Boston Irish Honors celebrate four who honor their heritage

The city’s top hotelier, a pioneering leader in education, a couple who have led the transformation of Boston’s waterfront will be the honorees at next month’s tenth annual Boston Irish Honors, the season’s premier celebration of Irish-American achievement in Massachusetts.

The luncheon, convened by the Boston Irish Reporter, will see hundreds of guests gathered at Seaport Boston Hotel on Fri., Oct. 18. James M. Carmody, the vice president and general manager of Seaport Hotel & Seaport World Trade Center, will chair the luncheon. Carmody, who is the current chair of the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, serves on the board of Cathedral High School.

Grace Cotter began her career as the first woman to lead Boston College High School and one of the nation’s most highly regarded leaders in Catholic education. She previously served as head of school at St. Mary’s High School in Lynn and as provincial assistant and executive director of the office of development for the New England Province of Jesus.

The daughter of the late legendary BC High football coach, Jim Cotter ’55, she holds master’s degrees in pastoral ministry, student affairs, and higher education administration from Boston College and the University of Vermont.

John and Kathleen Drew and their family have been on the vanguard of transforming Boston’s waterfront and skyline for more than four decades through the Drew Company, which created the World Trade Center on the vanguard of transforming Boston’s waterfront.

Drew Company, which created the World Trade Center in the Boston and the Seaport Hotel. John and Kathy have taken on leadership roles in their ancestral home as well, developing property in Dublin and as a member of the American Ireland Fund.

The 55-member luncheon committee is chaired by Ed Forry, the founder and publisher of the Boston Irish Reporter and BostonIrish.com. Serving as honorary chairs are US Sen. Ed Markey and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

The program moderator will be Boston Red Sox “poet laureate” Dick Flavin.

“From the Floor” tracks moods, feelings that go into Irish dance

BY SEAN SMITH
Special to the BIR

A spur-of-the-moment creative impulse by two Greater Boston residents during a Thanksgiving sojourn has now, nearly four years later, culminated in a unique video project that offers a new perspective on traditional Irish dance.

“From the Floor” is the brainchild of Jackie O’Riley and Rebecca McGowan, performers and teachers who specialize in sean-nós and other older, “low-to-the-ground” styles of Irish dance, marked by improvisational stepping and footwork.

O’Riley is an original member of the toes-up sean-nós dance show Atlantic Steps who performed at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin as part of “The Sound of Ireland” production. She also runs a non-competitive Irish dance program for children and was a co-recipient of a 2017 Boston Foundation grant for choreographers. McGowan, co-founder of the contemporary step dance company Rising Step, has performed at the Kennedy Center, in WGBH’s “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” and at numerous festivals in the Boston and Washington, DC, areas.

She has also taught at the Catskills Irish Arts Week, Pinewoods Camp, and CUE MAD Week, among other places.

McGowan and O’Riley describe “From the Floor” as a “visual album” of Irish music and dance: six separate but as

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A scene from the video “From the Floor,” with (L-R) Jackie O’Riley, Rebecca McGowan and Chris Stevens.

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANCHESTER, England -
British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced on Oct. 1, that Britain will make firm proposals for a new divorce deal with the European Union within days, saying “this is the moment when the rubber hits the road.”

He has been insisting that Britain will leave the EU on the scheduled Oct. 31 date with or without a deal.

Leaders of the 28-nation EU are growing impatient with the UK’s failure to honor their heritage

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A scene from the video “From the Floor,” with (L-R) Jackie O’Riley, Rebecca McGowan and Chris Stevens.
Gavin & Friends. Admission is $25. features a comedy evening with Don Waterford’s in Dedham at 8 p.m. All tion will have its monthly meeting at 10 p.m. The Noel Henry Irish Show evening dance will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. RSVP town (behind the USS Constitution) while it is docked at Pier 1, Charles-

Cashman, author of “An Irish Immigr

Library present an evening with Jack

Braintree. Music by the Andy Healy

177 West St., Malden. Presentations

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Co-hosted by the Knights of Columbus Hall, 23 West Foster Street in Melrose. Erin’s Melody will entertain from 7 to 10 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 26 – The North Shore Irish Association will hold its dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 23 West Foster Street in Melrose. Erin’s Melody will entertain from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 27 – The Irish Social club will have Mosaic for its Sunday evening dance.

Sat., Oct. 13 – The Boston Irish Re-

reporter’s “Irish Honors” luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the Seaport Hotel. This year’s honorees are Grace Cotter Regan, James M. Carmody, and John Drew & Family. For information on the luncheon please call 617-438-1222, Ext. 11.

Sat., Oct. 13 – Mass at the Irish Cultural Centre. 11 a.m.

• The Irish Social club’s Sunday evening dance will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. The Noel Henry Irish Show band will entertain.

Mon., Oct. 7 – The Sligo Association will have its monthly meeting at Waterford’s in Dedham at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

Thurs., Oct. 10 – HIC – A 30th birthday celebration of the Solas Awards at 6 p.m. at the Boston Harbor Hotel. The Tastebuds, Janie Ladarkar, will receive the “Leadership Award”. Information: nnmiller@icenter.org

• The Irish Cultural Centre will present Tara O’Grady at 7:30 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 11 – The Irish Social club features a comedy evening with Don Gavin & Friends. Admission is $35.

Sat., Oct. 12 – The Irish Cultural Centre will present the Irish play “Boisein Bhhone, Kilburn” at 7:30 p.m. and again on Sunday the 13th at 2 p.m.

• The Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr – Cork Club will celebrate their 115th anniversary with a dance at the Malden Irish American Club, 177 West St., Malden. Presentations will be made to Man and Woman of the year. Music by “Erin’s Melody.” Complimentary coffee, tea and delici-

uous Irish baked goods and Irish trifle. Donation is $10. Cash bar.

• The Irish Cultural Centre has country and western star T. R. Dallas in Braintree. Music by the Andy Healy Band from 7-11 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 13 – The Irish Social club features Erin’s Melody at its Sunday evening dance. 7 to 10 p.m.

The Charitable Irish Society held its annual Silver Key Awards event last month at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston. As in the past, this year’s honorees – Charles L. Donahue, Sr., Oliver, and Anita Sharma come from the corporate and grass roots community sectors and have shown exceptional leadership and made operatio

Charitable Irish Society honors them with its Silver Key Award, citing ‘Good Will Doing Service’

The Charitable Irish Society holds its annual Silver Key Awards event every year in June at the Boston Harbor Hotel as a fundraiser for charitable organizations that welcome exceptional leadership in building cooperation between civic, religious, and cultural organizations. The Silver Key Awards honor individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the greater good of the community and have made significant contributions to the betterment of the Irish community.

The 2019 honorees were Charles L. Donahue, Sr., Oliver, and Anita Sharma. They were recognized for their exceptional leadership and contributions to the Irish community, including their support for charitable causes and their dedication to building bridges between different communities.

The event featured a special cultural evening with readings of poetry and prose from the works of great Irish writers and students. The evening included music and dance performances, as well as a special cultural evening with readings of poetry and prose from the works of great Irish writers and students.

The Charitable Irish Society’s Silver Key Awards event is one of the most prestigious events in the Boston Irish community and is recognized as a key fundraiser for charitable organizations. The event is attended by a large crowd of Irish leaders and organizations who come together to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the Irish community.
Marking a special anniversary of this celebratory luncheon, Boston Irish Honors recognizes the leadership and accomplishments of individuals and families of Irish descent who exemplify the very best of our values, legacies, and traditions.

For reservations, email BostonIrish@conventures.com or call 617-204-4221
Boston Irish Honors c/o Conventures, Inc.
88 Black Falcon Avenue, Suite 202 Boston, MA 02210
In a message to local supporters, the Boston committee making the plans in Wexford for those wondering about Super 11s, it is a modified version of hurling that was devised by the Gaelic Players in bringing the 2019 GPA Super 11s Hurling Classic to New York City this fall. GPA Super 11s Hurling Classic will be played at Citi Field, home of New York Mets, on the weekend after Veterans Day.

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William Barr has earned his niche in the Hall of Shame. As impeachment looms, Trump turns to his trusty phalanx of Irish Americans for cover.

By Peter F. Stevens

Recalling the deadly tempest off Cohasset in 1849

170 years ago, tragedy engulfed two coffin ships; and the local citizens braved the waves to help

By Peter F. Stevens

HISTORICAL

On Memorial Day of this year, a throng of some 600 people gathered at the dedication of a permanent memorial on Deer Island to Irish emigrants who had perished at sea. Among them was a Massachusetts attorney named John Adams risked his life in the American Revolution. He said: "I will enlarge no more on the evidence, but leave it to your own fancy to draw the proper inferences.

With little affinity for the Irish — left prejudice on the immigrant ancestors. They were once "the other," the targets of nativist rage. Still, perhaps there is some unintentional hypocrisy here. For years, Trump himself has been cast as the braggadocio, the self-confident, self-made man who can do no wrong. He is the ultimate example of the self-made man, a man who has overcome great odds to rise to the top of his chosen field.

A month or two ago in this space, I asserted that President Donald Trump's words are the issue. Instead, the real problem is that he has not been held accountable for anything he does. The president himself has been able to rescue some of them. As the Ancient Order of Hibernians raises a 19-foot memorial on Deer Island to Irish emigrants who had perished at sea.

The heartbreaking saga of how catastrophe engulfed the Sweeneys on October 9, 1849, is a stark reminder of the dangers of the Irish famine. In 1849, the country was hit by a series of natural disasters that destroyed the potato crop, the staple food of the Irish. As a result, thousands of Irish emigrants were forced to leave their homes and travel to America in the hope of finding work and a better life.

The tragedy ended in disaster. On October 9, 1849, the Brig St. John set sail from Boston in hopes that her infant daughter and her nine children surviving her in the frothing waves. Clutching her heart and praying, Sweeney, his wife, and their nine children vanished in the foaming surf. Clutching her heart and praying, the rescuers "struggled through the towering waves. Over the next few days, 45 bodies with little affinity for the Irish — left prejudice on the immigrant ancestors. They were once "the other," the targets of nativist rage. Still, perhaps there is some unintentional hypocrisy here. For years, Trump himself has been cast as the braggadocio, the self-confident, self-made man who can do no wrong. He is the ultimate example of the self-made man, a man who has overcome great odds to rise to the top of his chosen field.

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Faye Regan: Learning how to juggle in America

This year, Faye Regan chose to live in Boston as a part of the J-1 IWT program, accepting multiple challenges as she embarked on this adventure. She also found herself juggling multiple tasks once the visa application process began, such as finding an internship and adapting to a new culture. She has been learning to be both focused and pragmatic. In handling the most difficult part of the J-1 experience, which according to many is finding an internship, Faye discovered the value of networking. Her advice for future exchange visitors on the same program is to try to meet up with someone in your field who did a similar course over here on the J-1 who can tell you how they found their position. See if they can look at your CV to see if there is anything that can make it more applicable to your field.

Ultimately, Faye was able to secure an internship with Boston College and was told she would further her career, a biology research internship at Jhanna Therapeutics. Already reflecting back on the experience, Faye claims that “having American experience is a real competitive advantage. It shows you are adaptable but also that you can work hard, as there’s a strong work ethic here. Boston is home to incredibly innovative science and I’ve gotten exposure to this in a way I could never at home.” Having been successful in this program, Faye will surely be prepared for whatever comes next.

IIIC marks 30 years at Solas Awards gala

Oct. 10, Boston Harbor Hotel

Seen as Boston’s Wel- come Center to all new-comers, the Irish Interna- tional Immigrant Center is celebrating 30 years of educating, advocating and caring for families coming to Boston from Ireland and around the world. The IIIC is proud to announce that this year’s Solas Awards honorees are Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, Irish Prime Min- ister Leo Varadkar, and Tony Rodriguez, a Boston Public Schools high school senior.

This year’s special event on Oct. 10 will be a reception- style evening that includes live music, food and drink from the Boston Harbor Hotel’s celebrated menu, and a standing room program highlighting the stories of hope facilitated by our community’s support. Join us as we mark the occasion at our annual Solas Awards, and celebrate with the friends and partners who have made our journey possible! Visit iiicenter.org or contact Megan Miller at mmiller@iiicenter.org to learn more.

Since her election as the state’s attorney general, Maura Healey has led efforts to protect immigrant communities, stop prejudiced efforts to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census, and end the family separation policy at our southern border. In 2017, Leo Varadkar was elected leader of Fine Gael and then appointed taoiseach, becoming the nation’s first openly gay head of government. During his years in office, Varadkar has proved a strong leader of inclusive Irish politics. Tony Rodriguez, a Bos- ton high school senior, will now be able to pursue his dream of going to college and going into business.
The spirt of the Celts’ Samhain thrives today as Halloween holiday

By Judy Enright

SPECIAL TO THE BIR

October 2019

COUPY FAIRS

One of Ireland’s greatest rural events in the country fair. There are many around the country during the year and in the fall.

The historical MaamCross Fair, a one-day event, is scheduled for Oct. 29 this year, at the Connewarre by Peckforton hotel. It stems from the tradition of Connacht and the May Day. The surplus produce there to supplement the meager living, they had sked from the rocky landscape. This fair, however, grows over the years to become a major event that features sheep, and farm produce, as well as the best of Connacht’s penneys. The years we’ve attended, we’ve also seen goats, ferrets, dogs and puppies, geese and ducks for sale. It’s a fascinating fair for visitors.

This year’s event features trophies and cash prizes for the best folly bowl and cotl fool of registered parents, along with the perpetual cup for the best pony of the fair. Horse- shoeing demonstration and a horse shoe throwing competition are among many attractions planned for this year’s fair. For more information, e-mail info@peacockje.com. For information about the Acheil Island Sheep Show, which this year is Sun., Oct. 13, outside Potters Bar in Derrynane, Co. Mayo. This is the 35th anniversary and it’s always jam-packed and interesting to attend.

There are many more agricultural shows around the country in the autumn and they’re great fun to attend.

Right: Fall fairs in Ireland attract hundreds of visitors; this was in Connemara and seen from a hotel tower.

You just might meet a new friend at an Irish fair.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Page 7

Congratulations to lovely Ashford Castle in Cong, Co. Mayo, which was recently confirmed as the first 5-star hotel in Ireland to be awarded the GREENMark Plastic Smart Standard for its efforts in responsible tourism and its commitment to remove all single use plastics from the property by 2022.

Ashford Castle is owned by Red Carnation Hotel Group, which in collaboration with the TreadRight Foundation, is participating in the #MakeTravelMatter initiative to ensure that tourism has a positive impact on people and communities.

OCTOBER 2019   BOSTON IRISH REPORTER        Page 7

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COUNTRY FAIRS

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You just might meet a new friend at an Irish fair.
Happenings at the ICCNE

The ICC presents:

TR Dallas

Saturday, October 5th at 8pm

Dance the night away with one of Ireland’s favorite Country & Western Singers!

TR Dallas has toured and performed with some of the biggest names in Country Music such as Johnny Cash, Rosco Reeves, Dan Williams, Fbeiter & Allen and has had a string of hit records to his name such as “Wide Shot JR Swing”, “Hard to be Humble”, “Daddy’s Girl” and “This Story I Tell You is True”.

Tickets $20 / ICC members $15  Call 781-821-8291

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200 New Boston Drive, Canton, MA 781-821-8291 www.irishculture.org
Christine Delphine Hedden’s album “When the Aster Blooms” features many of her original tunes and songs.

Barbara Hedden photo

Continued on page 11)
‘From the Floor’ tracks moods, feelings that go into Irish dance

A scene from the video “From the Floor,” with (L-R) Jackie O’Riley, Rebecca McGowan and Chris Stevens.

(Continued from page 1) sociated videos of the pair dancing in tandem or solo to music provided by accordionist Chris Stevens — a member of the Maine-based quartet The Press Gang — and local fiddler Nathan Gourley; each video “track” consists of a tune or medley of tunes, video “track” consists of a dance, and of course, the chem-istry between dancers and musicians. There is a clear artistic intent to “From the Floor,” one which has much to do with the viewer. Instead of an artificially lit dance studio, the filming took place in a room of a Victorian house belonging to McGowan’s grandmother, Peg Wright, with trunk, suitcases, furniture, and other knick-knacks (some of which make cameos appearances in the videos) pressed against the walls. Thanks to several large windows, the room is fairly bathed in sunlight, projecting images of the window panes on the stur-ly-looking wood floor; in some scenes, you can see flecks of dust floating gen-tly over the dancers’ feet. So perhaps the best way to think of “From the Floor” is that it depicts the holistic event of dance — not just the act, but the anticipation of it, the effect and influence of setting, and of course, the chemistry between dancers and musicians.

Our over-arching moti-vation was to bring the viewer into the “small parts” of Irish dance and address how it’s perceived,” says O’Riley. “A popular perception of Irish dance is that it’s high-energy pieces taking place on a big stage. But Irish dance is a smaller, more personal activity, too, and there are different moods and feelings that go into each dance — hornpipes, for instance, have a kind of solemnity to them. We also wanted to convey the language of sean-nós, which is focused on the knees and ankles, and so there are a lot of subtleties that may not be immediately apparent from a distance.

Central to the project, she adds, was confronting the ephemeral nature of dances itself: “It’s difficult for dancers to share what they do beyond that moment on stage. How do you capture it in a way that really communicates what you do?” This was the topic of a conversation O’Riley and McGowan had while visiting Wright in Lexington during Thanksgiving of 2015. Finally, the two de-cided to put thought into action, as they collected their dance shoes, found a place on the house’s slate pathway that seemed right, and used an iPhone camera and CD player to make a prototype video. It was a start.

Having hatched the concept, McGowan and O’Riley began to think in earnest about the dances they wanted to put together, while looking in their circle of friends and acquaintances for help in producing high-quality videos. Among those they turned to were Gourley, who in addition to playing fiddle assisted with the audio recording and mixing, plus dancer Matthew O’Riley and musician Katie McNally to aid the overall production.

Stevens was a key re-cruit, notes O’Riley: “We went up to Chris’s house, and talked about some choices and transitions, what would work, what wouldn’t. Wecollaborated with Chris early enough in the process to pick ideas as pieces as we were creating them, and that was a big help.”

Still, the process was a labor of love, and all the participants also having to make time for various other projects and priorities — and O’Riley and McGowan felt it all the more rewarding. “I think that’s what makes it all the more comfortable for us.”

Still, the space presented certain challenges, such as limiting the variety of camera angles, which made one idea of McGowan and O’Riley difficult to fruition. But then they had a brainstorm.

“We wanted to have just our feet and just Chris’ hands in the same frame, but we couldn’t get it right,” says McGowan. “So instead of being a simple piece, I decided to put the camera on the board, to take the lead in figuring out what aspects of the house would be featured, and looking through the images was very interesting to see. It was a process I never would have thought of,” she says. “So this is a great moment to have.”

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019  |  BOSTON HARBOR HOTEL

For details, contact Megan Miller at 617-695-1554 | mmiller@iiicenter.org

SOLAS AWARDS CELEBRATION

30th Anniversary

An Taoiseach
Leo Varadkar
Solas Leadership Award

Tony Rodriguez
BINCA Student
Solas Courage Award

Attorney General
Maura Healey
Solas Service Award
Principles, ambitions, self-deception on display in ‘Admissions’


Maureen grew up in Enfield, CT, and her first stage role was playing a squirrel in the third grade. She enjoyed performing, participated in school shows, did some community theater and school shows, did some

"I married a wonderful man," she said. "He knew that I didn't like doing hair. He said, 'Look, if you really want to pursue this, I am here to support anything you want to do.' So I am lucky that I had not only the emotional support, but also, my husband was able to take care of any bills we had while I started to try and get myself a name... It would have been our 20th anniversary this year. It's extremely hard. He was a wonderful, wonderful man. He was my biggest fan. He saw everything I did.”

“I can't say strongly enough how incredible this community has been with me through this whole thing,” she said. “Through my husband's illness. And through his passing. I always knew that the Boston theater community was really special, but when you go through something that is so brutal, and to know that you are completely in the arms of people who love you and get you... it's truly humbling. Incredible.”

And now she's preparing to open another show at SpeakEasy. “Speaking of having your back, they take such good care of their artists,” she said. “They are so respectful and really loving, and they do incredible work.” Last month she hosted the company’s annual fundraising gala.

In the current cultural climate, Maureen suspects audiences will have a multitude of personal issues to contend with in “Admissions.” She sees it as “a very funny play, but in kind of a cringe way.” You're laughing, but you're like, ‘Ooohhh, should I be laughing at this?” It's really dark, but so, so funny. And I think it will really make people think about their own thoughts on how liberal they think they are. As opposed to, if they're denied something, [do those same principles] still apply.”

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

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BC High
1865
Grades 7–12
Open House
October 26 & 27
bchigh.edu
The Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton will feature a new program, a book launch and concert with Tara O’Rady, a musician who recently published on an on-the-road memoir, "Migrating Toward Happiness: The Soundtrack to My Spiritual Awakening." The memoir recounts O’Rady’s effort to renew her faith when she was at a low ebb – by retracing her grandmother’s 1957 road trip across America – and the journey took her on a path of discovery and creative breakthrough.

Also at the ICC this month is popular Irish country singer T.R. Dallas, on Oct. 5 at 8 p.m. Dallas – with a career spanning more than three decades, Dallas – who has also appeared locally at the Dorchester Irish Heritage Foundation – has made numerous radio and TV appearances and toured with such notable performers as Johnny Cash, Boxcar Willie, Don Williams, and Foster and Allen.

And on Oct. 19, the center will host the second annual Irish Beer Fest, which will include two stages of Irish music, and activities and entertainment for children and families.

For details on future events available at irishculture.org.

In the region:

Go to passim.org for tickets and more information.

The Berklee Backroom’s characteristically full and diverse program of events begins Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m. with The Jeremiahs, who since emerging several years ago from Dublin’s music scene have gained an enthusiastic following for their brand of urban folk, immersed in Irish instrumental tradition while evincing a decidedly contemporary lyrical style. Joe Gibney’s vocals have a true gravitas, edgy in one moment or incredibly tender in another, supported by James Ryan (guitar, bouzouki, harmonica) and Frenchmen Jean-Christophe Morel (fiddle, bouzouki) and Julien Bruneteau (flute, whistle) – crisp rhythm, superbly delivered fills and breaks, and flat-out gorgeous harmonization. The band has brought its songwriting talents – with a keen sense of language, humor, and turn of phrase – to the fore of late; no less an authority than Christy Moore singled them out as winners of the 2015 Trad Connect Songwriter Showcase. The band’s 2018 album, “The Femme Fatale of Maine” has brought them further praise.

Opening for The Jeremiahs will be the Boston-area duo of Colleen White (vocals, flute, whistle) and Sean Smith (vocals, guitar, bouzouki), presenting mainly traditional music from Ireland, Scotland, and England with an abundance of good cheer and taste.

Singer and author Tara O’Rady will be at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England October 10 for a concert and launch of her book Migrating toward Happiness: The Soundtrack to My Spiritual Awakening.

White and Smith also will perform on October 27, 10 p.m. at the annual Celtic Beer Fest. The festival is a Windjammer tradition, held at this Boston venue since 1982. Located in Harvard Square, The Windjammer features a full Irish band every weekend, along with traditional dancing and feature acts. The event also includes cider and beer tastings.

On the other end of the spectrum, the annual Celtic Folk Festival takes place Oct. 11-13 at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. For details, go to cfcfestival.com.

On Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m., in the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Performing Arts Center, Costa Rica’s Tommy McCarthy will play the on-the-road memoir, “Migrating Toward Happiness: The Soundtrack to My Spiritual Awakening.” The memoir recounts O’Rady’s effort to renew her faith when she was at a low ebb – by retracing her grandmother’s 1957 road trip across America – and the journey took her on a path of discovery and creative breakthrough.

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This month’s column focuses on recent recordings by a pair of Irish/Celtic trios with Massachusetts and New England connections.

**New Leaf, “The Glory Reel”**

Based in Western Massachusetts, this band comprises fiddler Kira Jewett, a former pupil of Sligo-style master Brian Conway who has performed and taught in the Greater Boston area; accordionist John Tabb, part of singer-songwriter Sean Tyrell’s short-lived band Apples in Winter and long a mainstay of the southern New England Irish scene; and vocalist/cuidithe Eamon Flynn, who also plays guitar and banjo and has been active in several music genres, including as a songwriter.

Much as its very name conjures up a New England landscape, New Leaf’s sound and repertoire, while predominantly Irish, reflects the polyglot character of New England traditional music. Alongside solid Irish trad material like “Lad O’Berne’s,” “My Love Is in America,” “The Blackbird,” and “Handsome Molly,” and “The Three Days,” are a set of Quebecois tunes, for example, and “The Bluemont Waltz,” by New Hampshire fiddler and tunesmith Roddy Miller. “Sarah’s Valentine,” a jig composed by Limerick-born and sometime Boston resident Eamon Flynn, points to the continual infusion immigrants have provided to American music, in New England as elsewhere. The Americantha thread, meanwhile, is underlined by Braunschweig’s excursions into flatpicking and jazz-influenced playing, often has an almost percussive quality to it, especially with his mandolin, which he brings into the hornpipe set “The Hawk/The Golden Eagle,” and by the three songs he contributes.

There’s a very pleasing, unhurried spaciousness to New Leaf and their approach to the music. Tabb does a slow solo to begin the “Bluemont Waltz,” showcasing the lively nuances, before Jewett and Braunschweig enter to perk up the tempo; the trio takes some time to explore the waltz in its fullness, Jewett adding some well-crafted harmonies and counter-melodies. Similarly, Jewett plays “The Blackbird” as an air, then in its more familiar set dance incarnation with Tabb. Elsewhere, the jig combo “Sarah’s Valentine/Caledon Line” is about as sweet, relaxed, and tender as they come, and a quartet of polkas is simultaneously sprightly and temperate.

Which is not to say New Leaf doesn’t play with intensity—the medley of reels, “The Rainy Day/The Penny Candle/The First Year in Buncrana,” is an excellent primer on how to construct and arrange a tune set with an ear to building tension and anticipation. The band also experiments with putting together a set of seamlessly disparate choruses, as in the jaunty “Dúlaman Na Binne Buí,” and another of hop jigs, “The Promenade/The Surround/Coole Vally,” another of hop jigs, “The Promenade/The Surround/Coole Vally,” with such exponents of the Sligo fiddle tradition as Rose Flanagan and Brian Conway; Stevens, an accomplished melodeon and concertina player and member of The Press Gang, here unveils his heretofore lesser-known talent on piano.

If New Leaf [see above] evokes a rural New England panarama, “The Glory Reel” is suggestive of longtime northeasterth urban hot spots for Irish-American traditional music, namely Boston, New York City, and Philadelphia. The tight, brisk playing of Woodson, Finley, and Stevens oftentimes recalls Irish dance bands from bygone eras, and a lot of their repertoire testifies to the venerable legacies of Sligo-born new New York fiddlers Michael Coleman, Paddy Kilduff, and James Morrison, as well as Donegal fiddlers Mickey and John Doherty, and Leitrim-born flutist John McKenna, among others. At the same time, these three are mindful of, and open to, more recent influences and developments within the tradition, distilled through recordings or interactions with friends and acquaintances—many of them in the aforementioned three cities.

As melody players, Woodson and Finley display a striking contrast and chemistry. Woodson’s flute playing often has an almost percussive quality to it, while Finley’s fiddling exhibits the Sligo/New York push on rhythm and tempo, all quite prominent on the “Fleadh on the Holms/Glory Reel” set—the command both show on the B part of the latter reel in particular is breathtaking, literally so in the case of Woodson. A combo of marches features a lovely harmony by Woodson at one point on the first (“My Love Has Deceived Me”) and his addition to the second, “Bairbre’s jig” (of Munster), while Finley provides a veritable bounce to their rendition of the slip jig “Kitty Come Down to Limerick/Guey’s Freoles.” In running the version of the splendid “Dublin Reel.”

Both Woodson and Finley get solos on the album: Woodson goes to the jaunty “Dúlaman Na Binne Buí,” and another of hop jigs, “The Promenade/The Surround/Coole Vally,” with good old reliable “The Wind That Shakes the Barley.”

And there’s no overlooking Stevens through all of this, who keeps things moving along with alacrity while giving Woodson and Finley plenty of space. He also makes a welcome cameos on melodeon for the reels “The Enchanted Lady/The Holy Land/Sailor on the Rock.”

The challenge, and the joy, when musicians play together is merging individual repertoires and influences. It’s a process Woodson, Finley and Stevens have clearly warmed to, as indicated by their sleeve note to “The Wind That Shakes the Barley”: Woodson’s version comes from Seamus Egan, the description reads, Finley’s from Michael Coleman, and “The way we play it here meets somewhere in the middle.” That middle ground is a glorious place. [thegloryreel.com]
4th Annual
Carl Hosea Foundation Charity 5K Run/Walk and Raffle Tickets
Saturday, October 5, 2019
12:00 pm
Pope John Paul II Park
Hallet Street/Keystone Entrance
Dorchester, MA

Pre-registration (before 10/3/2019)
Adults $30 - Child (under 16) $5

Entry fee includes a foundation gift and cookout.

Boston Sports Raffle Ticket Details $20 per ticket

A BOSTON SPORTS FAN’S DREAM!
2 tickets 2019/2020 Patriots Game - 2 tickets 2019/2020 Bruins Game
2 tickets 2019/2020 Celtics Game - 2 tickets 2020 Red Sox Game

To register for the walk/run or to buy a raffle ticket, please choose one of the following:
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Contact: Julie Kelley De Zutter, 617-306-2276 or jadezutter@gmail.com
Make Checks payable to:
Carl Hosea Foundation c/o Lynda Hosea 11 Flavia Street, Dorchester, MA 02122

Proceeds to benefit individuals and families in our community in need.
DONEGAL – There was a packed house in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel on Friday night, Sept. 27, as four notable members of the diaspora were honored with the 2019 Tip O’Neill Irish Diaspora Awards at a gala ceremony hosted by Donegal County Council.

RTÉ presenter Sean O’Rourke was the master of ceremonies at the event as the playwright and author Frank McGuinness, the developer Pat Doherty, the lawyer Patrick Doherty, and the businessman Daniel Hilferty were cited for their outstanding achievements in their chosen fields.

Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council Councillor Nicholas Crossan explained that “these awards were founded as a way to pay tribute to the great deeds of Tip O’Neill, to honor his family connection to Donegal, and to celebrate not only the outstanding achievements of Tip himself but to recognize, to acknowledge, and to honor the millions of Irish people or people of Irish decent across the globe who through hard work and dedication have excelled in their chosen fields and who through their own generosity of spirit continue to champion and support our diaspora.”

Paying homage to this year’s recipients Tom O’Neill, son of the late Tip O’Neill, described Patrick Dunican as a “real Irish leader” and described how he created a national powerhouse of a legal firm situated along the East Coast of the United States. His Irishness is recognized and appreciated for the leadership he gives all Americans but especially the Irish American community.

In response, Patrick Dunican spoke of his Irish ancestry saying “I am Irish, I am American, I am Irish American” and promised going forward that he would talk about Donegal and encourage tourism and travel to the county.

Tip O’Neill’s “great deeds.”

O’Neill spoke of Dan Hilferty’s achievements in the healthcare sector and how since 2010 he has by three times built the size of his company and said “I leave here tonight a very proud son of Donegal. I am very excited to be part of the fabric of this community and I promise you that I will be back and that I will spend the word to all the diaspora that there is no place like this beautiful place called Donegal.”

Tip’s son believes that Frank McGuinness “captures the very soul and spirit of what it is to be Irish,” adding that “he has been read and witnessed by tens of thousands of people here and abroad and he carries with him the impact of what it means to be a true Irish man.”

Describing Tip O’Neill as “a complex and high achieving benevolent man” and a man of “great eloquence” McGuinness said that he believed that “kindness was at the root of all that Tip O’Neill did, it was also at the root of the greatest Irish man of my generation and as far as I am concerned of the 20th century, John Henry. “

“Pat Doherty worked for his dad for four years in Donegal before he left to go to London where he began to make his fortune in development” said O’Neill. “But more importantly and this is what diaspora is, don’t ever forget where it is you are from, don’t ever forget what God’s gift has given you so you take that gift and give back.”

And that is exactly what Pat Doherty did, said O’Neill. “What he did to the Titanic Quarter in Belfast, what he has done in the last ten years back here in Donegal, taking 100 million euro and investing it and employing hundreds of people doing nothing else but good.”

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A rendering shows the exterior of the proposed Martin Richard Dorchester Field House, which would be sited on land owned by the Boston Public Schools (BPS) and would replace the BPS-owned L Street Center likely will close for up to 18 months during rehab.

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CEO CHAMPIONS LUNCHEON
State Street Pavilion at Fenway Park
Friday November 8, 2019
12.00pm
in association with the GPA Super 11’s Hurling Classic
A fine gathering came out on Sat., Sept 21, at the Irish Cultural Centre for an end-of-summer performance by the Celtic Angels of Ireland. The five women singing group features Victoria Kenny, Emily Carroll, Tammy Browne, Amy Penston, and Ellie Mullane, Irish to the core and seasoned entertainers all. The performance also featured Celtic Knight Dancers, with two former lead dancers of Riverdance.

1.) Celtic Angels; 2.) Andy and Tansy Davis, Hopkinton; 3.) Patrick and Karen Mulvey, Dedham; 4.) Bog and Barbara Bierig, Hopkinton; 5.) Sarah Roux, Stoughton; Betty Dowling, Canton; 6.) Dave Harper, Mansfield; Sibahn Mulready, Carver; 7.) Seamus Mulligan, ICC President; Margie Delaney, Arlington; 8.) Rob Cardin, Barrington, RI; Danielle Brennan, Providence, RI; Mike Webber, Providence, RI; 9.) Maudy Dooher, ICC; 10.) Kerrin Botte, Norfolk; Amanda Guidoboni, Walpole; 11.) Dancers; 12.) Kaylee Hargreaves, Medway, Sean Curran, Hyde Park.
Johnson rebuffs critics of his language in Brexit debate

(Continued from page 1) Immigrant Center, said: “We are very keen that there be a deal, that the UK should be able to leave the European Union in an orderly fashion. That’s in Ireland’s interest; it’s in Britain’s interest, too. He added: “But there are certain guarantees that we expect to be honored, that there won’t be a hard border between North and South, that North-South co-operation will continue as envisaged by the Good Friday Agreement - that what was given to us by the British government back in December 2017.” In reply, Johnson said, “It certainly will.” Later that week, the UK’s Express papers were amongst those reporting that “the Fine Gael leader was demanding that Johnson send detailed written proposals within 10 days to Brussels or it’s very hard to see how we could agree something” at the next summit in October. He said the current deal should not be “amended or cobbled together late at night” when EU leaders called for a crunch Brexit summit on October 17. The leader for the Republic of Ireland added: “It’s essentially the way the EU works. British Brexit supporters oppose the so-called ‘backstop’ provision because it would keep the UK tightly bound to EU trade rules in order to avoid customs checks, limiting the country’s ability to strike new trade deals around the world. However, there is still a very wide gap between the EU and UK in terms of achieving what we need to achieve before October 31.”

In London, the British government is determined to avoid a no-deal exit. During raucous, ill-tempered parliamentary debates last month, Johnson said postponing the country’s departure would “betray” the people, referred to an opposition law ordering a Brexit delay as the “Surrender Act” and brushed off concerns that his forceful language might endanger legislators as “hambang.” In Parliament, Johnson was repeatedly reminded that a Labour lawmaker, Jo Cox, was stabbed and shot to death a week before the 2016 Brexit referendum by a far-right attacker shouting “Death to traitors!” Many British lawmakers say they routinely receive death threats now. Amber Rudd, who served in Johnson’s Conservative Cabinet until she quit three weeks ago, said she was “disappointed and stunned” by Johnson’s dismissal of their concerns. She told the Evening Standard newspaper that the incendiary language used by Johnson and his aides “does incite violence.”

Johnson said that all threats to politicians were “absolutely appalling,” but defended his use of the term “Surrender Act,” saying, “The use of that kind of metaphor has been going on for hundreds of years.” Johnson argues that he is safeguarding the will of the public against the interests of the political establishment, which wants to remain in the EU. In truth, the British public and its politicians are both bitterly divided over how, or even whether, to leave the 28-nation bloc.

Church of England bishops appealed for calm amid the growing acrimony. “We should speak to others with respect,” the bishops said in a statement. “And we should also listen ... We should not denigrate, patronize or ignore the honest views of fellow citizens, but seek to respect their opinions, their participation in society, and their votes.”


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