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BIR cites five for Boston Irish Honors



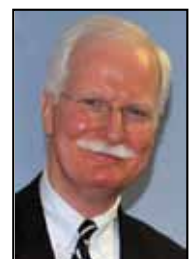
Therese Murray



Robert Mulligan



Joseph Mulligan



Gerald Mulligan



John P. Driscoll, Jr.
1932-2009

The *Boston Irish Reporter* hosted its fourth annual Boston Irish Honors on Fri., Oct. 25, at the Seaport Hotel on the South Boston waterfront. The event, which marked the 23rd anniversary of the BIR, drew more than 300 persons to the mid-day luncheon.

In his remarks for the program, event chairman Edmund F. Murphy III of Putnam Investments, called the luncheon "a welcome moment to embrace and celebrate our shared heritage by honoring men and women and families who embody the best qualities of the Boston Irish," a reference to the Boston Irish Honorees: Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray; Robert Mulligan, Gerald Mulligan, the late Joseph Mulligan & Family; and the late noted Boston attorney John P. Driscoll, Jr.

Said Chairman Murphy: "Our honorees are distinguished for their dedication to public service and excellence in their chosen fields. Their stories remind us of how far we have come in this 'city on a hill' – a place that continues to be our chosen home. They connect us to our ancestors and the difficult, but courageous decisions they made to set sail or take flight for a new land of opportunity."

A package of photos and stories about the Honors luncheon begins on Page 17.

Irish Heritage Fest makes strong return

By SEAN SMITH

Dorchester's Irish Heritage Festival enjoyed a successful return on October 13, as crowds of Irish culture lovers took in music and dance performances, browsed through various vendors' booths, and socialized in the warmth of a picture-perfect autumn day.

The festival, which is organized and run by community volunteers and supported largely through local businesses, went on hiatus last fall, when its leadership felt a need to regroup after the event's first two years. This year, the festival was forced to relocate to the Florian Hall area of Hallet Street because of construction taking place at the original site in Adams Corner.

By early afternoon, the scene was bustling, as festivalgoers of all ages lingered in Florian Hall, or strolled around the hall's parking lot or the McKeon Post AmVets lot across the street, while Irish songs and tunes of all varieties – performed by a roster of acts almost exclusively local – sounded from three different stages, and groups of young dancers jigged and capered in front of appreciative audiences.

But this year's festival also had a solemn aspect to it, as an occasion to celebrate the community spirit and resilience that had been on display in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings six



A time to dance at the fair.

Photo by Sean Smith

months ago. Several speakers and performers paid tribute to victims and others whose lives had been most directly affected by the tragedy, and to the dedication and bravery of first responders. Around the festival grounds, the "Boston Strong" slogan was almost as conspicuous as Irish phrases or Boston sports team logos.

One of the festival co-organizers, Mairin Uí Cheide, underscored the theme when she officially opened the day's events by singing "Amazing Grace" – in hope and respect, she said, "for all that has happened and all that we as a city have endured."

In the early afternoon, the festival staged "Dorchester

Strong," as students from local Irish dance schools – wearing yellow T-shirts emblazoned with "Dorchester Strong" above a picture of ghillies (Irish soft shoes) – processed from in front of Florian Hall to the McKeon lot stage, waving pom-poms and carrying signs with

(Continued on page 6)

A Walsh vs. a Connolly for Boston's new mayor

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
NEWS EDITOR

Before the gloves came off late in the Boston mayoral race – City Councillor At-Large John Connolly pointing to negative mailers from an outside group trashing his upbringing and state Rep. Marty Walsh accusing the Connolly campaign of phone calls testing negative messages about him – the candidates more often than not agreed with each other on the issues.

Voters will go to the polls next Tuesday to choose between the two, who have focused on their biographies: Walsh has been a state lawmaker and labor leader



One will be the new mayor: John Connolly and Marty Walsh
Photo by Chris Lovett

from Savin Hill for 16 years, while Connolly is an attorney and former teacher who has served on the City Council for six years and chaired the

council's Education Committee. If either one is elected, control of the top job in City Hall will return to an Irish-American for the first time

in 20 years, after Mayor Thomas Menino became the first Italian-American to hold the office. Both candidates also identify themselves as progressive Democrats.

During the campaign, the *Reporter* asked the two candidates what their plans would be for Dorchester and Mattapan once they got into office next year. Walsh, who would be the first mayor from Dorchester since John B. Hynes in the 1950s, said he would target Codman Square and the Blue Hill Avenue area, which continually struggle with high unemployment and lack of opportunity.

(Continued on page 6)

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Irish sessions

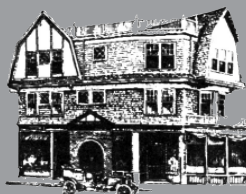
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Abbey Theatre leaders cite Boston connection in asking help for Irish icon

By ED FORRY
BIR PUBLISHER

Leaders of Ireland's legendary Abbey Theatre visited Boston last month for the second in a series of annual visits to develop support for Ireland's national theatre.

Irish Senator Fiach Mac Conghail, who serves as the Abbey's director ("Stiúrthóir") was hosted by Tom and Shelly O'Neill, who together chair a Boston chapter in support of the Abbey Theatre Foundation. The O'Neills were joined by Mac Conghail and Abbey Theatre chairman Bryan McMahan at a dinner for some 40 guests at #9 Park on Beacon Hill.

MacConghail said that at the Abbey, "We try to reflect and tell stories from Ireland in an entertaining way, and we're proud to continue that legacy. The connection between the Abbey Theatre and Boston goes back to 1911, when our first-ever international tour started at the old Plymouth Theatre. Last year, the first chapter of the Abbey Theatre Foundation was established in Boston, so we're making history together again. In the next three years there are three

important events that we will observe," the theatre leader said. "Next year is our 110th anniversary; 2015 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of our founder, WB Yeats; and the big one is 2016 – the centenary of the Easter Rising. The Abbey was in the midst of the debate about Irish culture that went on during the founding of the new Irish state."

MacConghail said the foundation also supports an extensive educational component, and partners with schools in Ireland to bring art to students. "We would like to do this with the great city of Boston," he told the gathering. "In partnership with the Boston chapter, we are planning to partner with schools at a cost of about \$100,000 over the next three years. We hope to build up to the great centenary anniversary in April 2016."

The Abbey has established a 110th Anniversary Fund "to ensure we continue to fuel the flame our founders lit over a century ago," the foundation states on its website. "This flame has often been sustained in the past by the generosity and passion of our American friends. With your support we can develop playwrights, support theatre artists, engage



At the October 28 Boston reception at #9 Park in support of the Abbey Theatre Foundation are (l-r): Abbey director Senator Fiach Mac Conghail, Jay Cashman, and Boston chapter organizers Shelly O'Neill and Tom O'Neill.

Photo by Ed Forry

citizens, and present world renowned theatre both in Ireland and the US. "The Abbey Theatre is a key cultural institution for Ireland: one that makes the nation a richer place in which to live, and one which acts internationally as an ambassador for the country, highlighting the characteristics that make Ireland unique. Internationally it is seen as one

of the most significant theatres of the twentieth century."

The Abbey Theatre Foundation is a New York-based 501 © (3) non-profit organization that supports the work of the Abbey Theatre in Ireland and in the United States. Contributions to the Abbey Theatre Foundation are deductible to the extent allowed by law

ICCNE to host Mass. Memories Road Show on Sat., Nov. 16 "The Irish Immigrant Experience"

The effect on viewers was immediate... "Stop, I need to take a closer look!" The photo accompanying this article greeted visitors at a recent Irish festival. The 1939 study of Roxbury's Emerald Isle Orchestra elicited many comments:

Older folks remembered the Irish dance halls in Dudley Square; some recognized band members in the photo; younger viewers picked out other details – the two girls who must have been sisters; and one twenty-something musician commented on the group's slogan "For Music That Satisfies – Call Prospect 1046-J."

Not everyone has an Irish band member in the family, but a large number of Massachusetts residents have Irish ancestors. On Nov. 16, everyone with a connection to Irish immigration is invited to share stories at "The Mass. Memories Road Show – The Irish Immigrant Experience." The event will be held at the Irish Cultural Centre of New

England in Canton on Sat., Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Mass. Memories Road Show (MMRS) is the creation of the University Archives & Special Collections Department at the Joseph P. Healey Library, UMass Boston. To date, this project has digitized more than 4,000 photos and stories from across the state.

The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA), The Eire Society of Boston, and the Consulate General of Ireland Boston are joining the host, the ICCNE, in sponsoring the show. These Irish groups are inviting participants to reflect on how immigrant experiences have influenced lives of Massachusetts residents. Attendees may choose from one to three photographs to be scanned and included in the archives at UMass Boston and online at massmemories.net. Contributors can also share "the story behind the photos" on video, have their own "keepsake photo" taken, and receive



Photo courtesy of the University Archives & Special Collections Department, Joseph P. Healey Library, University of Massachusetts Boston: Mass. Memories Road Show Collection.

advice from professional archivists and historians on dating and caring for their family photos.

Bring 1-3 Photos in original format,

CD or flashdrive. More Information: massmemories.net; Questions: massmemories@tiara.ie; TIARA office 617-244-3050.



HONORING A TRADITION -- Celebrating the official start of the new court year, The Catholic Lawyers' Guild of Boston came together recently to host The Red Mass at The Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Among the more than 100 guests attending the luncheon which followed at The Seaport Hotel were (left to right): Paul McNamara, President of The Catholic Lawyers' Guild; The Most Reverend Robert P. Deeley, J.C.D, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston; luncheon guest speaker Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus; and Maura S. Doyle, Vice President of The Catholic Lawyers' Guild and Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for The County of Suffolk. Established in 1987, The Catholic Lawyers' Guild of Boston fosters a sense of wisdom, community and guidance to Catholic lawyers as they apply their faith to the ever-changing challenges of professional versus personal life.

R. J. Donovan photo

John Boyle O'Reilly exhibit to open at BC on Tues., Nov. 12

The John J. Burns Library and The Center for Irish Programs at Boston College in collaboration with The John Boyle O'Reilly Society of Ireland, The Charitable Irish Society, and The Eire Society of Boston will be opening an exhibit entitled "John Boyle O'Reilly, His Life and Work" on Tues., Nov. 12, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Burns Library.

Opening remarks will be made by the Honorable Richard Culhane, Lord Mayor of Drogheda and President of the John Boyle O'Reilly Society of Ireland. A reception will follow.

On the following day, at 4 p.m., there will be a presentation on John Boyle O'Reilly, also in the Burns Library, where Sean Collins, curator of the 2013 O'Reilly exhibit in Drogheda, will speak about O'Reilly's early life and education and Professor Catherine B. Shannon will deliver a talk on O'Reilly as a prophet of American Progressivism and Social Justice.

For information, please contact Anne Del Vecchio via e-mail at delvecan@bc.edu or by telephone at 617-552-4470.



Seven-year-old Jane Richard of Dorchester, who lost a leg in the Boston Marathon bombings, joined a group of St. Ann's parishioners in singing the National Anthem before a Red Sox-Tigers American league pennant playoff game at Fenway Park on Sun., Oct. 13.

Getty Images

Trinity College prof visits CM Irish class

Catholic Memorial's Irish Study students welcomed Professor Mark Hennessey of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, to their campus on Tues., Oct. 29.

Professor Hennessey, who teaches geography at Trinity's School of Natural Science, is on a tour of the United States and when he learned about Catholic Memorial School's Irish Study program, he contacted the school and asked if he

could visit, learn more about the program, and speak with students.

While at CM, he planned to give the Irish study students an introduction to the geography of Ireland from a historical perspective.

CM's Irish Studies is the only known program of its kind at the secondary level in Massachusetts; it has been offered to students for the past seven years.

The stirring story of a team and its city

By Ed Forry

As I write these words, the marvelous run of this year's Boston Red Sox is just a few hours shy of its conclusion.

Tonight, our Olde Town Team will take to the field at Fenway for a World Series Game 6, leading three games to two, and Boston awaits in hopeful anticipation that tonight's game will be a victory, even as images come to mind of one more Duck Boat Victory parade on the streets of downtown Boston before this week comes to an end. Or maybe not.



As you see these words, dear reader, you already know the outcome of these final innings of 2013 at the ball yard on the Fens. Did they win Game 6? Or was there one more game on Halloween night? Was Boston the last team standing? Or are they celebrating in St. Louis?

At this moment, I cannot predict what will come. But in these

few remaining anxious hours, there's some comfort in looking back. To wit:

• Last March, on the eve of opening day. I tucked a Red Sox season schedule into my wallet. The cover read, "162 Chances to Restore the Faith." What seemed a pipe dream last winter, some copywriter's fantasy, had indeed become a reality. Faith in this team has been restored!

• As a 15 years season ticket owner, I struggled not to cancel this year, reasoning that last year we paid major league prices for a minor league team. Many season packages were cancelled, and I decided to not renew our box seats behind home plate. But since season-ticket holders are promised playoff seats, I gave in and negotiated less expensive grandstand seats in left field. What a surprise: This was a winning team right from the start, and the new, cheaper seats were better than the old ones.

• On Memorial Day, the team beat Tampa Bay in the morning , an upbeat beginning to what would become a dreadful day. Soon came news of two explosions at the Marathon finish line, followed by the awful news of lives lost and limbs blown apart. Our baseball team decamped that afternoon for three days in Cleveland, returning on April 19 to a tumultuous and monumental pre-game ceremony that brought the entire community together and, in retrospect became the pivotal moments of a city and region that came together as if we were all one.

"Boston Strong" was the anthem, but #34, David Ortiz, rallied us all with his simple declaration-"This is our f---!!! City!" Our Red Sox season would become the salve that has helped heal so many wounds,

• Father Sean Connor, a priest who has ministered to the grieving Richard family in his former Dorchester parish, helped to orchestrate a compelling moment at Fenway during the playoffs: a group of young children from St. Ann parish in Dorchester sang the National Anthem, and they were joined by seven-year-old Jane Richard, who walked on her prosthetic left leg to stand with them at second base.

What a moment!

Six months after the Marathon Day tragedy, Jane and her family continue to heal, even as they struggle with the loss of little Martin Richard. But while little Jane walked onto the field on her new artificial limb, the national TV audience never saw it. Fox was in a commercial, and the scene was ignored by the commercial interests of MLB and the Fox TV network. Too bad.

But still, as the ballpark sings after every win, you gotta Love That Dirty Water – Boston You're My Home!

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For Ireland and the Bay State, a boom in medical device business

Irish American Partnership study shows exciting growth

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Ireland is slowly emerging from its economic disaster and one of the main reasons is the medical device business led by Boston Scientific, Medtronic, and 200 other medical device companies located in Galway and throughout the country.

A just-released research study financed by the Irish American Partnership, sponsored by the Regenerative Medicine Institute of the National University of Ireland Galway, and authored by Ms. Emma Wickham shows how the medical device business in both Galway and Massachusetts is thriving due at least partly to "technology transfer" activities.

Joe Leary

"Technology transfer" refers to collaborative programs involving government grants, university research, and industry. Successful product-producing research is typically licensed to an existing business in the

field for manufacture, promotion, and distribution. The goal, of course, is more jobs for the local economy.

Taxpayer-supported research programs are used by all governments throughout the world to create new business and bring huge health benefits to all people.

Massachusetts and Ireland, with their combined accumulation of extraordinary universities, willing governments, and forward-thinking companies are natural candidates for this collaboration, and Galway and Boston have benefitted immensely from the programs.

The medical device category covers a wide variety of product areas. The list includes artificial joints and prosthetic limbs, laboratory tools, even large X-ray machines and MRI scanners. It also includes cardiovascular products such as pacemakers, stents to open heart valves, and defibrillators.

The major companies in the business are Johnson & Johnson, GE Healthcare, Medtronic, Boston Scientific, Abbott, Stryker, and Becton Dickinson.

According to Enterprise Ireland, a business promoting agency of the Irish government, 80 percent of the stents used globally are made in Ireland.

Quoting from the Irish American Partnership/University of Galway study: "Ireland is now one of the largest exporters of medical devices in the world, with an export value of 7.2 billion in 2010. The Irish government has identified the medical device sector as a key driver for

Off the Bench

Confronting doubt about God's existence

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

It would be disingenuous not to question the existence of God or the validity of those institutions that purport to represent him. To be "born again" into a complete and permanent acceptance of God, while perhaps comfortable, seems more emotional than rational.

James W. Dolan

Doubt is the natural product of an inquisitive mind. Courage is overcoming fear – without the one, the other is suspect. So, too, faith is the affirmation of hope – without doubt, it is blind acceptance.

Some too easily dismiss or condemn those whose doubts lead them to disbelief, yet many intelligent and thoughtful persons are atheists. They look at science and the chaos and

evil so evident in the world and determine that belief is a myth. They conclude that we are on our own in a world without intelligent design or purpose beyond what evolution and science has, or will, reveal.

In an odd way, believers and non believers alike follow the same path to a chasm beyond which there are two paths: one to faith, the other to denial. Often relying on the same evidence, they go in different directions. Believers use hope in a guiding spirit to bridge the gap to faith. Atheists see science and evolution as the way forward. Both make a leap of faith since neither can say beyond a reasonable doubt that they have achieved certainty

Agnostics simply stop at the chasm. They see the evidence supporting both sides as inconclusive and are unable to commit. Their position is rational and honest but it underscores the limitations of the intellect: It will only take us so far, and for them the chasm is too wide.

Embracing hope and choosing faith does not eliminate doubt. It remains an unwelcome companion, at times more apparent than others. For some it is a constant effort to confront the world with all its discord while clinging to the one thing that offers purpose, hope, and

economic growth, and so has invested heavily in this sector. There are over 200 medical device companies located in Ireland and the medical technology sector employs 25,000 people directly."

Similar businesses tend to cluster together and this is very true of the medical device business. Galway and Boston are good examples. The establishment of Boston Scientific and Medtronic in Galway in the 1990s is responsible for the growth of the medical device cluster in Ireland, specifically in Galway.

The Boston area has similarly benefitted from the location of Boston Scientific. According to the Partnership/Galway study, Massachusetts and Ireland have approximately 25,000 workers employed in medical device manufacture, research, and development. Due to their respective sizes, Ireland's medical device employment is far more important. In fact, Ireland's total population (4.6 million) is less than that of Massachusetts (6.6 million).

Ireland was a manufacturing location until about 15 years ago. Today, because its educational system is producing such a highly trained work force, Ireland has become a favorite research area for new medical device investment. Boston Scientific, Stryker, Abbott, Covidien, Johnson & Johnson, and Medtronic have all set up research and development facilities in Ireland.

And today, Massachusetts and Ireland have countless agencies and organizations dedicated to assisting universities and companies specifically in the medical device business.

In Ireland foremost among them are the Regenerative Medicine Institute in the National University of Galway, Trinity Biomedical Institute at Trinity College, and the Irish government's Enterprise Ireland.

The Galway Technology Center helps small business in the county. The Irish Medical Device Association and the Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council are both dedicated to bringing new business to their areas and assisting existing business where needed.

"Technology Transfer" is the key to all these promotional activities, and the process of government funding, University research, and licensed business participation is the central focus. No good idea, no successful product-producing research will go unrewarded with all this support in place.

The medical device industry is well served by the professionalism shown by the leaders of both Ireland and Massachusetts and their economies will benefit from this effort for many years. And perhaps more importantly, the people of Ireland, Massachusetts, and throughout the world will be healthier and live longer because of new advances in the industry.

fulfillment. Many saints have struggled to overcome their doubts.

While faith may ebb and flow, it can be reinforced by contemplation and prayer. For me, the very existence of things, the order and beauty of the universe, the goodness I see in people, our often-flimsy efforts to identify truth, do justice and love one another provide compelling evidence of intelligent design. That life as we know it is the result of some cataclysmic eruption followed by a series of accidents and coincidences seems more preposterous to me than belief.

I understand how others come to a different conclusion, but I fail to grasp how they cope with the absence of meaning and purpose in an accidental world inhabited by creatures so fundamentally flawed. Perhaps believers lack the strength to face such a profoundly distressing reality, or perhaps, through faith, they see another reality beckoning beyond.

How does a loving God react to those who either deny him or are unable to decide? I suspect that a sincere and conscientious atheist or agnostic has essentially the same path to salvation as believers. The two great commandments are to love God and love your neighbor; if you are sincere about doing one, you necessarily do the other.

A nonbeliever who truly loves his neighbor constructively loves and pleases God. Conversely, one cannot really love God while despising or ignoring his neighbor. They are different sides of the same coin.

Sadly, there are many professed believers who overlook their duty to love, assist, and care for the poor, sick, and homeless by supporting programs to help them – like universal health care. Also, there are many nonbelievers who feel a moral obligation to feed and house the poor and care for the sick and disabled. Which is more pleasing in the eyes of God?

I believe a merciful and all-knowing God will embrace non-believers, unable to cross the faith barrier, who in good conscience and a sense of morality give of themselves in service to their neighbors. "Whatever you did for these, the least of my brethren, you did for me," will be their welcome.

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

OF POLITICIANS AND PUGILISTS

Echoes of the Past in Boston Politics and Sports

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Two Boston Irish names at the top of the 2013 mayoral ticket – What’s old in the city’s politics is new again. In a Boston whose demographics are shifting, the fact that the next mayor will be a man with Hibernian bloodlines has dismayed some in the media and some in the neighborhoods. It is an unfair swipe at both Marty Walsh and John Connolly. Both are smart and capable candidates who genuinely want to serve *all* residents.

Unlike days of yore, the once-vaunted “Boston Irish Machine” did not propel either man to the mayoral final. They emerged from the scramble to follow Tom Menino fair and square. Demographics, however, are destiny. Menino broke the century-old Irish grip on the mayor’s office, serving longer than any mayor in the city’s history. So, too, some day, will a minority or ethnic candidate as well as a woman break through those barriers. History reveals that the local Irish did the same back 130 years ago, in 1884, and they did so because of demographics.

For nearly all of the 20th century, the Boston Irish had a stranglehold on the office of mayor. Not until Tom Menino followed Ray Flynn in the post was the near-monopoly of old sod descendants truly broken. Yes, a man named Walsh or Connolly will be the next Irish name in the post, and either might prove so popular that they will be returned to office – though matching Menino’s tenure poses a longshot for anyone. What is extremely unlikely is that the 2013 mayoral race is marking the resurrection of the “old-boyo” machine.

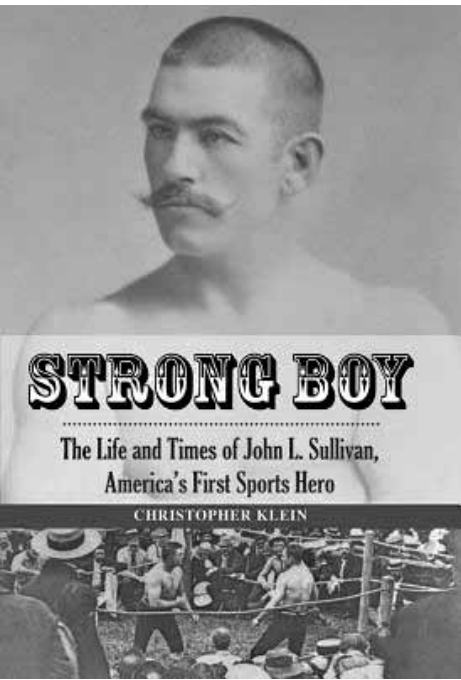
Back in 1884, demographics had tilted toward the Boston Irish, carrying the city’s first Irish mayor, Hugh O’Brien, into office. When he was sworn in on

Jan. 5, 1885, his ascent represented a once unthinkable development in a region notable for its antipathy toward Irish Catholics. Boston’s changing electorate in the 21st century will similarly bring ethnic, racial, and gender change to City Hall.

During the same time that Hugh O’Brien was changing Boston politics forever, another Boston Irishman was changing the future of sports and celebrity. The incredible turnaround of the Red Sox this year and their fans’ exuberant bond with John Farrell’s bearded band testify to just how deeply ingrained sports are in and around Boston. We sometimes admire or even revere the athletes, sometimes scorn them, sometimes both. It can be rightly said that Boston, cradle of liberty and so much else, also gave birth to America’s first bonafide sports legend. Fittingly in many ways, this hero was Boston Irish to his literal core. His name was John L. Sullivan, aka “The Great John L.” and “The Boston Strong Boy.”

In reading the just-released *Strong Boy: The Life and Times of John L. Sullivan, America’s First Sports Hero*, by the local author and journalist Christopher Klein, I could not help but consider just how intertwined sports and society are.

The author of *Discovering the Boston Harbor Islands: A Guide to the City’s Hidden Shores* and *The Die-Hard Sports Fan’s Guide to Boston*, as well as a contributor to the *Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Harvard Magazine*, *Red Sox Magazine*, *ESPN*, *Smithsonian*, and *American Heritage*, Klein has crafted a rollicking look at the life and career of Boston-bred Sullivan while also juxtaposing America’s first sports superstar and first Irish American sports hero against the ethnic, cultural, religious, and social history of Boston as the Irish



began muscling their way into political power and beyond.

“I can lick any son-of-a-bitch in the world.” Those colorful words became Sullivan’s legendary mantra. For a time, he could, and did, back them up with his brutal fists. With them, he pounded his way out of Boston’s tenements, battered opponents as he bridged the bare-knuckled to gloved eras of boxing, and became the first athlete in America’s annals to earn a million dollars in a day when \$1,000 a year was a good salary.

As with so many professional athletes then and now, Sullivan came out of hardscrabble beginnings. His parents, Michael and Catherine Kelly Sullivan, were “Famine Irish” who had fled the starvation and disease of the Great Hunger and settled in Boston. Klein

writes: “...Michael and Catherine Sullivan lived in a cluster of tenements...off East Concord Street near the intersection of Washington Street...when they welcomed their first child into the world [in October 1858].” That child was John L. Sullivan, part of the immigrant tide that, according to the famed Minister Theodore Parker, was turning Boston into “the Dublin of America.”

Although Sullivan’s first love was baseball, his hands were meant for the ring, not the diamond nor the manual labor or trades that were the sole means of survival for so many young Boston Irishmen unless they had a way up and out through a combination of brains, ambition, and a dose of luck. In Sullivan’s case, his way out was his brutal punching power.

Klein’s fast-flowing prose is both compelling and erudite and offers a tour-de-force story of the boxer whose domination of the heavyweight ring was matched only by his larger-than-life drinking, womanizing, and “police-blotter” exploits that were “godsend” to a burgeoning newspaper industry.”

Strong Boy (Globe Pequot Press) vividly renders both the incredible saga of America’s first superstar athlete and the saga of a Boston where local lad John L. Sullivan symbolized the way the Irish were muscling their way into power through the ballot box and, in his case, the national stage. The narrative gives readers ringside seats to the colorful tale of one of the country’s first Irish-American heroes, the birth of the American sports media, and the country’s celebrity obsession with athletes. In and around Boston, a look at the Irish roots of our sports obsessions seems apt with the Red Sox’s banner year under the guidance of a manager named Farrell.

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It's a Walsh vs. a Connolly for Boston's new mayor

(Continued from page 1)

"Certainly, the policies I'm talking about, creating opportunity for employment, those are areas I'm targeting," he said. "And again, it would be great to be from Dorchester and be mayor, but I'm still going to be mayor of the whole city. That's the important piece here. I'm going to represent West Roxbury, I'm going to represent Hyde Park, represent Roxbury. I'll be living and sleeping in Dorchester, but I'm going to represent the whole city."

Connolly said he would like to see entrepreneurship centers that would help small businesses grow and spur new businesses, similar to what he has proposed in Roxbury. The centers would be housed on city-owned property, and focus on providing incubator and office space, and access to capital, mentors, and networking. He would also push for Diesel Multiple Units on all of the commuter rail lines, particularly on the Fairmount Line, which runs through Dorchester and Mattapan. The move, which state officials are attempting to implement on the Fairmount Line, would bring the commuter rail closer to the rapid transit Red Line.

Both contenders also responded to a **Reporter** questionnaire that was distributed to mayoral candidates during the preliminary. Asked about tackling gun violence in the community, Connolly said he will focus on community policing, appoint a liaison for reentry services, and expand the youth summer jobs program to a year-round effort.

Walsh said he will convene a discussion about "how to best approach gang violence" on his first day in office. "Recognizing that many of the guns on Boston's streets come from bordering states like New Hampshire and Maine, I will also be a strong advocate for better gun laws and stepped-up enforcement efforts against illegal gun trafficking," he wrote.

The candidates were also asked how they would make use of the city-owned Strand Theatre in Uphams Corner. Walsh, who held his campaign kick-off at the Strand, called it an "untapped jewel. I know it has had many challenges over the years, but I will

work to make it viable by partnering with an appropriate non-profit to run and program the theater as it was utilized in the 80's under Executive Director Geri Guardino," Walsh wrote. "I will find a way to bring back the teen programs as well."

Connolly proposed extending First Night, the city's New Year celebration, into a mid-winter arts and culture festival with the Strand serving as its home throughout January. "And when I'm mayor, the Strand will continue to host important community performances, such as the year-end concert of Dorchester-based Boston City Singers, and the recent Shakespeare-inspired productions of the youth writing program 826 Boston," he wrote.

Inside the Channel 7 studios a block away from City Hall, the two candidates jabbed at each other in the last big debate before the election on Tuesday night. "We don't need another lawyer in City Hall right now," watching the purse strings, Walsh said in a shot at Connolly. The councillor asked Walsh if he was willing to "bite off the arm" of unions, a reference to a quote Walsh gave the Boston Irish Reporter in 1999 in which the lawmaker said he was not. Walsh noted that his father, who came over from Ireland, was a laborer and he grew up in a pro-labor household. Despite that, "I've stood up to the unions on many occasions," Walsh said.

But the debate, put together by a media consortium that included local television and radio stations, also had its points of agreement. Both candidates said there is systemic racism in the Boston Police Department, and institutional racism within the city of Boston.

Irish Heritage Fest makes strong return

(Continued from page 1)

various messages such as "Thank You" and "Peace." The children performed a celebratory dance, as parents, friends and other onlookers held cameras and smartphones aloft to capture the moment.

Later, festival committee leaders gathered on the stage to present the first Larry Reynolds Spirit Award to recognize a person whose positive impact on the area Irish community evokes the award's namesake, the legendary musician and organizer who died last year. Ui Cheide, along with colleagues John O'Toole and Sean Weir, presented the award to Margaret Dalton, singer with the popular band Erin's Melody.

"I would like to thank the Irish Heritage Festival committee and all the volunteers and all the city agencies for their help in

making this such a great event and a success," said Weir.

The committee also gave an award of appreciation to the Reynolds family, which was accepted by Larry Reynolds Jr., who was among the contingent of musicians from the local Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann branch providing music prior to the presentation.

"I am truly humbled by this generosity," said Reynolds, his voice cracking. "Thanks to all of you for your kindness, and the love you always showed for my father."

Reynolds then returned to his seat next to his fellow musicians, picked up his accordion, and the band struck up another set of tunes.

Weir credited the volunteers and key assistance from City Hall for making the day a hit.

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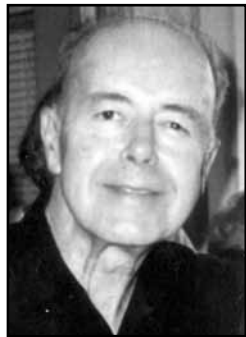
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Boston Irish Reporter’s Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Is Boston Famine Memorial Art, Or Something Else? – Not for the first time, and certainly not for the last, the Boston Irish Famine Memorial has been gobsmailed as a justifiably reviled piece of sculpture by critics. Once again we learn that they (writers, journalists, et al.) don’t like it. The latest and most celebrated of the naysayers is the *Boston*



Bill O'Donnell

Globe's Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic, **Sebastian Smee**. Before Smee’s recent harsh words there was **Fintan O’Toole** of the Irish Times, who spilled his spleen on the downtown Boston statuary for representing “pious clichés and dead conventions.”

The corner of Washington and School streets is home to the famine memorial and its centrality on the Freedom Trail makes it hard to miss. On a personal note ,that corner is one of my particular favorites and has been since I initially came upon it as a teenager, long before the now controversial statuary was erected. Now after 15 years, following a period of doubt and a wrestle or two with myself on what a memorial is intended to convey, I believe it’s the right statue grouping, on the right corner of Boston, and, yes, it’s a Memorial with a capital M, thank the good Lord, and once again, thank you to the late Tom Flately!

The root criticism, as I perceive it, is that the two groupings (one in agony, the second hopeful) are considered too obvious, too literal, too anti-abstract, and, of course, too “in your face.” One doesn’t have to devote too much work on first sighting to quickly grasp the message of the diaspora in the faces of the dispossessed and nearly dead. One doesn’t need some snappy, four-color brochure to represent the freedom that came at the end of the horrific coffin ship voyages that brought hope, and a new life after a leap into the unknown.

Yes, I like, even admire, the Boston Famine Memorial. It is what it was intended to be when the project leaders contacted the sculptor **Robert Shure**. They knew what to expect (his works are popular and plentiful) and together they accomplished their goal, with authority and no question marks. After too long a wait, we have a lasting memorial that recognizes history’s truth and tells its poignant story to some three million viewers each year. What’s the problem?

Shutdown Madness Over, It’s Time For Immigration Reform –Now that the silly, irrelevant, and politically deranged attempt to turn America into a facsimile of a know-nothing third-world joke, perhaps we might call on the members of Congress to get back to their desks and finish the long-overdue immigration legislation. A not unreasonable proposal is within the realm of possibility, especially when considering the long weeks of bipartisan meetings by legislators to carve out a viable compromise. Where’s the work product?

The current mishmash of laws, legislators, and agencies have collectively failed to meet their responsibilities to fashion a sane proposal to answer the core question of what to do with regard to the estimated 11 million undocumented foreigners in the US today. If the Congress tries to finesse the immigration question in the final months of 2013, it is unlikely that there will be any real progress in the new year with mid-term congressional elections on tap. That’s the history.

President Obama is strong for immigration reform. The question is can the fractured GOP get its act together, bring the House Tea Party folks on board, and do something to resolve the festering problem.

Loyalist Bands Growing, Seek Redemption – There are today at least 640 bands and 30,000 band members and marchers making music in the North and their numbers are growing. For some ,it’s the cultural ties in the Orange Order and a tradition passed from one generation to another; for others, it is religious or communal links that express their beliefs in the Protestant unionist history. There is an increasing number of young band members who believe that they and their traditions have been “demonized by negative headlines and a lack of understanding by nationalists.”

One band leader referenced a legacy of that community’s historical ties and connections with the British military, noting that for two centuries the Protestant, unionist, and loyalist people of Ireland have expressed themselves musically. True enough, but that hardly begins to explain why Protestant marchers intentionally stop and play racist and offensive tunes in front of Catholic churches on the parade route.

Right or wrong, the message that these loyalist marching bands reflect is a triumphant militarism that antagonizes and insults Catholic nationalists.

New Irish Ambassador to US No Slouch – **Ann Anderson’s** career with Ireland’s Foreign Affairs Department has been a series of firsts. She was the first woman ambassador to the European Union from any member state. She became Ireland’s first female ambassador to France, to the United Nations in 2009, and now to the United States, in September after presenting her credentials to President Obama.

An interesting sidelight to the appointments of women to the Irish diplomatic Corps, which are growing in number in recent years, is that prior to joining the European Unions there was a marriage ban in the foreign service that precluded Irish women in top leadership positions. Ambassador Anderson noted in a recent interview that “there were generations of women whose talent and potential could not be fully utilized” during the earlier years of the marriage ban.

The new Irish envoy succeeds Michael Collins who has been named ambassador to France.

Rural Ireland Can Be A Lonely Place – We all know that life on the farm and in rural Irish homes can be lonely and isolated. That reality has been underlined by a new report showing that suicides, especially among males, have been growing at an alarming rate. Last year there were nearly 500 suicides in the Republic of Ireland; that’s almost ten per week mainly in the west. An IFA official in the Galway organization, the Galway East Life Support, is leading an outreach program focusing on Irish males in rural settings in a suicide prevention campaign. A simple phone call to a helpline number, the IFA suggests, can save a life or alert community groups that a problem exists. Something along the lines of a visiting nurse program on a large scale in the west of Ireland might help in establishing networks with supporting funds provided by Irish government sources in partnership with rural church parishes.

Attleboro Teen Conquers All At All-Ireland Fleadh – **Torrin Ryan**, a US-trained Uilleann pipes player, went to Derry to compete with musicians from around the world and won first place. The eight-day festival, which attracted 20,000 musicians and 300,000 spectators, had Ryan competing on the Uilleann pipes against the best from Ireland and other countries.

Torrin’s parents, **Matt and Cathy Ryan**, were a little stunned by their son’s success. His mother said she was surprised that an American won on an instrument that very few in the US ever heard of or play. “I’m just so proud of him; he has put in a lot of time and practice to achieve this.” To travel and compete in Northern Ireland, Torrin had to first win in the preliminary rounds here in the United States.

Ireland’s Economy On Slow Road To Recovery – There is better news on the Irish economic front, led by reports that the Dublin stock market in the third week of October was at its highest level since September 2008. Around the world markets, many companies that came through the crash intact are now trading at levels not seen since the collapse of Lehman Brothers five years ago.

A further indication that Ireland is in the process of turning the corner is that low interest rates and cheap money mean that many investors have moved out of safe saving products, like bonds and deposit accounts, to buy shares. Mortgage holders also appear to be in line for an extended period of record-low interest rates. And it now appears that it could be 2015 before any Eurozone interest rates rise, which seems to be the course that incoming Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen is also following.

Ray Flynn Aids RI Nuns’ Good Work – Former Boston Mayor and Vatican Ambassador **Raymond Flynn** took some time off to help the Little Sisters of the Poor (Jeanne Jugan Home) in Pawtucket recently and had some supportive words for Pope Francis. Flynn, a conservative Catholic who lives his religion every day of his life, might, I thought, not be too enamored of the new pope and his surprising views and recent interviews, but he spoke encouragingly and in praise of the pontiff, noting his change in tone, “The humility he has is genuine. He is really an example of social and economic justice, helping the poor, helping the needy. He has no desire for power, or glory or worldly things. It is just amazing to me. This is him,” Flynn said, “and this why he is having such an important impact on society, even in this short period of time... He is giving people who have fallen away from the Catholic Church a reason to come back home. I think people will respond.”

JFK 50 Years Ago: A Time To Remember – The pain of departure is mostly gone but the memories endure. As November approached I have been thinking of the death of President John Kennedy, wanting to say something about the 50th anniversary and thinking, “It has all been said,” and indeed it has, at least most of it. But just today, almost on deadline, I was poking around the Irish papers and I saw it. A long and loving memoir by **Helen O’Neill** in the *Irish Examiner* that recalled through the mist of memory the group of young Irish cadets who came to Arlington National Cemetery to say goodbye to an American Irish President at the behest of the President’s Lady.

Jacqueline Kennedy recalled her late husband describing the 26-member Irish teenage cadet drill team that had accompanied him at the Dublin graveside ceremonies honoring the Easter Rising leaders, “the finest honor guard I have ever seen.” That was during JFK’s June 1963 trip to Ireland, but it prompted Mrs. Kennedy to ask if the Irish cadets could come to Washington to be the honor guard at the President’s burial.

A hurried phone call to the cadets’ barracks in the Curragh from Ireland’s military chief of staff notified the cadets that “We are providing a guard of honor at the funeral of President Kennedy.”

The cadets on leave in and around Dublin were hastily assembled. In the words of one cadet who was

ordered back to barracks, “All hell was breaking out!” Just hours later, the cadet ceremonial honor guard, with **President deValera** and other Irish officials onboard, headed for Washington on an Aer Lingus 707.

At the burial on the Arlington hillside in November, the 26 cadet team members lined up close to the Kennedy grave and in front of the assembled world leaders paid homage to the fallen president. Singularly moving was the ceremonial finale that saw the cadets, in silent precision, bend their heads over their rifles in a final, silent salute. It was a moment in history that those who witnessed it will never forget.

New Irish History Edition Published – October in Boston was a great month as ideal weather and Red Sox victories eased us into fall. And October also heralded the publication of **Michael Quinlin’s** new and exciting “Irish Boston: A Lively Look at Boston’s Colorful Irish Past.” Mike has updated his initial Irish Boston volume with a fast-moving narrative providing perspectives on Irish history and achievement and the names and lives of those who over the years have made Boston and its environs the most uniquely Irish city outside of Dublin.

“Irish Boston” is a book one can dip in and out of, or, instead, settle in for an afternoon read that covers the decades as nimbly as a veteran historian. Few who live or work here know “Irish Boston” as well as Mike Quinlin, a founder of the Boston Irish Tourism Association and prolific chronicler of all things Irish.

Save The Date – The Irish Consulate in Boston and the Irish Network are hosting a remembrance of **Seamus Heaney, His Life and His Poetry**, at the Boston Public Library main branch on Boylston Street from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 11. Admission free. No RSVP needed, but limited seating.

Severe Cuts Likely For Irish Health Service – One of the more troubled government delivery services in the Irish Republic in recent times has been in the widely criticized health area. Many of the problems have been with the “waits for service” in hospitals, people on hospital hallway gurneys awaiting a bed and formal admission. Another dangerous failure of the Irish health care industry has been the long and frustrating delays for patients in scheduling surgical procedures for anything except emergency operations. Many in need of surgery wait months, even years, for attention.

Another target of critics has been the disorganized, even casual, patient cancellations of doctor appointments. Ireland must lead the civilized world in cancelled appointment and no-shows by patients with medical staff. Thousands of booked medical visits go unfulfilled every week in hospitals from Galway to county Dublin, and little is done to fix the system.

Amidst what can kindly be called a healthcare service in desperate need of reform with stronger leadership and life-saving budgeting, the Irish Health Minister, **Dr. James Reilly**, now is predicting cuts close to a billion dollars in overall health costs and eliminating 1,000 staff positions in next year’s budget.

While the Republic moves closer to fiscal stability the country is still a long way from a return to a full economy. However, in meeting the obligations to its debtors, it cannot forget the children, the elderly and the disabled.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Belfast’s Waterfront Hall will pay tribute to Nobel Laureate Heaney during Belfast Music Week (Nov. 11-17) with a special appearance by the Ulster Orchestra as an “expression of civic gratitude.”... **Gerry Kelly**, a Sinn Fein member of the Stormont Assembly and former IRA volunteer, has written a book on the famous escape of republican prisoners from Long Kesh in 1983. It’s not destined to be a big hit in the Orange Order halls. ... Tech giant Intel has chosen the Irish Republic to design its major chip line, beating out Israel and the US. ... The Catholic Church in Italy refused use of its churches and burial sites for Nazi war criminal **Erich Priebke**. That’s my sort of church. ... Patriots coach **Bill Belichick**, when asked about team depth and its importance by a reporter, replied “It’s pretty important. You can’t have a team without players.” ... Robo phone calls and telephone spam creeps are being targeted by new technology supported by the FCC. Can’t wait. ... Is Irish Taoiseach **Enda Kenny** looking to emulate **Bill Clinton** by pledging, as Bill did, to break the cycle of social welfare by reform of the present system?

Five years ago the 36-acre Waterford Crystal factory was a popular tourist destination, but it has been razed to make way for an office park. ... In need of funding for a proposed Louth-Down bridge near Carlingford, an SDLP local assembly member is urging the national Lottery to come up with the cash. ... The controversial peace and reconciliation center set for the grounds of Long Kesh Prison has had its funding withdrawn by the EU. Rising costs and toxic politics are the culprits. ... The heat surrounding Sinn Fein’s **Gerry Adams** is growing more intense following his confused answers about what he knew and when he knew it regarding his brother Liam’s conviction in a Northern court of child abuse. ... Baileys continues to be an enormous Irish success story, bringing in millions to Ireland and today being sold in 180 countries. ... **Michael O’Leary**, the innovative chief of Ryanair who has the personality of a wounded coyote, has finally hired a PR Guru to soften his abrasive, insulting behavior. And not a minute too soon, I’d say.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



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John (Jack) Joyce, Bill and Joyce Cummings, Raj Sharma, and John Hailer to Receive Solas Awards as IIC Launches 25th Anniversary Year—The Irish International Immigrant Center will hold its 2013 Solas Award Celebration on Dec. 6 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum where it will honor the achievements and generosity of John (Jack) Joyce, Managing Direc-

tor at Deutsche Bank Securities; Joyce and Bill Cummings, Cummings Foundation founders; Raj Sharma, head of The Sharma Group of Merrill Lynch Private Banking & Investment Group; and John Hailer, President and Chief Executive Officer – The Americas and Asia for Natixis Global Asset Management. Named from the Gaelic word for “light,” IIC’s Solas Awards are presented annually to those whose

commitment to a better world is an inspiration to others.

Founded in 1989, the IIC will be launching a year-long celebration of the organization’s 25th anniversary at the event, spotlighting the Center’s ongoing efforts to assist immigrants from Ireland and from around the world as they integrate into American society, and with partner organizations, to promote reconciliation in Ireland.

Proceeds from the Solas Awards Celebration will support the IIC’s work in providing legal, wellness and education services; advocating for systemic change; and facilitating cross-cultural community building. For more information about this event and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mary Kerr at mkerr@iiccenter.org or at 617-695-1554, or by visiting iiccenter.org/solas-awards-2013.

Jorgensen to lead IIC’s J-1 Irish Work & Travel Internship program

By Niamh Lynch

Kim Jorgensen remembers what it’s like to be a fish out of water. As a college junior the Georgia native decided to pack up her life and venture off to France for a six-month study abroad program. Although the experience would ultimately be tremendously rewarding, she remembers how initially overwhelming it was to navigate day-to-day life in a completely new culture. One of the reasons she was able to make the most of the opportunity, however, was that she was part of a program that offered practical support both before and during her time abroad.

Today, as the newly appointed Manager of Intern Placement at the Irish International Immigrant Center, Jorgensen finds the roles reversed as she offers similar support to the hundreds of young

Irish graduates who will participate in the Center’s J-1 Irish Work & Travel program. The project is jointly supported by the Irish Government and the American Ireland Fund and is intended to help current students and recent Irish graduates take advantage of a special J-1 visa whereby they may undertake an internship of up to one year in the United States.

An important stipulation of the visa is that the US internship must correspond to the applicant’s field of study back in Ireland. The IIC offers one-stop shopping for these individuals, providing everything from visa sponsorship to assistance in locating a quality internship in their chosen career field.

Previous to her appointment with the IIC, Jorgensen spent 18 months working directly with the intern applicants, offering



Kim Jorgensen

pre-program orientation and advice intended to help them arrive from Ireland ready to hit the ground running. This might mean helping them polish a resume, craft a strong cover letter, or familiarize themselves with relevant recruitment websites and job boards.

In contrast to this work, Jorgensen’s new role will see her engaging directly with US host companies, sustaining the Center’s existing contacts in various sectors and developing new ones on behalf of incoming program participants. It’s a challenge she relishes. “It’s really exciting for me to be in a position to help

US companies tap into a wellspring of young Irish talent,” she says. “This program is a genuine win-win...it offers as much to the host companies as it does to the interns they hire.”

Jorgensen is well aware of conditions in Ireland and considers her work as an integral part of the IIC’s wider social mission. The Northeastern master’s graduate says she was initially attracted to the organization by that mission and by the opportunity to make a positive contribution to community at both a local and an international level.

For his part, IIC Executive Director Ronnie Millar sees Jorgensen as a perfect fit for her new role. “Kim is a tremendous asset for this program. Her previous experience working directly with applicants gives her a huge amount of credibility in speaking to potential host companies.”

Niamh Lynch is a freelance writer and can be contacted at niamhclynch@gmail.com.

Matters Of Substance

Narcan® - Another way to save lives

By DANIELLE OWEN

Opioid overdose from drugs like heroin, oxycodone, methadone, Fentanyl, codeine, and morphine is one of the leading causes of death in Massachusetts. According to the Oxycontin Heroin Commission, 4,500 Massachusetts residents died from opioid-related overdoses between 2002 and 2008. Furthermore, Eastern Massachusetts had the highest rate of emergency room visits involving illicit drugs of any metropolitan region in the United States in 2011, according to a recent report by the Massachusetts Health Council.

Based on the increase in calls and referrals we have received in the last five years, opioid use seems to be on the rise in Boston’s Irish community as well. One of every four new referrals are related to opioid use. For many Irish families, discovering that their teen, adult child, or partner is addicted can be a shock. No one ever plans on becoming addicted when they begin using opioids, and it is sometimes difficult to detect

if someone is struggling with this drug.

Dependence occurs when the body develops tolerance to the drug, meaning higher doses are needed for the same effect. In this desire for the same effect, overdoses can occur. Psychological effects include craving and compulsive behavior to get the drug, and continued use despite negative consequences such as legal problems or losing a job. In addition, stopping the drug produces withdrawal symptoms such as anxiety, irritability, muscle aches, vomiting, abdominal cramping, diarrhea, sweating, confusion, enlarged pupils, tremors and loss of appetite.

These symptoms of withdrawal aren’t medically dangerous, but they can be agonizing and often lead back to using the drug. If someone has been abstinent from these drugs for a time but then starts using them again, they are also at risk of an opioid overdose.

To save lives, the Department of Public Health has begun a pilot program called *The Opi-*

oid Overdose Prevention and Reversal Project. It distributes and trains the community to use a medication called nasal naloxone, also known as Narcan®, that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. When an overdose occurs, it tends to slow breathing to the point of death. Nasal naloxone blocks the opioids and restores normal breathing when sprayed into the nose of someone who has overdosed. It is safe, easy to administer, and has no potential for abuse.

Several Massachusetts programs are participating in the pilot project, including *Learn To Cope* and Manet Community Health Center. Staff from Manet have kindly offered a FREE Narcan® training for our community on Nov. 21 in Hancock Park, Quincy Center. Community members, Opioid users, and their families and friends will be trained on how to recognize and prevent an opioid overdose, and what to do if one occurs. The training covers the importance of calling 911, how to per-



form rescue breathing, and how to administer nasal naloxone.

If you or someone you love is addicted to opioids please join us for this valuable opportunity. Our Wellness team will be present and available to offer confidential advice, referrals and suggestions for support. Learn how you can help save lives in our community. Contact IIC’s counselor, Danielle Owen, for more information at 617-542-7654, Ext.14. Sometimes it is easier to chat with someone from home without fear of judgment and in complete confidence. *Danielle Owen is the IICV’s Director of Wellness and Education Services.*

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Employment: Know Your Rights

Q. *I recently became a naturalized US citizen. I’ve been looking for a new job, and it seems to me that some prospective employers have been hassling me unfairly about my immigration status. This may be because of my accent or the country I originally came from. Is there anything that I can do?*

A. In the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice there is an Office of Special Counsel (OSC) for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices. This office investigates situations like yours, as well as those involving other people authorized to work in the US, such as legal permanent residents or employment visa holders. In appropriate cases, OSC will sue employers who discriminate against people based on their immigration status or national origin.

OSC has published the following guidance on this topic:

Citizenship/immigration status – Generally, an employer may not treat you differently because you are, or are not, a US citizen. [Note: one exception would be certain jobs with the government or a government contractor requiring US citizenship for a security clearance.]

National origin – An employer may not treat you differently because of your place of birth, native language, accent or appearance.

Document abuse – An employer may not, on the basis of your citizenship status or national origin, demand more or different documents than necessary for completing the I-9 Form, reject reasonably genuine-looking documents, or treat you differently when using E-Verify.

Retaliation – An employer may not retaliate against anyone who files a complaint with OSC or cooperates with an OSC investigation, or who asserts his or her rights under the anti-discrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

A person who believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination for any of these reasons can call OSC at 1-800-255-7688 or visit the agency’s web site at usdoj.gov/crt/osc.

Of course there are other avenues to relief from various types of employment discrimination, including filing a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the relevant state agency. Choosing the right course in a particular case generally will require the advice of a lawyer specializing in employment discriminations issues, particularly as they relate to immigration status or national origin. IIC can make a referral to such a lawyer in appropriate cases.

Visit one of IIC’s weekly legal clinics for a free, confidential consultation on any immigration law-related issue.

Disclaimer: *These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Immigration law is always subject to change. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services and US Department of State frequently amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of IIC immigration legal staff.*



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Traveling People

As ‘old faithfuls’ go, Dromoland ranks high

**By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**
We all know change is inevitable but in few places is change more evident than in Ireland. Attractions, accommodation, and eateries you visit and enjoy one year, could very well be gone by the next. But there are some “old faithfuls” that have been around for many years, have stood the test of time, and seem as though they will be around forever.

DROMOLAND
One such “old faithful” is the 5-Star Dromoland Castle Hotel, which this year celebrated 50 years of service to the public. Dromoland is in Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, close to Shannon Airport and a fun place to stay, with lots of activities on site, including a spa, leisure center, golf, falconry, fishing, estate walks and trails on the hotel’s 450 acres, and much more.

Meals, thanks to David McCann, executive head chef since 1995, and his staff are outstanding and if you love the meals as much as most guests do, you can take home David’s newly-released cookbook from the gift shop on the grounds. “Dromoland Castle Cookbook” was released in May this year as part of the hotel’s anniversary celebration. McCann is responsible for the entire book, including photography, and printing was done close by. In-house and local production, McCann said, “goes with my philosophy about food as well, because I believe in sourcing as much

locally as possible. The cookbook was an exciting project and I enjoyed it,” he said.
The noted food and accommodation writer Georgina Campbell says McCann’s cookbook offers “not only a fine range of modern classic recipes... but also some insights into life behind the scenes at the Castle.” Wouldn’t it be a great gift to bring home after a visit?

ANNIVERSARY COCKTAIL

Dromoland’s management and staff celebrated the anniversary in various ways. In addition to publishing the cookbook, the hotel commissioned its own tartan plaid, branded a special Dromoland Blond Ale, and two young bartenders there – Niall and James – created a 50th anniversary cocktail with apricot brandy, elderflower liqueur, lychee liqueur, and champagne. I tried one and can report that it was mighty tasty!

Another milestone – albeit in July 2012 – was bringing back into the Dromoland family the former Clare Inn, which once belonged to the castle but had been sold 23 years ago.

A massive three-year, six-million Euro renovation project was launched at the Inn in January, according to Mark Nolan, managing director of Dromoland. When we visited in the spring, much had already been updated and improved. Halls were painted and the lobby was brightened with a fresh coat of light paint. There were new furnishings, too,



The 50th anniversary Dromoland Castle Cocktail includes apricot brandy, elderflower and lychee liqueurs and champagne.

and the Inn’s name has been changed to The Inn at Dromoland.

My ground floor room was spotlessly clean with a large window overlooking part of Dromoland’s 18-hole golf course and the surrounding countryside. There was a walk-in shower with superb water pressure, which is not always the case in Ireland.

A friend and I enjoyed a very nice lunch in the Poacher’s Pub at the Inn when we arrived and a delicious breakfast the next two mornings in Deerfield’s Restaurant, the walls of which are decorated with lovely photographs of Ireland.

WEDDINGS

With 151 rooms and an updated function room that overlooks manicured grounds (Dromoland and



Niall and James, bartenders at Dromoland Castle Hotel, make the special cocktail they invented for the hotel’s 50th Anniversary. Note the “jack-a-lope” on the wall behind them.

the Inn share gardeners and groundsman, Nolan said), we can imagine that the Inn would be the most perfect place for a wedding. According to Nolan, the Inn “is already one of the frontrunners for weddings.” In April, there were 48 weddings already booked and the staff was hoping to build on reputation and quality to increase the number to 80 or 90 in 2014.

If you are planning a wedding, note that every wedding package at the Inn includes pre-wedding consultation and complimentary wedding tasting; champagne red carpet arrival for bride and groom, and complimentary three-month membership to the Leisure Centre; complimentary accommodation for the bride and groom’s parents the night of the wedding; complimentary chair covers and table centerpieces; tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival; a personalized wedding menu, and special room rates for wedding guests.

There are a number of different packages available. For a brochure, contact the Inn (theinnatdromoland.ie) and for details on wedding packages, contact Claire Coughlan, deputy general manager, at claire.coughlan@clareinnhotel.ie

CHANGE IN ATTITUDE

I have to admit that I had a mighty negative attitude about staying at The Inn based on experience from days gone by at The Clare Inn and prior to revisiting the revamped property. But I gave it another try, under its new

name and new branding, and I’m glad I did. I very much enjoyed my stay this spring. It is a perfect spot for someone flying in or out of Shannon Airport and it’s also a great base for exploring many nearby attractions, such as the Cliffs of Moher, which are less than an hour away. Galway is about an hour and Limerick a half an hour on the road.

I definitely recommend the Inn at Dromoland. The food was excellent, the room was lovely and the Inn is more affordable than Dromoland, while still welcoming guests to enjoy some of the castle’s facilities. The Inn is just a short walk, car, or coach ride from the Castle. For more information, visit theinnatdromoland.ie.

Both the Inn and castle offer seasonal specials and are currently advertising Christmas and New Year’s offers. Visit dromoland.ie for more information on the castle hotel.

HOSPITALITY AWARDS

We mentioned Georgina Campbell earlier in this column. She annually presents hospitality awards in various categories to restaurants and accommodations across the country.

For 2013, the Restaurant of the Year was The Greenhouse in Dublin and Chef of the Year was Ian Orr of Brown’s Restaurant in Derry. Hotel of the Year was The Granville Hotel in Waterford and Seafood Restaurant of the Year was The Oar House in Howth, Co. Dublin.

Pub of the Year was Nancy’s Bar in Ardara, Co. Donegal, and Casual Din-

ing Restaurant of the Year was The Beach House in Buncrana, Co. Donegal.

Both the B&B of the Year and B&B Breakfast Award went to The Archways B&B in Rosslare, Co. Wexford, and Farmhouse of the Year was won by Annaharvey Farm in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. The Guesthouse Breakfast Award went to The Quay House in Clifden, Co. Galway, and owners, Paddy and Julia Foyle, were also named hosts of the year.

Country House of the Year was Carrig House, Caragh Lake, Co. Kerry and Moy House in Lahinch, Co. Clare, was Hideaway of the Year. Chosen family-friendly hotel of the year was Hotel Westport in Co. Mayo, and most Pet-Friendly Hotel was Cromleach Lodge, Lough Arrow in Co. Sligo.

There are many, many good hotels, B&Bs, restaurants and pubs in Ireland these days waiting to serve you and these are just a few.

TRAVEL

Don’t think there’s nothing to do in Ireland in November. Even though the weather has cooled down, there are still many assorted festivals, a walking weekend (Nov. 8-10) in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, and the Rugby League World Cup on Nov. 9 in Thomond Park, Limerick City.

Be sure to visit Internet travel sites for the best deals on air and ground travel and see Tourism Ireland’s excellent website – discoverireland.com – for the latest events and happenings all over the island.



Golfers enjoy Dromoland Castle Hotel’s championship course with the hotel in the background. *Judy Enright photos*



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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

BOSTON IRISH ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, TRAVEL & MORE



Allison Olivia Choat: Seeks 'vitality, immediacy'

Moonbox presenting 'Earnest' in Boston Allison Olivia Choat in the director's chair

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

"The Importance of Being Earnest" stands as one of the world's most enduring plays. Written by Dublin-born Oscar Wilde in 1895, the witty comedy of good manners is set in Victorian London and filled with mistaken identities, secret engagements and baffled suitors.

At its heart, it's populated by characters who create fictitious personas in order to avoid social obligations they find tiresome. More than a century later, Wilde would no doubt marvel at the abundance of questionable Facebook pages and fictitious dating profiles splashed across the Internet. The play shows the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Allison Olivia Choat is directing the latest production of "Earnest," presented by Moonbox Productions at The Boston Center for the Arts from November 22 to December 14. A native of Knoxville, Tennessee, she studied opera at Oberlin College and Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Having arrived in New England through friends, she decided to stay.

Here's a condensed look at our recent conversation about music, her career and the upcoming production of "The Importance of Being Earnest."

BIR: Tell me a little about growing up in Tennessee.

AOC: I'm a little bit of an ethnic mutt, as so many Americans are. Everybody from this corner of Appalachia I grew up in is essentially Scottish-Irish, maybe a little bit English. We're all sort of hard-bitten mountain people who moved from one cold, wet, relatively inhospitable place to a warm, wet, relatively inhospitable place. (*Laughs*) ... So while it wasn't specifically Irish culture I grew up in – it was Appalachian culture – I've always been struck by how similar they are. I grew up with a real sense of my family and myself as Appalachian people and as Irish people. Not necessarily Irish people from Ireland, but heirs to this tradition.

BIR: You're right, there are strong similarities.

(Continued on page 15)

Róisín O is now in hot pursuit of her own voice, her own words

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

At one point between songs during her recent performance at The Burren, Róisín O'Reilly – more familiarly known as Róisín O – tuned her guitar, adjusted the capo, and gave the audience a sly smile.

"I assume," she deadpanned, "that most of you know who my mommy is."

There was applause and laughter from the crowd, because, yes, most of them do in fact know that her mother is Mary Black, one of Ireland's most celebrated female singers.

"Well, I'm not going to do 'Song for Ireland,'" said Róisín O, "but this is one of her favorites." And with that, she launched into "By the Time It Gets Dark," a Sandy Denny song that Black covered, to great acclaim, in the late 1980s.

It was a highlight among many on a landmark night for the 24-year-old singer-songwriter: her first solo headline show of her first US tour. [A little elaboration is needed here: "Róisín O" can also refer to the name of her band, although in this case she was accompanied only by Luke Nelson, a childhood friend now living in New York City.] The five-week sojourn, which ended in late August, was the latest milestone in what has been an eventful 12 months or so, during which she released her first CD, "The Secret Life of Blue" – it went into the Irish album charts at number 21 – supported Lionel Richie (yes, *that* Lionel Richie) at his Dublin and Belfast shows, appeared on a live St. Patrick's Day TV broadcast alongside the likes of Bono, Christy Moore, Glen Hansard and Imelda May, and was invited to perform for Irish Presi-



Róisín O'Reilly, better known as Róisín O, comes from a musical family but is establishing her own credentials as a singer-songwriter.

Sean Smith photo

dent Michael D. Higgins.

At this stage, Róisín O presents a fascinating portrait of an artist seeking to establish her identity, even as she continues to explore the fuller aspects of that persona. Grateful for the musical legacy with which she's associated, Róisín O is canny enough to know that it is her own voice, and the words she sings with it, that will ultimately determine how far she goes. And in the meantime, it's clear she's enjoying the ride.

"I want people to take me for what I am," she said, as she and Nelson relaxed over dinner prior to the Burren show. "I love having grown up in a musical family, and I love all that I learned and experienced from doing that. But I never got into the traditional stuff the way

my mother did; I started writing songs at 16, and I just decided that was how I wanted to go. While I like the modern, I also like the older folk music as well, and I try to mix that in my own music.

"I've been very lucky to work with some wonderful people, and am really excited to have this opportunity to take my music to America."

Personable, gracious and good-humored, with a radiant smile to match, Róisín O is by no means averse to talking about her musical lineage, which in addition her mother and grandparents includes her father Joe O'Reilly, of Dara Records, and brother Danny, a singer-songwriter who plays with the rock band The Coronas. She feels fortunate to have had the childhood

she had, with a house open to musical guests and experiences unknown to most of her peers.

"I remember realizing at a very young age that my Mom was famous – people would stop her in the street all the time. I was quite proud of it, actually. My mother got to do bigger and bigger tours, and sometimes she'd take me out of school so I could go with her – she thought it was a good 'life experience' type of thing.

"But then when I grew older, I got rather embarrassed, and didn't want people to know about her. I thought they would judge me just based on the fact that she was my mother. Now, I'm in the middle. I can certainly turn to her for good advice, and I can trust in anything she says. But I like people to make their own decisions about my music."

Róisín O's music is well balanced in form and content. Whatever the combination of genes and good, hard work, the fact is she has a great set of pipes, with impressive range and command, and the ability to convey the emotions and defining characteristics of the song in question.

Melodically and lyrically, Róisín O tends toward the alt folk-rock area of the musical spectrum, much like Joni Mitchell (whom she unabashedly cites as a major influence) and perhaps a less quirky Kate Bush – hints of pop and jazz here, but with a certain organic immediacy and intimacy. A lot of her songs speak of trusting in your emotions' better intentions, taking chances and being open to all manner of possibilities, as opposed to shutting yourself off from the world; many of the song titles themselves – "Here We Go," "Climb High,"

(Continued on page 14)

BCMFest set for January 10-11 at Harvard Sq. venues

This January, BCMFest (Boston's Celtic Music Fest) will begin its second decade of celebrating the Boston area's abundance of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, and other Celtic-related music and dance traditions.

The 11th annual BCMFest, which takes place on January 10-11, 2014, will once again bring together dozens of local musicians, singers and dancers to present performances as well as participatory music and dance events. Family-friendly and genuinely grassroots, the festival is held in the heart of Harvard Square, starting with the Friday night "Roots and Branches" concert at Club Passim

and the Boston Urban Ceilidh – BCMFest's always-popular Celtic dance party – just around the corner at The Atrium, 50 Church Street.

BCMFest's Saturday "Dayfest" begins in the morning with children's and family entertainment at Club Passim, and continues through the afternoon with a full slate of concerts and other events at Club Passim and nearby First Church, Cambridge, at 3 Church Street. The festival concludes Saturday evening with the "BCMFest Nightcap" finale concert in First Church.

At press time, performers who are confirmed to appear at the festival include: Matt and Shannon



Heaton; Liz Simmons; Katie McD; Owen Marshall and Lindsay Straw; Flynn Cohen and the Deadstring Ensemble; Jenna Moynihan; Joey Abarta; NÓIR; Lukas Pool, Bronwyn Keith-Hynes and Mark Kilian-ski; Diane Taraz; Lindsay Adler; Elizabeth and Ben Anderson; Molly Pinto Madigan; Sean Smith; SoundShapes – a special performance of Irish music and dance featuring Kieran Jordan and Sean

Clohessy – and Jigs & Saws. Updates on BCMFest 2014 performers and events will be available at <http://passim.org/bcmfest>.

A look at some of the highlights of BCMFest 2014:

- Friday night's "Roots and Branches" concert at Club Passim spotlights some of the area's young, innovative musical talent.

- The Boston Urban Ceilidh features partici-

patory and social dances from the Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton traditions, all with live music. No experience is necessary – all dances will be taught.

- 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 dance and jam sessions in The Attic of First Church.


- BCMFest is noted for its workshops, in which performers collaborate around a special theme or focus – anything from instruments that you pluck or blow to contemporary songs with the

form, content and/or feel of traditional ballads to the Celtic side of Elvis Presley.


- * The Saturday night BCMFest Nightcap concert at First Church concludes the festival in grand fashion with an evening of top-notch music and dance from the cream of the local Celtic crop.

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.

Ticket information and other details about the festival will be available at passim.org/bcmfest.



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CD Reviews

By SEAN SMITH

A pair of recent CD releases confirms – once again – that the Greater Boston area is a multifaceted wellspring of creativity in Celtic music.

First, there is “**Flourish**,” the debut album of fiddler **Katie McNally**, who has already fashioned an impressive career while still shy of her mid-20s. In addition to her regular duet work with guitarist Eric McDonald, she has become a mainstay of the distinguished all-fiddle ensemble Childsplay, appearing on two of the group’s CDs and both of its DVDs, and toured last year with Carlos Nuñez, the internationally renowned bagpiper and frequent Chieftains collaborator. More recently, McNally has joined Long Time Courting, the Boston-based female quartet (with Shannon Heaton, Liz Simmons and Val Thompson) whose repertoire encompasses Irish, Scottish. and American music.

While through her various activities McNally has become familiar with Irish, Cape Breton, Galician, and other music traditions, she is rooted in what is called the American Scottish fiddle style, popularized by such performers as Alasdair Fraser and Hanneke Cassel, a teacher and mentor of McNally who co-produced the CD with her and supplies harmony fiddle. The style draws on the virtuosic, almost classical elements of Scottish fiddling, characterized by



percussive, flamboyant grace notes, as well as shifts in bowing or improvisational turns that are associated with American fiddling.

American Scottish thus has a very contemporary feel to it, and its repertoire, while comprising many traditional tunes, is chock full of modern compositions by the likes of Fraser, Cassel, Laura Risk, Ryan McKasson – and, yes, McNally, who began penning her own material as early as high school.

McNally’s performance and recording experiences served her well as a prelude to her own album project: In the spotlight, her playing is assured and confident, and her command of the music – whether traditional, contemporary, or original – is evident. She is able to shift tone and mood without a hitch, as she demonstrates on the opening track, which begins with the slow, almost mystical traditional Hebridean strathspey “Waulking of the Fauld,” and segues into “Lillian’s Reel,” a muscular, accented reel of McNally’s that is the very essence of American Scottish.

The jig set “In and

Out/Dud’s” (two McNally originals) offers another transition, from a delicate sweetness to a somewhat more complex melodic shade, with McDonald’s guitar and Neil Pearlman’s piano providing some luscious cross-hatching. The all-trad reel medley “Farmer’s Daughter/The Glen Where the Deer Is” puts front and center McNally’s focus on arrangement, along with that of her accompanists, in this case McDonald and string bassist Corey DiMario – the musicians lay down a muted, restrained intro until McNally begins the tune, gradually pick up the pace into the second part and then softly meld into the background as McNally bows rhythmically to bring the track to a close.

Presenting the stark-est contrast, however, is McNally’s pair of reels, “Bad Soup/Riff Raff and Widget”: The former is a churning, restless D-minor melodrama (McNally has said the tune was inspired by a romantic disappointment) – DiMario’s bowed bass sounds appropriately dour – which mellows out into D major when cellist Ari Friedman takes up the second tune until McNally re-enters to further drive away the storm clouds; “Riff Raff and Widget,” by the way, are the names of two goats McNally met at a friend’s house – clearly, her muse is very easily motivated.

Two other tracks of note: a medley of tunes by Silly Wizard co-founder Phil Cunningham, the pen-

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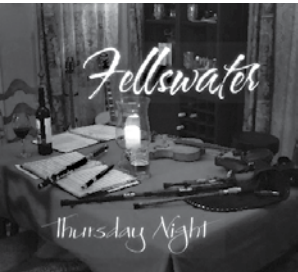
CD Reviews

sive-sounding “Cathcart” and the driving minor-to-major 5/4 “Leire’s Welcome to Cozac” (for which Michael McLaughlin supplies a majestic accordion line); and, concluding the album, a bridal march from Unst in the Shetland Islands, McNally adding a hardinger fiddle to underscore the Scandinavian influence in the islands’ music tradition.

If the album wasn’t already a great achievement on its own terms, the backstory for “Flourish” makes it even better. McNally launched a Kickstarter campaign to fund the project, and she was pleasantly stunned by the results: She met her goal in two days and wound up raising twice the amount she originally envisioned. Clearly, McNally has an avid and dedicated fan base out there, and it should only increase as she continues to build on her solo and collaborative work. [katiemcnally.com]

Although it also has an unmistakably Scottish character, the quartet **Fellswater** brings a more pan-Celtic perspective to its music, as evidenced by their second CD, “**Thursday Night**” (the title refers to their regularly scheduled gatherings for practice and socializing): Their sets include tunes from the Irish, Breton, Cape Breton, and Galician traditions, as well as Scottish.

At the core of Fellswater Matt Phelps’s superb, often mesmerizing work on Scottish small pipes



– sweet-toned and quieter than the highland pipes, but nonetheless generating a considerable presence playing. Adding melody, and occasional harmonies or counter-melodies, are the fiddle of Elizabeth Ketudat and the flute and whistle of Sarah

MacConduibh, with Jim MacConduibh providing accompaniment on guitar, bouzouki, and percussion. Overall, there’s a certain formality, even deliberateness, to the band’s sound, which no doubt stems in part from their integrated resume, which incorporates classical and martial music experience: Ketudat, for example, has a strong background in chamber music, while Sarah MacConduibh (like Ketudat) is a longtime member of a fife and drum corps.

Which is not to say that Fellswater doesn’t bring

emotion and verve to its repertoire: Witness their effusive medley of the Galician dance tune “Aires de Pontevedra” and the Asturian jig “Muineira De Casu.” Another highlight is a Phelps-Sarah MacConduibh duet – using an arrangement by John Walsh – on the intricate George S. McLennan pipe tune “The Little Cascade,” said to have been inspired by the sound of a dripping faucet. Phelps starts it in a slow, seemingly disjointed fashion, with MacConduibh’s flute harmonizing, then adding variations around the

melody as Phelps gathers momentum.

“March of the King of Laois,” meanwhile, is fittingly regal and dignified, and contains some lovely little subtleties – the fiddle and flute harmonies behind Phelps at the end of the tune’s B part, for example. Other venerable tunes like “MacPherson’s Lament” (played as a slow march, yet losing none of its wistfulness) and “The Pikeman’s March” – with a tasteful drum backing by Jim MacConduibh – get a similarly proper treatment. A march-strath-spey-reel-hornpipe med-

ley on the penultimate track has the band at peak operating capacity, featuring dead-on pipes-whistle-fiddle unison for “Devil in the Kitchen” and Ketudat’s flourishes behind Phelps and Sarah MacConduibh on “Heat from the Furnace,” building to a solid finish.

So, if Fellswater’s approach is perhaps less gritty, more cerebral than other bands of a similar ilk, it doesn’t obscure the dynamic range of the Celtic music they champion. Those Thursday nights have been well spent, indeed. [fellswater.com]



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No Nonsense. Like You.

Róisín O is now in hot pursuit of her own voice, her own words

(Continued from page 9) "Find the Light," "Hold On" – connote an active, supportive disposition.

"Here We Go," the first track on "Secret Life of Blue," is an exuberant joy ride inspired by an arts and music festival in County Laois. Róisín O fairly races to keep up with herself as she describes the rush of scenes and sensations ["There is a place you'll find, you might find it when half alive/But it'll make you dance and keep you dancing like it's your last/Down and round and down and round, the trail will wind..."] until she glides into the chorus on the momentum she's created. "Synchronicity," by contrast, is more thoughtful and introspective, logically yet tenderly making the case for emotional connection, and climaxing with a joyous affirmation of "I'm home!"

"How Long" is a tour-de-force of empathy and passion, building from a plaintive, almost tentative beginning ["How long must we stand here? How long can you stand it?"] that showcases superb ornamentation, and then gaining strength with a cathartic declaration – "That's all I want" – during which she unerr-

ingly jumps up an octave, then back down. And just when you think it's over, she unleashes a jubilant world-music-style scat that intertwines with two other vocal components to create a warm, energetic coda.

"I used to write only when I felt the emotion to write a song," she says. "Most of my songs were about heartache, or feeling down, or feeling upset – or feeling upset about not being able to write. But I'm really a happy person, and I don't lead a terribly hard life, so I decided I'd better change my approach or else I wouldn't have enough to write about. So I started to tap into different areas of my life; I always try to keep it as natural as I can – especially in terms of lyrics, I try to write only when I feel something's there. If not, maybe I'll focus on writing a good chord progression, and then figure out something that will work with it."

Being a thoroughly 21st-century performer, Róisín O has made use of video in promoting her music, and has come up with some clever, engaging, and distinctive results, often involving a group-identity theme. In "Here We Go,"

a man finds himself out in the woods, pursued by creepy, mysterious masked figures, only to discover that neither they, nor he, are what they seem to be. A forlorn animal puppet is the central figure in "How Long," seemingly alone in an uncaring, even hostile world until salvation arrives.

Probably the most notable and accomplished Róisín O music video is "Tea Song," which was actually written by former bandmate Brian Murphy (he and she do a mellifluous duet of it on the CD). "Brian played it for me, and I wanted to do it right away. I asked him what the song was about, and he said he wrote it about being very hung over, and the only thing that makes you feel better is drinking lots of tea. But to me it sounded like a love song, even if he didn't see it that way."

Talking with her manager about the song and how it might translate to video, she says, the idea of depicting tea as a universal creature comfort came about. "We were saying how there were so many Irish abroad, so we sent out messages through social media inviting people to send us clips

of themselves drinking tea – which, of course, is what you do if you're Irish." The "#teaspora" video is a loving, amusing, even touching collaborative effort.

The recent tour was not Róisín O's first time in America – besides accompanying her mother on a few tours, she spent a year in San Jose during college (she has a musicology degree) – and however much she wanted to assert her own musical identity, she also recognizes that there are certain expectations in the US about Irish female singers and what they bring to the table repertoire-wise. So, for The Burren, in addition to "By the Time It Gets Dark" she mixed in with her material covers of popular hits by Joni Mitchell and Fleetwood Mac, Dougie MacLean's anthemic "Caledonia," and a few well-known traditional songs, including "Mary and the Soldier" ("I



Róisín O, with Luke Nelson during her show at The Burren earlier this year. *Sean Smith photo*

heard Paul Brady do this," she said in her introduction. "I'm not going to be as good a guitar player as Paul, but I'll do my best") and the sorrowful "Siul Aroon."

And whatever she played, the audience responded heartily. As the show continued, her comfort level grew exponentially, and the tint of nervousness evident at the beginning dissipated completely.

"It was a great night, loads of fun," she said,

after the house lights came on and the crowd began to filter out the door. "I really loved how the audience got into it, and started singing and clapping along. It's a great way to do your first solo gig."

She expects to be back in the US sometime next year, not least because she'll be performing on her mother's tour. Who knows what will happen in the interim, but she feels about as ready as can be. To paraphrase a certain song title, Here She Goes.

Fiddler of Dooney (Boston) is an artist of the Midwest

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Irish literature fans know "The Fiddler of Dooney" as one of W. B. Yeats's most famous works, with its memorable opening lines: "When I play on my fiddle in Dooney/folk dance like a wave of the sea." But the poem also is the namesake of a venerable Irish fiddle competition in Sligo whose winners have included such luminaries as Seamus Connolly, Kathleen Collins, Seamus McGuire, Paddy Glackin, and Cathal Hayden.

And now, the Boston area has its own Fiddler of Dooney.

Last month, Boston's Reynolds-Hanafin-Coolley branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann sponsored the first-ever "Fiddler of Dooney (Boston)" competition, held at The Burren pub in Somerville. Four fiddlers signed up to have a go, and in the end Nathan Gourley – a recent arrival from the Midwest – prevailed as the inaugural winner; his prize was a cash award to cover travel costs to the big event in Sligo, which took place October 23-28.

"I'm very happy about

this," said Gourley, interviewed before he set off for Ireland. "It was just perfect timing in so many ways: I recently stopped working full-time to be able to focus on my music, so I have a lot more freedom, and I'd never had the chance to go to the competition in Sligo. I'm really grateful for the opportunity."

A Madison, Wis., native whose father plays old-time fiddle, Gourley started out as a Suzuki violinist at five years old. His father took him to various festivals featuring old-time/American music, but Gourley found himself – "much to my dad's chagrin," he quipped – drawn more to the Irish fiddlers he heard, like Dennis Hayes, Liz Carroll, and Brendan Mulvihill.

It was when he went to college in Minneapolis that Gourley immersed himself in Irish fiddle, inspired by such players as James Kelly, Tommy Peoples, Brian Rooney, and Liz and Yvonne Kane. He made the round of local sessions and wound up playing in a trio with accordionist Paddy O'Brien and guitarist Daithi Sproule, as well as the Doon Ceili Band (whose members included O'Brien) and in a duo with guitarist Brian Miller (of the group Bua), among others.

Gourley was actually on his way to New York City, where he planned to live, when he stopped in Boston this past January. After a few weeks, he changed his relocation plans and

stayed.

"You always hear about how great the Irish music scene in Boston is, but it's true," he said. "There are so many technically advanced, excellent musicians around at sessions and the like, yet it's also relaxed. I've gone to a lot of other places, and it's just not as easy to make friends with other musicians as it is here."

Gourley's competitors at Fiddler of Dooney (Boston) were Adam Cole-Mullen, Tomas Bowling, and Brendan Callahan. Sheila Falls served as the adjudicator.

George Keith, who did the greater share of organizing the Burren event, said the Fiddler of Dooney, more than ever, remains an important fixture in Irish traditional music. "The Fleadh Cheoil [Ireland's national music competition] serves its purpose, but it's become so big and so diffuse that it can be overwhelming. The Fiddler of Dooney competition has more of a focus, it takes place in a concert setting, and thus puts a real emphasis on the music, and the tradition."

"A local Fiddler of Dooney-type event was a great thing for Comhaltas to support," he added. "It's so important to encourage young musicians, to nurture that next generation who will help carry on the tradition, and an event like this is just the way to do it. Hopefully, the seed has been planted, and there will be more participants in years to come."



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Moonbox presenting ‘Earnest’ in Boston

(Continued from page 9)

AOC: And being a musical person and growing up with bluegrass and roots music, those are the descendants of old Irish ballads and the popular music in Ireland and England and parts of Scotland at that time.

BIR: So you began your creative career as a singer.

AOC: I grew up in a pretty musical family and I thought of myself as a musician first. I began my artistic career as a vocal performer. And with vocal performers, it's a lot like training to be a gymnast. You spend a lot of time practicing. You don't go out very much. You go to musical lessons when other kids are outside playing in the sunshine. I went to Oberlin to study opera and sort of midway through my Oberlin career

a lot of my teachers were saying, "You should try directing. You should try design. You should really look at the broader world of theater and being behind the scenes."

BIR: And so you made the shift?

AOC: My vocal development had sort of stalled out, which can happen at certain points in your life because it's a body part like any other. So in desperation I finally agreed to try directing a show – a musical production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" – and it was probably the most fun I had had in my life at that point. I was just amazed. It was all the things I loved about theater and about music and none of the things I disliked.

BIR: And you've been part of Moonbox Produc-

tions since its inception four seasons ago.

AOC: It's been so wonderful. [Founder/producer] Sharman Altshuler and I started talking about this by saying, "Gosh, it would be fun to do a show, wouldn't it?" I thought we were going to do it in somebody's church basement. And if we were lucky we'd have a keyboard and I would make costumes out of old socks or something. I thought it would be terrific fun but I didn't think it would be anything like what it's become. I feel so lucky to be surrounded by so many people who are so passionate about what they do. And so good at what they do.

BIR: Why was it significant to add "The Importance of Being Earnest" to your season?

AOC: One of the things

I'm hoping we can bring to this production is vitality and immediacy. I think a lot of productions of Wilde [risk] sounding like a museum piece . . . I think it's very easy to get caught up in the language and just celebrate the wittiness of the play . . . comedy comes from character and one of the things that I saw when we were casting was that this group of actors, this group of interpreters, are really extraordinarily vital and energetic people. They bring a real human energy and relate-ability to what they're saying. And I think that makes the text that much funnier – having a production that's really grounded in character, that's really human, that's really approachable.

BIR: About half your "Earnest" cast members



The cast of "The Importance of Being Earnest" – Glen Moore, Poornima Kirby, Cat Claus and Andrew Winson – playing November 22 - December 14 at The Boston Center for the Arts.

Photo Sharman Altshuler

are making their Moonbox debuts with this production.

AOC: I love working with people I've worked with before because you do develop a sort of shorthand . . . But working with new talent is one of the things Moonbox is really committed to, working with Boston talent specifically. A lot of the people in this cast are really gifted performers who may not have had the chance to interpret this kind of material before, or to interpret it at this level. So it's really exciting to work with them and help them find the cadence and the rhythms and all that kind of thing.

BIR: Can you give me a "for instance?"

AOC: Cat Claus, who's playing Gwendolen, actually comes from a clowning background. She spent a lot of her early years in Circus Smirkus – the [international] youth circus program – and so

her comic timing is unbelievable. Her sense of her body and her awareness of her own facial expressions is extraordinary. But at the same time, getting her to internalize this Victorian kind of restrained, controlled movement has been one of the things I've been able to help her most with. And it's something that she can carry forward into any other performance of this kind. That's one of the fun parts about working with a group of people you haven't worked with before. You can find extraordinary strengths.

R. J. Donovan is Editor and Publisher of onstageboston.com.

Moonbox Productions' "The Importance of Being Earnest," Nov. 22-Dec. 14, at The Boston Center for the Arts Plaza Theatre, 539 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets: 617-933-8600 or boston-theatrescene.com.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 16

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

All nouns in Irish have gender – either masculine or feminine. Most of these are arbitrary. Cailín, “girl”, for example, is not feminine as we would expect but is masculine while iníon “daughter” and máthair “mother” are feminine.

These arbitrary assignments to “gender” have nothing to do with the sex of a person or thing but are simply made up by Irish grammarians centuries ago to account for the linguistic changes each undergoes.

Here is a list of twenty common nouns, ten of each gender, most of which you have already learned:

Feminine	Singular	Plural
“river”	abhainn	abhann
“woman”	bean	mná
“church”	eaglais	eaglaise
“daughter”	iníon	iníne
“ship”	long	loinge
“mother”	máthair	máthar
“fire”	tine	tine
“night”	oíche	oíche
“wind”	gaoth	gaothe
“kitchen”	cistin	cistine
Masculine	Singular	Plural
“boat”	bád	báid
“cat”	cat	cait
“door”	doras	dorais
“son”	mac	mic
“house”	teach	tí
“fish”	iasc	éisc
“pen”	peann	pinn or penna
“shop”	siopa	siopa
“man”	fear	fir
“hat”	hata	hata

Can you see any patterns here? “Woman” to “women” is clearly irregular. Feminine nouns tend to add a “slender vowel” suffix, masculine nouns tend to “slenderize” internally. Both genders have some nouns that are identical in form from singular to plural – but so does English (“deer”/“deer” and “sheep”/“sheep”).

Irish grammarians have identified four “declensions” of nouns. A declension is to nouns what a paradigm (pronounced /PAIR-uh-dime/) is to verbs. A listing of the forms of a noun that differ from the Singular Subject of a sentence – such as “The house is ...” (called the Nominative Case). Declensions 1, 3, and 4 are “mostly masculine” while the Second Declension is “mostly feminine with a few exceptions”,

Notice the “mostly” and “with a few exceptions.” There are also better than fifteen “irregular” nouns such as bean/mrá. At the same time there are dozens of “Variants” to every rule. Irish dictionaries will list a noun, “writing pen”, for example” as peann m1. This means that the word peann is masculine of the first declension. However, some texts say that the plural of peann is penna (in Galway) – so much for “standardization” in Irish.

It also means that some one, some where, at some time has classified each noun as such. This is meaningless, based upon old Latin grammars. Native speakers simply learn by repetition – and you will, too.

You will learn simply and slowly. Your first clue as to whether or not a noun is masculine or feminine is by the shape of a word that modifies or limits it, the adjective. If it is lenited then the noun is feminine; if it is not lenited the noun is masculine. This will work unless the noun begins with l, n, or r or s followed by a consonant – sc, sl, sm, sn.

Using the nouns above, and remembering that the plural of “the” an is na, see if you can translate the following into Irish.

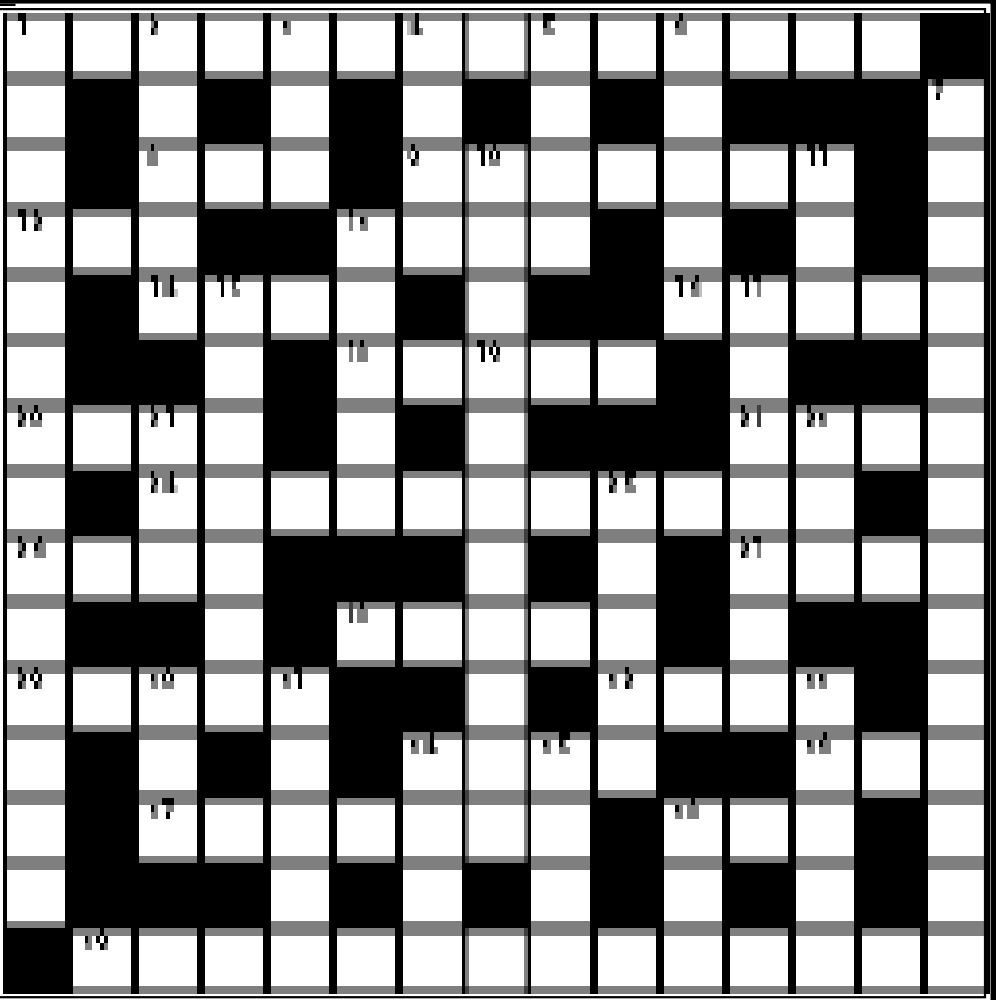
1.) “This is my son, Anthony.” 2.) “Those men speak Irish.” 3.) “And yourself?” 4.) “How many nights?” 5.) “Is that a big fish?” 6.) “Bridget has three cats. 7.) “The doors were shut.” 8.) “I will see the ships.” 9.) “Didn’t Mary have sons and daughters?” 10.) “My daughter is big.”

Answers: 1.) Is é mo mhac seo, Antaine. 2.) Tá Gaelge ag na fir sin. 3.) Agus tú-fhéin? 4.) Cá mhéad oíche? 5.) An iasc mor sin é? 6.) Tá trí cait ag Bríd. 7.) Bhí na dorais dúnta. 8.) Feicfidh mé na loinge. 9.) Nach raibh Máire mic agus iníne? 10.) Tá mo hiníon mhor.

Now you know why the famous Scottish golf club “Glen Eagles” is not the “Glen of the Eagles” but rather “Glen of the Churches.”

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- ACROSS**
1. Tricky mule icon. (anag.) One of the 32, the east of which forms part of the Golden Vale. (6,8)
8. Mischievous spirit in Leitrim procession. (3)
9. B.A. loves to confuse and forgive sins. (7)
12. Part of Castlecomer otherwise in decay. (3)
13. British Rail initially at unruly child. (4)
14. Southern vehicle will leave its mark. (4)
16. Pleasurable time had in Westport reattribution. (5)
18. The French lay out in the back lane. (5)
20. Wavy foreign dagger used in Limerick rising. (4)
22. “ ’Tis distance lends enchantment to the — —,” Thomas Campbell (4)
24. Criminal rev. (anag.) Longford town flower! (5,6)
26. Last word in Tuam enjoyment. (4)
27. South East no reversal for 2 down. (4)
28. Bottom line figure in potato tally. (5)
29. “Curses are like young chickens, they always come home to — —.” Robert Southey. (5)
32. Stumble on day out. (4)
34. Or at odds with the duty list. (4)
36. “All moanday, tearsday, wailsday, thumpsday, frightday, shatterday till the fear of the —” James Joyce (3)
37. Been far over to Offaly village near Clonmacnoise, founded in 492 by St. Gallen? (7)
38. Five take first class return by way of Rome. (3)
39. Let Con lose rent over capital thoroughfare. (8,6)

- DOWN**
1. Or cam cracks Sir. (anag) Old Monaghan town, world famous for lace. (14)
2. Is nut able to bring together bodies of soldiers? (5)
3. Irishman comes back to control the flow of liquid. (3)
4. Rail about the teller of porkies. (4)
5. Doctor takes good man to the majority back in Tarbert sometimes. (4)
6. Portion of Adare lettuce patch is rented out again. (5)
7. Town’s water went turbulent in Tyrone angling centre at the confluence of the Strule and Glenelly. (14)
10. Tall C.O. by not being ruffled led us to east Cork resort with excellent sea fishing. (11)
11. “I can’t talk religion to a man with bodily hunger in his —s.” G.B. Shaw. (3)
13. Pair will provide a tight support. (5)

15. Cis sang about the outer covers. (7)
17. Viol air to pasta dish. (7)
21. Anger evident when land is taken from this country! (3)
23. Hotel that is free for Yeats lake retreat? (3)
25. A malt brewed in the Mediterranean. (5)
30. Nothing very loud is just not on. (3)
31. I turn to Italian city shrouded in mystery. (5)
33. Soft boreen is flat. (5)
34. Tear around at speed in Connemara territory. (4)
35. Late ruffle of duck. (4)
38. Barrel causing nostalgia for turn-over tax! (3)

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 15

Irish Wisdom

“People live in each other’s shelter.”
“The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey.”
“You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail,” “and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner.”
“There is no strength without unity.”
“You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me come and live with me.”
“Praise the young and they will blossom”
“The raggy colt often made a powerful horse.”
“Age is honorable and youth is noble.”
“Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.”
“Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.”
“The well fed does not understand the lean.”
“He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you”
“Quiet people are well able to look after themselves.”
“A friend’s eye is a good mirror.”
“It is the good horse that draws its own cart.”
“A lock is better than suspicion.”
“Two thirds of the work is the semblance.”
“He who gets a name for early rising can stay in bed until midday.”
“He who gets a name for early rising can stay in bed until midday.”

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The 2013 Boston Irish Honors Luncheon

PHOTOS BY MARGARET BRETT HASTINGS

THE BLESSING

Following is the invocation and blessing given by the Rev. Thomas B. Kennedy at the 2013 Boston Irish Honors luncheon:

“O God, our creator, sustainer and redeemer, we give you thanks for this day, for the gift of life and for the abundant blessings bestowed on your creation. We thank you for the work and voice given by the *Boston Irish Reporter* to issues and events that inform your citizenry. We thank you for the way the Reporter reveals for us the spirit of those who sustain your commonweal in Boston and beyond. The lives and stories recounted by the show the special contribution made by this Irish Diaspora as examples of your handiwork.

“As we now celebrate the many accomplishments of the *Boston Irish Reporter* and the honorees, past and present, we thank you for the lives present and past of those individuals and family we honor today: Senate President Theresa Murray, Robert A. Mulligan, Gerald A. Mulligan & family, the late John P. Driscoll, Jr. May we rejoice in their accomplishments wishing them God’s abiding embrace and blessing.

“Let us also pray, in this season of Irish and World Series celebrations, for that which binds us together, the great game of baseball: It is you, Immortal and Invisible One, who is called the great *Umpire* in this game of life where we are unsure as to what *uniform* we should wear (yet always wearing our *Red Sox*).

“While we may be *Angels* in spirit, *Yankees* in thrift, *Padres* of devotion; when in reality we are *Giants* in pride, *Dodgers* of responsibility, *Brewers* of discord and *Tigers* in ambition. When it comes to faith, we find ourselves in the *minor leagues*. When it comes to good works, we *strike out*. When it comes to knowledge of your word, we are not even sure of the *ground rules*. When it calls for faithfulness, we ground into *double plays*.

“Therefore, we are thankful for your mercy when we are in *foul territory*; thankful for your forgiveness when we commit one *error* after another; thankful for your uplifting spirit when we are in the pitfalls of a *slump*.

“Let our game plan O God, be your will, and our response be a *sell-out crowd*, with *standing room only*. And when our *number* is retired here on earth, may we head for your *home plate*, and rejoice to hear your clarion call, “Cardinals fly away; Red Sox win, knowing we are *safe*.” (adapted, *TBK*)

“As the goodness God divided five loaves and two fishes among five thousand, may the blessing of the One who multiplied that modest portion be upon our share in this abundant meal.

“To the One who is able to keep us from falling, and lift us from the dark valley of despair to the bright mountains of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy; to God be power and authority for ever and ever. In his Son’s name, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.”



Event chairman Edmund Murphy



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The Boston Irish Honors 2013 for Distinguished Public Service



Senate President Therese Murray stands at the rostrum inside the Senate Chambers in March 2007. Gov. Deval Patrick is at right.

AP Photo/Kevin Mingora

The word on Sen. Murray: She cares

By Mike Deehan

In her nearly seven years as president of the Massachusetts Senate, Therese Murray of Plymouth has led the chamber through an unprecedented economic crisis, several tough budget cycles, the installation of a nation-leading health care system and ambitious reform agendas.

Her efforts at home and abroad to enhance Massachusetts' reputation and reach have been felt from the waterfront towns of South Shore and Cape Cod district to foreign board rooms and distant capitals.

Murray sat down with the *Reporter* recently to talk about her work in the Senate, her travel on behalf of the state and what plans she's made for the next stage of her career.

Murray made history in 2007 when she succeeded Sen. Robert Travaglini as Senate President after the East Boston Democrat left the chamber to join the private sector. Elected by her fellow senators as the first female leader of either of the Legislature's branches, Murray found herself elevated from her post as Travaglini's top budget lieutenant to the president's plush office. She is term-limited as president to only eight years and must step down by March of 2015.

Murray's agenda of priorities for the current session betrays no hint that she's prepared to slow down in the remaining year and a half of her term. Drinking water and sewerage infrastructure, a minimum wage increase and other major proposals are all on the docket for this year. The Senate passed a major welfare reform bill this summer that is queued for House approval.

Murray has travelled to Europe several times since taking over for Travaglini. Many of the visits concern the state's burgeoning healthcare, biotech and life sciences industries, with Murray and other state officials seeking to strengthen ties between Massachusetts' research infrastructure and European companies. She has visited Belfast, Dublin and Derry in 2009, 2010 and earlier this year to discuss coordinated

health care and research. A trilateral research project between UMass Dartmouth and universities in Ireland and Finland resulted from a 2011 trip to Scandinavia.

"We have companies in Europe and the European Union, particularly in Ireland, Northern Ireland, that are complementary to our companies and our universities here and the businesses that we built, so it's a natural partnership," she said.

The commonwealth also has economic interests in the European market.

"The European companies want to come here, the European researches want to combine their research with our research and those are the connections we're making," Murray said. The outreach done by herself, Gov. Deval Patrick and others has helped lead to connections between Ulster University and Queen's University of Belfast in Northern Ireland and the Dartmouth and Lowell UMass campuses stateside.

When asked if she would enjoy a future in international relations after her time in the Senate comes to an end, she left the door open.

"Maybe, yeah. It's something I like doing," she said.

Murray's Irish roots cover the entire island. Her great grandparents and other ancestors hailed from Limerick, Kerry, Dublin, Galway, Cork and Belfast. "Ireland is my ancestral country," she said. "The whole island. I don't separate it out."

Therese Hollum was born in Boston in 1947 to Richard and Helena Hollum. Along with their five daughters, the Hollums found their way to Shepton Street in St. Mark's Parish in Dorchester after stints in Mission Hill and St. Matthew's Parish. An introduction to the working world quickly followed a parochial education for the Hollum sisters, with each member of the family seeking employment as soon as they could to help out the family.

By her teens, Murray was working at a newly developed passion: politics. A job opportunity from her uncle led to involvement with Edward Kennedy's 1962 run to replace his brother, the new president, in the US Senate. From there, Murray continued to volunteer in Democratic politics while establishing her professional career.

Plymouth became her home after marriage and the birth of her daughter Lauren. A series of human services

and community relations jobs led to a position as Director of Mitigation for the Massachusetts Highway Department. After Gov. William Weld was elected in 1990, Murray says she was fired from MassHighway when the new Republican administration sought to oust Democrats in the ranks.

"They had let me go because I was a Democrat, the first year," Murray said.

The early 1990s saw Murray, now a single mother, take on what some around her had long urged her to do: run for office herself. She challenged a 20-year incumbent senator and won.

Murray describes herself as a fiscal conservative who cares deeply about social issues such as health care and children's issues. "I also care about our economy. I care about taxing people, especially in this climate, when they're not making it" she said.

Murray entered the Legislature in 1993 in tune with the Bill Clinton White House and the fiscally conservative Democratic Leadership Council. Her background with MassHighway didn't mean an automatic seat on the Senate's Transportation Committee, however. According to Murray, Weld's Transportation Secretary, James Kerasiotes, didn't want her to sit on Transportation and Murray was assigned to work on human services legislation.

Welfare and minimum wage were two issues Murray championed early in her Senate career when she led efforts to reform and modernize the state's policies. Two decades later, those programs are due for a legislative renovation.

"You have to revisit it all. You can't do major reforms like transportation or economic development and not revisit it and see if there's some tweaking you have to do or some changes you have to do," Murray said.

Once the laws are written and signed, it's up to the executive branch, under the usually cost-conscious eye of the governor, to maintain the program's integrity and funding.

"You write [the bills] and then you pass them and then they move along and they're implemented by different



Old times: A gathering of the Hollum clan.



The Boston Irish Honors 2013

Growing up with politics

administrations. And then you find out that the intent of the law is not being followed by those administrations for whatever reason," Murray said. Program budget cuts prompted by a bad economic climate could lead to the same sorts of problems the laws were initially written to correct, she said.

"You see the same things happening that were happening before and you say 'why's that?' and you go and check. Well, because none of these things are being followed the way they should have been. That's why we did welfare reform again," Murray said.

The wards of Boston were Murray's first foray into politics when she grew up in the heavily Irish neighborhoods of Dorchester. She refutes the idea, however, that the two candidates vying to become the city's next mayor - both Irish-American men - show that Boston's politics are still divided along tribal lines.

"Boston looks nothing like the Boston I grew up in. I grew up in Roxbury and Dorchester and never met a person of color until I was 16," Murray said. The city is now open, more diverse and younger than the city her family left in the 1970s due to concerns about crime. Both candidates, West Roxbury City Councilor At-Large John Connolly and Dorchester Rep. Martin Walsh, represent that new city and "just happen to be Irish men," Murray says.

Earlier this year, Murray floated the idea of possibly running for governor in 2014, saying that many had encouraged her to seek the corner office. While it doesn't look like a statewide run is in Murray's future, it wasn't the first time she'd been seen as a potential candidate for higher office.

"When Bill Delahunt stepped down, people wanted me to run for Congress. I said I have no desire to be down with a bunch of squabbling people who can't get themselves together to come to agreement and move this country forward - [who] instead bring it to its knees," Murray said.

Murray blames much of Washington's gridlock on the Republican majority, which she said has been "hijacked by a very conservative group of people" who want to reshape and decrease the role of government. Her relationship with the local GOP is far more cordial. She meets each week with Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, one of just three Republicans currently in the 40-member Senate, and affords the minority party the right to request each senator's vote be on the record. Legislation that could otherwise be pushed through by the overwhelming Democratic majority can be forced into debate.

"Under our rules, they don't have a roll call. They have to have 15 people. But since they've been shrinking, first [former Senate President Thomas] Bir-



Senate President Theresa Murray was the guest of honor at a dinner reception on June 12 to benefit the Dorchester YMCA at Venezia restaurant in Dorchester's Port Norfolk village. Now a Plymouth resident, Murray spent her formative years in the neighborhood's St. Mark's parish. Above, Murray shows off an OFD bumper sticker, which was presented to her by State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry, left, who introduced Murray at the event. At right are Murray's friends Cheryl Bartlett and Cheryl McEvoy.

Ed Forry photo

mingham, then Travaglini and myself have said okay, for the good of the body, there should be debate. It shouldn't be one-sided," Murray said.

Murray admits that some members of her Democratic caucus don't like that the Republicans wield more power than

their slim numbers would otherwise enjoy. Murray maintains that debate with Tarr and the Senators across the aisle is good for legislation and the state.

"You're not going to get all sides of the story unless you do that," Murray said.

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The Boston Irish Honors 2013 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

‘Big Joe’ Mulligan set the pace for his growing family

By Jack Thomas

To learn about the Mulligans of Boston, we go back to Ireland, back to County Cork, and back to 1896, a time of rebellion and revolution when the British laid waste to that greenest of isles and hunted down men and even boys they considered too patriotic, too Irish, too Catholic.

Like many of the Irish struggling under British rule, the Mulligan ancestors lived in oppression. When Irish rebels asked the family to store guns for resistance against the British, what could they say? The great-grandfather of today's Mulligans feared for his son, Tom, 16, and pondered moving his family to America.

At the same time, young Tom had a confrontation at school with the Christian Brothers, whose appetite for disciplining students Tom thought sadistic. One day at recess, the boys needed a fourth for a game of street tennis, and a Christian Brother volunteered.

The ball hit a crack. Tom claimed the point. The cleric said no, but Tom insisted. After recess, the cleric summoned Tom to be punished for having challenged a Christian Brother. As the brother was smacking Tom, the boy rebelled, threw a slate at the cleric, and ran home, pursued all the way by the Christian Brother. When Tom's father heard both sides, he turned to the cleric and said, "Get off my property," and soon after, Tom and his father were on their way to America, to be followed, in the ensuing decade, by Tom's mother and nine siblings.

One hundred and seventeen years later, as an autumn sun slants into the dining room at the Parker House in Boston, two descendant Mulligan brothers, Bob, 70, a retired judge, and Gerry, 67, a retired banker, are dining on salmon, greens, and iced tea and telling the tale of how the Mulligans went from the despair of 19th-century Cork to the amenity of 21st-century Boston, where the family has made its mark in law, politics, business, finance, insurance, education, and even sports, in the person of Big Joe Mulligan, who pitched for the Boston Red Sox in the 1930s and never lost a game, although, truth be told, he won only one game.

Among admirers of the family is Hill Holliday co-founder Jack Connors, a philanthropist and leading voice among the Irish in Boston. "The Mulligan family has brought quality, integrity, style, and a sense of humor to everything they've done," he says. "Their parents must have been something special."

Lunch with the Mulligan brothers is a romp through the lore of a traditional Irish family, and especially tales about their father, Big Joe Mulligan, and the summer of '34 when he had his moment on the mound at Fenway Park.

At six-foot-four, Big Joe was one of the best pitchers ever at Holy Cross, according to the *Worcester Evening Gazette*. At age 19, a junior, Big Joe defeated three powerful teams in eight days – Boston College, Yale, and Har-

vard. As chronicled by Bill Nowlin in the BioProject of the Society for American Baseball Research, Big Joe held the Brooklyn Dodgers scoreless for four innings in an exhibition game. The legendary Connie Mack wanted the Holy Cross junior to join the Philadelphia Athletics, but his father said no – Joseph Ignatius Mulligan would remain at Holy Cross.

After graduation at age 20, Big Joe signed with the Red Sox, and his first start opened with a hopeful omen: Boston scored nine runs in the first inning. Although Big Joe gave up 13 hits, he coasted to a 16-3 win over the White Sox. He pitched in 14 games in 1934, but the victory over Chicago was the only game of record in his major league career. After stints in the minors with Memphis, Little Rock, and Wilkes-Barre, he signed with the Boston Braves, but pitched only exhibition games and retired from baseball with an unusual record.

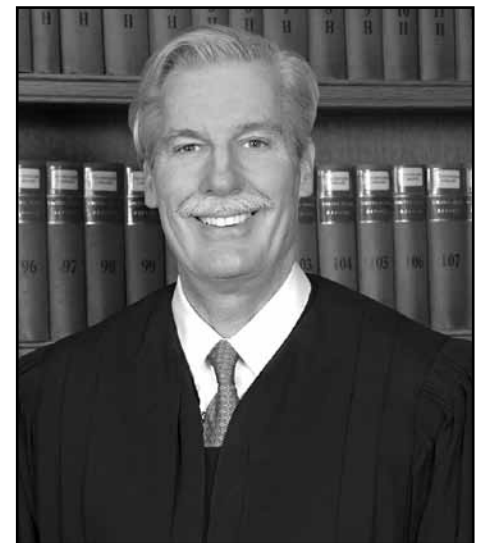
As noted by Nowlin, having recorded one win and no loss, Big Joe had a pitching percentage of 1.000. Having fielded the ball 12 times with no errors, he could boast a fielding percentage of 1.000. Alas, however, in 12 trips to the plate, Big Joe struck out 10 times, never hit safely, and ended his career with a batting average of .000. After baseball, he sold appliances throughout New England, and in 1986, at 72, he died at home of cancer.

"When dad died, I cleaned out his house," says Gerry. "His mother had kept a box of stuff, scorecards, programs, and a letter from the Red Sox telling dad how much he'd receive from the World Series gate. In those days, everybody got a cut, but it was less than \$25. There were about five baseballs, too, that, I suppose, once had fantastic autographs, but over the years, in attics and basements, the signatures had worn away, and now I wonder who signed them."

As a sales representative throughout New England, Big Joe regaled customers and colleagues with tales about his year in the big leagues, including the



The Mulligan boys: Gerry and his wife Lyn posing for a picture in Florence, Italy, above; below left; the late Joe Jr.; and retired Judge Bob.



time, in a practice game, when he struck out Babe Ruth.

"My father told me that one day, the Sox and Yankees were on the same train to New York," says Bob, "and while the players were crowded in one car, Babe Ruth had his own railroad car. Ruth came into the car occupied by everybody else and said to the porter: 'I want a pitcher of Old-Fashioneds delivered to my car immediately.' The porter said, 'Can't do it, Mr. Ruth. We're in Connecticut, a dry state.' Ruth was not pleased. 'Then bring 'em to me when we get out of this god-damn state.'"

As years went by, Big Joe was amazed at the prestige he enjoyed based on a Red Sox career that involved one year, one victory.

"Long after he left baseball, we'd go to events, like sportswriter dinners, and

everybody wanted to meet dad," recalls Gerry. "He'd say, 'Isn't this silly – it was 30 years ago I played baseball, and these guys think it's a big deal.'"

In the West Roxbury home where the Mulligan Brothers were raised, along with two sisters, Irish ranked third, America second, and in first place was the Roman Catholic Church.

"My grandfather, Tom, was born in Ireland," says Bob, "but like many immigrants, he had a greater love for America than people born here, because America gave him the opportunity to be successful, to have houses in West Roxbury and Scituate, and to send his children to college. So, did he have that nostalgic, rosy view of lost opportunities in Ireland? No."

He was a self-educated man, says Gerry. "He disdained television. The only things I remember my grandparents watching are Ed Sullivan, Huntley-Brinkley, and George Burns and Gracie Allen. Other than that, the television was turned off, and my grandfather read books, mostly history, mostly about America. He knew Boston so well that he had a story about every corner. In the '40s, he had an office on Stuart Street, and he lunched so often at Jake Wirth that they gave him one of the tables, which I have in my home."

When Mulligans boast, it's not about themselves, but about siblings, including two sisters, Jane Mulligan of Orleans, a retired schoolteacher, and Joan Roecklein of Rhode Island, a retired insurance examiner.

At lunch, for example, Gerry is proud to rattle off his brother's achievements. "Bob is pretty humble and his humor is self-deprecating, but he was very accomplished in war, in law, and on the bench. He was a second lieutenant in the



"At six-foot-four, Big Joe was one of the best pitchers ever at Holy Cross, according to the *Worcester Evening Gazette*. At age 19, a junior, Big Joe defeated three powerful teams in eight days – Boston College, Yale, and Harvard. As chronicled by Bill Nowlin in the BioProject of the Society for American Baseball Research, Big Joe held the Brooklyn Dodgers scoreless for four innings in an exhibition game. The legendary Connie Mack wanted the Holy Cross junior to join the Philadelphia Athletics, but his father said no – Joseph Ignatius Mulligan would remain at Holy Cross."



The Boston Irish Honors 2013

‘Big Joe’ set the pace for the Mulligan family

Army in Korea and in combat, he won three bronze stars with a V for valor. As a prosecutor, he served as state assistant attorney general and U.S. attorney in Massachusetts, and then, on the bench, he was a judge for 33 years, serving first at Boston Municipal Court, then as chief justice of Superior Court and finally as chief justice of administration and management of all the courts in the Commonwealth.”

At the Parker House lunch, there’s an unseen guest – the beloved older Mulligan brother, Joe, who died in 2008, and in a loving gesture to his memory, the Mulligan Brothers invite to the lunch his son, Joseph III, 48, who works for the city of Boston and is responsible for design and construction of city property, overseeing a staff of 16 and 94 projects valued at half a billion dollars.

The most celebrated Mulligan brother, Joseph Jr., was a confidant of former Gov. Edward King and former Mayor Ray Flynn. In a 40 year-career, he was Boston’s corporation counsel and licensing commissioner, a Suffolk County assistant district attorney, a member of the state Ethics Commission, and a partner in the noted law firm Reed & Mulligan, the Reed being Barry Reed, author of “The Verdict,” which David Mamet adapted into a movie in 1982, starring Paul Newman and James Mason.

To the Mulligan Brothers, however, more important than Joe’s professional accomplishments was his role in the family, and the lunch is permeated by their respect for him.

“My brother was very protective and generous to us,” says Bob, “helping us into maturity, and then with our careers, taking care of us, extremely generous. He was educated by my parents that if you are the oldest child, you take care of your brothers and sisters, and he took that seriously. He was brighter than I am, and brighter than Gerry, although Gerry is very bright, too. It’s a poor family that cannot afford one gentleman, and in our family, the gentleman was my brother Joe.”

Of all the Mulligans, Joe was the most Irish. As Bob says, “Joe was more Irish than our grandfather, who was born in Ireland.” Joe traveled to Ireland more than 30 times and promoted cross-fertilization of Boston and Irish cultures, especially regarding music, and in particular an Irish band, The Chieftains, who would play at Boston Symphony Hall and then bunk with Joe Mulligan’s family.

Joseph III remembers his father returning from journeys to Ireland with amusing stories and trinkets for his sons, an Irish stamp or coin and, on one occasion, a rock of brilliant green Connemara marble. As Joseph III recalled in the eulogy he delivered, his father had acquired the Connemara marble one night “at great risk, by climbing a fence near a quarry, and then being chased across a field by an irate donkey.”

Joe Jr. raised money for Irish causes, too, and along with Jack Connors and the late news reporter John Henning, he invested in Benner’s Hotel in Dingle, a deal that held more prospect for play than profit. As Connors recalls, “There were 50 of us who each invested \$2,000.



Joe Mulligan Jr. was one of 50 investors in a piece of the ould sod: Benner’s Hotel in Dingle.

The property was bought for \$100,000, and the annual dividend was a free stay for five days at the hotel, which at the time was worth about \$90. Of course, to take advantage of the dividend, it would cost you had to pay \$1,000 in travel costs. Over time, Benner’s hotel was the center of much laughter, great joy and many stories, but in the end, when the roof collapsed, our investment went down the drain.”

For the Mulligans, the cornerstone is family and faith, says Robert K. Sheridan, retired president of Savings Bank Life Insurance Company of Massachusetts. “They exemplify the essence of being Irish. It’s obvious that their parents instilled in them the conviction that principle, rectitude, and values must be part of their emotional and mental DNA, and that ethos is passed to succeeding generations.”

Among Mulligans, politics is as angular as light through Irish crystal, sometimes Irish, sometimes Catholic, sometimes Republican, sometimes Democrat.

For example, Irish identity aside, the family repudiated that early 20th-century icon of Irish politics, Mayor James Michael Curley, largely, says Gerry, because Cardinal O’Connell opposed Curley. “My grandmother’s sister was paymaster for Boston under Curley’s predecessor (Andrew James Peters),” says Gerry, “and when Curley was elected, he went to my grandfather for money. My grandfather told Curley he didn’t like his approach, and Curley said: ‘Well, I know your sister has a job with the city, and I assume she wants to keep it.’ My family thought Curley was a bad image of the Irish, that he was ‘old Irish,’ and not in the good sense.”

The Mulligans being Irish, though, where are the politicians in the family?

Two of them, it turns out, are sitting at the luncheon table, although their pilgrimages in politics were shorter than Big Joe’s career in baseball.

In 1972, at age 25, Gerry ran for state representative from West Roxbury and lost to Michael Connolly, whose son

is a candidate for mayor of Boston.

“I ran as a Democrat,” recalls Gerry, “but everybody in my family had registered Republican to oppose Curley, and so they had to change registration to vote for me in the primary.”

“Did you lose by much?”

“Yes.”

Joseph III, who lost a bid for City Council in 1999, is asked if he’d run again. “No,” he says, smiling. “It’s a young man’s game.”

How, in Gerry’s case, does an Irishman end up in finance, a field traditionally dominated by Yankees? Gerry pauses. “Is that a trick question?” he asks, laughing.

After Boston Latin School and College of the Holy Cross, he studied at Georgetown University Law Center and then began work as a lawyer at the Federal Reserve Board, concentrating on banking regulations. “I liked banking and applied to be a banker, but I needed experience in accounting and economics, and so, when a friend advised me to go to business school, I did, at Harvard, and became a banker.”

And he succeeded, having served as Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks, president of First Mutual of Boston, president of Andover Bancorp, president of LSB Corp, and chair of Savings Bank Life Insurance, not to mention professorships at Babson College and Suffolk University Law School.

The Mulligan brothers remember their West Roxbury home as a safe, stimulating, and peaceful environment, filled with family celebrations and, always, humor, and the two brothers cannot wait to relate their brother’s folly one summer when he worked for the utility company, Boston Edison.

“My father was good at getting us summer jobs there,” says Bob. “My brother Joe was 16 and working at Edison in Dorchester when they told him one day to get sandwiches and to take the two-and-a-half ton truck. As Joe was driving out of the yard, the boss was driving in, and Joe hit him.

Well, the boss’s car didn’t make out well against Joe’s truck, and so, he was fired. Our father could not believe it. “What do you mean you got fired? Nobody’s ever been fired by Edison.”

While St. Patrick’s Day was not a big deal, Christmas celebrations are memorable. “My grandfather would invite siblings and spouses, all our great aunts,” says Bob, “and in the Irish tradition, the children were expected to perform, a poem or something. My grandfather would give you a drink and offer you a second, but never a third. He knew the Irish have a problem with alcohol.” Two generations later, that warning echoes in the family.

“We were brought up not to drink much,” says Gerry, sipping iced tea. “My father said that it doesn’t matter whateverbody else does, but that I was not to order alcohol at lunch, because that would contribute to the assumption that the Irish are drunks.”

Bob raises a finger: “But that doesn’t mean we’re all teetotalers.”

Growing up, the Mulligans recall no discrimination by or against the family. “We were sensitive that we were Irish,” says Bob. “My grandfather had pride in anyone Irish who gained prominence, like Gracie Allen, and my father loved it when Holy Cross beat Harvard. “But they never talked about Jews or Protestants in a derogatory way. It was just that, in those days, the Catholic religion was believed to be the one, true religion.”

Near the end of lunch, the Mulligans make a final expression of affection for their brother Joe. “If he had been here,” Bob confesses, “we might have had a beer, and you would have heard a lot more, funny stories.”

It’s mid-afternoon when the check arrives, and Bob reaches for it, only to be outmaneuvered by the more agile man from the *Irish Reporter*, who insists that the newspaper will pay for lunch.

Bob grimaces. “What’s the matter?” asks the *Irish Reporter*. “If I had known that,” says Bob, “I’d have ordered the lobster.”



The Boston Irish Honors 2013 In Memory of John P. Driscoll, Jr.

JOHN P. DRISCOLL ON THE MOVE:



John and Jane (Bourque) Driscoll march down the aisle and begin a new chapter of family life in a Somerville three-decker ...



... He is greeted at the White House by Hillary Clinton (the president is behind them) during his work with the Coalition for a Drug-Free America" ...



... sailing off the Cape with his pal, Sen. Ted Kennedy ...



... and having some fun-time with a grandson.

Jack Driscoll worked every day to help his city

The noted Boston attorney John Patrick Driscoll died in November 2009 at the age of 77. The eulogies followed in full flow, penetrating in their warmth and admiration for the generous, mentoring life of a man who treated everyone he came into contact with as a person who offered something of value to the community.

"When I remember John Driscoll, what comes to mind are three themes," says his nephew Ed Murphy. "First, he was a mentor. He gave so freely of his time, as well as his resources to so many people, non-profits, and charities. I include myself in that number.

"Secondly, I recall how John's wake was so much a reflection of the kind of man he was. At one end of the line were titans of law, business, and government; at the other end was a waiter from the Seaport Hotel. That scene showed what John Driscoll was all about. He treated everyone with warmth, respect, and value. To John, it was never about title or station with people.

"The third theme is how mentoring was so important to John, whether with family members or others. Everyone was important to him. He had this strong desire to give back, to help others, always remembering that without the help and mentoring of others, he might never have achieved all he did in life.

"One thing about John was that he never forgot his roots – ever. He had so many treasured relationships from his youth and beyond that he kept all his life."

Following are excerpts from an article on the life and times of John P. Driscoll that was published in the Boston Irish Reporter in 2003:

By Ed Forry

When Jack Driscoll was just a young Somerville attorney his mother asked him to stop by St. Catherine's Rectory to pick up some Mass cards.

There, he met and started talking with Rev. Frank Sullivan, a parish priest who also was executive director of the Catholic Charities in Somerville and Cambridge. That chance encounter led the young attorney to volunteer his time to Fr. Sullivan's work.

"I spent a lot of years with Catholic Charities," Driscoll recalled in a recent interview at his offices on the South Boston waterfront. "I have been involved in helping the disadvantaged. It's not much of

a leap from that to get involved with the plague of drugs. Drugs are a societal problem. My focus has been on the urban situation. There are so many urban neighborhoods that have had to deal with the scourge of drugs."

Today, Jack Driscoll is a partner at the Boston law firm of Nutter, McClennen & Fish, and a member of the firm's Public Policy Group. He represents private and public companies, partnerships, banks, financial services firms, real estate developers, and educational institutions, and counsels clients in the organization of companies, contracts, venture capital, corporate finance, business transactions, corporate governance, securities, mergers and acquisitions and government regulation of business.

But his real love seems to be in working with people in need and on public policy issues.

In 1991, as president of the Boston Bar Association, he spearheaded a new program, The Boston Coalition Against Drugs and Violence, and today, he says, that decade-old effort is in need of rejuvenation and re-birth.

The Somerville-born and-bred Driscoll traces his roots to Ireland, to the little spit of land reaching out of County Cork known as the Beara Peninsula. His father, John Patrick Driscoll, emigrated to America from the village of Eyerise in 1922 at the age of 23.

The oldest of nine children, Jack Driscoll says of his father's roots, "It was a very poor part of Ireland. He was educated to the sixth grade, and settled in a boarding house in Charlestown.

"He had a tremendous work ethic. He got a job at the Everett gas works shoveling coal and got interested in boilers. At that time, MIT used to have a certificate program, and he took classes and earned a license as a third class engineer. He was good with his hands, and he always had two jobs. He worked on furnaces and also in carpentry and painting."

The younger Jack Driscoll related the remarkable story of his parents, who each came from the Beara. His mother lived in Castletown Bear, about six miles from Eyerise, but they never met until they attended an Irish dance in Boston.

"He met an Irish girl, Mary Sullivan, in Hibernian Hall on Dudley Street. She was a domestic, working on Commonwealth Ave. Mrs. Sears was her employer.

They married in 1930. My father by then owned a three

family house in Somerville, he had furnished it and even had a new stove and frigidaire. One of my sisters once asked my mother, 'Where did you spend your honeymoon?'

"What are you talking about? 'We went home to the house. Your father had everything set up for me.'"

"There were five of us born in the 1930s – Mary was the first. Five of us were born healthy – Mary, Jack, Leo, Irene, and Marguerite. She lost two babies. My sister Mary always referred to me as 'my oldest brother.' It made everyone believe I was the oldest."

Jack has fond memories of his father's efforts in supporting the young family.

"In the late 1930's he got a job as a janitor with the city of Somerville, and he ran the heating plant for the high school, City Hall, and the gym. My father worked two jobs for 24 years – for the city and nights for the Railway Express over at the Boston & Maine rail yards, so we did not see a whole hell of a lot of him. Then on weekends he had a small contracting business, repairing houses and storefronts.

"He had three brothers he had brought over who would work with him: Pat and Gerry stayed, but Jim returned to Ireland." His father, he says, "had an extraordinary work ethic, plus a love of education." In all, Jack's father brought 15 to 20 people over, and only his brother Jim went back to Ireland.

Driscoll recalls that his father had been sending money back to Ireland to buy a farm, which was being worked by the returning brother Jim. "In 1939 he said to my mother, 'I think, Mary, we should be going home. I own this nice piece of land.' My mother, who was usually very soft spoken, said 'Oh Jesus Mary and Joseph, have you lost your mind? What would you go back there for? This is where the opportunity is, this is where you made your stake. We're going to stay right here.'

"He was so taken aback, because she always said yes to everything. A week later he wrote to his brother Jim and said you can buy the farm from me for whatever I put into it. Jim had 25 or 50 head of cattle and a small family, and he was a cut-glass image of my father.

"My father, he was an exemplar. You look back and think, how could he do all that he did?"

John and Mary Driscoll's children went to grammar school with the Sisters of



The Boston Irish Honors 2013

He worked every day to help his city thrive

St. Joseph at the St. Theresa School, which was the name of the school at St. Catherine of Sienna parish. His sisters and brothers attended Somerville High, but his father had a different idea for son Jack.

"I had been playing a lot of athletics, and my father said, 'Maybe you would like to be with the brothers or the priests at Malden Catholic or BC High?' Of our group (of friends), three or four went to Malden Catholic, two to BC High. Malden Catholic had been Catholic League champs for 19 years in a row." So young Jack Driscoll enrolled at Malden Catholic, and eventually lettered for three years as a lineman on the championship team.

"I wasn't there three weeks when a brother saw me talking with another boy in class, and he cuffed me on the side of the head," Driscoll remembers. "I made the mistake of telling my father about it. 'You won't believe what happened, dad,' I said. 'If I hear about that happening again, that cuff will mean nothing.' I made that mistake (of telling dad) only once," he says. "Of course it happened more than once."

Driscoll played tackle on the high school football team, graduated in 1950, and won a scholarship to the University of New Hampshire, where he played left tackle. He graduated *magna cum laude*, and was named to the first Academic All-American football team in 1954. "I am sure what happened was, they had 21 places filled, and said, 'Where the hell are we going to find a left tackle with good grades?'"

Driscoll does not know who nominated him, but he was the only member of the 22-member squad who did not play at a Division 1 school. "They ran a little story in the Somerville paper, and probably in the Manchester paper, and I got a little letter which I gave to my mother," he says with a smile.

But there was no meeting of the other players, no awards ceremony for the all-scholastic squad of 1954- until last summer.

In June 2002, Driscoll and the other 21 scholar-athletes were invited to New York to be honored on the anniversary of their selection to the Academic All-American Football Team. The celebration took place on June 27 at the New York Hilton.

"Being the only athlete from a Division II school chosen for the Academic All-American team, among so many talented athletes from the nation's powerhouse programs, was a great honor," said Driscoll. "Sports helped teach me the value of teamwork, discipline, hard work and the importance of being part of something larger than yourself. These are values that I have carried throughout my life and in everything I do."

In New York, he was pleased to meet for the first time with fellow members of that first honorary squad. Among them were a Unitarian Minister, the president of William and Mary College, a science director from the Reagan administration, a Houston ob/gyn physician and a Disney executive.

"Four of them had played in the NFL. They were great guys to be with for one night," he says.

After graduation, he enrolled in Harvard Law School, and was hired as line coach for the Harvard football team. It was during those three years that he acquired a lasting nickname: Jack Driscoll is still referred to as "Coach" by many Harvard football players.

Driscoll met and married his wife Jane and the two started their newlywed life in an apartment in a three-decker his father owned on Broadway, in Somerville. Later, the couple bought a home in Belmont, where their three sons John, James, and Joseph were born and raised, and for a time Jack Driscoll served as a town meet-

ing member.

Driscoll currently is a board member of the Freedom Trail Foundation and the Catholic Schools Foundation. He is a trustee of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and a member of Greater Boston Legal Services and the Board of Advisors of the Morin Center for Banking Law of Boston University School of Law. He also serves as a director of the Tech Law Group, Inc., and the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, and chair of The Boston Coalition Against Drugs and Violence.

He is a former trustee of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Good Samaritan Hospice, Regis College, Belmont Hill School, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston, and Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc. He is former president of the TechLaw Group, Inc., and a former director of the American Ireland Fund and the Massachusetts Association for the Blind.

He served as chair of the Northeastern University Commission on Athletics, and as a member of the Commission on Federal Judicial Appointments, the St. Clair Commission to Study Management of the Boston Police Department, the Governor's Foreign Business Council, and the Arbitration Committee of the Boston Stock Exchange.

Jack Driscoll's work kept him focused on helping people. While serving as president of the Boston Bar Association in 1991, he headed a study on the status of drugs and crime in the city.

For 18 months, Driscoll organized meetings of people from all over the city and in early 1993 he formed the Boston Coalition, with task forces on such topics as a drug free workplace, criminal justice, children and youth and the religious community. He also served on the St. Clair Commission which studied the Boston

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Partner With A Purpose

Academic All-American Football Player Turned Attorney Jack Driscoll Has Dedicated His Life and Career to Helping the City of Boston Survive ... and Thrive
Story page 16

Also: Jack Driscoll & Boston Police Commissioner Paul Evans on the Changing Face of the City

Photo by Harry Brett

Police Department.

"We were a lucky city," he says, recalling how bad the crime wave was in those years, and reflecting the belief that things could have become much worse.

He credits the commitment of several public officials in addressing the problems, including District Attorney Ralph Martin, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger and federal prosecutor Donald Stern. The Boston effort was modeled after a highly successful program in Miami, but he laments, "We were never able to get the business community as engaged in Boston."

Also important, he recalls, was the change of Boston city administration, with Mayor Thomas Menino and Police Commissioner Paul Evans committing to the effort.

One result of the coalition's efforts was the creation of a diversionary program known as a "drug court."

"I thought, these are not hard-core offenders. The whole idea was to take someone off the street, bring them into court, and instead of incarcerating them, get them into a program where they would get treatment. Maybe, even potentially get them some job training skills, maybe even get them a job when they finish.

"That's so very much less expensive a way, and a much more humane way to take care of what I'll say is the least offensive of people involved with drugs. Most were users - some may have been small-time peddlers, and many were women. If you stay in the program for a year, your record would be clean, as if nothing happened.

That plus the fact you got clean were the two victories."

The plan was greeted with what Driscoll terms "a very chilly comment" by the chief judge of the trial courts, but the initiative was started with a \$500,000 foundation grant at the Dorchester District Court.

Once the drug court began to show some success, Driscoll says, "The ice started to melt, and now there are 40 such courts in the state. It is probably the most successful thing we did."

Driscoll admits "We kind of strayed away from our mission to act as a convener," and the Coalition started to operate programs. Now, he says, "We are looking at some of the programs and handing them off. We probably should get back to our original role as a convener and catalyst."

As for the future, Driscoll says he is focused on "Challenge 2006", an event that brought together over 500 government and community leaders to discuss the challenges facing Boston's youth and a renewed commitment to a proactive, grassroots approach. He says that come the year 2006 there is expected to be "a 25 percent to 35 percent bulge in the adolescent population. There will be far more kids in the streets between the ages of 13 and 20.

"My gut tells me we can shift to the role of convener. The potential in a deteriorating economy is just as bad as it was in 1989-1991, and I am just in the throes of trying to put the case together again. The coalition is morphing into something it used to be."



John P. Driscoll, his wife Lauren and their family.

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