passport to Ireland— you can get into Shannon, it's quite easy to get through the airport and you're close to the Great Atlantic Way, which is fantastic for tourists."



Above: Minister Paschal Donohoe, TD, gets a look at the latest Irish Reporter edition with the BIR's Sean Grant. *Photo by Harry Brett*

At left: Karl Walsh, VP, Essex Builders Corp, of Boston, Breandán Ó Caollaí, Ireland's Consul General of Boston, Tourism Ireland executive vice president Alison Metcalfe, Minister Paschal Donohoe, TD, Joseph F. Leary, President and CEO, Irish American Partnership, Boston; Niall Gibbons, CEO Tourism Ireland; Mary Sugrue McAleer, executive director of the Irish American Partnership; and Stephen McNally, President of the Irish Hotels Federation. *Photo by Harry Brett*

Irish affairs: month full of activity

October is a busy month in the Boston Irish community, with an array of special events and award ceremonies featured throughout the four weeks. Here's a brief capsule of events:

- The Charitable Irish Society of Boston will present its annual Silver Key awards at 6 p.m. on Wed., Oct. 15, at the Boston College Club. Recipients: Attorney Richard Campbell, Richard Gormley, and Rev. Gerry Osterman. A "Lifetime Achievement" award will be made to the musician Phil Coulter.

- The Irish Pastoral Centre will benefit from a concert by Coulter at St. Ignatius Church at Boston College on Tues., Oct. 14.

- The Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) will be celebrating its 25th anniversary with its annual

Solas Awards on Thurs., Oct. 30, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. The awards gala will recognize Sister Lena Deevy, LSA, Richard E. Holbrook, and Susan J. Cohen, Esq.

Other events: The *Irish Echo* newspaper brings its sixth "Golden Bridges" conference to Boston on October 8 and 9, and the *Boston Irish Reporter's* annual "Irish Honors" luncheon will be held on Fri., Oct. 24. Both events are being hosted by the Seaport Hotel.

Coincidentally, *The Irish Cultural Centre of New England (ICCNE)* has postponed its planned 25th anniversary event, originally slated for Oct. 9 at the JFK Library. Plans are under way for a gala sometime next spring on its campus in Canton.



The Massachusetts State Council Knights of Columbus held its installation last Sunday at St. Ann's in Neponset. Above, Dorchester's Russell Steinbach, state deputy presided at the installation of Bishop Hennessey and Fr. Robert Brusco as state chaplain and associate chaplain. *Patrick O'Connor photo*



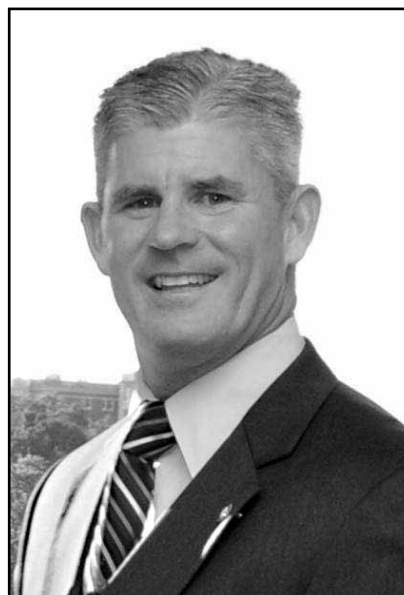
Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny visited Providence on Sept. 24 in leading a trade mission to Rhode Island's capital city. While there he and his delegation visited the city's Irish Famine Memorial. Pictured on the right are Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, Irish Taoiseach Kenny, US Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, and, center, at podium, Famine Memorial President Don Deignan. *Peter Martin photo*

New role for IBEW's Monahan

Dorchester resident Michael Monahan will leave his leadership post at International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 103 this month to take on a new role based the union's regional headquarters in Connecticut. Monahan will remain in Boston and is expected to stay on as board member of the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

He will be replaced as the local's business manager by John Dumas, who was elected to fill out Monahan's term on Tuesday.

"I leave Local 103 with enormous pride for what my team has and will continue to accomplish," said Monahan. "As a fourth-generation IBEW member, I have an unwavering commitment to serve my union when called upon. My new job will enable me to facilitate advancement on a larger scale so future



Michael Monahan

tradespeople can attain rewarding careers."

Monahan's final day at Local 103 will be September 22. The 2nd District, led by International Vice President Frank Carroll, covers 40,000-plus IBEW members and over 50 local unions across New England.

Dumas, a 37 year veteran of Local 103, has served as the union's president for the past 18 years. He is a graduate of UMass Boston and a 1995 graduate of Harvard University's Trade Union Program. He will not run all of the day to day operations of the union.

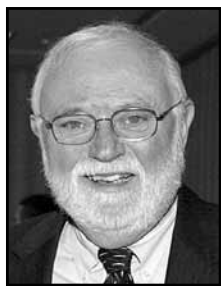
"As the next Business Manager of Local 103, I want to continue the progress that has been made and sustain the long term vision set forth by Rich Gambino and Mike Monahan before me," said Dumas in a statement.

Raise your mugs to the Eire Pub

By Ed Forry

Dorchester's Eire Pub celebrated its 50 years in Adams Village with an anniversary party on Sept. 16. The local landmark, named for the Irish word for Ireland (pronounced "eerie" by locals), was founded by Irish-born Tom Stenson, a native of Co. Sligo who came to the US as a young man. With his brother Michael, Tom operated Stenson's Pub on Hyde Park Avenue in Roslindale before he purchased the high profile corner building immediately adjacent to the Old Dorchester Post at the intersection of Adams Street and Gallivan Boulevard.

"My father bought the building in 1963," says Stenson's son John, who now owns the pub. "At that time there were two businesses here, Callahan's Pub and Leonard's Drygoods Store." Tom changed the name and extended the premises into the Leonard's space, and the Eire opened in its current two-sided oval configuration in 1964.



The son recalls growing up in his father's business. From the time when he was about six years old, John says, he helped clean the pub on Sundays, back in the days when it was open just six days a week. In those early years, the pub offered a modest menu of quickly prepared lunches, including hot dogs and cold cut sandwiches. For years, the menu above the bar listed a sandwich made with "sardines (whole can)" for less than a dollar. Today, the Eire offers an array of hot food and large, overstuffed sandwiches prepared in a small kitchen that turns out dozens of meals every day.

Tom Stenson died in June 2000 and John's mother, Mary "Molly" Stenson, nee Shannon, lived into her 90s before passing away in October 2012. "My mother never came into the pub during business hours, out of respect for my father," John says, a reference to the description of the Eire as a "Gentlemen's Prestige Bar." He said his mother always believed she should keep a clear separation between their home life and the business. "She only came in here once," he says, "to see that I had put up my father's photo on the wall." Today, the men-only culture is a relic of a long-ago time, as both men and women are regulars at the neighborhood landmark.

After a surprise visit on Jan. 26, 1983, by President Ronald Reagan when he was in Boston on a political trip, the pub added the catchphrase "Presidential Pub" to its nameplate. Nine years later presidential candidate Bill Clinton, escorted by then-Boston Mayor Ray Flynn, stopped at the Eire just days before his election. Each holding a pint of beer, Reagan and Clinton went behind the bar for photo ops. Urban legend says that Clinton partook of his pint, but Reagan's lips never touched his beer.

Since the Reagan visit, Stenson says, the pub has been a regular campaign-trail stop for candidates from both parties. It was even a last-stop destination for Ireland's outgoing prime minister, Bertie Ahern. "Governor Deval Patrick has tended bar, here, and also Mitt Romney," he says. Last month, gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley made a campaign stop at the Eire, and the GOP's Charlie Baker spent some time with the crowd during the anniversary party. State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry was among the revelers that night, and presented a Senate citation to Stenson to commemorate the occasion.

While Stenson says he has made personal donations to candidates, he insists he never allows the pub to be used for a political fundraiser. So that's the deal: A hearty welcome awaits the politician of any stripe who wants to drop by the Eire for a brew and a bite and a hello. But that's it. Enjoy and move on.

Correction: A recent column about Portland's Maine Irish Heritage Center gave an incorrect title for past president Brendan McVeigh; he is a director and past president. The current president is Kathy Reilly, a native of Dorchester's St. Brendan parish who now lives in Portland.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

The Boston Irish Reporter is published monthly by:

Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.,
150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 120, Dorchester, MA 02125
news@bostonirish.com www.bostonirish.com

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On The Web at www.bostonirish.com

Date of Next Issue: November, 2014

Deadline for Next Issue: Tuesday, October 21 at 2 p.m.

Published monthly in the first week of each month.

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Partnership Board Members in Belfast, August, 2014: Therese Murphy, Joe McCullough, John P. Murray, Joseph F. Leary, Lord Mayor Nichola Mallon, Charles Donahue, Marie Connellan, John McGrillen, Liam Conellan, Mary Sugrue. Courtesy Irish American Partnership

Irish American Partnership has sent \$624,000 to Ireland

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Accompanied by staff and donor supporters, The Irish American Partnership's board of directors travelled to Ireland this August on a mission to evaluate the impact of their funding decisions and to learn more about Irish education as the Partnership begins to set policies for additional support. During the trip, the board disbursed grants of \$76,000, which brings the total amount of gifts sent to Ireland since November 2013 to \$624,000.

From small rural schools to the larger ones in the cities, and to the universities and job training centers, the Partnership programs include professional development for teachers in science, access to scholarships for college students, and direct grants to primary schools that are struggling to make ends meet.

Over five days, and at 26 meetings and visits, members of the mission visited schools in West Cork, universities, teacher training and high tech employment training programs in Dublin and Ulster University, and several schools in Belfast. There were also informational meetings at The IDA, Foreign affairs in Dublin and meetings with MLAs in Stormont. Minister of Education in the North John O'Dowd talked with the group about the education system there and members of the group had a meeting with the Department of Education in Dublin.

Three universities – Trinity, University of Ulster, and Dublin City University – were presented grants of \$10,000 each for their "ACCESS" programs, which assist qualified underprivileged students in their pursuit of their university degrees. Three schools in Belfast received grants – St. Louise's High School on the Falls Road (\$5,000); Avoneil Primary School in East Belfast (\$5,000); and Drumlins Integrated School in Ballinahinch (\$10,000). And two primary

schools in West Cork – Derryclough National School in Drinagh (\$2,000) and the Inchigeelagh National School in Inchigeelagh (\$2,000) – received funding to assist their work.

Baroness May Blood greeted the Partnership group at the Drumlins school and said, "You and your board are great friends to Northern Ireland and your continued involvement makes a huge difference to life here across all areas of education, business and reconciliation."

One of the highlights of the leadership mission was the welcoming dinner at Belfast City Hall where the new lord mayor, Nichola Mallon, hosted the group. Mallon spoke of the Boston/Belfast Sister City agreement signed early this year by former Lord Mayor Máirtín O'Muilleoir and Boston's Mayor Marty Walsh. Mallon will be coming to Boston in October to further strengthen the ties between our two cities.

The President of Dublin City University, Professor Brian MacCraith, also honored the Partnership's mission with a dinner in the President's House on the University Campus later in the week. MacCraith announced an ambitious new building program for St. Patrick's Teaching College, which is now officially part of Dublin City University. The Irish American Partnership has worked with St. Patrick's Teaching College for nearly 15 years, focusing on science teaching in primary schools in rural western Ireland schools.

It was a very busy week, but a lot was learned. Perhaps the most important lesson is that the Irish people whom the Partnership supports are most grateful, not just for the funding but also for the interest that Americans have shown in helping to create a better Ireland. Mission participants received a sincere welcome wherever they went. The teachers, administrators, and officials are fiercely proud of the work they do and the fact that a group of Irish Americans are taking the time and raising the money to support them.

Off the Bench

Reflections on a failed busing plan directly from a front-row seat

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Forty years ago, shortly before forced busing went into effect, I was a new judge appointed to Dorchester District Court. Since much of the anger and violence associated with that ill-conceived "solution" to segregated Boston schools spilled into the courts, I had a front-row seat from which to view its effects.

I understood that racial housing patterns had resulted in "de facto" segregated, underperforming schools and the federal courts had a mandate to do something about it. The problem was how to devise a solution that would cause the least disruption while improving education at a reasonable cost, in all a formidable undertaking. What happened, instead, was a plan that did not adequately take into consideration its effect on those who would be impacted.

In every respect, the solution imposed on the city failed to meet those objectives. When children become the instruments to achieve social change, any plan is bound to generate fear and apprehension, not only among the children but also among their parents. The wholesale movement of children, black and white, from neighborhood schools to schools miles away from home caused major disruptions.

Many parents left the city, some put their children in private schools, and others protested, often loudly. The burden of forced busing fell on those families that did not have the financial resources to escape. Black children and their parents were terrified and angry at the sight of white protesters hurling insults at and blocking buses full of frightened students. Violence spilled over into the neighborhoods with an upsurge of racial enmity, much of it not directly related to protests but to the underlying animosity it generated. Race relations in the city were set back decades.

Busing proved to be enormously disruptive. Did it ultimately solve the problem? No! The schools remained

largely segregated, their overall performance did not improve, and funds that could have been invested in underperforming schools were spent on transportation. Imagine the improvements that could have been made if the millions invested in busing over the years had gone to education.

The well-intentioned planners who fashioned the remedy failed because they did not understand the human dimensions of the problem. Their solution was a statistical formula based on the assumption that integrated schools would foster better education for all. They failed to anticipate or understand the consequences. But what alternatives did they have?

They could have fashioned a plan that put greater resources into underperforming segregated schools. They could have created incentives and developed quality magnet schools to encourage parents to voluntarily participate. They could have strengthened the Metco program and even subsidized the movement of minority families willing to relocate in the suburbs. School segregation in the city was, after all, more a housing problem than a neighborhood school problem.

By overlooking the historical importance of neighborhood schools and their connection to families, the experts imposed an unworkable solution. Coming on the heels of another failure, the Vietnam War, it was a further example of how the "best and brightest" can get it wrong.

Like Vietnam, the policy objectives were not achieved despite great cost in money, anguish, and pain. Some problems do not lend themselves to easy fixes. To act precipitously often makes them worse. Patient, incremental prodding toward a reasonable objective takes more time but it can be more effective.

James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law.

Menino’s book: Is it too little, too soon?

By **BILL FORRY**
EDITOR

Thomas Menino’s “Mayor for a New America” hits stores and tablets on October 14. It will no doubt find a well-deserved place in the libraries of Bostonians who have a keen interest in city history and politics.

But it will find that shelf-space too quickly for many of us. At just 250 pages, the book is an all-too-quick read that leaves those well versed in the Menino era wanting more. Those thirsty for a serious, deep-dive chronicle and analysis of the Menino era will have to wait. Perhaps the publishers and the authors should have, too.

Co-author Jack Beatty, the respected biographer of another great Boston mayor, James Michael Curley, does not intrude much or enough here. It’s Menino’s voice and style that rings true in the prose—simple and to the point.

Book Review

Menino “spares” us a chronicle of his ten-year stint on the city council, which gets truncated to a few anecdotes about the run-up to his 1992 campaign to win the council presidency. We get little new insight

on how Menino, a relative unknown from “the sticks” of Readville, came to forge alliances with the Irish power brokers Jim Kelly and Dapper O’Neil, the latter of whom Menino lays out as the unreconstructed bigot and homophobe that he was. We also don’t gain much new traction on what informed Menino’s progressive streak—the one that made him a more successful city-wide draw in his breakout 1993 victory over Jim Brett.

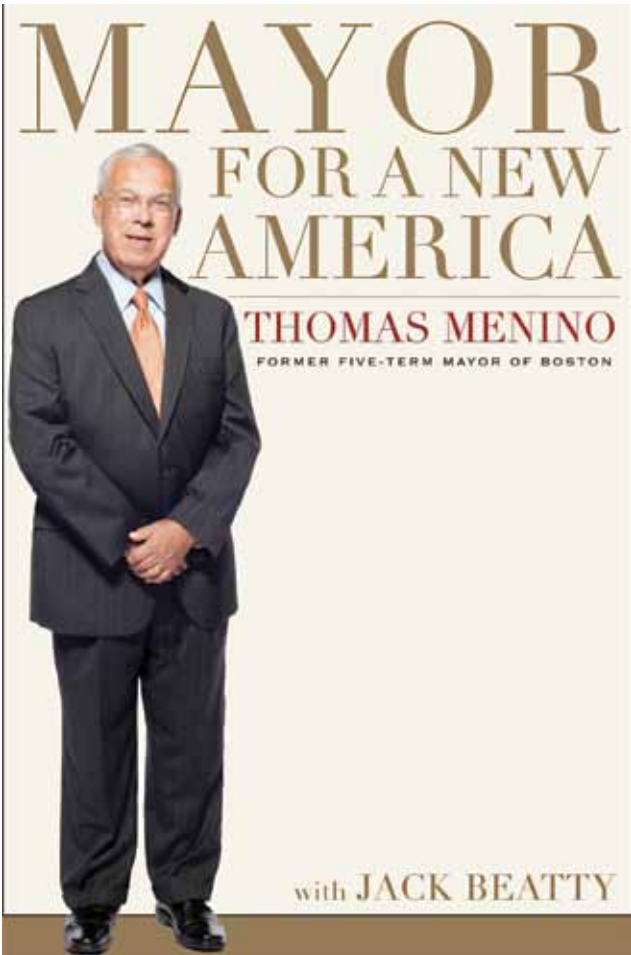
His acumen as a City Hall insider is related primarily through passages from *Boston Globe* columnists and editorial board writers, most of which salute Menino’s diligence as a budget task-master who keeps a more reckless Ray Flynn at bay. It’s a flaw of the book that Menino and Beatty rely too much on *Globe* columnists and scribes to the exclusion of other listening posts.

The book has its strong moments. Menino is candid and revealing in his comments about race and ethnicity. He writes about the pride he felt in becoming the city’s first Italian-American mayor—and in ending the “green tide” that dominated the office for most of the 20th century.

“By the 1980s Italian-Americans my age were tired of the ‘Pick-a-Mick’ choice of mayors on the ballot and for once wanted to vote for one of their own,” Menino writes. “The green tide in Boston politics was receding, and Italians weren’t the only group standing on the beach happy to see it go.”

The subject of Boston’s desegregation or “busing” battles of the 1970s are touched on here, too—and from Menino we get conflicting views. Early on in his re-telling of his Hyde Park days, he denounces the busing implementation as a “failed” experiment, one that left him with “lasting doubts about ‘sweeping solutions,’ ‘bold plans,’ and ‘fundamental transformations’ for the problems of city life.”

“You can debate whether busing was a justified remedy for Boston’s separate and unequal schools,”



Menino writes. Really?

And yet, Menino later concludes, and accurately, that the failures of the city’s desegregation era had found their greatest villains in the pre-crisis politicians like Louise Day Hicks and John Kerrigan, lawyers who knowingly led the city into the abyss.

“The schools weren’t a priority for the Irish American pols who dominated the [school] committee,” Menino concludes.

Menino is almost as blunt about his own failings—from his marble-mouthed speech and resultant stage fright to his penchant for pettiness. It’s just a trait, he says, of a harried, stressed-out politician.

After a stark description of his one-time mentor Joe Timilty—the Mattapan pol who gave Menino his entree to the business—Menino admits: “I make the candidate sound petty. I’ve been the candidate. I’m partly talking about myself. You say things you regret.”

Menino owns up to his famous control-freak tendencies, particularly in riding herd on the minutiae of development projects. Basically, he admits, he just didn’t trust his hires to do the job better than he could. “I was hands-on because I thought city planning was too important to be left to the city planners,” he writes

defiantly.

Enthusiasts of the “revisionist history” genre will find places to quibble or to just straight-up guffaw. Menino must have had mischief on the mind as he related the prowess of his ground forces in the 2006 gubernatorial contest. The “crushing Boston majorities [that] helped elect the first black governor in the history of the Commonwealth, Deval Patrick” is recorded without mention of the fact that the much-vaunted “Team Menino” was squarely on the side of the vanquished Team Tom Reilly in that contest.

Just as glaring to discerning neighborhood readers will be his administration’s 2010 push to close four branch libraries, which was beaten back by a grassroots revolt of civic leaders and Beacon Hill lawmakers, who forced Menino and his *Globe* editorial backers to change course using the threat of budget cuts to the BPL system. The libraries stayed open—although in Menino’s account that rather pertinent fact is skipped. It’s a revealing omission, as many in this quarter of the city read Menino’s fifth-term misstep in the library fight as his political twilight.

The mayor devotes a disproportionate amount of space to his record on public education—a chapter entitled “The Struggle for the Schools.” Menino lays out a strong case for the progress made on his watch and appropriately qualifies his record as incomplete. He is too rosy in his depiction of his eleventh-hour push to re-organize the school assignment plan, one that he condemned as “destroying neighborhood cohesion.”

Menino’s finest moments are intact and more fully fleshed out. His rejection of the anti-gay bigotry exhibited by the organizers of the city’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade merits a victory lap and Menino takes it here. Tom Menino should be remembered for taking a bold position in his earliest days as mayor on the outrageous exclusion of LGBT Bostonians. In laying down a clear position on the parade—and sticking to it—Menino set a standard that all other city pols strive to meet.

His response to the 2013 Marathon Bombing gets a star turn in the book—and it should. The hobbled mayor rallying from his hospital bed to give the city a sense of order and calm in the hours and days following the attack is a powerful, enduring image. So, too, is that of Camp Harbor View, the summertime oasis that Menino and advertising mogul-turned-philanthropist Jack Connors carved out for under-privileged kids on Long Island.

Menino’s name adorns a room in the camp. Some day far in the future, he muses, some might wonder about who this Menino guy was.

Tom Menino writes his own epitaph for them: “He was a guy from Hyde Park who wanted you to have fun, learn stuff, and return from camp at the end of the day too tired to get into trouble.”

A fine legacy, indeed. But Menino was much more than that, of course. In the end, his book is a noble, but incomplete, summary of a distinguished life of public service, one that merits a much more detailed re-telling in a longer form.

Point of View

GLASS CEILINGS, RAISED EYEBROWS, AND FOOT IN MOUTH

Musings on a politician, a prelate, and a pro golfing powerhouse

By **PETER F. STEVENS**
BIR STAFF

It should surprise no one in and around Boston that advertising titan Jack Connors and Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch have endorsed the Republican, Charlie Baker, rather than the Democrat, Martha Coakley. Despite the professed Democratic stripes of the two men, they will not be the last prominent local Dems to shun Coakley.

Whether out of friendship or any other reason, personal or professional, Connors and Koch have every right to embrace Baker. Still, one can’t help but feel that we’ve seen this story play out before anytime a woman—whether Democrat or Republican—has sought the governor’s chair.

Yes, I’m fully aware that Elizabeth Warren crashed through the higher-office gender barrier in these parts when she dispatched Scott Brown in the US Senate race of 2012. Still, when it comes to governor, the voters have turned away from Democratic candidates Evelyn Murphy and Shannon O’Brien and Republican hopefuls Jane Swift (who was acting governor from 2001-03 and ran for the Republican nomination, but was muscled out of the race by her own miscues, and Mitt Romney) and Kerry Murphy Healey to elect their male rivals.

The adage insists that “where there’s smoke, there’s fire,” and that is smoke descending upon Coakley and her campaign, as it did earlier upon those erstwhile women politicians who ran for the top slot in state government.

Whether it is about the chauvinistic vitriol of the *Herald’s* Howie Carr or the more mannered but stiletto-like slices of Scott Lehigh and Joan Vennochi and Tom Keane in the *Globe*, Swift, Healey, O’Brien, and Murphy can certainly commiserate with Coakley while considering the fact that a large number of the state’s women voters have turned to the male candidates in each of those previous gubernatorial frays.

Sometimes the jibes are snickers that a woman doesn’t know enough about Curt Shilling, and sometimes they are “gut-busting” slams at a woman’s weight by a large number of men who should pay more attention to their beer guts. What is attributed as toughness in a male candidate is flipped over as “bitchiness” in a woman contender, and when it comes time to vote, that bromide seems often to capture not only a majority of men, but also a sizable number of women. In politics as in all else, perception—“likeability”—matters.

Coakley is not especially charismatic, or, perhaps, even comfortable on the campaign trail, maybe still scarred by her poorly executed campaign against Scott Brown for Ted Kennedy’s Senate seat. All of that notwithstanding, she does have an estimable record that should be the sole basis for voting for or against her. The same applies to Baker. Coakley can win, but given the same old story unfolding from both the media and her foes, she will need women voters to pull her across the finish line.

Elizabeth Warren reaped the benefits of running in Blue Massachusetts in a presidential election year, when turnout is always much higher. Women heavily went Warren’s way. In a mid-term election, lower voter turnout makes Coakley’s hopes of breaking through the gubernatorial glass ceiling all the harder, especially when the local media will trumpet each and every big-name Democrat who crosses over to the Baker camp. It is a safe bet that most of them will be men.

It would have been a sucker’s bet to take odds that any highly placed Catholic cleric would give an enthusiastic thumbs-up to the dark, controversial film “Calvary.” Written and directed by Martin McDonagh and starring Brendan Gleeson as a priest facing crucifixion by a clerically abused parishioner in the West of Ireland, the movie has generated a high measure of both praise and revulsion. In one of the more eyebrow-raising sto-

ries in recent weeks, “Calvary,” which many reviewers have slammed for skewering both the Catholic Church and rural Ireland, and which others have praised for its allegorical and reality-infused daring, earned raves from an unlikely source—the Catholic archbishop of Philadelphia, Charles Chaput, who lauded McDonagh’s provocative, intentionally disturbing work as one of “understated power...an unblinking, unforgettable film.”

It is a safe bet that among men of the cloth, Archbishop Chaput will stand virtually alone in his take on “Calvary.”

...

Rory McIlroy is another public figure who has a knack for stirring a bit of controversy these days. The world’s top golfer’s lack of guile in answering media questions was addressed in this space last month, in particular his comment that it was his break-up with tennis star Caroline Wozniacki after their wedding invitations had been addressed that propelled him to the top of the PGA rankings and success in the major tournaments this year.

Recently, McIlroy reflected on the recent woes of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson and uttered the truth when he noted that both greats are on “the back nine of their careers.” Legions of fans and scribes jumped all over those words—while overlooking or ignoring the full context in which he pointed out that great moments still likely lie ahead for both Woods and Mickelson. With no bile or malice whatsoever, McIlroy simply pointed out that no golfer is the same in his or her late 30s, early 40s, as they were in their 20s. The full context of the Northern Irish golfer’s commentary also includes his observation that he has leagues to go before anyone can compare him to Tiger Woods.

McIlroy’s bluntness can be disarming. Right now, however, he is playing the game on a level that no else has since, well, Tiger.

Walsh returns 'home' to Connemara

By BILL FORRY
EDITOR

GALWAY, Ireland – For a few hours last Saturday, Marty Walsh was just another Yank on holiday, enjoying the sights and sounds of Clifden, one of Co. Galway's loveliest and liveliest towns. Your mayor had just enjoyed a sailboat ride and a quiet lunch with his partner Lorrie Higgins and two other traveling companions. Now, as he strolled through the scenic village with other tourists, he was incognito in blue jeans, sneakers, and an old-school Red Sox ball cap; mercifully, he was off the grid, stopping to buy scones and desserts for his mother at a local bakery called Walsh's.

The respite would not last long. Later that evening, he began a series of public events with a Mass celebrated in his mother's home village of Rosmuc, followed by a reception that went late into the night.

The first five days of Walsh's first trip abroad as mayor were a blur of bonfires, parties, church services, and endless photo opportunities— with the mayor getting rock star treatment at every stop. In a few places, the frenzy to get photos with him was such that he had to be hustled into a waiting car, often by his cousin, Winnie Curran, a Boston Police sergeant who is accompanying the mayor on the trip.

Martin J. Walsh may not be a household name throughout Ireland, at least not yet. But here in the west of Ireland, and especially in the southern parts of Connemara where John Walsh and Mary O'Malley were born and raised, he is a celebrity of historic importance, a modern-day chieftain with a deeply personal connection to thousands of people, most of whom still speak Irish as their primary language. The Gael-tacht, as that Irish-speaking region is called here, is most certainly Marty Walsh country.

It may have tested the patience of his security team at times, but the mayor himself has cheerfully accommodated every request. "It's such a big thing for everyone in both villages. They're just super excited, especially the kids who have seen the news in the papers and on the radio. I think they view it as a chance to meet somebody famous. I don't think of myself as someone famous, but they do. And even some of the adults, they know the family and my uncles all these years. They're overwhelmed."

Said Walsh: "I was born in St. Margaret's Hospital. My home is Dorchester, Massachusetts. But I am also from Rosmuc and Carna in Connemara. It was the theme he carried throughout his public remarks in the region: The people here claim Marty as their own, and vice-versa.

The mayor began his 10-day visit by boarding a fully loaded Aer Lingus Airbus, that departed Boston around 7:30 p.m. Boston time last Thursday and arrived at Shannon at 5:25 a.m. Irish time, about 40 minutes ahead of schedule. Walsh, who flew in coach alongside Lorrie, was greeted in the terminal by his mother Mary, who had flown to Ireland the week before to make preparations for her son's trip.

A bus load of Connemara neighbors — who woke up at 3 a.m. to make the trip to Shannon— were on hand to greet Walsh as he made his way through the terminal. At the airport, officials hailed Walsh's visit as the latest boost for the west coast of Ireland— and for the airport itself, which had suffered a five-year period of



Amanda Burke of Lowry's Pub snaps a photo of Henry Kenneally, 75, with Mayor Marty Walsh, at right, during the Boston mayor's surprise visit to Clifden on Sat., Sept. 18.



Marty Walsh joins Joan and Cathal Walsh (no relation) outside the shop in the centre of Clifden in Connemara, Co. Galway. Photos by Bill Forry

decline in the midst of a national recession. Flights have been scaled back as a result, but are now trending back up thanks in large part to renewed daily flights from Boston and New York. The mayor deliberately chose to fly in and out of Shannon — and not Dublin— on this trip.

"It sends a huge message about the strength of Shannon and the region," said Rose Hynes, president of Shannon Airport. "And he lives that message himself."

At a press conference in the airport terminal, Walsh fielded questions from the Irish press corps— and from three of the Boston area reporters covering the trip. Two reporters posed questions to Walsh in the Irish language, which he then translated for the benefit of the non-Irish speakers in the room.

The mayor described Shannon Airport as a special place in his personal history. "This is the very spot where my family's American journey began," he said, recalling that his late father John emigrated from

Galway to England and then Boston in 1956. His mother flew from Shannon in 1959 to begin a life in Boston.

Later, after a breakfast with business and political leaders from the west, Walsh greeted a large group of well-wishers in the outer terminal of Shannon and gave interviews to Irish radio alongside his uncle, Peter O'Malley, a native of Connemara who also lives in Dorchester. He listened as the national Irish radio station, RTE, played a song about Walsh recorded by a group of schoolchildren from his father's town, Carna. The school kids won a contest sponsored by the station, which had asked Irish-language schools to create a song in the mayor's honor.

On Sunday, Walsh attended a morning Mass at St. Mary's Church in Carna, the village where his father was born and raised. Following the Mass, the mayor and his mother took photos with scores of relatives and friends outside of the church and in front of Geraghty's store on the Carna road. A car loaded with American tourists

happened by, stopped, and two women— Kathy O'Leary and Mary Goode— jumped out to greet the mayor and take photos. Goode, a schoolteacher, had met Walsh before when he visited her former school, Dorchester Youth Academy in Fields Corner. "He was one of our biggest supporters," recalled Goode, who lives in Scituate. "He would give out his phone number to all the kids and tell them to 'call me if you ever need anything.'"

On Monday, the mayor made official visits to government offices, including the County Council and the Galway City Council, where Mayor Donal Lyons, a Galway councillor, presented Walsh with a painting followed by the mayor presenting his counterpart with a Paul Revere Bowl. The mayor took photos with the council members, including Councillor Terry O'Flaherty, who has served as mayor of Galway for two terms.

In between meetings, Walsh made a quick visit to Shop Street in Galway's city center, where he was quickly recognized by lo-

cals and American tourists alike and where, the mayor recalled, "There was a little kid walking by and he said to his mate, 'Hey, that's the mayor of Boston.' The other little kid says, 'What's up, Marty?' like I'm in Dorchester. It was pretty funny."

Later, Walsh, in speaking to the *Reporter*, said, "It's amazing the interest in the mayor of Boston and the fact that there's a tie to Ireland, it's even more so. Today was one of the days we started talking business and the similarities between Boston and Galway are clear. Galway's agenda is life sciences, biotech, incubator start-ups and that's our as well. The construction industry here is similar to home, although we're doing a lot better in Boston with construction, but really the cities are very similar. There's real opportunity here for us to cultivate business here and when they do look to expand, Boston should be a natural first step."

On Tuesday, Walsh criss-crossed Connemara, visiting six primary and secondary schools in the region before returning



Michael Ó Cathasaigh, age 5, of Dubhithir, Carna, County Galway awaits the arrival of Mayor Walsh in Carna on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

‘You have a story to tell’

(Continued from page 1)
And he’s left his mark. What’s important is that it’s the right mark.”
Máirtín Ó Catháin, the chairperson of the committee planning the centre, said that Walsh’s engagement in the project goes back to 2008, when he was asked to assist efforts at fundraising for the estimated \$1.5 million

effort. Like many people in the audience, Ó Catháin traveled to Boston last fall to assist in the final push for Walsh’s mayoral campaign. In his remarks, Ó Catháin told the crowd that he was impressed with the multicultural coalition that Walsh built.
“He’s a man who is above parochialism,” said Ó Catháin. “He put to-

gether a great coalition in the campaign. There were people from Central America, people from Asia, people from the black community. Martin had them all together behind him,” Speakers — including Ó Catháin — also heaped praise on Walsh’s mother Mary, who was in attendance. “If ever there was a great ambassador

for Ireland in the United States, it’s Mary Walsh,” said Ó Catháin.
“In the end, the people in this area are humble people. And on this day and with you, Mayor Walsh of Boston beside us, we are proud,” said Ó Catháin.
In his remarks, the mayor said, “As an elected official — it’s our responsi-

bility whether its Carna, or Boston or Dorchester to help keep that history and tradition alive — and that we tell that story, because what makes our city so great isn’t what’s happening today, it’s what happened yesterday,” said Walsh. “In Boston we talk about the history of freedom and democracy and how we stood up and did

it. In Ireland we have a story to tell as well about democracy and standing up for it. You have a story to tell about an area hitting a hard time during the famine.”
He added: “You can never forget where you came from. That’s why I’m here today.”

A return ‘home’ to Connemara

to the Carna to help lay a foundation stone for a planned Emigrant Commemoration Centre to be built with his help. Later, he spoke to a cheering crowd of nearly 500 people at the Connemara Boxing Club near Casla.
Walsh left Galway on Sept. 22 to visit Knock and Donegal before crossing the border into Northern Ireland for stops in Derry

and Belfast, where he will cement a sister-city agreement and address the Belfast City Council and tour the headquarters of the Boston-based company Liberty Mutual. He went on to Dublin, where he appeared in a live interview on “The Saturday Night Show,” a nationally televised program with a large viewership.
He returned to Boston

on Monday, Sept. 27. In an interview with local media at Shannon Airport prior to his departure for Boston, Walsh said that the trip had been productive.
“As Mayor of Boston my job is to go out there and market the city as best as we can,” said Walsh. “When I was here on this trip I tried to talk about tourism and inviting people to Boston and also around business development and making sure they know Boston is open (for business).
“As much as I enjoyed the family, this trip was really focused on the business connections and the government connections, making connections with other mayors from other cities here in Ireland and that’s important because in America a lot is built on the relationships with other mayors.
“I’ve learned a lot more about the (Irish) economy and more particularly about the business community here in this country. “I definitely see Ireland as an economy that is moving again and I think there’s a lot of opportunity, not just for Ireland from Boston, but there’s a lot of opportunity for Boston from Ireland.”



The Mayor of Derry, Councillor Brenda Stevenson presented a gift to Mayor Marty Walsh, at a reception in the Guildhall on Sept. 24.

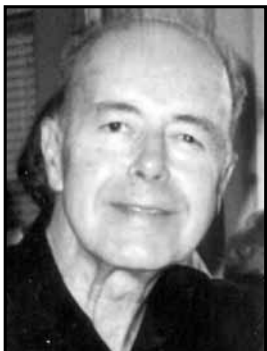


Mary Goode of Scituate spotted the mayor as she drove through Carna on Sunday afternoon. Goode and Walsh had met before: She taught at Dorchester Youth Academy in Fields Corner. “He was one of our biggest supporters,” recalled Goode.

Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

US Inversion Action Impacts Irish-Based Firms – President Obama had been strongly hinting that the US government would react to the growing threat of inversion by multinationals seeking to cut their US corporate tax bills, and that came true late last month. In an inversion, companies avoid or reduce US taxes by setting up a foreign company in a country, then moving its tax domicile to that country.



Bill O'Donnell

The US Treasury announced new guidelines to curtail so-called corporate inversions, making them more difficult to do and less rewarding. The immediate impact of the US action pushed a number of corporate shares down, resulting in \$10 billion being wiped off the value of more than a dozen companies in Ireland and the United States. These new Treasury rulings follow heated discussions in the US on companies considering moving tax domiciles to firms

in places like Ireland.

Some of the impacted companies suffered almost instant losses to their share price. These included AstraZeneca, operating in Ireland, and Big Pharma firms Shire, Abbvie, and Pfizer, also operating in Ireland. Share price losses were also incurred by other firms in the US and Ireland.

The Irish finance ministry staunchly defends its tax policies and the presence of hundreds of US firms in Ireland, saying that Ireland has “never sought firms on that basis [of taxes] but rather is interested in seeking companies that bring real jobs and real benefit to the country.” We have not heard the last of this, that’s for sure.

Casino Plans For Belfast Heating Up–The UK’s Rank Group is seriously looking into the possibility of opening the first gambling casino in Belfast, which at present has not granted any licenses for such development, which would entail changes in legislation to allow a gaming operation in the North’s capital city. The Rank Company has met with city councillors and some members of the Local Assembly in an effort to gauge political and community sentiment.

Company representatives spoke of the financial and employment benefits to the city. The average annual revenue per Rank casino (they own and operate 55 of them in Britain) is \$6.5 million, and the annual profit for Rank per casino is over \$800,000. The company went to considerable length in its meetings to assure conservative Protestants and anti-gambling elements in Belfast that they run responsible programs and would operate that way in Belfast.

In an interesting sidebar, the North’s Minister of Social Development, **Nelson McCauseland**, said the law would not be changed to allow Rank’s proposal. However, he said that before he was recently eliminated from the Cabinet by First Minister **Peter Robinson**, in what was likely an unrelated political move.

A Warm, Triumphant Return for Boston’s Mayor – It has been an uninterrupted cavalcade of kisses, hugs, and smiling faces for Boston Mayor **Marty Walsh** in his poignant return to Connemara, the land at the Atlantic’s edge where he spent so many youthful holidays. I recall former JFK aide **Dave Powers** saying how touching and memorable **John Kennedy’s** visit in 1963 to Wexford was and how the president spoke of it often and in glowing terms during the months before his death.

It certainly seems probable that Walsh’s friendly invasion of Connemara will provide the mayor a similar set of warming memories. But there has also been a business dimension to His Honor’s return that has featured fresh conversations about increased commercial ties between Galway and Boston. The presence in Boston of so many successful Galway natives, many heavily invested in Boston area business, should augur well for Mayor Walsh’s latest campaign.

One of the stops the mayor made on his trip was to St. Patrick’s school in Galway to keep a promise to **Sean Faherty**, almost eleven, and a pupil at the primary school. Last summer while campaigning for the office he now holds, he promised Sean, who was in Boston visiting relatives, that he would come to Ireland this year and would see Sean at St. Patrick’s school. The mayor indeed kept his promise in his only school visit and following a question period he was saluted by St. Patrick’s Boys Brass Band.

Ian Paisley’s Passing Brings Pause To North – After studying the actions and lengthy political maneuvering of the most dominant figure in the Northern Unionist ranks, I have my own deeply personal opinions of the man. **Ian Paisley** began as a founding minister with an unquenchable, virulent dislike for Catholics. He later became Democratic Unionist Party leader and First Minister of the devolved Northern Ireland Stormont government.

He was a man you could not ignore. As a politician and Free Presbyterian pastor he worked both sides of the street. People who knew him, or had spent time with him, characterized Big Ian as a charmer and someone you could work with on economic issues.

John Hume, Nobelist and longtime leader of the SDLP, said, “History will record his political career — one which took him from the politics of division to a place where he accepted agreement as a solution, the need for power-sharing, and respect for diversity. But history will also ask if he should have reached this point sooner.”

The accumulated assessment of Paisley was gentler by the Irish nationalist community than I thought it might be, and unsurprisingly reverent by his Unionist colleagues and followers. The tacit cliché about speaking no evil of those who have left us was generally in good operational form at his departure.

My feelings, always from a distance, were unwavering in the belief that he cruelly delayed a peaceful solution, or at least a pathway to one, for years, and while he was at it, his bigoted, narrow vision helped fan the flames of division and hatred between the two traditions in the North.

I also recall over the years his unrelenting, arrogant call to sectarian warfare, as his hate-filled dismissal of nationalist injustices became the IRA’s most potent recruiting voice. And lastly, I believe that his final conversion to power-sharing and the assumption of a leadership role in the new government (as a price of entry) and his comfortable place in history was his last, best strategy to achieve the honors and recognition to a point where many of us might forgive, if not forget, Paisley’s racist rants and the thinly disguised pandering to give substance and a missing integrity to a regime that was more Argentinian than Irish or British. He was a man who relished keeping the boot on the necks of the Taigs. That anti-Catholic obsession was muted but not gone at his twilight.

Yes, we should honor the dead, but honor also the reality of history and a man’s decades of behavior.

Chuck Feeney Spending Down – The American business genius, and later one of the this era’s most ardent philanthropists, **Chuck Feeney**, 83, is nearing the end of his personal drive to divest himself of all of his Duty-Free Shops millions. Late last month his Atlantic Philanthropies gave Northern Ireland \$32.8 million to be used for the promotion of shared education for Catholic and Protestant children, parenting programs, and improvement of dementia care. The Feeney money will be matched by over \$50 million from the Stormont government in the North.

Over the years Feeney’s philanthropy, targeted specifically for education, has enriched the Irish coffers by almost a billion dollars. **Martin McGuinness**, the deputy first minister at Stormont, called the Feeney gift a “colossal contribution. These projects will have a significant impact on the quality of people’s lives, now and for years to come. The legacy will be a brighter future for the most vulnerable in our community.”

Early on, Chuck Feeney answered a question about his ambitions, saying at the time “I want the last check I write to bounce.” Good man.

Did You Know ... that contrary to the rhetoric of those who have been enemies of immigration reform and fair play, being in the US without permission is a civil violation, *not* a criminal offense. The act of being present in the United States in violation of the immigration laws is not, standing alone, a crime. While federal immigration law does criminalize some actions that may be related to an undocumented presence in the United States, undocumented presence alone is not a violation of federal criminal law.

Irish UN Force Stands Tall – The 130-strong Irish United Nation’s contingent has been in harm’s way in the Golan Heights observation mission where the living is anything but easy. But there have been some structural changes that have moved the Irish temporarily from their mission base in Syria to a camp on the Israeli-controlled side in mid-September.

The Irish, along with contingents from four other UN peacekeeping missions, were shifted because of the threat posed by factions in Syria’s civil war. The Irish Defense Minister has said that the Irish would not be dragged into a civil war where UN posts were being attacked.

However, the Irish are confident that the next contingent of peacekeepers will again be based at the critical Golan Heights observation post and will continue to serve the UN mission on the Golan Heights as long as they are needed.

A Few Words Help Push Irish Posting–President Obama’s nominee as our ambassador to Ireland had run up against the partisan gridlock that has made the White House appointment process a veritable battleground. Sometimes, though, it’s stunning how a few well-placed words from the right spot can move things along, even in the glacial style of the US Senate.

After **Kevin O’Malley**, a Missouri attorney and friend of the president, finally had his Senate confirmation hearing, it appeared that there would be a further delay before the Senate vote that would send him off to Ireland. The 21-month delay re the Irish post had already become the longest in history.

Enter the well-connected American Ireland Fund and its chairman, New York hotelier **John Fitzpatrick**. Concerned with the uncertainty of when final Senate approval would be voted, Fitzpatrick wrote to two old friends who could move things along: Democrat **Harry Reid**, Senate majority leader, and his Republican counterpart, minority leader **Mitch McConnell**. Fitzpatrick, in his letter to the Senate leaders, stressed the long delay, the unseemliness of any further delay, and the bewilderment in Ireland

at the slow process in filling the Irish post. O’Malley was confirmed in short order by a Senate voice vote on September 18.

Bad News, Good News in the Bay Area – Every year thousands of Irish students with J1 visas come to America for work study programs. It’s part work and school and part a summer under the sun in America. Most of the visiting students behave themselves, enjoy their time here, and learn some things they didn’t know before they came.

This year San Francisco, one of America’s elegant cities, hosted hundreds of youngsters in rented homes, often just vacated by other students going home for the summer. But something went terribly wrong and a large apartment rented by seven J1 Irish visitors was trashed beyond recognition (the photos looked as if a tornado struck inside the house).

The Irish Consul General **Philip Grant** was notified and he, in turn and after confirming the scope of the damage, notified the J1 agencies and members of the San Francisco Irish community. The outpouring of outrage and embarrassment by the city’s Irish was instant and generous. Irish construction companies quickly offered to repair the extensive damage, and other J1 Irish students, hurt and embarrassed by the harm to their collective reputation, offered help.

Other young people volunteered for repair and cleanup and still others offered to share in the expense of repairing the damage, which will run into the tens of thousands. And other students offered to track down those responsible for the destruction. Consul General Grant called the response in San Francisco “amazing. And it was!”

I was involved for a number of years in bringing over students for summer programs and all in all, the young people from Dublin, Belfast, Derry, Donegal, etc. behaved themselves, completed the Boston area programs, and returned home better for the experience.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

The North’s First Minister, Peter Robinson, is deep into political trouble these days so he shuffled his cabinet. It’s a bit like baseball managers. Can’t fire the team but in this instance he fired some team members and kept his managerial post. Not for long, I think. ... Shoot-to-kill by the army and the-then RUC is now, 32 years later, getting some attention from the British. ... A Belfast Telegraph editorial asks where the mainland British are while Stormont and the NI government is into a meltdown. ... Bad news for friend Rhode Island Rep. **Peter Martin**, defeated for another term in the RI Assembly. He was the good guy who was instrumental in getting a full pardon signed into law for an innocent Irishman hanged in 1845. ... Give a cheer for an infrequent All-Ireland “double. Football wins for junior and senior sides from the Kingdom. ... Emigrants from other EU countries in Ireland get dissed all the time. A Romanian worker found \$4,000 when he was cleaning and turned it into his manager. Good Man!

Congrats to the New England Council’s **Jim Brett** on his well deserved induction into the Special Olympics Hall of Fame. ... Short memories at Fox when criticizing Obama for his measly vacation time off. **George W.** (remember him?) had three and a half times more vacation than President Obama’s time off and even more uncounted at Kennebunkport and elsewhere. Get the numbers right for a change. ... Belfast’s Lord Mayor has a city-paid deluxe BMW worth \$90,000 (for official use, of course), ... Taoiseach **Enda Kenny**, who’s been on a honeymoon here, rejected three very qualified females in favor of a hack male friend for a vacant Seanad seat, where Irish pols go to wait for the next Dail election. ... The British are spending \$1.6 million to make South Armagh, the old “Bandit Country,” appealing to tourists. Are the watch towers gone yet? ... A really good Samaritan in Galway anonymously donated \$13,000 so that children in an African refugee family living in a hostel for 6 years could get started on an education. Great Man.

The cost of a night out in Dublin is \$105 and much of that for booze. ... **Maureen O’Hara** will officially be honored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts at the Governors Awards on Nov. 8. Maureen is unique, one of a kind. ... The Gaelic Roots 2014 Dance & Ceili kicks off at BC’s Gasson Hall on the evening of Oct. 7 with more to come in November & December (email: gaelicroots@listserv.bc.edu). ... Guinness is “going blonde” for folks in its US market folks who are not entranced by the dark stuff. Should be available in late September. ... A former Irish minister from Kilkenny, **Phil Hogan**, hit the jackpot. He is the European Union’s new Secretary of Agriculture at \$400,000 a year, controlling the \$80 billion EU Ag budget. Wow! ... Well done to Democrat **Maura Healey**, a veteran prosecutor who will follow Martha Coakley as state attorney general. ... Irish couples are waiting longer to say I do. The about-to-be-married in Ireland these days are, on average, men 34.7 years old; women 32.6. ... The sheets are irrevocably torn between Martin McGuinness and Peter Robinson. Guess the second edition of the Chuckle Twins is heading for a divorce. ... The world’s largest airline (according to reports) is Emirate Airlines, and they are looking to fill 5,000 positions. Winning candidates will be based in Dubai. ... If you wonder why your eyes glaze over watching Patriot games, consider this: During a typical telecast lasting under three hours you will get to see a commercial message (AKA as “an ad”) every two minutes. Absurd, and very greedy by the troubled NFL honchos.

Local roots, union ties boost SullyMac success

By Bill Forry
Editor

One of Dorchester’s largest private employers is a Port Norfolk-based company that was founded in 1969 by two men who gave it their names: Sullivan & McLaughlin, better know by their current handle “SullyMac.”

The electrical construction and maintenance firm is now under the ownership and management of a second generation of McLaughlins, led by president John McLaughlin and his brother-in-law, executive vice-president John Rudicus. Together, with company CEO Dennis Miller, the two have managed to build SullyMac into one of the region’s premier contracting firms with a staff of more than 500 union men and women, most of them affiliated with another Dorchester institution, IBEW Local 103.

“We’re both very proud that it’s a Dorchester-based, family-run business that has a great feel to it,” said Rudicus, who is married to John McLaughlin’s sister Katie. “This neighborhood has been great to us.”

SullyMac has been a good neighbor as well. Originally situated on Dorchester Avenue, first in an old horse stable near Peabody Square and then in space closer to Freeport Street, the company needed to relocate as business picked up in the late 1990s. They moved for a short time to Quincy and considered moving even farther afield to a suburban locale with less expensive options. But in 1999, when the SullyMac team discovered a building on Lawley Street that was once used as a warehouse for the maritime manufacturer of the same name, it seized the opportunity to move back to Dorchester.

“It just made sense to us,” said McLaughlin,



John McLaughlin (right), president of the Dorchester-based Sullivan & McLaughlin Companies and company executive vice president John Rudicus. Bill Forry photo

whose grandfather, Hugh McLaughlin, was an Irish immigrant who worked in maintaining St. Peter’s Church and lived on Meetinghouse Hill where he raised his family, including John’s dad. “Everyone you knew and did business with were here and we had so many of our employees from here.”

The company has restored the old ship-building factory into primarily office space, with some storage room set aside for equipment. The company has added new space in recent years on nearby Tenean Street, buying a factory once used to make Sunbeam bread products.

Tag team members McLaughlin and Rudicus say that the firm’s growth and success – it expects to bill in excess of \$150 million this fiscal year – has been a result of smart hires and astute sales strategies. When John and his brother Hugh first

came to work with their dad in 1991, there were only 12 full-time employees and half of them would often be idle, depending on seasonal work in the field. They added a service division – providing specialized repairs and installations for bank ATM machines, for example – which allowed them to add more staff and keep them employed more often.

“There was an ebb and flow to the work and we noticed that half of the guys would be out of work,” said Rudicus. “We said, ‘It doesn’t have to be that way.’”

McLaughlin and Rudicus also forged better relations with local labor leaders, a primary one being Michael Monahan, longtime business agent at IBEW Local 103. In the early days of SullyMac, McLaughlin says, the employees had resisted joining the local. But as years progressed – and

the union president became enamored of John’s father in particular – the relationship softened. These days, McLaughlin directly links the growth of SullyMac to the contemporaneous expansion of the union’s reputation and membership.

“Mike Monahan was a fan of my dad and we built a better relationship,” said John. “The shift in our attitudes started that trend. I would say that Michael Monahan’s suc-

cess and the success of this company really parallel one another. He’s been a progressive and dynamic leader.”

SullyMac has plugged into major clients like Fenway Park – and became a more well-known entity in the public’s mind by sponsoring Friday Nights at Fenway and a generous donor to the Jimmy Fund. They also joined an effort coordinated by Local 103 to send electrical workers to Haiti to help build that

country’s first teaching hospital, a state-of-the-art 300-bed facility that is now open in Mirebalais. SullyMac also oversaw the design of the solar panel array that is on the roof and powers the entire building. Volunteers from the company flew down to Haiti and installed everything from light fixtures and ceiling fans.

Closer to home, SullyMac is plugging into the civic fabric of Dorchester as well. The firm’s bucket trucks are frequently called upon to assist in seasonal decorations along Dorchester Avenue, for example.

Whether SullyMac’s ownership will extend to a third generation remains to be seen. Rudicus and McLaughlin have six children between them – none of them old enough yet to be employed there. For now, the focus is on recruiting and keeping top-notch talent among the union electricians. “We developed that skill set and we do a fair amount of aptitude testing,” said Rudicus.

McLaughlin, who is a salesman, not an electrician, said the company still employs the same philosophy that his father used to good effect. “He had 12 phenomenal employees and they all worked for John McLaughlin. It was a philosophy that stuck with us – that we’re going to trust you to do this.”

Synergy’s Greaney introduces ‘Blackline’

A new member-based livery venture was launched in Boston last month by Limerick native Dave Greaney, president of Synergy Investments. “I am excited to introduce you to Blackline, a new business venture from Synergy Invest-

ments,” Greaney said in an introductory email to friends. He said the new venture “provides premier personal transport services in the Greater Boston area. Our fleet of 2014 Cadillac Escalades and our professional & experienced drivers will

ensure a comfortable, safe and reliable experience. To enjoy the full benefits of our free Blackline membership, Greaney added, please contact our director of sales, Jon Mahoney, at 617 517-4108 or jmahoney@blacklineboston.com.”

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| OCTOBER | | | |
| 3 | Friday – MARIAN CURRY DIRECT FROM IRELAND. Doors open at 7 pm. Admission \$20. Call 617-327-7306 or 617-549-9812 for tickets or table reservations. | Carol O’Connor from TableCritic at 617-323-0670 or caroloc@tablecritic.com for more information. 7-11 pm and \$25 admission. | |
| 5 | Sunday – Wild Rovers | 26 | Sunday – Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton |
| 10 | Friday – PUB NIGHT with Irish Whispa. FREE ADMISSION | | |
| 11 | Saturday – TR DALLAS DIRECT FROM IRELAND: Doors open at 7 pm. Admission is \$20. Call 617-327-7306 or 617-549-9812 for tickets or table reservations. | NOVEMBER | |
| 12 | Sunday – Traditions | 1 | Saturday – DECLAN NERNEY DIRECT FROM IRELAND: Doors open at 7 pm. \$25. Call Pat McDonough at 781-534-3919 or visit www.IrishMusicNation.com for tickets or info. |
| 19 | Sunday – John Connors and the Irish Express | 2 | Sunday – Fintan Stanley |
| 24 | Friday – Election of Officers from 5-8 pm. You must have a YELLOW membership card to vote. | 7 | Friday – Holy Ghost Fathers Annual Dance. Call Father Peter Nolan for more information at 617-325-1300. |
| 25 | Saturday – OKTOBER FALL FESTIVAL: Come and enjoy a German-themed evening of music, food, raffles, and contests Call | 8 | Saturday – COMEDIAN CAHAL DUNNE DIRECT FROM IRELAND: Doors open at 7 pm. \$20. Call 617-327-7306 or 617-549-9812 for tickets or table reservations. |
| | | 9 | Sunday – Noel Henry’s Irish Show Band |

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January 7, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

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November 5, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
December 9, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

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2016 Visa Lottery is open for applications

An annual Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, commonly known as the “Visa Lottery,” makes a number of immigrant visas available each year by random selection to people from countries with low rates of immigration to the US. For fiscal year 2016, 50,000 visas will be available, and people born in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland are eligible to apply. Application for the program is online between October 1, 2014 and November 3, 2014, and is free of charge. The Department of State, Office of Visa Services, advises the public of a notable increase in fraudulent emails and letters sent to Diversity Immigrant Visa (DV) program (Visa Lottery) applicants. The scammers behind these fraudulent emails and letters are posing as the US government in an attempt to extract payment from DV applicants.

Applicants who are applying for this program should be aware that only websites with the “.gov” indicator in their website address are official government sites. Many other websites provide legitimate and accurate information but applicants should only submit their personal information on the official DV Lottery website. Sharing your personal information on an illegitimate website also increases the risk of identity theft.

If you remember how the Diversity Visa Lottery works, it will be hard for scammers to get your money: It is free to enter the Diversity Visa lottery at dvlottery.state.gov.

The program is never identified as “The Green Card Lottery”. The drawing is random. There is no way to increase your chance of winning.

You can find out your status only at dvlottery.state.gov.

You do not pay until you find out your entry was chosen, and you go to the U.S. embassy or consulate in person for your appointment.

For a complete list of countries/areas by region whose natives are eligible to apply, for information about other eligibility requirements, and for a link to the official application website, refer to travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/immigrate/diversity-visa/entry.html.



FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS



The Irish International Immigrant Center and Cathedral Cares of The Cathedral of The Holy Cross are offering a Free Health Screening, including flu shots, blood pressure and wellness screenings. Learn about your health insurance and access options and stay healthy this winter.

Drop-ins welcome, though appointments are recommended. Contact Iarla at 617-542-7654 ext. 32, iohallmhurain@iicenter.org.

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(ENTER AT 201 DEVONSHIRE ST)

WHEN:
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10:30AM - 1PM
AND
MONDAY, OCT. 20TH
3PM - 6PM

CONTACT:
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617-542-7654 EXT 32
IOHALLMHURAIN@IICENTER.ORG



The Irish International Immigrant Center provides free legal support and representation to the Irish immigrant community. Weekly legal clinics where you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attorneys are held throughout the Greater Boston area.

For information, call us at (617) 542-7654.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule

Tuesday, October 7th
IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

Tuesday, October 21st
IIIC, 100 Franklin St. Lower Level, Downtown Boston Entrance is at 201 Devonshire Street

Tuesday, October 28th
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275 West Broadway, South Boston

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2014 Solas Award Profile: Sister Lena Deevy, LSA

Since 1993, the Irish International Immigrant Center has recognized some truly inspiring leaders by presenting them with our Solas Award. Year after year, we’ve taken time to reflect on the difference an individual can make – locally, nationally, and globally. This year we are delighted that one of our Solas Award recipients will be our own Executive Director Emerita, Sister Lena Deevy, LSA.

Before coming to Boston,

Sister Lena was a community organizer in Wales and Ireland. She then led the IIIC’s day-to-day work for 24 years before stepping down from the role last year. Under her guidance, the Center grew from a volunteer hotline to the multi-service welcome center it is today. Tens of thousands of immigrants have directly benefitted from the IIIC’s assistance since its founding in 1989, and many more have benefitted from Sister Lena’s outspoken advocacy on

immigration issues. She has worked alongside others to promote the welfare of all immigrants, and to highlight how much immigrants contribute to our communities and to society.

Beyond her role at the IIIC, Sister Lena has been a voice for peace, justice, and inclusion on a global scale. In addition to her work for Ireland she has supported similar efforts in Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua, the Philippines, South Africa, and many



Sister Lena Deevy Led IIIC for 24 years

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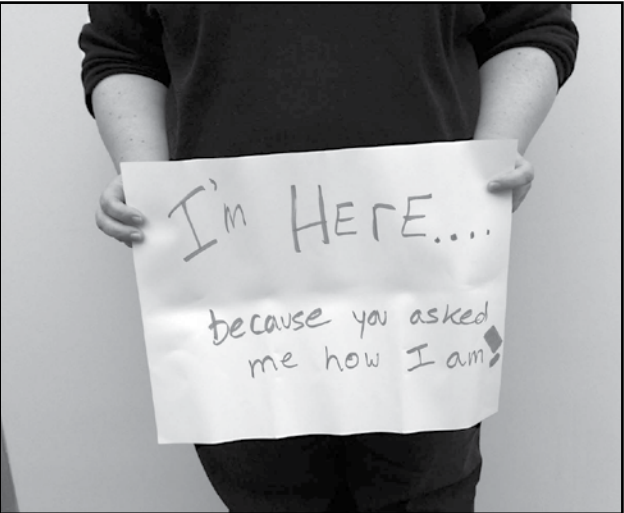
By DANIELLE OWEN
IIIC STAFF

A few months ago, we here in Wellness received an email message and a picture from someone who had attended one of our health screenings a few years ago. She wanted us to know how important that day turned out to be for her. She says she was seriously considering suicide. She had struggled with depression for years, had just lost her job of 10 years, and felt that she had no one and nothing in her life, especially as all her family were at home in Ireland and she was living here without status. She reminded us that she came

to the health screening to get her flu shot as she thought it would help her find another job working with the elderly.

“I was as low as any human being could have been but then you guys offered me a cup of tea while I was waiting for my flu shot and asked me how I was ... and then it all came out. I had a counseling appointment the next day, information on health care access, and suddenly I knew I wasn’t alone. Thank you. If you weren’t here, I might not be. I just wanted you to know that you made a difference.”

She took the picture accompanying this article



and emailed it with her message, and we thought it would be a wonderful way for people to share with us how something as simple as offering a cup of tea or asking the simple question “How are you?” or other small steps can change someone’s world, for a minute, for a lifetime.

Do you have a similar “I’m Here...” story? Did someone say something or do something to remind you that you weren’t alone! Then write it down and take a picture of it and send it into us here at the

IIIC or post it onto our IIIC Wellness Services Page. If you are walking with us on Oct. 4, share it on our event page on Facebook. Let’s show just how easy it is to spread hope and save a life. Help us ensure similar stories have happier endings by joining us for our fundraising “Together For Hope” suicide prevention and awareness walk that day in Dorchester. Check out this link on our website – iicenter.org/together-for-hope/ – for more information. You too can walk to honor those we love and to save lives!

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O’Brien talk on Alzheimer’s at Lesley Oct. 21

Lesley University of Cambridge will host a special evening with Greg O’Brien, a longtime Cape Cod resident and BIR special contributor who was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s in 2009. O’Brien has been using his gift for communicating to illuminate the patient perspective of living with the disease.

He will speak in Lesley’s Washburn Auditorium on Tues., Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. The evening will begin with a screening of a short film about him, “A Place Called Pluto,” directed by Steve James, the producer-director of “Hoop Dreams.”

Irish Heritage Festival set for Oct. 12: Let the music, fun begin

(Continued from page 1) will be featuring a diverse line-up of performers from Greater Boston and elsewhere in New England. Acts confirmed at press time include: Erin's Melody; Silver Spears; Devri; Pauline Wells; Ireland the Band; John Dlaton; Mairin Uí Cheide; The Gobshites; The Fenian Sons; Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann; Tin Can Hooley; Erin's Guild; Tom Lanigan; Noggin; Michael O'Leary; the Boston Fire Department Pipe Band; Patrick Kennedy; Joe Walsh; Paudi Walsh; and Colleen White and Sean Smith.

Boston-area Irish dance schools will be well represented at the festival, with the Keane O'Brien Academy of Irish Dance, Clifden Academy of Irish Dance, O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance; Smith-Houlihan Dance Academy; Greene-O'Leary School of Irish Dance, and Brady-Kenny-O'Brien Academy of Irish Dance.

The Press Gang has emerged as one of the more exciting traditional Irish music groups in New England, or elsewhere, with a fresh, energetic sound built on the accordion and concertina playing of Chris "Junior" Stevens and fiddling of Alden Robinson, with the backing of Owen Marshall on guitar and bouzouki. The band released its first CD in 2010 and is finishing up a new album.

Cunningham, a Connemara native and part of a



At last year's Irish Heritage Festival "Dorchester Strong" — A parade of local Irish dance schools preceded performances at last year's Irish Heritage Festival at Florian Hall and the McKeon Post.

Photo by Sean Smith

family of dancers that has performed with The Chieftains, Sharon Shannon and Altan, among others, is equally celebrated for his talents as a choreographer, instructor, and producer. Most recently, he has performed in and co-directed "Atlantic Steps," a stage production that chronicles the story of sean-nos ("old-style") dance.

Keith started out as a classical violinist, but began playing Irish fiddle while living in Chicago and — to the delight of many — has continued to do so since arriving in Boston more than 20 years ago. He is a regular at local sessions, including those at pubs such as The Druid and The Burren, and has been a teacher and mentor to musicians throughout

Greater Boston; he also has performed with Robbie O'Connell and Aoife Clancy, and as part of "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn."

Cunningham and Keith will be part of a special sean-nos dance exhibition that will also feature accordion players Paudi Walsh, Joe Walsh, and Sean Gannon, as well as piper Joey Abarta, dancer

Jaclyn O'Riley, and singer Mairin Uí Cheide.

Westmeath native TR Dallas, a crowd-pleaser at last year's festival, has made numerous radio and TV appearances during a career spanning more than three decades. He has toured with such luminaries as Johnny Cash, Boxcar Willie, Don Williams, and Foster and Allen.

Other attractions at the festival will include John Henry's World of Magic; TIARA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association), a non-profit organization established to develop and promote the growth, study, and exchange of idea among people and organizations interested in Irish genealogical and historical research and education; and a visit by the Irish Settlers Club of New England.

Says Uí Cheide, a co-organizer of the event: "Many people have worked hard to make this jewel of a festival a reality. It's dependent solely on the generosity of Dorchester businesses, and the overall support of the community, not to mention the efforts of a committed neighborhood committee that includes its president, Sean Weir, and my fellow co-chair, Patrick McDonagh."

"The festival is guided by a belief that our Irish heritage needs to be exhibited in its many forms, through language, music, song and dance — and with that extraordinary friendliness and openness that welcomes all to participate. We are truly blessed to live in a land that allows us to be free to practice and showcase our cultures. We are rooted in who we are, and this makes us happier, stronger Americans."

For updates and information on the festival — including a list of vendors who will be on site — see dorchesteririshheritagefest.com.

— SEAN SMITH

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AOH Notebook

Chaplain Waters heading to Philly

Upon returning to the Bay State after enjoying the fine hospitality of the St. Louis, Missouri, Hibernians and the sights of St. Louis while attending the National Convention, Massachusetts Hibernians were given the news that their chaplain, the Rev. William F. Waters, OSA, was being transferred to Philadelphia.

Father Waters, who also served as chaplain to the Essex County Boards and Division 8 in Lawrence, is a Philadelphia native who has been reassigned as pastor of St. Augustine Parish in that city.

A reception for Father Waters was hosted by Division 8 at the Cladagh Pub & Restaurant in Lawrence.

...
A Committee of AOH and LAOH members has been busy making plans for the State Boards Banquet, which will be held in Peabody on Nov. 9. Boston's Consul General of Ireland, Breandán O Caollaí, will be the featured speaker at the dinner. A Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Peabody will precede the banquet.

...
Bill Sullivan, President of Division 8 in Lawrence and a member of the AOH National Board, has been named the recipient of the David R. Burke Golden

Bridges Award, which will be presented at the Golden Bridges Luncheon on Oct. 9 at the Seaport

Plaza Hotel and World Trade Center in Boston. The luncheon and awards are sponsored by the Irish Echo.

Past recipients of this award include former US Ambassador to the Vatican and Boston Mayor Ray Flynn and former Boston Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole.

...
Division 18 in Salem hosted the fall meeting of the State Board at its Division home. A commemorative ceremony in memory of the Commodore John Barry followed the State Board Meeting.

...
In other events of note:

• President Jack Lahey and Essex County LAOH President Joyce Buckley are pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. James Wenzel, OSA, as the new AOH & LAOH Essex County Chaplain. ... The AOH and LAOH Essex County Memorial

Mass for AOH & LAOH deceased members will be held on Sun., Oct. 26, at 11 a.m. in Austin Hall on the campus of Merrimack College, North Andover, MA. The Mass will be celebrated by Father Wenzel

• Division 1 held its annual Yankee Homecoming Irish Sunset Cruise and

the Division marched and sponsored a float in Newburyport's Annual Homecoming Parade.

• The Rev. Joseph Nally has been appointed the new Chaplain of Division 8 in Clinton.

• Division 8's Hibernian Family & Friends Outing was held at the Greater Lawrence Community Boating Grounds in South Lawrence. The Rev. Patrick Armano, a member of Division 8, celebrated a Mass on the grounds of the Boating program. The event was attended by members and friends from Florida, New Hampshire, Michigan, and Massachusetts.

• Division 11 held its annual golf tournament to benefit its scholarship fund at the Meadow in Peabody. The following day, members and friends were treated to a steak and lobster dinner at the Division Home.

Division 19 will commemorate the tragic event of the Brig St. John on Sun., Oct. 5, 2014, with a memorial Mass at Saint Anthony's Church in Cohasset at 1 pm. A reception will follow in the church hall and a wreath laying ceremony will take place at the AOH Celtic Memorial Cross at the gravesite of the victims in Cohasset Memorial Cemetery.

• Division 36 hosted a concert featuring Niamh Dunnet and Sean Og Graham at its Hibernian Cultural Center.

Compiled by William J. Sullivan.


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For the O'Briens, it's about more than dancing

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The O'Brien family has plenty to show for its involvement with Irish dancing. Their Newton home's basement, renovated some years ago to accommodate a small practice studio, is full of photos and trophies that chronicle the success of Conor, 21, Claire, 23, and Alana, 25, over nearly two decades of competitions in the US and elsewhere.

And that collection of hardware has a couple of new entries from the World Irish Dance Championship this past April in London, as a result of Conor's winning the Men 20-21 title, and another first-place finish by Conor and Claire as part of the O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance team in the Senior Mixed Ceili competition.

But talk to the O'Brien siblings, and their parents, Stephanie and Andrew, and you get an expansive view of life with Irish dancing, one that goes far beyond the accumulation of prizes. They speak of meeting individual challenges while simultaneously enjoying the familial bonds that have been tested, and ultimately strengthened, by the commitment to dance.

"The three of them knew it was up to them to do the work," says Stephanie. "But, as a par-

ent, it's crucial to help your kids set high goals and deal with achieving them – or with *not* achieving them."

"The most important thing Mom and Dad did for us," says Alana, "was that they were good at being parents, rather than trying to be coaches."

Make no mistake: The O'Briens are proud of the trophies, ribbons, certificates and other marks of accomplishments, but these many years of involvement in Irish dance have been a means of personal growth, for child and adult alike, say the O'Briens – something to savor for its own sake. As another season of preparation for various competitions unfolds among Irish dance schools throughout Boston, New England and beyond, the O'Briens perhaps represent that ideal all-family experience in Irish dance, where true fulfillment isn't merely something quantified by judge's scores.

"The families are key to making it all work," says Lisa Chaplin, a teacher at O'Shea-Chaplin, where the three O'Brien children have been students since early childhood. "They encourage the dancers, cheer them on, and support one another. But while we do encourage the kids to compete and be the best dancers they can be, we make it clear that this is not the be-all



(L-R) Alana, Conor and Claire O'Brien of Newton with some mementos from their years of Irish dance competitions.
Sean Smith photo

and end-all of dancing – and that's a message the families can help reinforce."

It's certainly a message that the younger O'Briens have taken to heart, as they muse on an activity in which they've been engaged most of their lives.

"Dancing is rewarding in the relationships you cultivate, not only within your dance

school but among the other dancers in competitions, and those relationships can last years," says Claire. "You also have the opportunity to travel when you're young, sometimes to faraway places. Then, when you add the reward of qualifying in a competition, and seeing the big stages, that's when you really feel that it all pays off."

Adds Conor: "It's a competition, but also a performance. You're there to dance not just for the seven judges, but for the hundreds, even thousands, of people behind them in the audience. And when you feel that connection to them, there's nothing like it."

Of course, no two families are
(Continued on page 15)

For McCaela Donovan, life is all about theatre

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO BIR

The actress and educator McCaela Donovan (no relation) could definitely use a few more hours in her day. For her full-time job, she's Assistant Director of the School of Theatre at Boston University. Beyond that, she also finds time to serve as Associate Artistic Director of Bridge Repertory Theatre, currently beginning its second season. Finally, as a much in-demand talent, she's appearing in Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award-winning "Assassins" at New Repertory Theatre in Watertown.

Donovan estimates that between now and January, her combined obligations will find her working 88 hours a week. "But I love it," she said.

Originally from up-state New York, McCaela attended Boston College, earned her master's in Theater Education at Emerson and then got her master's of Fine Arts in Acting from Brandeis.

Despite an already crammed schedule, she helped found Bridge Rep last year. The company just opened its second season with the world premiere of "The Forgetting Curve." Productions of "Fufu & Oreos," "Sixty Miles To Silver Lake," and "Julius Caesar" are still to come. Prior to a rehearsal for "Assassins" at New Rep, we spoke about her work. Following is a condensed look at our conversation:



Casey Tucker is Emma Goldman, Paula Langton is Sarah Jane Moore, and McCaela Donovan is Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, in Stephen Sondheim's "Assassins," playing Oct 4 - 26 at New Repertory Theatre in Watertown.
Rob Lorino photo

Q. Bridge Repertory Theatre had a really successful first season. How did that all come about?

A. There were four of us involved in a production of "All's Well That Ends Well" at Commonwealth Shakespeare. The majority of us had gone through a lot of graduate school

training and we were all on the same page. Olivia D'Ambrosio (Producing Artistic Director), who formulated the idea to start the company, had lunch with myself and our colleague Joe Short in Providence. She sat us down and said "I really want to start doing our own work." And that's how it all started,

over lunch.

Q. Tell me about your role as Bridge's Associate Artistic Director.

A. I kind of think of myself as the connector. Olivia has really good skills in terms of organizational, administrative skills, and pooling resources and thinking "productorially" outside

the box. And Joe is really wonderful with set design and set building and construction... My area of strength has always been that I really love to network, and not in the slimy kind way (laughs). I love people and I love to be social. I've unknowingly networked for eight years. It wasn't even intentional. I just went and started seeing a lot of theatre and having coffee with people and getting to know the artists in Boston. That has built, unbeknownst to me, this enormous network that I have to pull from and go to.

Q. Clearly, everyone on the team has to know their strengths.

A. I'm a good Number Two. I'm a good supporter. I'm a good second man. I'm a good person to bounce ideas off of. I think I get too passionate to be the leader, but I am more than happy to support that person and then have my ideas respected within that. This has been an ideal situation for me because I also have a full time job and I act in different theaters in town, so there's no way that I could actually singlehandedly run a company by myself right now.

Q. Anything surprise you in the process of putting a company together?

A. How freakin' expensive it is! It's shocking. Equity actors and stage managers make what most people would consider a measly salary at a
(Continued on page 15)

Phil Coulter will perform at IPC benefit event Oct. 14

Legendary Grammy-nominated musician, songwriter, singer and producer Phil Coulter will perform a concert on Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Ignatius Church in Chestnut Hill to benefit the Irish Pastoral Centre-Boston (IPC), a non-profit organization that helps Irish immigrants make the transition to life in America.

A native of Derry, Northern Ireland, Coulter has written or co-written hit songs such as “The Town I Loved So Well,” “Puppet on a String,” “Saturday Night” (a hit for the Bay City Rollers) and “My Boy,” which was performed by Elvis Presley. Since launching his career as a pianist-vocalist 30 years ago, he has amassed 23 platinum records and 39 gold and 52 silver albums. In 2001, he was nominated for a Grammy Award in the New Age category for his album “Highland Cathedral.”

Coulter has performed three times at the White House, presented four sell-out concerts at Carnegie Hall, hosted his own TV series on RTE, and was featured on a BBC TV special marking his 60th birthday. He also was active in Irish folk music, producing albums for popular bands Planxty, The Dubliners and The Furey Brothers. More recently, he collaborated on and contributed songs to the “Celtic Thunder” stage production and TV special.

While a visiting professor at Boston College in the late 1990s, Coulter performed several concerts with Sullivan Artist in Residence Seamus Connolly, director of the University’s Irish Music Programs, including at the Gaelic Roots summer school and festival held on the BC campus. The Charitable Irish Society will

present Coulter with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BC Club the following night after the October 14 concert.

Created in 1987 in response to the growing number of Irish immigrants in Greater Boston, the Irish Pastoral Centre-Boston offers programs and services for immigration and citizenship, counseling, drug and alcohol issues, domestic abuse, spiritual and pastoral care, and family needs.

St. Ignatius Church is located at 28 Commonwealth Avenue in Chestnut Hill adjacent to the Boston College Main Campus. To find out more about the Irish Pastoral Centre-Boston, see ipcoston.org.

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The IPC’s annual fund-raising dinner will be held on Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Florian Hall. Special guest: Mickey Harte.



Phil Coulter will play at a benefit concert on October 14 at St. Ignatius Church in Chestnut Hill in support of the Irish Pastoral Centre-Boston.

For the O'Briens it's about more than dancing

(Continued from page 14)

exactly alike, individually or collectively; there's no predicting how the mix of personalities and temperaments will play out over time from one household to the next. The O'Briens seem the epitome of the close-knit clan that by and large has been able to bring hearts and minds together and be clear about goals, expectations and roles – something that is equally helpful for any activity, whether athletic, artistic or anything else.

As far as Stephanie is concerned, however, Irish dancing is not like “anything else.” Having participated in Irish dance as a child, albeit on a non-competitive basis, she thought it would be something fun for her own kids. “Irish dance is extraordinarily connected to the music, and is that rare combination of physicality and interpretative movement. As it turned out, our children were both musical and athletic – they all ran track while in high school – so this was a perfect activity for them.”

Claire and Alana started at O'Shea-Chaplin at the same time, at ages 5 and 7, respectively, Conor shortly after that. “We gave him a choice,” laughs Stephanie. “He could dance, or he come grocery shopping with me until it was time to pick up the girls. He said, ‘Anything but the grocery store!’”

The O'Briens have high praise for O'Shea-Chaplin for its insistence that students keep things in perspective: Work at your dancing, but above all have fun, and don't let it get in the way of important things like family and education.

Still, as Stephanie and the



All eyes are on Conor O'Brien as he performs during a recent event organized by O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance to celebrate the school's two first-place finishes in this year's World Irish Dance Championships. Conor won the Men 20-21 title, and he and sister Claire also were part of the O'Shea-Chaplin team that won the Senior Mixed Ceili competition.

Sean Smith photo

three younger O'Briens attest, even with excellent teaching, not everything fell into place at once; each of the children made progress, though not at a particularly fast pace. But they liked dancing, and they liked being together, enough to continue.

“We didn't try to push them, and we didn't have to, really,” says Stephanie. “Andrew was the one who set the tone. He told them, ‘You guys have a secret weapon – each other.’ They've always helped one another out.”

The family also used the “target/stretch/dream” meme to identify and work toward goals, says Stephanie: “It's a way to move yourself along. Start by focusing on a certain level within reach, like making sure you have this step down or getting points from a judge, and practice to that. Go on to something more

difficult – ‘stretch’ yourself. And then there's your ‘dream,’ the goal you really want to achieve, like winning the Worlds. You have to be organized and break things down so you can figure out what it will take to get you there. They were very good with this system.”

Although Conor quips that there are “some wonderful home videos of us screaming at each other,” he and his sisters agree about their mutual “secret weapon” relationship. In fact, at a party last month organized by O'Shea-Chaplin to celebrate the Worlds' titles, Conor publicly thanked his sisters for the part they've played in his success – whether on the dance floor or elsewhere.

“Claire's my life coach, and Alana's always such a big help,” he said, his voice choked with emotion. “You guys have been

my role models, and the ones who've told me ‘It will get better’ after a bad day.”

As important as their siblings' presence has been to each O'Brien child over the years, another enjoyable aspect of Irish dancing has been “that you tend to compete with the same people over a number of years, and they become your friends,” Alana explains. “You know that you'll always have these connections, and it's very reassuring as you go on in life.”

Alana's reference to transition is a relevant one, since she and her siblings are at the point where other concerns and interests are beckoning – Alana is studying medicine at Dartmouth; Claire, a Tufts graduate, is working in London; and Conor is set to graduate from Tufts next spring – while the time, energy and opportunity for

Irish dance becomes ever more difficult to cobble together. Getting teacher certification is one possibility for continuing in the Irish dance world. Performance is another option, although as Conor says, “it's a whole different beast than competing,” and Claire notes that finding those kinds of gigs on a regular basis can take an awful lot of time in and of itself.

Stephanie sounds a nostalgic note as she considers the ways in which Irish dance made a difference in her family's life – not just for the kids, but for her and Andrew. “I'm not necessarily the most visually adept person, but I did pretty well at making those dance costumes look good. And Andrew? He learned how to be an Irish dance Santa Claus,” she adds with a laugh.

“But really, I think what Andrew and I liked the most was being around not only our kids, but their friends. It gave us an insight into teenagers and who they are, and how they put their heart and soul into what they love, and that was wonderful. To see a kid you know get up there and do well gave you a great feeling – and when they fell short, your heart would break for them. Our lives have been enriched by this experience.”

Fortunately, when you have enough younger family members, friends and acquaintances, you can still continue to hold onto that bond with Irish dance. “We have a nine-year-old cousin just coming up, so we'll be experiencing it all over again,” says Alana. “Sure, it's not the same, but you do get a good feeling when you see everything through her eyes and remember how it was for you.”

For McCaela Donovan, life is all about theatre

(Continued from page 14)

middle level theater. It's like grocery money. But the theater has to pay double that for each actor because you're paying the health insurance weeks on top (of salary). So it adds up very quickly . . . It's very easy to get swept up in creating the art, but we can't create the art until we figure out how to sustain fiscally. It's been a good learning curve for all of us.

Q. Let's talk about “Assassins.” This is a complex musical side show detailing notorious assassins throughout history, from John Wilkes Booth to Lee Harvey Oswald and John Hinck-

ley. You play Squeaky Fromme. They all seek immortality through violence. When this show opened in 1990, it proved fairly controversial. How will audiences see it today?

A. That's the thing. I don't know if it's going to be as controversial as it was. Because unfortunately, we've seen so much more horrific things come about. I did this show and I did this role seven years ago at Company One. It was actually my first real professional gig in Boston. So it will be interesting to revisit it, especially now that I'm older and with a different group of people, obviously.

Q. The assassins in the show

can be characterized as a group of misfits who just want to be heard. Kind of sounds like everyone on social media.

A. That's the interesting thing. Everyone has an opinion now and feels free to share it on social media. . . . (they) feel safe doing that. But they're not as (strong) when they have to get behind it in a human (way) and say it out loud. . . . One thing that it's really going to pertain to more now is what we've seen in the media in terms of bullying and ostracizing people and people feeling disconnected. . . . [“Assassins” is] brilliantly written, that goes without saying. Obviously, it's Sondheim.

Q. As John Wilkes Booth says in the show, take a stand and they'll listen to you.

A. It speaks to what happens when someone feels they don't have a community – and that they will cling to whatever community will bring them in. That can be very wonderful, but it can also be very dangerous.

Q. So you're a Sondheim fan?

A. Oh God, I love him. I think it's a shame he hasn't written more . . . He has incredibly high standards in the way that he writes. You have to be an actor, you have to be a great singer. . . . you have to be a great musician in terms of your phrasing and understanding the

music and where it's going and your impulse to follow certain phrases. . . . I find it fairly easy to connect to and very easy to learn. I guess that's very lucky because it is challenging for some people. For some weird reason I've always felt at home with his work.

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of onstageboston.com.

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“Assassins,” Oct. 4-26 at New Repertory Theatre, Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal St., Watertown. Tickets: 617-923-8487 or newrep.org. For information on Bridge Rep, visit bridgerep.wordpress.com/.

CD Reviews

By SEAN SMITH

The Voice Squad’s “Concerning of Three Young Men” • Granted, we’re only about 15 years into it, but fair to say the 21st century thus far gets mixed reviews at best, what with terrorism, global economic catastrophe, political gridlock, and a surfeit of reality TV. Here, however, is at least some redemption – a new recording by the Voice Squad after a 20-year interval.



The trio of Phil Callery, Fran McPhail, and Gerry Cullen was a revelation when it first came on the scene in the 1980s, fitting an Irish accent to the close-harmony, unaccompanied singing style found in the English folk revival, à la the Copper Family, the Young Tradition, the Wattersons, and Coope, Boyes and Simpson. Their performances and two albums, “Many’s the Foolish Youth” and “Good People All” (the latter a re-release of their second recording, “Holly Wood”) – along with guest appearances on recordings by The Chieftains, Dolores Keane, Liam O’Flynn and even Elvis Costello, among others – put staples of the Irish song tradition like “When a Man’s in Love,” “Willie Taylor,” “The Banks of the Bann,” “The Parting Glass” and “A Stor Moi Chroi” in a new, majestic light.

But their appearances had become increasingly rare until two years ago, when they did a St. Patrick’s Day concert in Dublin’s National Concert Hall, and since then have toured more frequently. “Concerning of

Three Young Men” shows the Squad has lost none of its spark, spirit, and power, individually or in combination: McPhail’s tenor is as sweet and graceful as ever, and tends to get your attention, but there’s no ignoring the fine quality of Callery’s tenor and Cullen’s baritone, and the dignity and care with which they all invest the songs while avoiding mawkishness and melodrama.

Some of the material on the CD has been a familiar part of their repertoire for some time, such as “The Bonny Light Horseman,” “The Rambling Irishman” and “As I Roved Out,” and it’s wonderful to now have these preserved. Other entries of note include “Courting Is a Pleasure” – popularized by Northern Irish traditional singer Paddy Tunney and British singer-guitarist Nic Jones – and “Lough Erne Shore,” which Paul Brady and Andy Irvine fans will surely recognize; the *a cappella* approach emphasizes these songs’ particularly intriguing melodies, which serve to refute the idea that traditional folk is a “simple” music.

The Voice Squad has made occasional forays into contemporary songs, and here they do a superb rendition of “Reconciliation,” one of Fermoy singer-songwriter Ron Kavana’s signature compositions. The gents also have a go at the American spiritual “Wondrous Love”; a Gaelic song in praise of St. Brigid, “Gabham Molta Bride”; “The Rich Man and the Poor Man,” a comical retelling of Lazarus featuring absurd wordplay; and, proving they are literally a trio for all seasons, “The Boar’s Head Carol.”

In the years since the last Voice Squad CD, what passes for close-harmony Irish singing has too often been the province of opera/pop star crossovers on PBS specials. Don’t be fooled: This is the real deal, and we should rejoice.



We Banjo 3’s “Gather the Good” • The band name is a misnomer, as is pointed out in the CD’s liner notes: “a 4-piece band called ‘We Banjo 3’ of whom only 2 currently play the banjo.” But that’s really the only thing wrong here, unless you have something against the concept of

seeking common ground between Celtic and American traditional/roots music – embodied here by that oft-maligned but indefatigable instrument, the banjo. This album, their second, formally marks their expansion to a quartet, or a pair of a pair of brothers: Enda and Fergal Scahill and David and Martin Howley.

Actually, a clarification is in order: The banjo in question is of the four-string, or tenor, or if you prefer, Irish variety. But as played mainly by Enda and Martin, at times it’s almost indistinguishable from the rhythmic flow of the American five-string, whether the band is playing old-timey tunes like “Shove the Pig’s Foot A Little Further into the Fire,” “Fine Times at Our House” and “Puncheon Floor,” or traditional Irish material such as “The Bunch of Rushes Green” or even the late Scottish piper Gordon Duncan’s marvelous “Pressed for Time.” Further blurring the lines are Fergal’s cross-genre fiddle style, and the bluegrassy boom-chuck backbeat David’s guitar helps drive.

The technical ability on display here is of the highest quality – such as when they speed up the tempo on “Pressed for Time,” with Fergal’s bodhran pushing things along – but the arrangements and configurations of tunes are also quite clever, even simply from a conceptual point of view. Arguably the best example is the medley combining an Ozark(!) version of “The Rocky Road to Dublin” with the riotous “American Polka,” straight out of Roaring 20s Irish Americana (embodied by the Flanagan Brothers, with whom this tune is associated). On another track, the band takes inspiration from John Carty’s “Seanamhac Tube Station” and reimagines it as an old-timey tune, “Old Time Son,” which then goes into a jig from the repertoire of Sliabh Luachra accordionist Johnny O’Leary.

We Banjo 3 also adds five songs to great effect. Two are traditional, “Prettiest Little Girl in the County” and the infectious “Down the River Uncle Joe”; one is David Howley’s own “Tell Me Why (Gather the Good)”; and the remaining are covers – the rollicking blues-spiritual “Get Onboard” by Eric Bibb, and Danny Dill and Marijohn Wilkin’s venerable, Appalachian-gothic ballad “The Long Black Veil,” recorded by the likes of Johnny Cash, Mick Jagger and The Band. David Howley’s honeyed, pop-inflected lead vocals are gloriously supplemented by harmonies from the other band members.

Irish? American? Irish-American? You can’t put this sort of stuff into a neatly labeled box, but don’t get hung up on it: a little musical ambiguity can be wonderful. Certainly it is in this case.

Crag Road • This quartet from County Clare strikes a very enjoyable balance that can be difficult to achieve in presenting Irish traditional music: evoking the spontaneity and ease of a friendly pub session while appealing to listeners who like some variation in arrangement and content.

The centerpiece of Crag Road is the nimble concertina playing of Aoi bheann (Yvonne) Queally, with Quentin Cooper also supplying melody primarily through banjo and mandolin; the rhythm comes from the very capable bouzouki of Eoin O’Neill and bodhran of Noirin Lynch (Cooper also plays some guitar). There is some fiddle from the versatile Cooper, and from Queally’s sister Pamela on one track – a cracker of a medley of reels (“The Broken Pledge/The Steeplechase/Duke of Leinster”) – and a guest appearance by Brid O’Gorman on flute for another reel set (“The Pullet/John Brennan’s/St. Patrick’s Night”), but the band’s main instrumentation and composition makes for a relaxed, almost delicate sound, instead of high-powered, mad-for-speed pyrotechnics.



“McHugh’s Jig/The Mist-Covered Mountain,” for example, opens with some excellent flat-picking by Cooper, to which O’Neill adds some dulcet harmonies until Queally fortifies the melody; Lynch’s soft, steady beat ushers in the segue to the A-minor (or A-dorian, perhaps) second tune. Other highlights include the concertina/banjo-driven “Larry’s Favorite/Ravelled Hank of Yarn” reel set; the bouncy, charming pairing of “Joe Banne’s Scottishe” and the hornpipe “The Good-Natured Man”; the jigs “I Buried My Wife and Danced On Top of Her/The Haunted House” (a Halloween medley if ever there was one), which is Queally with Cooper’s mandolin; and, to cap things off, two versions of the jig “The Gold Ring,” the first of which showcases Queally’s deft touch.

Interspersed among the tune sets are four songs, all of them contemporary works, and three sung by Lynch, whose soulful voice ranges toward contralto and utilizes a considerable, but not excessive, amount of vibrato. She brings out the bittersweet and regret in Colum Sands’s “The Note That Lingers On” and the dignified morality in Si Khan’s “What You Do With What You’ve Got,” and sounds the clarion call of Ron Kavana’s anti-injustice screed “A Song Alone” (set to the melody of “Ye Jacobites By Name”) – the effect is often earnest, but not offputtingly so. Rather less successful is Cooper’s cover of “Sometimes She Forgets,” a fine bit of honkytonk empathy by Steve (“Galway Girl”) Earle; it just feels a little too much in the ironic, we-do-this-because-we-can mode.

Still, on this CD, the band projects a winning, accessible persona. Here’s hoping Crag Road has a lot of miles to it.

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12th BCMfest gathering impressive lineup for Jan. 9-11 production

Boasting a line-up of familiar favorites, new faces and sounds, and creative collaborations, BCMFest (Boston's Celtic Music Fest), presented by Passim, will once again warm up the winter in celebration of the Boston area's abundance of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, and other Celtic-related music and dance traditions.

The 12th annual BCMFest, which takes place this coming January (9-11) in the heart of Harvard Square, will be a gathering place for local musicians, singers and dancers of all ages. This family-friendly, grassroots festival features performances as well as participatory music and dance events, starting with the Friday night "Roots and Branches" concert at Club Passim and the Boston Urban Ceilidh – BCMFest's popular Celtic dance party – just around the corner at The Atrium, 50 Church Street.

The BCMFest 2015 party continues on Saturday with "Dayfest" – more than seven hours of events at Club Passim and nearby First Parish Church, Cambridge, including children's and family entertainment in the morning – before concluding with Saturday evening's "BCMfest Nightcap" finale concert at First Parish Church.

As a bonus, this year also will see the debut on Sunday of the BCMFest Academy at the Passim School of Music, an afternoon of one-day classes taught by BCMFest performers on a number of traditional Celtic instruments and styles.

BCMFest is a program of Passim, a Cambridge-based non-profit seeking to build a vibrant music community through its legendary listening venue, music school, artist grants and outreach initiatives.

At press time, performers confirmed to appear at the festival include: Flynn Cohen & The Deadstring Ensemble; Jenna Moynihan; Laurel Martin, Mark Roberts & Kieran Jordan; Joey Abarta & Jackie O'Riley; Cat and the Moon; Patrick Hutchinson; Soulsha; Fódhla; Alba's Edge; Molly Pinto Madigan; The Coyne Family; Fresh Haggis; Bridget Fitzgerald; Ceol Corvus; the Vox Hunters; Oran Mor; Lindsay Straw; Nancy Bell; Scottish Fish; Elizabeth & Ben Anderson; Adrianna Ciccone; Laura Cortese & the Boston Urban Ceilidh Band; Mad for Trad Ensemble; the Jackie O'Riley School of Irish Dance;

Highland Dance Boston; Audrey Budington & Clayton Clemetson; Liz & Dan Faiella; Will Woodson & Eric McDonald; Jigs & Saws (comprised of students from the Passim School of Music's Celtic Ensemble); the O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance; Colleen White & Sean Smith; the Rushy Mountain Oysters; Hayley Hewitt; Boston Scottish Fiddle Club; and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston.

In addition, the all-female Celtic band Long Time Courting (Shannon Heaton, Liz Simmons, Val Thompson, and Katie McNally) will present a dynamic and engaging BCMFest Nightcap finale concert, "Women in Trad." This show features Long Time Courting as house band with an assortment of special guest musicians, dancers and storytellers performing selections that speak to the experiences of women through the ages. With songs and tales of love and heartbreak, heroines and villains, daughters and mothers, supernatural beings and poets, and much more, "Women in Trad" will captivate long-time Celtic music lovers and general music enthusiasts alike.

A look at some highlights of BCMFest 2015:

- Friday night's "Roots and Branches" concert at Club Passim offers a sample of the innovative, dynamic sounds to be heard in Boston's Celtic music community today. This year's performers are the trio of Laurel Martin, Mark Roberts and Kieran Jordan, Flynn Cohen & The Deadstring Ensemble, and fiddler Jenna Moynihan.

- The **Boston Urban Ceilidh** features participatory and social dances from the Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton traditions, all with live music. No experience is necessary – all dances will be taught. This event sold out early last year, so advance ticket purchase is suggested.

- BCMFest's Saturday "Dayfest" begins in the morning at Club Passim with songs, storytelling and other entertainment geared toward children and families.

- "Dayfest" also includes participatory events in The Attic of First Parish Church, such as Irish and Scottish music sessions and instruction in Scottish country dance.

- BCMFest is noted for its special collaborations and workshops, in which



BCMFest's "Dayfest" will feature Boston-area performers such as Cat and the Moon.



Long Time Courting will organize and perform in the BCMFest 2015 Nightcap finale concert.

performers often unite around a particular theme or focus. Among the showcases planned for BCMFest 2015 are: "After the Morning," newly composed and traditional songs for each month of the year for voice and traditional string quartet, presented by Shannon Heaton with Laura Cortese & The Dance Cards; "Songs of Staying and Straying," tales of love – both true and false; "Hold Me Closer, Tiny Instrument," with full-size

musicians playing half-size instruments; "No Bow Zone," capturing the felicity of the fretted string (guitars, mandolins, banjos, bouzoukis, and maybe even ukuleles); and a bit of Celtic soul with "Ain't No Whistle High Enough."

Ticket information, performer updates and other details about the festival – including offerings at the BCMFest Academy – will be available at passim.org/bcmfest.




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iFest 2014 is a wrap!


iFest, a one-of-a kind Irish Festival, took place on a warm and sunny fall weekend (Sept 26-28) transforming the World Trade Center into a warm, green glow on the South Boston waterfront. Organized by Rachel Kelly, a Dublin woman who has successfully managed “Taste of Ireland” events in Ireland, the two-and-a-half day event was produced with a budget reported to be in the \$3 million range.




Rachel Kelly

The event was underwritten in part by several sponsors, among them Tourism Ireland, Fineos, Guinness and Jameson, Shannon Airport, Aer Lingus and Bord Bia, the Irish food board. Featured were dancers and musicians from Riverdance, Paddy Moloney, Jack L and The Riptide Movement, and Irish celebrity chefs Kevin Dundon and Darina Allen were joined by Boston’s Barbara Lynch and Lydia Shire in cooking demonstrations. Kelly said the festival was designed as a prototype for future festivals. “Basically, I want to roll it out in cities where there’s a strong Irish diaspora,” she told the Irish Times in a September 15 interview. “We’re looking at New York in 2015, possibly Brooklyn,” she told the newspaper.







donegal diaspora
pobal domhanda





Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council




The Donegal Diaspora Project is working to promote and engage Donegal’s global community – it’s “Pobal Domhanda”. This community is made up of people with a connection to or interest in Donegal, no matter where they may be living.

Are you a member of the Donegal Diaspora who has left our beautiful shores to venture further afield? Are you someone who has visited this majestic county and it has left its spell on you? Whatever your connection to our captivating county, the Donegal Diaspora website should be your first stop, a dynamic hub of Donegal information, news, events and stories - all with a Diaspora focus.

So if you have an interesting story you want to share with Donegal’s Diaspora, or are doing wonderful work at home or abroad that we have not yet heard of - get in touch, and make the connection! www.donegaldiaspora.ie
E: info@donegaldiaspora.ie T: +353 74 9373718
Please also visit www.govisitdonegal.com



Tourism Ireland officials Nialla Gibbins, CEO, at left, and EVP for North America Alison Metcalfe at right, flank Paschal Donohoe, Ireland’s Minister for Transport, and Tourism.



Chef Darina Allen prepared and baked her own scones, brown bread, and raspberry jam before enthusiastic overflow audiences on Saturday and Sunday.



Double Kellys – Boston’s own Jimmy Kelly, who founded Crystal Travel in West Roxbury, with long-time friend (but no relation) Jim Kelly, formerly of CIE now US sales director of Railtours Ireland.



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Traveling People

Fall fairs enliven the countryside across Ireland

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

October is such a lovely month in New England; it's also a lovely month in Ireland.

There's not much brilliant foliage on the Emerald Isle, and it can be a bit stormy, but that weather often means lots of gorgeous rainbows and great photos. And, there's still a lot to do in Ireland even though it's slightly "off season." You can visit museums, churches and other attractions (be sure to check to make sure they're open) or take in any of the many Halloween happenings all over the country.

You can also get out into the countryside and, for instance, join the Oct. 3-5 Carlow Walking Festival (carlowtourism.com) or savor the activities at a country fair where you find "real" Ireland at its very best.

Fall fairs are serious outings for local farmers who exhibit the best of the best from their annual labors. But for tourists and other onlookers, the fairs and their various classes are just great fun to watch and enjoy. They're interesting and reminiscent of fairs in the Northeast and other parts of this country.

BUZZ AND EXCITEMENT

Over the years, we've attended a number of Irish fairs, including the Ballinasloe Fair, the Maam Cross Fair in Connemara (both in Co. Galway) and the Achill (Island) Sheep Show in Co. Mayo. Each was different and all were most enjoyable. We enjoyed being part of the buzz and excitement of the crowd, witnessing the anticipation in the ring – especially for the young farmers – and the opportunity to interact with other spectators. If you enjoy watching people, you'll be in heaven.

Each fall, Ballinasloe hosts one of Europe's oldest and largest horse fairs, dating back to the 1700s. The October event annually attracts nearly 100,000 visitors from all over the world. The fair is from Oct. 4-12 this year and more information may be obtained from ballinasloeoctoberfair.com.

You'll find the annual Achill Sheep Show on the grounds around Patten's Bar in Dereens on Achill Island, Co. Mayo. It's a fun event – especially for people watching – and also, of course, for the sheep. The tourist office in Achill Sound can provide more information if you're out that way.

The Maam Cross fair is another fall fair that usually happens on a Tuesday in October. Check Connemara.ie for more information and the exact date of the fair.

CONNEMARA

Speaking of Connemara, *The Irish Times* newspaper sponsored a competition for its readers to choose the five best places in the country "to calm down after going wild."

Our favorite small, country hotel – Lough Inagh Lodge in Recess,



Getting ready for a class at the Achill Sheep Show in Co. Mayo.



Horses for sale at the Maam Cross Fair in Connemara.



Co. Galway – was among the five finalists. The *Times* wrote, "Beautifully appointed and located fishing lodge and hotel overlooking Lough Inagh, Connemara, Co. Galway. Close to the truly wild 12 Bens mountain range, 'the Blueway' and adventure centres at Killary and Delphi. loughinaghlodge-hotel.ie"

THE BLUEWAY

If you have a Wild Atlantic Way for landlubbers to drive, you should have a corresponding waterway along that same coast, right? (For the uninitiated, the Wild Atlantic Way is a 1,600-mile designated driving route along the west coast from the Inishowen Peninsula in Co. Donegal to Kinsale, Co. Cork.)

We read in *The Irish Times* that last summer, Michael Ring, minister of State for Tourism & Sport, launched "The Blueway," a project designed to complement the Wild Atlantic Way and "encourage tourists to discover the sea along the West coast."

As part of the program, organizers developed water activities – such as snorkeling and kayaking – and highlighted local providers and events at five Blueway locations – Boffin Harbour in Inishbofin and Killary Fjord in Leenane,

both in Co. Galway, Keem on Achill Island, and Mannin Bay and Old Head (Louisburgh), all in Co. Mayo.

More than 84,000 overseas visitors participate in water sports each year while in Ireland with most of them kayaking and snorkeling, according to Ring. The Blueway supports the development of kayaking and snorkeling water trails in the five locations to create more experiences for visitors traveling the Wild Atlantic Way.

Fiona Monaghan, who heads up the Wild Atlantic Way program for Fáilte Ireland (Tourism Ireland's Irish arm), was quoted in *The Times* as saying at the launch, "We are delighted to support this initiative, which sees the timely development of an excellent Wild Atlantic Way water sports experience, and provides the visitor the opportunity to engage with the sea."

"We have seen first-hand the success of the (Great Western) Greenway in Mayo (from Westport to Achill Island) which boosted local tourism with more than 200,000 visitors last year. As a maritime variant of that initiative, we hope the Blueway can enjoy the same level of interest from visitors both



At the Maam Cross fall fair in Connemara.



Ewe being judged at the Achill Sheep Show in Co. Mayo.

Judy Enright photos

at home and abroad."

A series of "Blueway Days" took place last summer at the five locations where local activity operators provided equipment and safety advice to those interested in snorkeling or kayaking.

CONFUSION

With every new project, there's bound to be some confusion and there was this spring with the cleverly designed logo for the Wild Atlantic Way, which looks like two connected W's.

Environmental columnist Michael Viney, a Co. Mayo resident, wrote in the July 19 *Irish Times*: "The new logo on our road signs had me puzzled for days. Wavy white lines on blue – what was that about? Narrow, wiggly, bumpy roads? Fair enough. Good surfing? Not that way, into the mountains. Eventually it dawned – we're now part of the Wild Atlantic Way."

"That must be why they've mended all the potholes and why the grassy spined boreen down to the strand, clearly just wide enough for one careful driver, has a big, new speed limit of 50km."

HALLOWEEN

Of course, Halloween is spooky and scary and who

literary workshops for teens and adults, Stoker-themed theatre, lively discussions on all things vampire, and an evening of spooky spectacles in the grounds of Dublin Castle. See bramstokerfestival.com for more.

And, while you're in Dublin, be sure to stop by the Ambassador Theatre, on O'Connell Street, to see the display of some 150 life-size terra cotta warriors that guarded the tomb of Chinese Emperor Qin Shihuangdi, who died in 210 B.C. The tomb was uncovered in 1974 by farmers digging for a fountain. The exhibit is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. until the end of November.

KILKENNY

Congratulations to Kilkenny for winning the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Kilkenny also won the Irish Top Tourism Town award in 2013 and was named as Condé Nast's 9th friendliest city in the world!

You can enjoy Kilkenny from Oct. 24-27 when the town celebrates the 8th year of its Savour Kilkenny Food Festival. See savourkilkenny.com for more.

Other food events this month include:

- Dingle Food Festival, Oct. 2-5, in more than 60 outlets, where festivalgoers can purchase tickets and sample local cuisine in various locations from pubs and galleries to shops and restaurants (dinglefood.com);

- 5th annual Monaghan Festival of Food, Oct. 3-5, celebrates the best in local produce in Monaghan and surrounding areas with more than 60 exhibitors (tasteofmonaghan.com);

- Kinsale's 38th annual Gourmet Festival from Oct. 10-12 (kinsalerestaurants.com);

- Burren Food Fayre in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare on Sun., Oct. 26. (burrencotourism.com)

TRAVELS

No matter where your Irish travels take you, you're sure to find entertainment and activities along the way. Be sure to watch for reduced airfares and package deals in the fall and enjoy Ireland wherever and whenever you visit.

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Last spring you learned a little about the “**Diminutive**” of Irish words, words that have in English the equivalent of **-y** as in “Thomas” becomes “Tommy” and “James” becomes “Jimmy”. The same rule applies to female names as “Susan” becomes “Suzy”. English females tend to drop the first syllable and “Elizabeth” becomes “Betty” and “Virginia” contracts to “Ginny” while female diminutives tend to be spelled **-ie**.

In Irish there are no such reversals, the universal **Diminutive Suffix**, both male and female, is **-ín**, pronounced /een/. You have already met **Seánaín**, “Johnny”. In Irish the rule of spelling applies – recall, “Slender to slender and broad to broad”. This is illustrated by the following examples:

bád “boat”
báidín “little boat” where a “silent -i-” is inserted.
hata “hat”
haitín “little hat”, a “silent -i-” again.
teach “house”
teacháin “little house” where “silent -a-” is inserted.

Notice that the unstressed Irish final (word ending) vowel, **-a** or **-e**, both pronounced /uh/, disappeared in **hata/haitín** /HAH-tuh/HAH-teen/. This is in accord with the Irish rule that when unstressed vowels end a word, you may drop it. English will do this same thing before a word that begins with a stressed vowel – “The apple” is really pronounced as “Th’ apple.”

This rule is also universal in spoken Irish as in **geata** “gate” which sounds much like English but “little gate” is **geaitín**, dropping the final **-a** but inserting the “silent -i-”. This “silent I” does have a function. It changes the pronunciation of the following consonant, /GAY-tuh/ becomes /GAY-cheen/.

Another example is the word for “shop”, **siopa**, pronounced either /SHAW-puh/ or /shawp/. Here the “silent **-o-**” tells you that the word ends with a “broad vowel” and this “silent vowel symbol” is now redundant and therefore dropped. The diminutive of **siopa** is **sipín** /SHIP-eeen/. Irish words which end in a stressed vowel, marked with an accent mark, simply add **-ín**. **Cró** /kro/ “shed” becomes **cróin** /KRO-eeen/.

However, a word of warning. When I first learned Japanese, the word for toilet was /BEN-joh/. In 1988 I was in a “posh” restaurant in Japan with business men. I asked, “Benjo-wa doko des’ka?” – “Where is the restroom?” I was politely told that the word now was the Japanese pronunciation of “toilet. /tor-rey/. “Benjo” had become “outhouse”. The same is true of Irish, don’t name your “Wee Cottage” **cóin**, it now means “outhouse.” The same is true of the older **tighe beag**, “Little home”.

How are “Diminutives” used? The most common use of “Diminutives” is with Proper Forenames. As I said, you have already met “Johnny”, **Seánaín**.

You are safe to use them where you would use a **-y** in English. They make something either “smaller” or “dearer.” In a few cases the word might mean something “bad”, pejorative, in linguistic jargon. An English example would be “sister” becoming “sissy” when applied to a male person. However, these are few and far between.

In some cases “Diminutives” can be applied to adjectives. **Beag** is “little”; **beagan** is a small amount of something as in **Tá beagán Gaeilge agam**, “I speak a little bit of Irish”.

See if you can make “Diminutives” of these Irish Proper Forenames:

1.) Tomás – “Thomas”. 2.) Bríd – “Briget” 3.) Cáit – “Kate” 4.) Eilís – “Helen” 5.) Séamas – “James” 6.) Róis – “Rose” .

Good! Now try to translate these sentences into Irish: 7.) “They speak a little Irish.” 8. “He told me a story in Irish.” 9.) “I and my wife went to Donegal.” 10.) “We went to Cork.”

Answers: 1.) **Tomáisín** – “Tommy” 2.) **Brídín** – No good English equivalent. 3.) **Cáitín** - “Katie” or “Kathy” 4.) **Eilísín** - “Ellie” 5.) **Séamaisín** – “Jimmy” 6.) **Róisín** – “Rosie” 7.) **Tá beagan Gaeilge acu**. 8.) **Deir sé mise scael i Gaeilge**. 9.) **Chuamar mé agus mo bhean go Dún na nGall** 10.) **Chuamar go Corcaigh**.

Did you know that in the early twentieth century there were so many Irish policemen in Eastern cities that the name “Shamus”, “James”, was synonymous with “cop”?

Next month we will start on “parts of the body” beginning with the face.



Seamus Neely, Chief Executive Donegal County Council with Senate President Senator Therese Murray recipient of this years Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award with President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and Cllr John Campbell, Cathaoirleach Donegal County Council. Photo courtesy Donegal County Council

Senate President Murray launches new Letterkenny-UMass Medical partnership

Senate President Therese Murray, who visited Ireland last month for a trade mission with Sen. Stanley Rosenberg, visited County Donegal to announce the expansion of the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) to Letterkenny Institute of Technology. The UMass incubator initiative will also partner with the Derry-based Clinical Transitional Research and Innovation Centre (C-TRIC) in a partnership that will be announced formally on Monday in Northern Ireland.

Founded in 2008, M2D2 is a joint UMass Lowell and UMass Worcester initiative designed to accelerate the development and launch of new medical device companies. The opening of incubator space in Ireland and the North is the direct result of previous trade missions led by Murray.

“Massachusetts holds international recognition as a premiere research and development center for life sciences, biotechnology and medical devices,” President Murray said in a statement. “This exciting collaboration will offer assistance to Massachusetts-based companies looking to break into the European market while also attracting European companies that want to launch clinical trials in Massachusetts. Our shared goal is to create an environment where research, innovation and commercialization can all take place and this is a big step forward for innovators and entrepreneurs in Massachusetts and beyond.”

In addition to following M2D2’s business development model, M2D2 North-west is intended to provide “soft landing” services for start-up companies and entrepreneurs based in Ireland and Northern Ireland seeking to do business in Massachusetts, and Massachusetts companies seeking to do business abroad.

“This collaboration lays the foundations using a proven formula for medical companies to thrive and develop,” said Letterkenny Institute of Technology President Paul Hannigan. “Of course, it offers a corridor for medical device companies to connect to the US and for US companies to enter the European market. This partnership presents exciting possibilities for the commercialization of new ideas which will drive economic growth, knowledge exchange, research and student experience. We can now say categorically that the North West is a hub for medical device innovation.”

The partnership between UMass, Northern Ireland and Ireland will also include a monthly programming exchange between the universities and opportunities for research by faculty and graduate students researchers and shared grants.



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