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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Presenting the 2016 Boston Irish Honorees

Leary, Judge families, Sen. Kirk feted at luncheon

The 2016 Boston Irish Honors Awards luncheon drew more than 400 attendees to the Plaza Ballroom of the Seaport Hotel in Boston on Oct. 28 for a celebration and public recognition of two Boston families and a distinguished public servant by the Boston Irish Reporter. The honorees are:

- Jim Judge, CEO of Eversource Energy, and Mary Cahill Judge, a husband and wife team noted for their generosity of spirit and extensive philanthropy.

- Former US Sen. Paul G. Kirk, Jr., a legendary public servant who chaired the Democratic National Committee and co-founded the Presidential Debate Commission.

- The Leary family—the Irish American Partnership founder Joe Leary, the businessman and philanthropist Kevin Leary, and their sisters, Mary Patricia Leary Dowling and Elizabeth Ann Leary Horrigan — who were cited as an exemplary Boston Irish family.

The selection of the honorees was made by a 34 member committee chaired by Bill Reilly of Cambridge. Committee members included Ireland's Consul General Fionnuala Quinlan, New England Council president Jim Brett, and BIR publisher Ed Forry.

"It is important that we acknowledge those among us who have excelled," Reilly said. "They remind us of the accomplishment of our ancestors, many of whom arrived on these shores at a time of great hostility towards immigrants. It is the foundation that they laid so sturdily that gives us cause to celebrate on this day."



Photos by Margaret Brett Hastings



I work in Hollywood but I keep my money
in my hometown-Kevin Chapman

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Honorees include: Martin T. Meehan, 27th President of the University of Massachusetts; Her Excellency Anne Anderson, the Republic of Ireland's Ambassador to the United States; and Reverend Doctor Ray Hammond, founder and pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Boston





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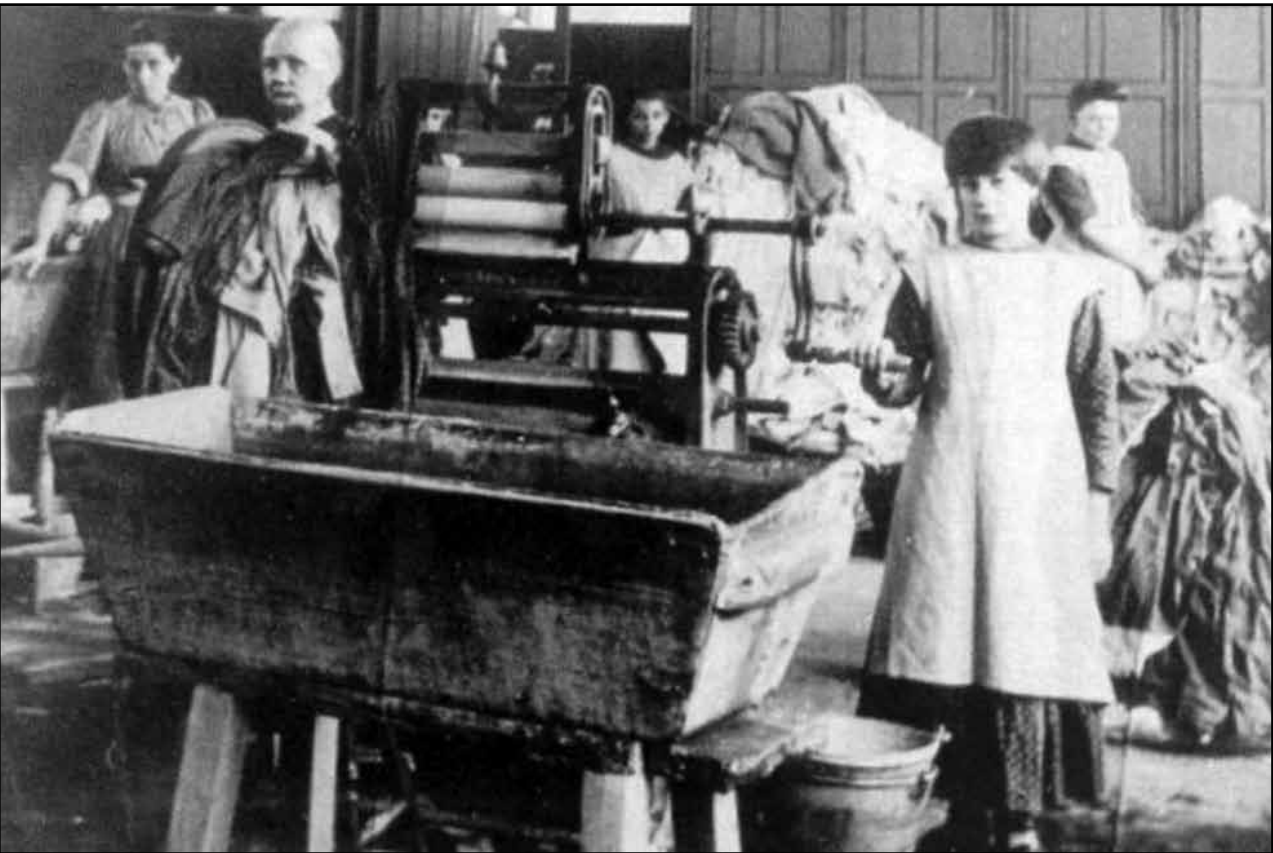
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An archival photo of of a Magdalene Laundries setting.

IPC offers its help in Magdalene Laundries restitution processes

The Irish Pastoral Centre, located at St. Brendan Parish in Dorchester, is offering its services in connection with the Irish government’s reconciliation process in the matter of the Magdalene Laundries scandal.

The laundries - often described as “prisons” by the women who worked in them - were established in the 18th century for Ireland’s “fallen” women and remained in operation until 1996, when the last laundry closed. An estimated 30,000 women and girls are thought to have been institutionalized for a myriad of reasons, from “being bold” to having a child out of wedlock. They were forced to work long hours in poor conditions for no pay.

Boston resident James Smith, an Ireland native working at Boston College, spearheaded a sustained campaign for Justice for Magdalene Laundry women in both the UK and Ireland between 2001 and 2004. A decade later, following a government-sponsored probe of

the Magdalene operation, a program of payments was set up for women who were admitted to and worked in the laundries and associated enterprises. In June 2013, the justice who supervised the investigation recommended that surviving women identified as working in the Magdalene system receive cash payments in the range 11,500 euros for a stay 3 months or less to 100,000 euros for a stay of 10 years or more

Since that announcement, the Irish Department of Justice and Equality has been processing applications for restitution to this day.

If you were resident in a Magdalene Laundry in Ireland, (or if you know someone who was) and would like to find out more about the Restorative Justice Scheme, please feel free to contact the Irish Pastoral Centre confidentially at 617-265-5300, Ext 10 or via email to veronica@ipcoston.org.

Charitable Irish Society will award Silver Keys to four at annual reception

The Charitable Irish Society will hold its Eighteenth Silver Key Awards Reception on Thurs., Nov. 10, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. This year’s Silver Key Honorees are Gerard and Marilyn Doherty, Billy Higgins, and Sister Maryadele Robinson.

The Charitable Irish Society was founded in Boston in 1737. It is the oldest Irish Society in the Americas and is unique in its inclusive membership of both Catholics and Protestants since its early days. From its beginnings, the Society’s mission has been to provide aid and assistance to newly arrived Irish immigrants as they face the multiple challenges of adjusting to and assimilating into a new city and country. Consistent with the Irish traditions of hospitality and charity, the Society has expanded its focus to include immigrants from other countries as well as from Ireland.

The Silver Key Award is given to those individuals whose dedication and persistence in helping new immigrants have been truly outstanding. This year’s honorees, most generous philanthropists and political and elected officials, Gerard and Marilyn Doherty, Billy Higgins, South Boston native, resident, founder of the Southill Children’s Fund and quiet contributor to countless individuals and causes, and Sister Maryadele Robinson, Director Emerita of the Laboure Center, have each made significant contributions to helping others and we are pleased to be able to honor them with the Silver Key Award.

Tickets are \$125 each and can be obtained by contacting Sandra Moody at 617-304-1076, or online at charitableirishsociety.org

New air services on tap for Boston-Dublin route

Airplane flights from Boston to Ireland have expanded once again with the announcement of two new scheduled routes from Logan Airport to the Emerald Isle.

Last month, Delta Airlines announced it would launch non-stop seasonal service beginning next spring and summer. The overnight flights will depart Logan at 9:10 p.m., and arrive in Dublin at 8:30 a.m. Delta return flight will depart Dublin at 10:15 a.m., and arrive in Boston at 12:41 p.m. . The inaugural flight is set for May 25.

Meanwhile, budget Iceland carrier WOW Airlines, which has offered one stop service between Boston and Dublin with a stopover to change planes in Reykjavik, will introduce additional service to Cork next May 19.

BIR SOCIAL CALENDAR November 2016

Nov. 12 – The Irish Social Club will its installation of officers and Mass for deceased members. The Irish Social club offers dancing every Sunday evening from 8 p.m., to midnight: Nov. 6, Andy Healy; Nov. 13, Noel Henry’s band; Nov. 27, Fintan Stanley. For info call 617 327-730

Nov. 12 – The Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr will hold a Mass for deceased members at the Malden Irish American Club. Mass at 6.30 pm, with Fr. Dan Finn, the society’s chaplain, celebrating the Mass. Music for dancing will be provided by “Erin’s Melody,” featuring Margaret Dalton.

Proceeds will be donated to Fr. Finn for his many charities. Donation is \$10..

Nov. 15 – Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr business meeting at the Fidelity House, 25 Medford Street, Arlington, at 7 p.m. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Nov. 17 – The American Ireland Fund will host its 35th Annual Boston Gala at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel, 425 Summer Street, South Boston. The 2016 Honoree is Margot C, Connell, chairman, Connell Limited Partnership, 6:30 p.m. cocktail

reception, 8 p.m. dinner program and dancing.

November 19 – The Irish Social Club will host Sean Folan’s fundraiser and have “Erin’s Melody” playing for the dances 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission \$15.

Nov. 19 – The Norwood Irish Music Club will hold a dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 572 Nichols Street, Norwood. Music

by Kathy and the Irish Americans. Starts at 7.30 p.m.

Irish Music and News

- WROL (950, AM dial) every Saturday and Sunday, featuring Seamus Mulligan on Sundays.
- WUNR (1600, AM dial) Every Thursday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. with Sheila Cummings.
- WNTN (1550, AM dial). Every Saturday afternoon with Mike Kerr.

Admission \$15

Saturday, November 19th 7:30 to 11.30PM

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VOTE EARLY BOSTON

More Times. More Places.

For the first time ever, registered Boston voters can vote at any early voting location from **Monday, October 24 – Friday, November 4** in the City, including City Hall. Pick a time and place that is best for you. Voter registration deadline is October 19.

- MON. OCT. 24, 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.**
East Boston, Orient Heights Yacht Club
Chinatown, Metropolitan Condominiums
South End, Harriet Tubman House
Boston City Hall (9 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
- TUES. OCT. 25, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
Boston City Hall
- WED. OCT. 26, 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.**
Dorchester, Dorchester House
Dorchester, Codman Square Library
Hyde Park, Municipal Building
Boston City Hall (9 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
- THUR. OCT. 27, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
Boston City Hall
- FRI. OCT. 28, 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.**
Jamaica Plain, Curtis Hall
Kenmore/Fenway, Boston Arts Academy
Allston/Brighton, Honan Library
Boston City Hall (9 a.m. – 8 p.m.)

- SAT. OCT. 29, 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.**
East Boston, Heritage Apartments
South Boston, Condon School
Dorchester, Lower Mills Library
Dorchester, Grove Hall Community Center
Mattapan, Mildred Ave Community Center
West Roxbury, West Roxbury Library
Roxbury, Bruce Bolling Municipal Building
Back Bay, Copley Square Library
Allston/Brighton, Jackson Mann School

- MON. OCT. 31, 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.**
Charlestown, Harvard/Kent School
Bay Village, Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Roxbury, MLK Tower
Boston City Hall (9 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
- TUES. NOV. 1, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
Boston City Hall
- WED. NOV. 2, 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.**
Dorchester, Strand Theatre
Mattapan, Morning Star Church
Roslindale, Roslindale Community Center
Boston City Hall (9 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
- THUR. NOV. 3, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
Boston City Hall
- FRI. NOV. 4, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
Jamaica Plain, Back of the Hill Apartments
Mission Hill, Tobin Municipal Building
Allston/Brighton, Veronica B. Smith Senior Center
Boston City Hall (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

Voters may also apply for an early voting ballot by mail; the deadline for applications is 12:00 p.m. on November 4. If early voting ballots are not returned during the early voting period, they must be returned to City Hall, Room 241, by 8 p.m. on November 8.

If you miss the early voting period, you can still vote on Tuesday, November 8 at your assigned voting location.



City of Boston
Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Learn more at boston.gov/early-voting • #VoteEarlyBoston
Call 311 • election@boston.gov

This time around, we're with her

In 2008, the *Boston Irish Reporter* chose Barack Obama over Hillary Clinton as our preferred nominee for president. We wrote: "In a contest that increasingly seems likely to feature proven cross-over candidate John McCain on the Republican ticket, team Clinton seems likely to be a losing proposition for those of us focused on the ultimate goal of reclaiming Pennsylvania Avenue."

Senator Obama, we believed, would excite the Democratic base and bring in new voters. We hoped he would have a transformative effect on the nation and set us on a path toward a more progressive, united future. Like Sen. Ted Kennedy, whose endorsement of Sen. Obama was an early and pivotal moment in that campaign, we saw in the senator from Illinois the promise of greatness and subtle reminders of our own favorite son, John F. Kennedy.

It is an understatement to say that President Obama has far exceeded our expectations. We believe that he will be viewed as the most important leader generated by this nation in the last half-century. We will miss the steady leadership, graceful resolve, and uplifting spirit that the president, the First Lady, and their family have brought to the White House.

Secretary Clinton is a worthy successor to the Obama legacy. After a disappointing finish to her hard-fought candidacy in 2008, she quickly distinguished herself by endorsing her rival and then joining his administration at the highest level, serving as Secretary of State. We were impressed then, as we are now, with her tenacity, grit and, despite her detractors' feeble attempts to suggest otherwise, her stamina in the job and, subsequently, in this campaign.

If Clinton hoped to seamlessly segue from Mr. Obama's team to the nomination, she certainly picked the wrong seat at the cabinet table. There is good reason why the last US secretary of state to ascend to the office of commander-in-chief did so before the Civil War (James Buchanan, 1856). In modern times, certainly, taking the top job at State has been a career capper, not the final rung on the way up to the Oval Office.

The role of secretary of state is demanding and fraught with peril. Failure, to one degree or another, is inherent in the job description at the Department of State, where even allies are prone to prod and undermine, and the world's most nefarious and wicked leaders are your frequent dinner guests. Meanwhile, domestic rivals will seek to make every international crisis one of your own making. And every victory, however pyrrhic, belongs to the president you serve.

Hillary Clinton, in our view, is the best-qualified, best-prepared and most-persuasive candidate for the job of president in the fields of candidates presented to the American electorate this cycle. She triumphed over a tough, dynamic and popular rival in Bernie Sanders— another leader who has done the nation a service by lending his full-throated endorsement to his former rival. She promises to keep a steady pace with the impressive record realized under President Obama— progressive appointments to the Supreme Court, advances in civil rights for LGBTQ neighbors on marriage and in the armed forces, and more equitable pay for women. Like the president, who righted the American economy that was so hobbled and abused by failed GOP policies under the last administration, Clinton promises to make smart decisions that won't disrupt the ongoing recovery.

Sanders, like many of us who are now fully committed to Clinton's election, does so with one eye cast warily towards the prospect of what the election of her opponent— the GOP nominee— would mean for our republic. The Republican pick for president in 2016 is the most unsavory, disturbing, and ill-suited person ever to appear on a November ballot on behalf of a major American party. Any misgivings about Hillary Clinton are so diminished in the face of the prospect of this individual's election as to be inconsequential.

The grotesque, shameful behavior of the Republican party's new standard bearer — including his misogynistic and hateful language directed at just about everyone in our society— stands as a disgraceful blemish on a once Grand Old Party.

We will vote enthusiastically for Hillary Clinton next Tuesday. We suspect that many of our neighbors— some 24,000 citywide, as of last count— already have. Massachusetts will do its part to elect a proven leader with the clear credentials to lead our nation forward, charting a course to continue the strong record of the Obama era.

We urge our neighbors to join us in voting for Hillary Rodham Clinton as our next president.

-Bill and Ed Forry



Hillary Clinton

The Irish and our election: They're interested, and worried

**BY JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**

The rest of the world has always paid attention to our presidential elections, but foreign newspapers and foreign leaders have generally been circumspect and very careful about what they say about the campaigns.

Most countries respect the leadership of the United States in world affairs. And those countries who accept American foreign aid certainly want to continue their good relations with the big brother nation that helps them.

Not this year. Donald Trump's candidacy is the exception. His campaign, his speeches, his record, the man himself have come under serious, bitter criticism throughout Ireland. Take a quick look at the evidence:

- The *Irish Times* quotes Irish government leader Taoiseach Enda Kenny: "If Trump's comments are racist and dangerous, which they are, there is an alternative for Americans to vote for."
- The Irish Minister for Social Protection, Leo Varadkar, has described comments by Trump as sexist and misogynist.
- Irish Minister for Jobs Mary Mitchell O'Connor was quoted in the *Irish Independent* as saying, "I think that it is totally unacceptable the way Trump talks about women. And what really disgusted me was the way he spoke about people with disability. It is reprehensible."
- Micheal Martin, leader of Ireland's opposition party Fianna Fail, was quoted in the same newspaper as saying, "It is not acceptable for democrats to speak in the way Donald Trump has spoken about various religions and ethnic groups and about building walls. It sets an appalling example for how the free world should speak and articulate."
- Irish President Michael D. Higgins, in an extraordinary intervention in the US election process, slammed Trump for fomenting racism, drawing a comparison with the Famine Irish. Higgins stated that targeting the most vulnerable was utterly wrong and the Irish knew all about it from their history.
- Micheal Clifford, a columnist for the *Irish Exam-*



Joe Leary

Off the Bench

Beware the flawed, blustering horseman

**BY JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER**

The Trump phenomenon shows just how unexceptional we are. We, too, can be beguiled by a demagogue who channels the anger and resentment of many into a movement devoid of substance. Using lies, deceit, scapegoating, and conspiracy theories, an accomplished con man has convinced a vocal minority to place him at the threshold of immense power and influence.

Many believed that couldn't happen here. Our system had too many safeguard to allow such an aberration. The vetting process was too complicated and our political leaders too sophisticated for this to become reality. There were many in Germany and Italy in the aftermath of World War I who felt the same way. Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini were at first dismissed by the intelligentsia as misfits, incapable of achieving real power. In the unlikely event they did, it was thought, they could be managed by professionals and held back by the structural limitations of governance.

They were wrong. Both swept to power on a wave of public anger and discontent that were fueled by the blaming of minorities for social and economic ills. Both moved to consolidate power quickly by controlling the press, imprisoning their political enemies, and promising a rebirth of past glories, not unlike Donald Trump's



James W. Dolan

iner, wrote on Oct. 15: "Donald Trump is scary, but not as scary as the circumstances that produced him. How alienated can citizens of the US be that this dangerous buffoon has got as close as he has to being president of their country. Trump says he is a billionaire, but he will not publish his tax returns. No other politician running for the presidency could ever hope to get away with that one."

For all that, the Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Charlie Flanagan, is so concerned with the frequency and severity of all this criticism that in private meetings he has been urging his colleagues to stop publicly attacking Trump — because it was still possible that he could win the election.

People in London, Belfast, and Dublin should not be telling us how to vote, and in most elections, that is the case. The problem apparently is that Trump excites such intense reactions that many are motivated to speak out. There is also a tendency for foreigners to criticize the USA simply because they can.

On the other hand, it is helpful for Americans to have an idea of how the world thinks about us. Any country living in isolation will pay a price for its ignorance. It is foolish for the citizens of any country to stick their head in the ground and not try to understand the larger world around them.

This is our world of rapidly advancing technology where new inventions occur many times a day, a world of instant communication. All the debates and both conventions were broadcast worldwide. Almost everything Trump or Clinton says is known immediately throughout the universe.

When a simple email sent across town can be accessed by a foreign country and sent out to all the media in an attempt to influence our elections, everyone must be super careful and keep being aware of what goes on outside our borders.

This is not a defense of what the Irish are saying; it is just a small reflection on what the 95 percent of the world's population outside of our 50 states may be thinking.

Let us pray that when this election is over, most of us are still talking with each other and that our great nation will come together to continue to be the model for democracy it has always been.

"Make America Great Again" cries almost a century later. How little time it took to dismantle democratic institutions.

The degree to which an all-powerful authoritarian leader can capture the imagination, if not the reason, of otherwise sensible people was evident in the public hysteria of the crowds that lined the streets of Berlin as Hitler passed by. As they surrendered to his will, little did they realize the path of destruction he was leading them to.

Hopefully, this election will be a wake-up call. Americans are not immune to the impulses that produce dictators. Under the right circumstances, a charismatic leader with a well-organized and disciplined movement can succeed in gaining power. Fortunately, although clever, Trump doesn't have the discipline, the knowledge, or the organization to capitalize on his almost incomprehensible popularity.

What is it about this obviously deeply flawed man that many find so attractive? Apparently they don't see or don't care about his limitations and the risk he poses to the nation. They see only the personification of their anger and discontent. They're mad as hell and he is their champion. How he proposes to address their grievances is beside the point so long as he rails against the established order. Believing anything would be better than what we have, they want change and don't particularly care how it is achieved.

Assigning blame is a powerful emotion that often overlooks personal deficiencies while providing an outlet for frustration and anger against whomever or whatever appears to be responsible for the discontent. It is frequently directed against government, minorities, elites, and change in general; it's a way to protest against the loss of personal autonomy and control. Blaming requires a target, and the real or imagined culprits are many.

Trump is a master of the blame game. Unable to accept any personal responsibility for his floundering campaign, he blames the press, political elites, special interests, and his opponent. Having already called the election "rigged," he will be all too ready to stir up unrest by blaming the system if and when he (hopefully) loses. Not one to go quietly into the night, he may encourage demonstrations.

If we are not vigilant, that could happen next month and beyond. That is the lesson to be learned from this discouraging election cycle. American exceptionalism is a delusion. We certainly have had a good run, but so have other nations before us. History shows us the cyclical nature of power. We are also subject to its gradual decline and not immune to the appeal of the flawed horseman who harnesses public anger and discontent for a promised ride to glory that can only end in destruction.

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



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‘Inner City’ Blues

By BILL FORRY
BIR EDITOR

The Republican nominee for president –whose name shall not be written in this space for reasons of good taste – has succeeded mightily in lathering a once-Grand Old Party with all manner of slime and shame over the last year and a half. The Republican brand may never fully recover from the complicity and slavish behavior of its party members that were essential to its unlikely takeover by a sociopathic confidence man, even if he is eventually rejected by its own ranks. Once vanquished, though, the GOP – or whatever slinks up to replace it as a semi-viable counterpoint to progressive liberalism – will need to begin its next life by deconstructing the act that successfully dragged its predecessor into the swamp with the ease of a Bayou gator on the prowl.

It's hard to know where to begin an autopsy on a political body that has been so thoroughly dismembered. Pathologists could choose to first concentrate on the malignancy that was its behavior toward the nation's cities, those heavily-populated areas of the republic that its party-nominated leader portrayed as apocalyptic wastelands, teeming with the unwashed and unwanted who kill one another with savage wantonness. He called this vast American wilderness the “inner city” – most easily translated to “where poor black and brown folks live.”

Like all euphemisms, the term is a lazy one and it's abused by people on all sides of the American political spectrum. It has its roots in the immoral bosoms of the liberals and the conservatives who over many generations have gerrymandered black and brown people

into sections of cities they consider a darker quarter. These political maneuvers spring from a deliberate and malicious racism that residents of Boston neighborhoods know too well; they are the work of blue-blooded Republican bankers, thirsty Democratic ward bosses, and unenrolled grifters of all rank and privilege alike.

The autopsy surely will show how the recent Republican-in-chief amplified the effects of the malignancy as it spread through his party's body politic. He went far beyond the politician's wink and a nod to make the slur against America's blacks as plain as day.

In the first debate with Hillary Clinton, the New York real estate mogul, who 40 years ago was found liable for discriminating against blacks in his housing units, described black citizens in our “inner cities” as living in “a disaster education-wise, job-wise, safety-wise, in every way possible,” adding, “we have a situation where we have our inner cities, African- Americans, Hispanics are living in hell because it's so dangerous. You walk down the street, you get shot. ... We have to protect our inner cities, because African-American communities are being decimated by crime, decimated.”

The Dickensian misery **that** the Republican standard bearer believed is every African-American's experience in 2016 was in perfect synch with his other pronouncements, all deeply researched, no doubt, on Mexican “criminals and rapists,” Muslim “radical terrorists,” and what seemed to be his favorite target: women.

Given the GOP meltdown, maybe people will pause to consider the inherent racism of the term “inner city.” If you mean it to say, “where black and brown people live,” then stop saying it. It's ignorant. Black and brown people live where all Americans live – in our cities, in our suburbs, and across the land.

In the context of stories about Boston, “inner-city” is used a great deal, but not at the *Reporter*. Our founder and longtime editor, Ed Forry, long ago discouraged its use by his reporters because it's a descriptive that is misleading to the reader, is inaccurate, and is inherently racist. It is, too, a first cousin to terms like “North Dorchester” and “South Dorchester” – artificial constructs crafted over the years by city bureaucrats meant to steer lenders, realtors, buyers, insurers, you name it, all with an eye towards keeping people separated by race.

Where, exactly, is the “inner city” of Boston? Take Mattapan for example: It's a leafy neighborhood of mainly single family homes that borders suburban towns on Boston's southwestern edge where a majority of residents own their own homes and where Part One crime has fallen by more than 50 percent over the last two years, according to a recent Boston College study. Is that the “inner city?” Or does Mattapan earn that distinction because it is home to the highest percentage of African Americans of any Boston neighborhood – 74 percent?

Our guess is that Mattapan easily falls into the “inner city” category not just for blowhards like the moronic GOP nominee, but also for people with far more noble intentions who think themselves progressive.

Elections are about more than choosing a leader. They set aside time for us to reflect on ourselves and on what it means to be Bostonians, citizens of the United States of America, and members of the world community. We should use that time to consider how, beyond our vote, we can help the country recover from this debacle of an election for the highest office in the land.

Point of View

Talking turkey: About politics, and a grand holiday

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

The nightmare of the 2016 presidential election will soon end. A distressing question will linger amid the political ashes on Nov. 9: Will there be an even worse nightmare to follow?

As of this writing, the political pundits and cognoscenti proclaim Hillary Clinton will win, citing the bulk of the polling. According to many, Hillary is getting close to a “sure thing.” On the Republican side, bigotry, birtherism, misogyny, xenophobia, crudity, ignorance, a disturbing bromance with soulless dictator Vladimir Putin, no coherent policies (the “Wall” is not a policy) a blizzard of lies and insults, and charges of a “rigged election” that challenge the very essence of American democracy have polluted the nation's eyes, ears, and senses.

On the Democrats' side, Wikileaks, the murky, often-nauseating wheeling and dealing of the Clinton Foundation, Hillary's propensity for secretiveness, her selective memory, and her sometimes interesting relationship with the truth, and Bill's sexual transgressions redux have sullied the political waters. As this space and many others have noted, Trump has engendered strong support from various corners of Irish America.

In this scribe's opinion – admittedly no more valid than anyone else's – the election remains a no-brainer. Hillary is the saner choice. Yes, she drags a heavily piled political oxcart of personal and political baggage toward Nov. 8; Trump's cart, however, lugs a reeking, fetid pile of personal and political slop. In my voting lifetime, I have never before thought that any presidential candidate of either party lifetime threatened the very foundation of America – not until The Donald bellowed and bullied his way into the Republican nomination. Any would-be president asserting that he or she is “the only one” who can “save” the nation is talking the talk and walking the walk of a tyrant-in-the-making.

Republican strategist Steve Schmidt, a key player in the campaigns of George W. Bush and John McCain, was nearly in tears after Trump's final-debate pronouncement that he would not accept the results of the election. Trump later added that he would accept the tally “if I win.” Schmidt sagely pointed out – I'm paraphrasing – that “fascism can only take hold if democracy is weak.”

I do think that Trump is poised to lose, but there are still two troubling factors that could propel him to a victory. The first, as reported in depth by Bloomberg, is a concerted plan by the Trump campaign to depress the minority vote – voter suppression – at polling places and to discourage young women and millennials to stay home on November 9. Another possibility, a question with no answer until the election results are in, continues to gnaw: Are there enough closet Trump supporters to haul him across the finish line as the winner? Countless pollsters and pundits will tell us that numbers don't lie. People, however do. Pollsters can be duped.

And as October drew to a close, there was the announcement by the FBI director that his agency was looking into more emails connected to the Clinton camp. The details of who, what, where, when, and why on the matter were sorely lacking as the BIR went to press.

Assuming the “experts” are correct in predicting a Hillary victory, we can count on the fact that Trump

and his vitriolic movement will not fade into history's backwaters. He might not be wrong in his bluster that this is perhaps the most important election in America's annals.

Irish bookmaking behemoth Paddy Power puts Hillary's odds at 1/5, Trump's at 4/1. Despite that, Clinton's victory doesn't feel like a sure thing yet. If the Irish-American pollster, Trump campaign manager, and prevaricator extraordinaire Kellyanne Conway is correct, disgusted voters who stay home and – her contention – the millions of people who will vote for Trump but don't want to admit that to family, friends, and pollsters will combine to make Donald J. Trump president of the United States. How does one awake from *that* nightmare? Again, just one voter's take.

Talking Turkey

Thank God that presidential elections only come around every fourth November and that Thanksgiving arrives every November. Seasonal images of the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians gathered at long wooden tables piled with platters of food abound. One might think that Thanksgiving traditions do not reflect anything Irish. One would be wrong in that assumption.

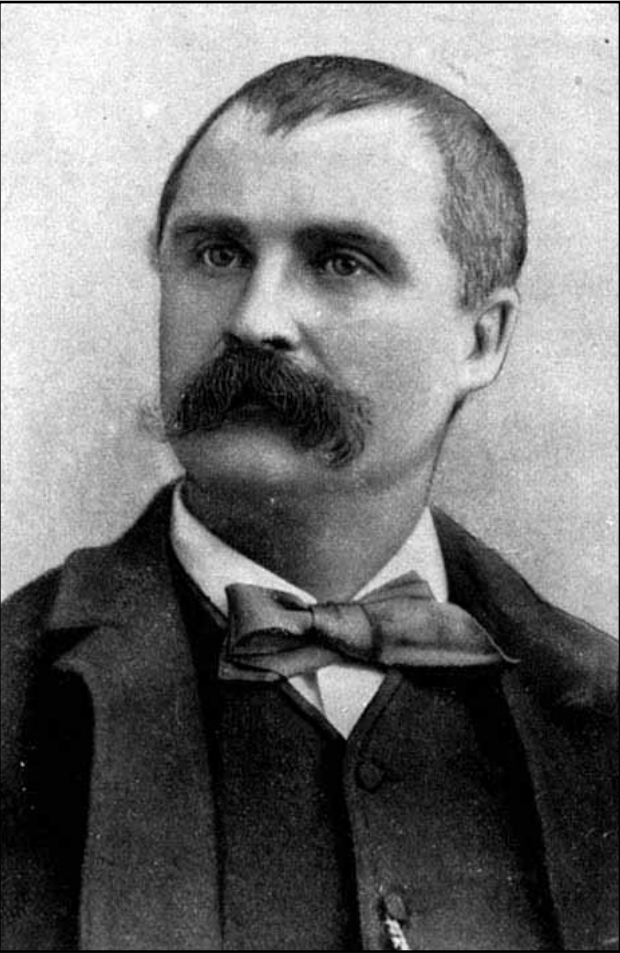
In 1889, at the ceremonies dedicating the national monument at Plymouth Rock, a broad-shouldered, mustachioed, famed poet rising to deliver the main speech was not someone bearing the name Bradford, Alden, Winslow, or Carver. The writer was not a celebrated Yankee author such as Oliver Wendell Holmes. The man who delivered the ode to the Pilgrims was an Irishman – a Boston Irishman. John Boyle O'Reilly had been a Fenian rebel, a British Army cavalryman condemned to death by a British military court for treason. Only his daring escape from a prison in Western Australia had brought his to the same shore where he now prepared to honor a vivid national symbol: Plymouth Rock.

O'Reilly, the nationally acclaimed editor of the *Boston Pilot*, an essayist, and a novelist, had carved out a notable literary career in Boston. Not everyone was pleased with the selection of O'Reilly to write a poem honoring the “Pilgrim Fathers.” Locally, letters to editors and people of “polite society” objected that a “foreign-born poet would write and deliver the words “for such an important occasion.” But former Governor Long, the president of the Pilgrim Society, admonished dismayed dissenters nationwide with his rejoinder that John Boyle O'Reilly was in many ways “a genuine New England Pilgrim, born not on the mainland, but on a small island out at sea.” The fact that the small island was Ireland distressed Americans who contended that only a “real American” – someone born on American soil – should deliver the paeon to the Pilgrim Fathers and Plymouth Rock.

The dedication of the Pilgrim Monument garnered nationwide coverage by the press, and O'Reilly was under some pressure to deliver a poem worthy of both his talent and of the occasion to a throng of dignitaries and citizens from all over the nation.

After several testimonials to the Pilgrims and to the monument were delivered, O'Reilly stepped forward. In a reception that proved yet again how far the Irish-born writer had climbed in the collective opinion of his fellow immigrants and native-born Americans alike, a newspaperman recorded that “the introduction of John Boyle O'Reilly elicited much enthusiasm.”

“Mr. O'Reilly was the poet of the day,” *The New*



At the dedication of the Pilgrim Monument in 1889, John Boyle O'Reilly remarked, “Here, on this rock, and on this sterile soil, began the kingdom not of kings, but of men. ...” Emerging from his stanzas were verbal shots at “privilege and Crown,” redolent of a former Fenian who had been denied freedom in his own land, only to find it in that of the Pilgrim fathers.

York Times reported. The Irishman cleared his throat and began to read aloud his 260-line ode, “The Pilgrim Fathers.” The crowd was riveted.

“Here, on this rock, and on this sterile soil, began the kingdom not of kings, but men...” he intoned. Emerging from his stanzas were verbal shots at “privilege and Crown,” redolent of a former Fenian who had been denied freedom in his own land, only to find it in that of the Pilgrim Fathers.

John Boyle O'Reilly recognized that in Boston and New England, the Irish were still clawing for their own foothold in America. His words in Plymouth brimmed with the hope that for the Irish, “all the idols” of the crown and Anglo-American privilege would fall.

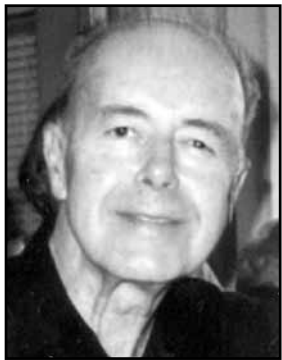
This Thanksgiving, as families with Irish bloodlines gather to celebrate the holiday, they would do well to recall that Fenian and poet John Boyle O'Reilly claimed a place, so to speak, for the Irish at the Pilgrims' historic table.

Boston Irish Reporter’s Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

A Happy Reunion for a Derry Man In Worcester

– He was eleven years old when he came to Worcester in January of 1973, having been blinded by a British soldier’s rubber bullet in May of the previous year. Since those days when **Richard Moore** was welcomed by the city’s supportive Irish American community and spent a week with **Dan and Joan Herlihy**, he has founded an internationally respected youth charity, “Children in the Crossfire.” Although permanently



Bill O'Donnell

blind, he has made his life a testament to unselfish advocacy for children in need around the globe. Now fiftyish and a frequent traveler from his Derry home to Crossfire facilities in Africa, Ireland, and the United States, Moore has become close friends with the Dalai Lama and with an enthusiastic legion of volunteers that has made enormous strides in reaching out to young people in peril.

Last month, he came back to Worcester to tell his friends and supporters there of his work with children and about his life today in Northern Ireland. A priority on this trip stateside was to thank the people of Worcester for their kindness and support when he was a wounded and sightless, an uncertain youngster in need of help. During that visit, a group of residents hosted a fundraiser, an act of friendship that would eventually underpin his idea to reach out to help and provide hope to children around the world. It has become his life’s work.

In a talk last month, Moore said, “There wouldn’t be the life-changing work going on in places like Ethiopia and Tanzania if it were not for the people of Worcester. My message is to let people here know that there are many children alive today because of them.”

Some four decades after he was shot and blinded Richard Moore sought out the British soldier who shot him, forgave him, and became his friend. Such actions are the hallmark of a compassionate man who has turned his life and his blindness into a positive experience.

I had the opportunity to spend a full day with Richard and his volunteers some weeks ago and it is an experience to see, up close, the depth of concern and personal identification that the man from Derry has with young people he has dedicated his life to serving.

Trump Campaign Seeks To Cut Clinton Catholic Vote – There is a sort of civil war sideshow going on spurred by conservative Catholic Republicans who are Trump loyalists and frightened by Hillary Clinton’s 30-percent lead over their man **Donald Trump**. These forces, some from the conservative Catholic hierarchy and championed by at least one archbishop (**Joseph Kurtz** of Louisville), and some GOP stalwarts, would like nothing better than to make huge inroads into Clinton’s comfortable and growing Catholic vote.

Using stolen, misleading old wikileaks emails in the Trump end game, his supporters are embroiled in a scuffle over abortion, elements of Marxism, progressives versus conservative, and social justice issues. Locally, Father **Bernard Healey**, director of the Rhode Island Catholic Conference and a virulent anti-gay cleric close to the like-minded Bishop of Providence, has been trying to make some electoral hay by indicting in the media a man named **John Podesta**, Clinton’s campaign director.

When the chips hit the table, the sole intention of conservative Catholics, who are surprisingly tolerant of Trump’s bad behavior, is to shift a big chunk of Hillary Clinton’s strong Catholic voting bloc to the Trump side of the board. Hey, boys and girls, it ain’t gonna work this year.

A Man of Principle, SDLP’s Mallon With The Bark Off – Former deputy First Minister in the Stormont government and second in command to **John Hume** in the SDLP, **Seamus Mallon** wasn’t always everybody’s cup of Barry Tea, but you could take his words to the bank. Retired from politics a decade ago, Mallon spoke in an extended interview with the BBC in mid-October and had few kind words for his republican semi-allies, Sinn Fein. Mallon had no time for the IRA, saying upfront that “the IRA have tarnished the very name of Republicanism.” Mallon said his party’s strategy in bringing Sinn Fein in from the cold during the 1980s and 1990s had helped sanitize the former IRA figures to the point where voters now look past their “crimes.”

He also had harsh words for the current Northern Ireland executive and blamed Sinn Fein and the DUP because it’s a “two-party show.” Mallon went on to say that Sinn Fein “used” John Hume ...and he gave them the thing they were looking for – “a respectable image in the United States.”

About the same time that Mallon was speaking to the BBC last month, his wife **Gertrude (Cush)** died at their home in Co. Armagh. She had been ill for a long time and Seamus was her principal caretaker. A good and decent man. May he find peace and a long and comfortable twilight.

EpiPen, A Personal Look At Lifesaving Script – It may not be all you need to know about the EpiPen sales story and Big Pharma, but it’s a start. Mylan Pharmaceuticals, maker of the medicine injector pen

that thousands of people, many just youngsters, carry with them to stave off allergy attacks, today charges \$600 for a dual-dose pen. Just a few years ago the cost was \$100. The CEO of EpiPen maker Mylan, **Heather Bresch**, received a sevenfold pay increase during that period of hijacked product price.

The intriguing factor is that the crushing EpiPen price increase, coupled with the huge pay increase for the CEO, distorts the spirit of linking executive pay to product cost. Rewards in the Pharma-industry normally reflect a CEO’s value and contribution to new product development and internal innovation. Neither of those factors was in play here. The increased revenue goes to marketing and distribution. A windfall or found money, if you will, and nothing else, certainly not for further research on a medication that was established years ago and is a steady seller. Maybe, in addition to augmenting Bresch’s \$26 million annual pay, it went to convince TV viewers in advertisements that it has wonders in its product lines.

Our grandson **Aidan** has some threatening allergies and is a regular carrier and occasional user of EpiPens. His mother found the \$600 price “gouging” a drain on her household economics, but Aidan needs his pen. An otherwise healthy, soccer-playing 13 year old, he is merely one of tens of thousands of American children who need EpiPens at the ready every day.

The outrageous profiteering by Big Pharma is not tolerated in most of Europe, Canada, and Asia, and it could be that people with health issues here will begin a peaceful, wide-ranging protest beginning with Medicare operating as the Veterans Administration does and demanding price negotiations on medication costs. It’s long overdue.

SDLP Leader Speaks Out on Trump – Column Eastwood, who succeeded **Allisdair McDonnell** as leader of the Social Democratic Labour Party, had two words the other day for Donald Trump’s comments on women, minorities and immigrants – “absolutely grotesque.” The SDLP was the first (as far as I know) of the Irish political leadership to take their party to the point of pledging that the SDLP would boycott White House functions if Trump were president. Eastwood called on Irish and Irish American politicians to snub the Republican candidate. Some may not like his comments but he had his say and as always, he stands up for his party and its reputation for straight talking and truth. Good man.

Trump Opposition A Gathering Rebellion – What we are seeing in our national electoral village – and what Trump calls a “rigged” process – is nothing more than American print media, newspapers, magazines, columnists, etc. raising a collective “No Mas, No More” to his steady crude, ignorant, know-nothing rantings and all the misogynistic baggage he has inflicted on debate watchers and others in his chaotic quest to become president.

At this moment Trump and his campaign are in attack mode against the media, who initially gave the celebrity candidate the free exposure to upend his primary opponents and crawl closer to Hillary Clinton in the polls. Nothing wrong with all that unpaid advertising back then, right Mister Trump! He reveled in the exposure. Yet now, when the novelty and one-pony lies and distortions have come a cropper with the voters, he is claiming the game is rigged and he hints that he might take his ball and go home if he doesn’t like the result.

A few facts about the cascade of newspapers and other opinion makers: Not a single one of the 15 newspapers that publicly supported **Mitt Romney** in the 2012 election have come out for Trump. Thousands of publications, some with front page editorials, have dumped him. He is at war with thousands of American newspapers because they had the nerve to oppose the mogul from Manhattan who continues to assail scores of television outlets and their networks.

He has inveighed against ABC News, CNN, the New York Times and the Daily News, Telemundo, the Washington Post and on and on.

As **Elizabeth Warren** said in the Washington Post in the waning days of the campaign, “Cratering in the polls, besieged by sexual assault allegations and drowning in his own disgusting rhetoric, Donald Trump has been reduced to hollering that the November election is rigged against him. His proof? It looks like he’s going to lose.” Amen.

Leading Counties for Tourist Traffic – Failte Ireland, Ireland’s tourism agency, has compiled a rolling three-year list of averages of where visitors go when they visit Ireland. Dublin, everyone’s home town, annually attracts just under five million overseas tourists. Second is Cork with 1.5 million, followed by Galway, Kerry, and Clare with 600,000. Other counties favored by visitors include Limerick, Mayo, Donegal, Kilkenny, Waterford’s sunny southeast, Wicklow, and Wexford. Tipperary, the county for those who like to fish, has 180,000 annual visitors

Not too surprising is that Longford, with its 30,000 overseas visitors, annually ranks last in visitors and tourist revenue. Galway and Cork each draw more visitors than Kerry. Several counties are struggling to attract visitors, such as Monaghan, Carlow, Laois, Leitrim, Offally, and Roscommon. In the Boston area the Irish counties most heavily represented on the visitor listing are Galway, Kerry, Cork, Mayo, and Clare

Republic & North Both Seen Benefiting from a United Ireland – A team of academics from Canada, Switzerland, and the US has been studying the impact of a united Ireland, with specific modeling on the eco-

nomics of a 32-county Ireland. Some of their conclusions are worth looking at. For instance, reunification would likely deliver a boon to the enlarged island state “worth 35 billion euros in eight years.” In that model the North would “benefit enormously,” with more modest gains for the south.

The academic team used some of the early similar work done in Germany after reunification.

The study outlined several different assumptions on the changes following unity, among those being the adoption by both of the euro, and tax harmonization across the island. The 12.5 percent corporate tax would be island-wide as would be the elimination of trade barriers.

Another advantage both would gain, per the study: decreased costs resulting in an increase in per-capita income and productivity in the North would benefit both economies.

The Brexit results and increased flux in Europe and the EU, could mean a variety of fiscal moving targets in a newly reinvigorated Europe. These are obviously difficult to determine now.

Kellogg In Ireland: Zero Tax Payments – The casual observer might be mildly bemused at the differing treatment accorded the breakfast cereal giant Kellogg as opposed to the \$14.5 billion tax decision by the EU mandating that Apple in Ireland pay back corporate taxes to the Republic of Ireland. The EU decision is seen by the US Treasury as unfairly targeting American companies, and costing American taxpayers billions of dollars in lost revenue.

In the Kellogg (KET) case, although the amounts are far different than the huge numbers with Apple, the American-founded cereal company paid zero corporate tax for the second year running on revenue of over a billion dollars. Kellogg has sold some nine billion dollars worth of ready-to-eat cereals and related products in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East and has substantial foreign sales. But it paid a very small amount of taxes, due to the interest on the KET group’s loans.

Unless the US Treasury is successful in legally repatriating tax payments from foreign-based US companies, and a realistic agreement impacting US companies in small countries like Ireland and Luxembourg, and the EU can be forged, there will be a bitter, lingering battle about taxes and tax sovereignty for years to come.

In the interim there are billions of dollars in taxable revenue that Uncle Sam believes it should substantively share in. And that’s an argument that affects American taxpayers.

Irish Hotel Voted ‘Best In World’ – In a easy disclosure, I can confess to readers out there that the winner of Conde Nast Traveler’s choice award as the world’s top hotel is an Irish hotel that sits in pastoral splendor in the County Laois countryside overlooking a lake. It’s name is Ballyfin Demesne, and the 5-star stately 20-room Georgian home is some place I’ve never heard of before and you will surely need ample “green” to enjoy the green surroundings.

Some perspective on how Ballyfin Demesne measures up to other top-rated Irish hotels: Ashford Castle and Waterford Castle scored over 98, Ballyfin over 99. B&B rates at Ballyfin start at \$500 per room, midweek, and much more with full board.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

Brexit Repercussions continue as European banks are prepping for a new round of layoffs. The newest job cuts suggest that some 20,000 jobs will disappear. The banks in Germany, Spain, and Amsterdam are planning cuts between 3,000 and 9,600 in outlets there. ... Former Red Sox pitcher **Curt Schilling** took 900 words in a Providence daily to blame former Gov. **Linc Chafee** for Schilling’s Studio 38 bankruptcy. ... A Washington Post columnist says that for Fox TV to get fixed after **Roger Ailes**, it must dump Trump coatholder, the awful **Sean Hannity**. ... An Orange Order parade in North Belfast got together with the Ardoyne residents and peace reigned in the streets. ... Good to see that the Irish Social Club has a packed schedule most every evening at its West Roxbury digs. ... Charitable Irish Silver Key Awards on Nov. 10 go to

Gerard and Marilyn Doherty, Billy Higgins, and Sister Maryadele Robinson. ... The British Crime Agency is still sniffing around the very questionable NAMA \$1.3 billion real estate sale in the North. ... BC Irish Studies keeps rolling along with its programs and Burns Visiting Scholar Louis de Paor on Wed., Nov. 19. ... Britain’s Guardian newspaper gave a generous shout out to retiring Red Soxer **Big Papi**. ... Vermont’s **Bernie Sanders**’s brother Larry, who lives in England, is seeking a seat in the Commons, running as a Green Party candidate (Yes). ... Update on Orange Hall vandalism: not much info from citizens seeking detail on any convictions (shameful). ... Hell-raiser movie maker **Michael Moore** has a new short film that won’t help elect the Trumpster. ... Why is the Irish government cutting rural bus services? A lousy policy! ... Good to see that writers on the VA beat have spoken up to get help for serious health challenge, PTSD. ... British pound sterling’s decline is hurting Irish border retailers. ... Pipers from all over Ireland gathered in mid-October to play and celebrate International Uilleann Piping Day. May their tribe increase. ... An idea that is fast coming: pressure building on Taoiseach **Enda Kenny** to give the vote on the Irish Presidency to the Irish in the North and around the world.

May sanity and civility prevail on Nov. 8. Let’s get out to the polls.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



Start Your Holidays Early! Solas Gala: Thurs., Dec. 1

On Thursday evening, Dec. 1, the Solas Awards Celebration will be held at the Seaport Hotel in Boston. This annual event, hosted by the Irish International Immigrant Center, gives recognition to men and women whose leadership and service make a difference in the community. This year, the recipients of Solas Awards are Martin T. Meehan, 27th president of the University of Massachusetts; Her Excellency Anne Anderson, the Republic of Ireland's ambassador to the United States; and Reverend Doctor Ray Hammond, founder and pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Boston. Brian O'Donovan, WGBH Radio Host of a Celtic Sojourn, will be the master of ceremonies.

Attended annually by hundreds of IIC friends and supporters, the Solas Awards Celebration will also feature live music and entertainment, a networking reception, and silent auction.

For seat reservations, sponsorships, or auction item donations, please visit iicenter.org or contact Mary Kerr, development associate, at 617-695-1554 or mkerr@iicenter.org.

IIC is on the Move!

Said IIC Executive Director, Ronnie Millar announced last month, "I am delighted to share the news that the IIC is moving to a new home in Downtown Boston. We will be moving to One State Street at the end of October, a few blocks from our present location. For the first time in many years, the IIC will now be above ground, and with windows! Our new Welcoming Center is located at the heart of the historic Freedom Trail District, adjacent to the Old State House, and close to both the Orange and Green Line MBTA stations.

"We are very grateful for the assistance of our colleagues and advisors who spent many months helping us to find our new home. We are also appreciative of David Greaney and Synergy Invest-

ments for the support we have received for the past seven years at our present Franklin Street office."

Effective Nov. 1., our new address is One State Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02109. The telephone number remains the same: 617-542-7654.

J-1 Program Receives Grant from the American Ireland Fund

The American Ireland Fund has awarded the IIC a grant in support of Irish students participating in our one-year J-1 Intern Work & Travel visa program. Said Ronnie Millar in response: "This support, along with the support of the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, enables us to continue assisting nearly 400 Irish students and recent graduates annually, to find paid internships here in the United States. "Students

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110

Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655

Website: iicenter.org Email: immigration@iicenter.org



Current J-1 participants and members of the IIC Learning Exchange Program Staff

come from all 32 counties and intern throughout the United States. We know this program is a win-win for students and employers alike, and that these students return home to Ireland (at the end of their year) to be future leaders.

"A great example of this support took place recently at our center, when advisory board member John Cullinane met with some of the students for a lunchtime talk on entrepreneurship, and on how to better present their cover letters and résumés. Also, many thanks to the New England Director of the American Ireland Fund, Steve Greeley, for his support throughout the year."

The IIC helps Irish graduates find paid, one-year, internships in the United States. If you have any employment opportunities, please contact Paul Pellan at ppellan@iicenter.org

Support James' Run! – Nov. 6 – An Irish im-

migrant himself, on Sun., Nov. 6, James McGlenon will be dedicating his running of the New York City Marathon to the Irish International Immigrant Center. Originally from Co. Galway, McGlenon is executive vice president and chief information officer at Liberty Mutual Insurance and is a member of the IIC's Advisory Board.

Join James in making sure the IIC remains a safe, welcoming place for the families and children we serve. Help us raise \$10,000 by Nov. 6. See iicenter.org.

IIC Legal Clinic – Mon., Nov. 7 – Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton.

Early Voting Has Begun – For the first time, Massachusetts voters will be able to cast their ballots before Election Day, at their own convenience. This year, you have the option to cast your election ballot at any early voting location in your

community, by mail, or at your polling place on Election Day. The early voting period began on October 24 and will end on November 4. To find your early voting location and times for your city or town, visit the Secretary of State's website at: tinyurl.com/zjs3twq.

Support the Municipal ID Initiative! More than 140,000 Boston Residents lack access to government issued ID because of immigration status, homelessness or gender identity. The Boston City Council's Committee on Healthy Women, Families and Communities is holding public hearings on a proposed ID - the Boston OneCard.

Let your city councillor and the committee know that you support this initiative by emailing: hwfc@boston.gov

DV Lottery open until Nov. 7 – The US Department of State administers the Congressionally-mandated Diversity

Immigrant Visa Program annually. For Fiscal Year 2018, 50,000 Diversity Visas (DVs) will be available. There is no cost to register for the DV program. Applicants who are selected in the program ("Selectees") must meet simple, but strict eligibility requirements to qualify for a diversity visa.

The website for the 2018 Diversity Visa program (DV-2018) is now open. The entry submission period will end on Nov. The entry form will only be available for submission during this period and this period only. For full instructions about applying, visit the U.S. dvlottery.state.gov. There is no cost for the application. Beware of websites that try to charge a fee for application services.

A Happy Thanksgiving to All! The staff and board members of the IIC wish you and all your family an abundance of reasons to be thankful for this year.

Conditional permanent residence: an FYI on the crucial next steps

Q. I received a green card valid for two years, based on my marriage to a US citizen. I see that the card is due to expire in a few months. What do I do now?

A. Your two-year permanent residence (as opposed to green cards good for ten years in other circumstances) is "conditional," because you were married to your US citizen spouse for less than two years at the time when your legal permanent residence was granted. Now you and your spouse *must* jointly file Form I-751 with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) during the three-month window before your current card expires in order to "remove the condition" and obtain a green card with a ten-year validity period. Neglecting to file this application on time can have serious adverse consequences, including the loss of permanent resident status.

USCIS wants to see that you are still married and living with your spouse, and that you therefore still have a basis for permanent residence (and also that you do not have any possibly disqualifying issues such as criminal convictions). The kinds of evidence that you use to demonstrate the marriage relationship are essentially the same as at your original green card interview, except that this time you mail the evidence to USCIS along with the Form I-751. For example:

- Birth certificates of any children born of the relationship, showing the applicant and spouse as the parents.
- Copies of federal and state tax returns with the "married filing jointly" filing status.
- Evidence of joint checking, savings, or other accounts or assets (certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, retirement accounts, pension plans, etc.), or joint obligations on any loans.
- Photo ID cards (such as driver's licenses, school IDs, or amended passports) showing the couple's joint address.
- An apartment lease or a letter from the landlord indicating that both spouses live at the apartment or copies of rent receipts showing both parties' names.
- House or condominium deeds or mortgage documents showing joint tenancy and obligation.

- Credit cards showing both spouses' names on the accounts.
- Documents from an employer showing a change in records to reflect the spouse's new marital status or showing designation of the spouse as the person to be notified in event of accident, sickness, or other emergency.
- Evidence of life insurance policies where one spouse is named as the beneficiary of the other.
- Evidence of one spouse's medical or health insurance plan that has coverage for the other spouse.
- Copies of gas, electric, telephone, cable, and other utility bills showing both parties' names (and at least the same mailing address).
- Evidence of joint ownership of an automobile (title, insurance, registration, financing). If one spouse owns the car, show at least that the other is covered as a driver on the insurance policy.
- Evidence of vacations and other trips taken together, including airline tickets and hotel bills.
- Evidence of major purchases made together, such as computers, audio equipment, television, refrigerator, washer, dryer etc., including any financing documents.
- Photographs that show both spouses together with family and friends.
- Two sworn affidavits from people who know the spouses as a married couple and who can briefly describe their relationship with them. These can be relatives, close friends, employers and others, preferably US citizens.

No one has all the evidence listed above, but every couple has at least some of these items. The point is to submit everything that fits your particular situation. Another important reminder is that USCIS expects you to submit documentation that covers the entire two-year period of conditional residence. The biggest mistake that people make is not submitting enough documentation. If not enough proof is submitted, USCIS will issue a request for further evidence or even schedule the couple for an interview, which will delay processing of the case.

Note that in some circumstances you can file this petition without your spouse if, for example, you are now divorced or if you are a victim of domestic violence. In these circumstances, you are required to show that

you had a "good faith" marriage, among other things.

IIC can assist you with the I-751 form and affidavits and help you to evaluate whether your marriage evidence documentation is sufficient. Also, if you have been arrested for any reason since you were granted conditional permanent residence, it is essential that you consult with an immigration lawyer before filing.

A disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise on individual cases. US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the US Department of State frequently amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of IIC immigration legal staff.



CITIZENSHIP CLASS



Are you interested in becoming a U.S. Citizen?

Citizenship classes at the Irish International Immigrant Center will prepare you for the naturalization exam and interview. Study the questions that will be asked, learn what to expect during your interview, and gain confidence that you will pass the exam and be on your way to U.S. citizenship. Tutoring is also available.

For more information, call (617) 542-7654 ext. 36 or visit the Center between 9:00 – 5:00 weekdays.

WHAT:
Citizenship Class

WHERE:
Irish International Immigrant Center
100 Franklin Street, LL-1
Boston, MA 02110
(Enter at 201 Devonshire St)

WHEN:
October 20 - December 15
Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM OR 6:00 - 8:00 PM

CONTACT:
Bonnie Greenwood
Phone: 617-542-7654, ext. 36
bgreenwood@iicenter.org

FEE: \$30



Matters of Substance

Addressing social and emotional needs

By Rachel Reisman
IIIC Wellness Director

As autumn settles in around us, and New England so vibrantly celebrates the changing seasons, it's a time for important moments of reflection and awareness.

October, for instance, is host to both World Mental Health Day and Domestic Violence Awareness Month and both remind us that our emotional well-being and our physical and psychological safety are critical to our daily functioning and quality of life.

The theme of this year's World Mental Health Day was "Psychological First Aid," with a goal of educating us that just as we tend to physical crises, injuries and traumas so must we attend to our social and emotional needs in the same way, with the same timely response.

While most of us could not imagine ignoring the pain of a broken limb or physical wound, we very often deny, minimize, or dismiss the toll that anxiety or chronic stress may take on our well-being. We all too often rationalize our use of drugs or alcohol and relegate signs



Rachel Reisman

of depression to the back burner. While seeking help from family, friends, or healthcare providers for a medical emergency is expected, we too often dread exposing our thoughts of suicide, or our grief, and worries to these very same people for fear of appearing weak or being labeled "weak" or being unable to cope".

At the same time, more and more people are bravely speaking out to tell us that most often these fears go unfounded and that taking such a risk, asking for help, or being honest with our struggles actually lead to a greater connection between us and to relief from the isolation of mental health struggles.

As Niall Breslin,

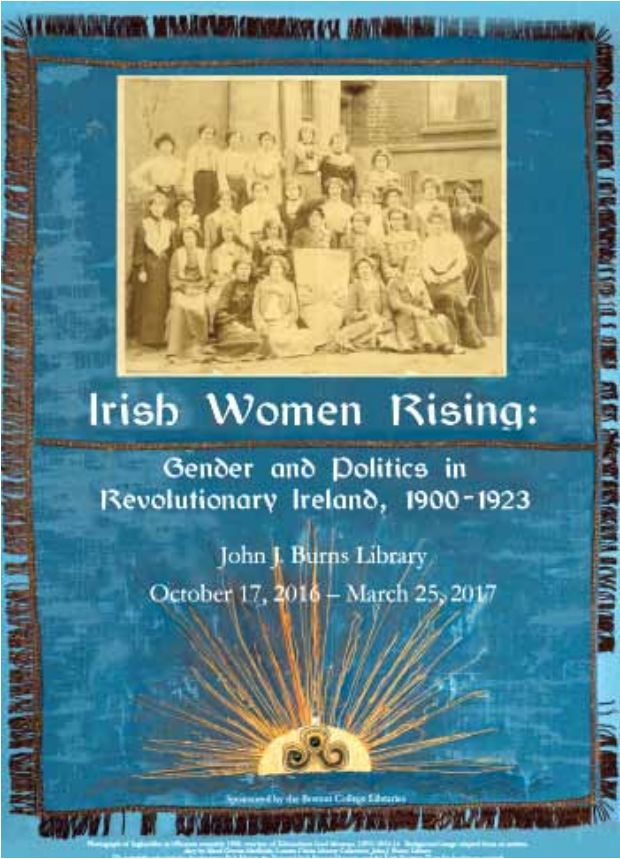
"Bressie," told an audience in Boston in September, "I got nothing but support once I got honest about my anxiety and panic disorder." Hopefully, an annual moment such as World Mental Health Day can serve as a reminder that all of us will face chapters in our lives that feel overwhelming and our usual coping skills fail us. This doesn't happen solely to a few, or to the "weak," but is instead inherent in the human experience and it is thus incumbent upon us to reach out honestly for help, and to offer help.

Domestic violence affects many thousands of people in Massachusetts and nationwide. As difficult as it can be for us to speak up about our broken hearts and dark thoughts, it can also be tremendously hard to seek help when living with the fear and exhaustion of physical, emotional and/or financial abuse and control. Domestic violence thrives in this secrecy and shame, yet just as we should not blame ourselves for periods of depression, anxiety or struggles with substance abuse, neither should we blame ourselves for violence in our lives.

Last month, during Domestic Violence Awareness month, we reminded ourselves to have the courage to tell a trusted friend, healthcare provider or family member if we are living in an unsafe situation or feel trapped in a violent relationship. We must also have the courage to ask others we care about if they are safe and to say something if we fear that they are not. The IIIC is committed to providing a compassionate, non-judgmental response to those seeking emotional support and safe well-being. As we are beckoned to respect our mental health needs, and the need to end domestic violence, we remind you that we are here as a starting point for any and all of these conversations as no one needs to navigate them alone.

Resources: Rachel Reisman, LICSW, Tel: 617-542-7654 or email, rreisman@iicenter.org; Samaritans 877-870-4673, samaritanshope.org; NAMI 617-580-8541, nami.org; Safe link 877-785-2020, casamyrna.org; Dove 617-471-1234, wdovema.org.

‘Irish Women Rising’ exhibit in place at BC’s Burns Library



By Ryan Daly
Special to the BIR

For the next five months, the John J. Burns Library at Boston College will be hosting an exhibit commemorating women's contributions to Ireland between 1900 and 1923, a period of extraordinary social and political turmoil across the length and breadth of the island.

The opening of "Irish Women Rising: Gender and Politics in Revolutionary Ireland," which features, above all, an original poster proclaiming the establishment of the Irish Republic, serves as a sort of punctuation to this year's centenary celebration of the Easter Rising of 1916.

Kathleen Williams, the senior reference librarian

at Boston College, and the bibliographer for the Irish Studies program, acts as a guide to the collection of books, letters, drawings, banners, pins, talismans, and commemorative posters that are on display in the library. Very much engaged, Williams speaks to the experiences of women like Countess Markievicz, Máire Gill, and Kathleen Clarke who, in the face of prejudice and discrimination, played substantial supporting roles in Ireland's bid for a final resolution of their deeply felt resentment of the British Empire's rule over Ireland.

"As we got more involved working with the material" Williams said in an interview, "We got so amazed by the women's

commitment and resolve to the labor, suffrage, cultural, and political issues."

Last February, the library received a significant number of relevant materials from Loretta Clarke Murray, a private collector from Co. Mayo, Ireland. Christian Dupont, the director of the Burns Library, and associate university librarian for special collections, saw this as a serendipitous opening. "The opportunity to purchase some more material—many of the documents have been in private hands, they've been in families, and they haven't been seen before—was a real way, especially on the anniversary year, to put it out there for the people of Boston College to know."

Dupont's predecessor, Bob O'Neill, had purchased other items in the past relating to the women's involvement during this revolutionary period, including works from the Cuala Press, a publication established in 1908 by Elizabeth Yeats that circulated plays, novels, and poetry collections to the Irish public.

The diversity of the material essentially covers most facets of the women's lives. Approaching the display for Countess Markievicz, Williams pointed to a photograph of her operating a long ladle in a huge bowl of soup, and said that it "has her with other women working in a soup kitchen in Dublin, serving people who are out of work. Markievicz "ran the gamut," said Williams. "She was Dublin society; she attended balls in Dublin Castle; she married a Polish Count. I felt a responsibility to show all

sides of her."

The scholarship around Irish women and their participation in domestic and political issues during the first two decades of the 20th century emerged in the 1990s, said Dupont. But it is still important for the scholarship to adopt a more nuanced and less celebratory approach, indicates Dr. Leeann Lane, the head of humanities and Irish Studies in the Mater Dei Institute of Education at Dublin City University, in an email.

"The role of women has been arguably overstated by some academics," said Lane. "There has been an attempt, wrongly, to feminize the 1916 rising. To suggest that women were central rather than auxiliary is to reimagine the past."

The power of the Burns Library's exhibit, however, reminds people that men were not alone on and off the battlefield. While figures like Markievicz were safeguarded from execution post-Rising due solely to gender, her impact on political and social discourse on the revolutionary activity was substantial.

In the coming months, Murray will visit BC to talk about the collection, and Brian Ó Conchubhair, the director of the Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures at Notre Dame, will be giving a talk on Irish language and history.

"I want inspiration" Williams said, for Boston College students. "I want people to get what I got out of it, which is to be inspired towards what you feel is right in an activist role."

EATING AND EMOTION
Dr. Bernadette Rock

There are disadvantages to losing weight, being slim



Dr. Bernadette Rock

What would you say if I told you that the reality of being slim can be scary and therefore we sometimes resort to being fat, either regaining weight or holding onto our extra weight? You might respond that it's a load of bananas – most people who are overweight would like to be slim. We imagine we would be lighter, healthier, and happier. We would be able to buy nice clothes and feel more confident in our bodies. After all, we are bombarded with images and messages every day, whereby slimness is presented as the ideal. If you can just lose those last 20 pounds, you will have it all: the perfect marriage, loving children, and a rewarding career. What's not to like?

But many people unconsciously fear being slim. Because if you are slim you are expected to fit the norm, to be and to act a certain way. Here are some classic quotes from clients about what they didn't like about being slim and why in the past many have regained lost weight:

- "There were too many expectations. I felt too admired, and didn't know how to cope with the interest."
- "I felt that I commanded too much personal power and found the new confidence a bit daunting."
- "I was uncomfortable about the competitive glances thrown at me by other women. Even friends and family members were envious, and I felt uncomfortable as a result."
- "It was like I should have everything sorted out, that I had no excuse for difficulties in my life."

It is these unexpected and uncomfortable realities that can prevent many of us from losing weight and keeping it off. If you have lost weight in the past, this may be why you regained it. Weight has its purposes and advantages, and subconsciously many people fear being slim. In being slim you are exposed to what you tried to get away from by having extra weight. If you are not aware of the reality of being slim and the challenges it can bring, you might struggle to maintain a healthy weight.

The negative images associated with being slim are not always conscious. We are not always aware of them in our day-to-day lives. After all, have you ever heard a discussion on the disadvantages of being slim? Understanding the expectations that we attach to thinness is important, and it is vital that the reality of slimness and overweight are understood. This will prepare you for losing weight, and will enable you to maintain weight loss and manage life as a slim person.

This brings me to another point, which years of beating myself up because I didn't fit into a size 8 eventually taught me: If you do not feel good about yourself when you are overweight, then you will not feel good about yourself when you are slim. This is one of the reasons why the majority of people who lose weight regain it. They still feel bad about themselves, and changing their bodies physically does not make them like themselves any more. Learning to like yourself as you are right now is vital.

Are there certain things you are postponing or putting off doing until you have lost that extra weight? Are you waiting until you are slim before you buy yourself those new jeans? Are you waiting until you have the right body and figure before you start doing things you want to do? This might include going to a social event, making new friends, buying new clothes. Your challenge is preparing yourself for losing weight and keeping it off!

As a client recently observed, it's ironic that while being overweight means that she physically occupies a larger space, her weight also means she is invisible. For example, she is aware that people are less likely to make eye contact with her and engage in conversation with her. She can also use her weight to hide from the world, to stay in the background and not feel that she is "on show."

Have a Heyday – Heyday's supportive online program has recently been re-developed at heydayworld.com. Send your comments or questions to hello@heydayworld.com.

Wishing you good health,
Dr. Bernadette Rock, PhD



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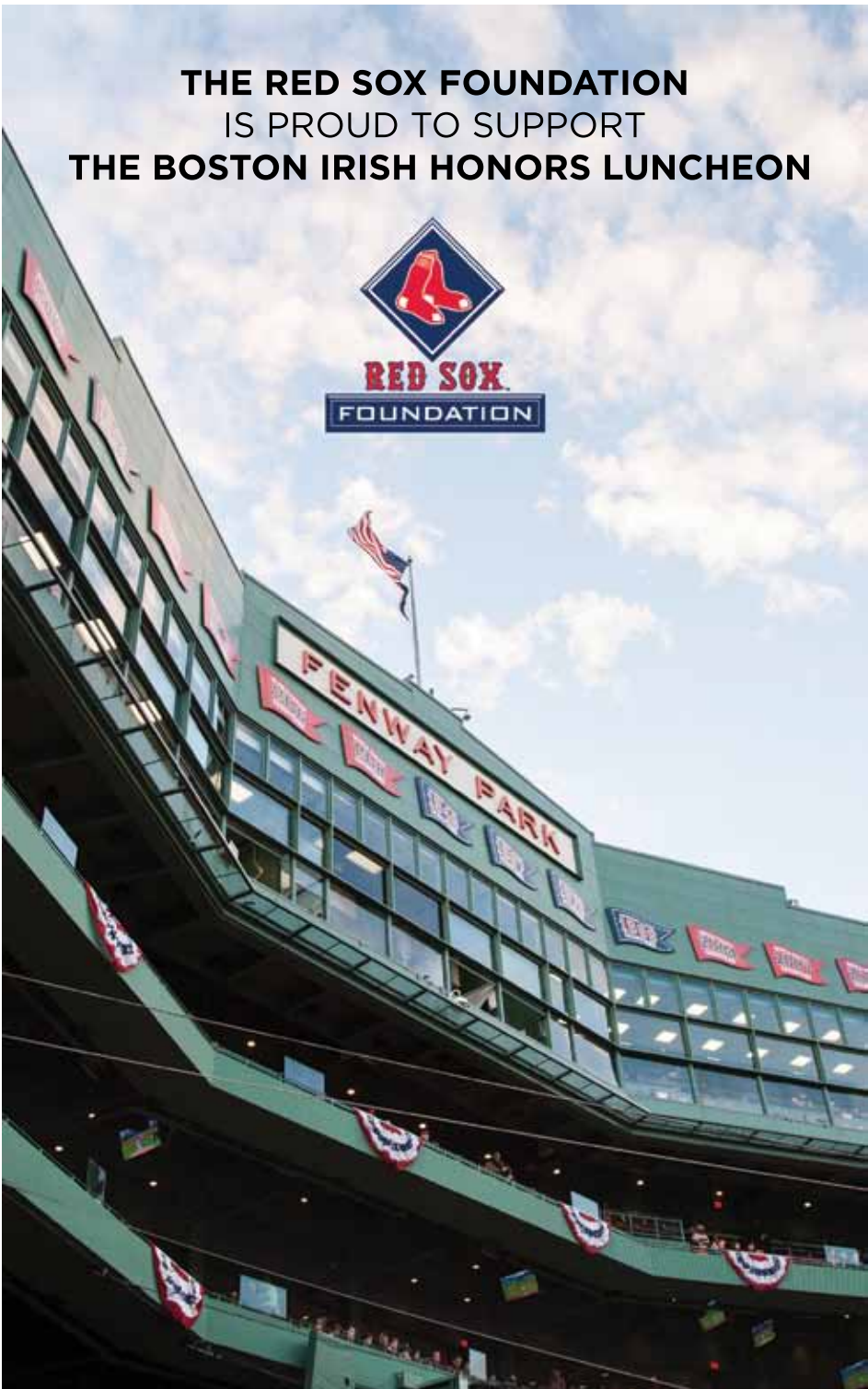
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Traveling People

Stopping by the shops will give you a taste of the Irish experience

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

How does a traveler to Ireland take the pulse of this foreign land? Some visitors like to get the scoop from residents, read the country's newspapers, or watch TV news. I like to go shopping – in craft shops, department and grocery stores – not necessarily to buy something but because I think you can learn a lot about a place by seeing what products are offered and how the offerings change from year to year.

CHANGING FOCUS

There was a day when tourist shops offered leprechauns, shamrocks, and other such traditional Ireland-themed gifts. But many of those same shops today sell original paintings, prints, hand-crafted silver jewelry, leather goods, hand-painted silk, pottery, woolens, and other craft items. There is still an errant leprechaun or two lurking about but generally the better stores focus on products created by Ireland's many gifted craftsmen.

as maple syrup, to Ireland as a gift. Or, I might have packed random but necessary ingredients, like jalapenos, if Mexican food was on the menu, or Band-Aids, because I thought Johnson & Johnson's were the best but they weren't available in Ireland. They're available there now as are many different types of what the Irish call "plasters."

Today's Irish grocery stores have nearly everything we have here, and often more, because many large American companies have facilities in Europe and produce products there. For instance, there is one Kellogg's Special K granola I buy in Ireland (with dried cranberries and almonds) that I cannot find here. I end up bringing boxes of it home, which doesn't help with the weight allowance of my bags but it's worth it to me.

I also find that some of our products that are sold in Irish supermarkets taste entirely different there. I buy Yoplait yogurt in Ireland that tastes



Patricia Daly handpaints decorative items at Celtic Weave China in Cloghore, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. *Judy Enright photos*

designs and plan to give them as Christmas gifts. Her pins are also available at the Museum of Country Life just outside of Castlebar, Co. Mayo, The House of Ireland and National Museum of Ireland, both in Dublin, and O'Brien's Crafts & Knitwear in Doolin, Co. Clare.

CELTIC WEAVE

While in Donegal in the spring, I was fortunate to spend some time with Tommy and Patricia Daly at Celtic Weave China in Cloghore, Ballyshannon. For four generations, the Daly family has been creating china baskets and flowered ware in their village, which is just a mile west of the village of Belleek.

Making the baskets is an intricate and time-consuming process that starts with hand-kneading the Parian bone mixture, which then matures for 20 weeks. Strands of clay are then braided and woven to create the baskets. The basket maker individually and painstakingly shapes each tiny piece of every flower, leaf, shamrock, stem, and bud. The item is then built petal by petal and leaf by leaf, fired, glazed, and hand painted. It's a lengthy and exacting process but the Daly family clearly has it down to an art form after all these years.

The products created are impressive and range from a large assortment of baskets to napkin rings, mirrors, lamps, clocks, candleholders, vases, picture frames, and more.

The small company also makes a number of holiday decorations and other items exclusively available at Tiffany & Co. For more information, visit celticweavechina.com

KUDOS FOR ASHFORD

Ashford Castle in Cong, Co. Mayo, was recently awarded a prestigious AA 5 Red Star Rating at the 2016 AA Hospitality Awards and was named Ireland's Best Five Star Hotel at the Keeling's Farm Fresh Gold Medal Awards.



Each tiny decoration at Celtic Weave China is handmade. Here, Tommy Daly, fourth generation basketmaker at Celtic Weave, crafts tiny flowers, buds, stems, leaves and shamrocks to adorn the baskets.

Ashford was the only Republic of Ireland business to win at the Keeling awards, which are in their 28th year and are one of Ireland's leading independent awards programs for the hotel industry.

Ashford was extensively refurbished from top to bottom over a two-year period before it reopened in 2015. The 800-year-old, 85-bedroom castle hotel is on 350 acres and boasts an equestrian center, Ireland's only Orvis-endorsed fishing school, a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, and school of falconry. It

also has several dining rooms, a bar, cinema, billiard room, cigar terrace, wine cellar. The spa was recently named "Ireland's Best Hotel Spa" at the 2016 World Spa Awards.

WALKING BREAKS

The Mulranny Park Hotel in lovely Mulranny, Co. Mayo, has announced walking breaks for Nov. 11 and 12 and two week-ends in January - the 21st and 22nd and 27th and 28th. See mulrannypark-hotel.ie to book.

It's always a good time to visit Mulranny on Clew Bay but also nice to hear that the tidy small town

was recently named the overall winner for responsible tourism at the third annual Irish Responsible Tourism Conference in Dublin last month. Second place went to Inishbofin Island in Co. Galway, and third place to Sheep's Head Way in Co. Cork.

TRAVELING

There is still great weather for outdoor activities in Ireland and many tourist attractions are still open. Enjoy your trip whenever you go and be sure to visit Ireland.com for information on things to do, accommodations, and more.



This ceramic pin depicting a ram is by Michelle Butler, Sperrin Ceramic Studios, in Omagh, Co. Tyrone. We found her work at Museum of Country Life in Co. Mayo and at Forget Me Not, a small shop in Donegal Town.

The granddaddy of all Irish gift shops in the West, of course, is Shannon Airport's Duty Free Shop, which will celebrate its 70th year in 2017. It's a great place to shop if you don't want to pay the standard 23 percent Value Added Tax charged at most stores out in the countryside and are able to carry home your purchases.

Most Irish goods in Duty Free are sold throughout the country so if you are looking for something unique, be sure to buy it when you see it as you're traveling. Shannon Duty Free is a great place to buy Burren Smokehouse smoked salmon, loaves of McCambridge's bread, and other products like bacon and sausage that are best bought last minute.

Dublin airport has instituted a whole new shopping experience (the loop, ie) for customers to buy items online and collect them before boarding the plane for home. We haven't tried it, but it's an interesting concept.

GROCERY STORES

Once upon a time, I might have taken New England products, such

better than the Yoplait here, in my opinion. Why? Maybe it's the difference in where the cows' milk originates?

GIFT SHOPS

There are many fine gift shops all over Ireland where you will find just the right holiday gifts for those at home.

Since I rent a house in the West, my familiarity is mostly with shops on that side of the country. Some favorites include The Beehive in Keel on Achill Island, O'Reilly & Turpin and Quay Gallery in Westport, all in Co. Mayo; also, the gift shop at Kylemore Abbey, The Clifden Bookshop and Spiddal Craft Village, all in Co. Galway, Connemara Gifts at Peacocke's Hotel in Maam Cross, Connemara; and the Donegal Craft Village in Co. Donegal.

A friend and I also discovered Caroline Timony's Forget-Me-Not gift shop in Donegal Town this spring, where I bought a number of gifts including a wonderful ceramic pin depicting a ram done by Michelle Butler from Co. Tyrone. I also bought several of Michelle's other

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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

On Monday, October 24 the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton hosted a lively concert and ceili featuring Michael Tubridy, performing with accordionist James Keane. A virtuoso of the flute, tin whistle and concertina, Tubridy is referred to as “the lord of the dance,” according to the regional newspaper Clare People: “In recent years he has turned his thoughts to the hustle and bustle of the dance floor.”

1.) Maudy Dooher, Needham; 2.) Kieran Jordan, Dorchester; 3.) Theresa Keane, New York; 4.) Bill Murphy, Rockland; 5.) (Center) Eamonn McGrath, Exec. Director Of I.C.C.; (L) Michael Tubridy, Dublin; (R) James Keane, New York, Musicians of the Evening; 6.) Mike and Pam Almada, Plymouth; Linda Sullivan, Dorchester; Ron Barron, Abington; Pat Corbett, Milton; 7.) Larry Reynolds Jr. Needham; Paul Kenneally, Milton; 8.) Margaret Kelly, Barbara Galvin, both of W. Roxbury; 9.) Mary Ellen Baker, Maureen Baker, both of Braintree; 10.) Cait Bracken, Dedham; Pat Tierney, Revere. Carmel and Mossie Murphy, Woburn; Cara Kiff, Quincy; Maureen Conway, Quincy; 11.) Maureen Flaherty, Needham; Mary Keady, Needham; Joan O'Brien, Newton; Evelyn Fennessy, Bourne; Mary Walsh, Milton; Mary Reen, Holbrook.





The George and Ira Gershwin musical, "An American in Paris," plays the Citi Wang Theatre through November 9.

Matthew Murphy photo

When a dream becomes real: Dancing in "American In Paris"



The dancer Caitlin Meighan is performing in the Gershwin musical, "An American in Paris."

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

"An American in Paris" ranks as one of the most popular film musicals of all time. Starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron, it tells the romantic tale of an American soldier, a mysterious French girl, and an indomitable European city, each yearning for a new beginning in the aftermath of war.

The story from that beloved MGM film was re-envisioned as a stage production in 2014, opening at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris before heading to Broadway. In New York, it played the Palace Theatre for more than a year and a half, picking up four Tony Awards along the way. The show's national tour will be playing Boston's Citi Wang Theatre through Nov. 6.

Directed and choreographed by 2015 Tony Award-winner Christopher Wheeldon, the show features the music and lyrics of George and Ira Gershwin, including "S Wonderful," "I Got Rhythm," "They Can't Take That Away From Me" and more.

Connecticut native Caitlin Meighan, who studied with the National Ballet of Canada in Toronto, is making her national tour debut as a member of the ensemble. She also understudies the lead role of Lise (played by Caron in the film). Prior to joining the tour, she spent ten seasons dancing with the presti-

gious Joffrey Ballet in Chicago, where she now lives with her husband.

Growing up, she spent a summer studying with the Boston Ballet. She also has family throughout the Greater Boston area, with her Mom originally from Duxbury.

We spoke by phone when the tour was in its final days of rehearsals.

Q. "An American in Paris" is definitely a dancer's show. Were you able to see it on Broadway before you were cast in the tour?

A. I did actually. A friend of mine who was in the Joffrey with me was in the show . . . I had heard so many incredible things. . . . It was amazing. I had a smile on my face the entire show. It's impossible not to.

Q. Did you ever imagine you'd later be dancing in the show yourself?

A. I did say to my Mom – who was with me and my sister (at the performance)– "Gosh, I really want that to be my next job" . . . It was kind of a weird, gut feeling. I felt very strongly that this was really something I wanted to do.

Q. How did you begin dancing? Were you surrounded by the arts growing up?

A. My Mom was a musical theater teacher. My older sister is a phenomenal singer and was always in musical theatre. I really wanted to do it, but I always loved ballet and ended up doing ballet more . . . So this is a perfect blend for me because it still has ballet in it, but I love to sing and act. It was sort of a perfect fit.

Q. How did you come to join the Joffrey. That's a prestigious credit.

A. I auditioned when I was 18. I was there for three days and did a cool audition and got the job.

Q. Was it a rigorous process?

A. It wasn't rigorous . . . I do remember it being extremely nerve-wracking – you want it so bad. But the company was an amazing company. They were very welcoming.



The show-stopping "I'll Build A Stairway To Paradise."

Matthew Murphy photo

Q. In that situation, do they give you a yes or no on the spot or did you have to wait to hear back?

A. They told me before I left . . . I was the last person they pulled into the office. They offered me an apprenticeship contract. My Mom was with me . . . I trying to be very sweet and calm . . . Then we got into the elevator and the two of us started screaming. It was a pretty awesome moment.

Q. "An American in Paris" has such a rich history. Why do you think the stage version makes such a connection with theater audiences?

A. You know, it's a classic love story. It brings people back to the wonderful days of Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. It has the dance elements but it also has the amazing music of Gershwin, amazing compositions. Everyone leaves with love in their hearts. I felt it before I was in it. It's one of those musicals where you go "Aaahhh, I'm on Cloud 9." It's a sweet love

story and it also ties in a lot of history in France . . . The audience loves it.

Q. Do you have a favorite moment in the show?

A. Yes, and it's actually a sad moment, but it's so beautiful. There's a moment where one of the lead characters, Adam [played by Etai Benson], sings "But Not For Me." It's the beautiful duet he does with Milo [played by Emily Ferranti] . . . The two of them are incredible singers . . . It's so inspiring to hear these people sing and share their craft . . . [In "But Not For Me"] they're singing about something similar, but they're in very different points in their lives . . . It gets me every time. I'm always misty eyed . . . Your heart feels for these two characters.

Q. I understand you took a family trip to Ireland when you were growing up.

A. My grandfather would always tell me about his heritage and the Meighan clan. He's very

proud of where he has been and where he has come from. And it was very important for him to show us what our family was all about. It made a huge impression on me growing up . . . We actually have some family still there.

Q. When was this?

A. I was about 10 . . . We took a two-week bus tour through Ireland and made a bunch of stops. We toured the most incredible places. We went to the Cliffs of Moher and The Giant's Causeway and I kissed the Blarney Stone. It was an incredible experience.

Q. And have you been to Paris?

A. (Laughing) . . . It's next on my list!

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

...

"An American in Paris," through Nov. 6, Citi Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont Street, Boston. Info: citicenter.org or 800-982-2787.

Childsplay is back, and rarin' to go; Karan Casey joins up as lead vocalist



Some of the faces may change for Childsplay (shown here in 2012), including new singer Karan Casey, below, but artistic director and namesake Bob Childs sees a lot of continuity in the group -- especially its core sound.

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

After a hiatus in 2015, the Boston-based all-star fiddle ensemble Childsplay is back with a new lead vocalist, Irish singer Karan Casey, and later this month will head out on a four-city tour that winds up with two shows at Somerville Theater in Davis Square on Nov. 20. The group also will play at Harwich Center in Cape Cod, New York City, and Portland, Maine.

Childsplay comprises two dozen or so musicians – many from Boston or elsewhere in New England – performing fiddle music mainly from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, Scandinavian, French Canadian, and American folk traditions. All the fiddlers use violins created by Cambridge resident Bob Childs, who also plays in the ensemble and serves as artistic director as well as its namesake. Although most of Childsplay's participants have active, full-time musical careers, they gather almost every fall for a few weeks to rehearse and present concerts in the Northeast.

The ensemble has recorded six CDs – the most recent was “As the Crow Flies” in 2013 – and two concert DVDs: “Fiddlers, Fiddles and Fiddlemaker,” also released in 2013, has been widely broadcast on PBS.

While Childsplay's history stretches back more than 20 years, it is over the past decade or so that the group has followed a consistent organizational format that includes a featured lead singer. Casey – a former member of the band Solas who went on to forge a successful solo career – becomes the third vocalist for Childsplay, and first non-New Englander to take the microphone: First was Newton-born Aoife O'Donovan, followed by Vermont native Lissa Schneckenburger, who will now contribute backing vocals as well as fiddle.

The face of Childsplay is not constant. Some regulars might opt out in a given year because of scheduling conflicts or other factors and are replaced by new or returning members. A new featured vocalist also marks a significant transition. Yet for all the changes Childsplay may undergo, Childs sees plenty of continuity.

“I tend to think of Childsplay as evolutionary, marked by phases,” he explains. “There's a period of three to four years that is built around making a CD or DVD, as was the case with Aoife. Then Aoife moved on, and Lissa took the role of lead vocalist, bringing along her particular style and repertoire. Meanwhile, of course, other members of Childsplay were contributing fresh ideas for sets and arrangements and ultimately, this all led to another CD and DVD. So then Karan agreed to join us, and that should mean another cycle where we accumulate more new material to along with what we've built up over the years.

“But what remains unchanged is the core sound – that blend of fiddles, along with other instruments like guitar, flute, harp, cello, bass, banjo and so on – and, most importantly, Childsplay's mission: Building a bridge between our audiences and the rich legacy of traditional music and dance, as well as bringing



“I am very excited to be joining Childsplay,” said Karan Casey. “I know a lot of the musicians already and I really admire their music. I also love the idea of the whole collective and enjoy collaborating with people at this level – it's very creative and exciting for me to be working out new arrangements for the songs. I can't wait to get there and hear it all.”

to life the human traditions of creative expression, cooperation, and community.”

A Waterford native with a background that includes classical and jazz as well as traditional Irish music, Casey recorded three albums with Solas before striking out on her own. She has released six solo albums, including 2014's “Two More Hours,” which consisted of her own compositions and incorporated jazz, blues and R&B. Her 2010 duet with former Solas bandmate John Doyle, “Exiles Return,” was widely acclaimed. More recently, she has toured with Maura O'Connell and Lúnasa, and performed in A Stór Mo Chroí, a collaboration with John Spillane, Lumiere and Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh.

“I am very excited to be joining Childsplay,” says Casey. “I know a lot of the musicians already and I really admire their music. I also love the idea of the whole collective and enjoy collaborating with people at this level – it's very creative and exciting for me to be working out new arrangements for the songs. I can't wait to get there and hear it all.”

The 2016 edition of Childsplay includes Boston-area and Massachusetts-based fiddlers such as Laurel Martin, Hanneke Cassel, Katie McNally, Amanda Cavanaugh, Bonnie Bewick and Sheila Falls, as well as others from farther afield like Steve Hickman, Naomi Morse, and a Maine mother-daughter pair, Ellen and Molly Gawler. Non-fiddlers include local

residents Shannon Heaton (flute, whistle, accordion), Ariel Friedman (cello) and Kathleen Guilday (harp), along with Keith Murphy (guitar, piano), Ralph Gordon (double bass) and Mark Roberts (flute, banjo). Dancers Kieran Jordan and Kevin Doyle also are part of the ensemble this year.

The choice of Casey as the new Childsplay vocalist was in some ways a departure, in that the band reached out beyond its immediate music community. But then again, as Childs notes, geography doesn't exactly define community these days – and certainly not in music.

“I was already familiar with Karan because of her time with Solas,” he says. “And of course, she's been through Boston before, such as when she was with ‘A Christmas Celtic Sojourn.’ Karan's also worked with Aoife, and in fact it was Aoife who suggested her.

“To my mind, the relationship between voice and violin is critical when it comes to singing with Childsplay, because obviously the violin is at the core of the group – and the violin has often been described as the musical instrument that most closely matches the human voice. So for Childsplay, a singing voice has to have a certain soulful quality, a timbre that is right for the violin. Aoife and Lissa certainly did, and I really believe Karan does, too.”

Childsplay has been around long enough to become a full-fledged non-profit with ancillary activities such as instructive workshops and classroom educational opportunities. The Childsplay website [childsplay.org] includes instructional videos by Bewick, Cassel, Falls, and Schneckenburger, and essays on various aspects of music by Childs and other group members.

On a more personal level, Childs says, the progression of years has brought a familial dynamic to Childsplay, in some respects quite literally – for example, Graham DeZarn, who's been part of the ensemble for the past several years, is the son of a Childsplay charter member, Joe DeZarn.

“It's been wonderful to see people like Lissa and Hanneke [Cassel] become established performers and teachers, and serve as mentors for young musicians like Katie [McNally] and Amanda [Cavanaugh] – who have now themselves become established performers and teachers, and are already mentors for the next generation of fiddlers. It speaks to that whole concept of community we talk about with Childsplay.”

In fact, Childs says Childsplay can be a salve for its members during tough times – and hopes the group's concerts might have the same effect on audiences.

“Let's face it: The last couple of years have been pretty rough for many of us, given what's going on in the world,” he says. “In times like this, coming together can be reassuring. With Childsplay you have a group of musicians engaged in the creative process, trying to realize a very positive vision – it's something that we find invigorating and affirming, and hope people who come out to see us will, too.”

For information on Childsplay, including links to concert ticket sales, go to childsplay.org.



BCM Fest

BCM Fest 2017 touts tradition and renewal

BCM Fest (Boston's Celtic Music Fest), an annual showcase for the Greater Boston area's rich trove of Celtic music and dance, will come to Harvard Square January 13-14 for another weekend of performance and hands-on events.

This family-friendly festival draws performers of all ages from around Greater Boston, presenting music, song, and dance from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and other Celtic-related traditions. Performances begin with the Friday night Roots & Branches Concert in Club Passim, then continue on Saturday – starting with children's and family entertainment in the morning – at Club Passim and on three different stages in First Church, Cambridge.

BCM Fest also features a number of participatory events, including the Boston Urban Ceilidh – BCM Fest's popular Celtic dance party – which takes place on opening night in The Atrium (50 Church Street).

The festival winds up on Saturday evening with the BCM Fest Nightcap finale concert in First Church, Cambridge.

BCM Fest 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.

Among the performers confirmed to appear at BCM Fest 2017 are: Yann Falquet; Katie McNally & Neil Pearlman; Laura Fedderson, Joel Wennerstrom & Owen Marshall; All in Always – Laura Cortese & Friends; Heather Cole-Mullen; Jenna



Jenna Moynihan and Galen Fraser, below, are among the local musicians who will be appearing at BCM Fest 2017 this January.

Moynihan; the Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki Trio; Scottish Fish; Alex Cumming & Nicola Beazley with Eric McDonald; Galen Fraser; Keltic Kids; the Rockport Celtic Duo; Liz & Dan Faiella; Elizabeth & Ben Anderson; Mink & Sock; Gus Le Casse; Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra; Colleen White & Sean Smith; Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston; Christine Hedden; Big Ham & Shadow Hands (Lindsay Straw and Dan Accardi); Rachel Reeds & Friends; Buttons & Keys; Bagad New York, with Matthew Phelps and Nick Mitchell; and the Boston Harbor Bhoys.

The Saturday evening BCM Fest Nightcap concert will celebrate the special, mutually nourishing relationship between Celtic music and its host community – a theme that animates the 2017 festival, according to BCM Fest co-founder and co-organizer Shannon Heaton.

"Throughout BCM Fest's history, dominant themes seem to emerge each year," explains Heaton, who will perform "Irish Music Stories" – a multimedia show combining live music, narration, and images of Irish

musicians and community – at the BCM Fest Nightcap concert. "This year, the BCM Fest Committee saw numerous acts with a particularly strong appreciation and understanding of Celtic traditions. Even the newer fusion-type acts have that solid 'trad' foundation. Given how many younger performers will be featured this year, it shows how our local community has taken the tradition into its heart and home.

"So the theme for BCM Fest 2017 is 'Tradition and Renewal: Looking Back and Moving Forward,' which will be expressed in the Nightcap concert," she adds. "Traditional music energizes so many of us. And this process of connection to the tradition by performers and listeners alike revitalizes the tradition."

Performers for the Friday night Roots & Branches Concert are: Yann Falquet, a guitarist and singer known for his work with Quebecois trio Gentecorum; Irish-style fiddler, accordionist and vocalist Heather Cole-Mullen, among the fine young local musicians who have come of age in the past decade; and the Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki Trio, with its fresh, lively New England take on Irish traditional music.

From now until November 30, "early bird" full festival passes will be on sale at \$55, or \$45 for members of Passim.

Reservations, updates and other details about the festival are available at passim.org/bcmfest.



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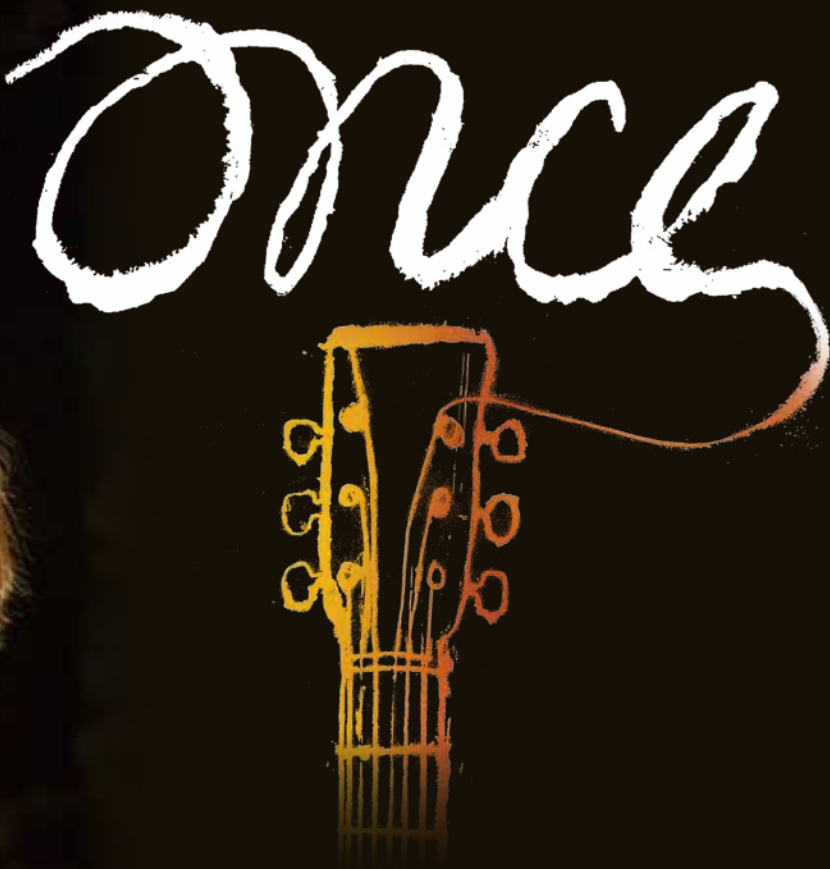
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The immigrant experience is the true great American story

By STEVEN M. ROTHSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

As one of my first official duties as executive director of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, I had the honor of welcoming 208 individuals from countries as diverse as Albania to Zimbabwe to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood as they pledged their oath of allegiance and became naturalized citizens of the United States of America.

These men and women came from a multitude of countries for a multitude of reasons. They came to escape war and civil conflict. They came to be free of political, racial, or religious persecution. They came to seek economic opportunity, or to reunite with family. It was an extraordinary privilege to bear witness to their first of many acts of citizenship.

The guest speaker at the ceremony was Sayon Soeun, a Lowell resident who was kidnapped at age six by the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia and forced to become a child soldier. He endured years of cruelty and servitude before he ended up in an orphanage in a refugee camp, where his hardship continued. When he was 15, he was adopted by a Connecticut family, and he came to the United States to start a new life.

Sayon's journey from child soldier to American citizen is a powerful example of the difficulties faced by many who immigrate to the United States. His story and the stories of the 208 new US citizens are compelling in their own right. But theirs are also new chapters in our singular American story, and their greatest pages may still be unwritten. Amid a national debate about immigration and the contributions of immigrants, let us remember John F. Kennedy's example, a story told through documents, historic interviews and exhibitions at the JFK Library and Museum.

Our 35th president, he was the grandson of Irish immigrants who came to the United States seeking relief from the Irish famine. In the US, those grandparents first worked as coopers, clerks, and tavern owners. As they built their new lives, like so many other immigrants from so many other places, they embraced the



Newly naturalized citizens of the United States of America at the Kennedy Library last week.
Photo courtesy JFK Library

responsibilities of American citizenship along with its privileges. They became public servants. Within two generations, this family of Irish immigrants, once common targets of discrimination, would include the first Catholic president.

John F. Kennedy's own public service legacy is informed by his family's immigrant experience. Many of the groundbreaking programs he championed, such as the Peace Corps and the Alliance for Progress, reflected his sense that the greatest measure of American peace and prosperity would come from engagement with the world and a genuine effort to understand its many cultures and traditions.


In subsequent generations, the Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys have gone on to serve in public roles at all levels and sectors of society. They have made, and continue to make, important contributions as elected officials, diplomats, non-profit leaders. In particular, they have endeavored in countless ways to give voice to the voiceless. Their collective service is an expression of civic duty with deep roots in the immigrant experience.

The example of the Kennedy family is a remarkable

American immigrant story. But while better known than most, it is not unique. The contributions of immigrants to American excellence, whether in public service or business, arts or sciences, are too numerous to count. In "A Nation of Immigrants," Kennedy understood that, like his own grandparents, "Every ethnic minority, in seeking its own freedom, helped strengthen the fabric of American life... Similarly, every aspect of the American economy has profited from the contributions of immigrants."


Today, our tradition of welcoming new citizens remains not only an act of humanity and principle, but also an act of self-interest. As we welcome these 208 new fellow US citizens, we look forward to the contributions that they, and their children and grandchildren, will make to American life. And just as we celebrate the story of one immigrant family at the JFK Library and Museum, we look forward to the possibility that the child or grandchild of one of these new citizens might one day have his or her own presidential library, adding a new chapter to this great American story.

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For tickets and details, visit www.wgbh.org/celtic

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BIR Calendar:

Music and dance

November 2016

Fiddle Hell Massachusetts highlights Greater Boston Irish/Celtic-related events this month. The annual gathering of fiddlers from near and far to meet, learn, and jam takes place the weekend of Nov. 4-6 at the Westford Regency Hotel in Westford, with an assortment of workshops and sessions for various kinds of fiddle styles, including Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton; guitarists, mandolinists, accordionists and other instrumentalists can find activities to their lik-

ing as well. The big event will be the Saturday night concert (Nov. 5) with more than 20 different traditional fiddlers, followed by a contra dance. Among the musicians who will be teaching, leading sessions and performing are **Katie McNally, Mark Simos, Andrea Beaton, Ellery Klein, Laurel Martin, Lissa Schneckenburger, Pete Sutherland, Jenna Moynihan, Frank Ferrel, Becky Tracy, Ed Pearlman, Mariel Vandersteel** and **Skip**

Gorman. For full details, go to reinerfamilyband.com/introduction. Also on tap: • The Burren Backroom series will welcome Canadian Maritimes sensation **The Dardanelles**, with singer **Matthew Byrne**, on Nov. 2. Formed in 2009, the band includes some of Newfoundland's best young traditional music performers: Byrne – who has gained a following of his own, including in New England, with his solo recordings and appear-



The Dardanelles, featuring singer Matthew Byrne, are at The Burren Backroom series November 2. *Graham Kennedy photo*

ances at “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” and Mystic Seaport Music Festival – **Tom Power, Rich Klass, Aaron Collis and Emilia Bartellis**. In addition to releasing their album “The Eastern Light,” they’ve played at major festivals around Canada, such as Winnipeg, Vancouver and Mariposa, and also did some tours in the US, UK, and Australia, bringing their native music to a wider audience.

A split bill on Nov. 16 will spotlight several local musicians. Fiddler **Galen Fraser** will celebrate the release of his solo album “Mischief Music” featuring original music with Scottish and other Celtic and traditional influences. Fraser, a Berklee College of Music alumnus who has held residencies at The Burren and elsewhere in Greater Boston, will be joined by some of the album’s guests, including **Natalie Haas, Conor Hearn, Neil Pearlman, Eamon Sefton, and Jenna Moynihan**. Moynihan, in addition to performing as part of Fraser’s show, will open the event with **Mairi Chambeul** – this fiddle-harp duo makes contemporary music rooted in Scottish and Appalachian traditions.

On Nov. 30, The Burren Backroom will be the venue for the **Fourth Annual Benefit For Somerville Homeless Coalition**, featuring local performers from a variety of music genres, including Irish/Celtic. All proceeds will aid the Somerville Homeless Coalition, which aims to provide homeless and near homeless individuals and families with individualized supportive services and tailored housing solutions, with a goal of obtaining and maintaining affordable housing.

For tickets and other information on Burren Backroom events, go to burren.com/Backroom-Series.html.

• On Nov. 2, Boston-area native **Eric McDonald** will team with **Ryan McKasson** for a concert at Club Passim in Harvard Square. McDonald (guitar, mandolin, vocals) has been active in the New England traditional music scene, playing with performers such as **Katie McNally, Will Woodson** and as part of the Scottish band Cantrip. McKasson, a former National Scottish Fiddle Champion, has been involved in a number of collaborations, including with local fiddler **Hanneke Cassel** and a Celtic-baroque fusion



Ann Kirrane will be in concert with Gabriel Donoghue at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton on Nov. 4.

combo, Ensemble Galilei. Go to passim.org for information.

• Boston College’s Gaelic Roots series will welcome back one of its most frequent, and popular, guests, guitarist-vocalist **Robbie O’Connell** on Nov. 10 at the Cadigan Alumni Center on the BC Brighton Campus. The County Waterford native has cultivated a reputation as a songwriter whose compositions, such as “Hard to Say Goodbye,” “Keg of Brandy,” “Islander’s Lament,” and “The Man from Connemara,” have become part of countless other singers’ repertoires, as well as audience favorites. But O’Connell also has a firm, and entertaining, grasp of the Irish song tradition. Go to bc.edu/gaelicroots for information and updates.

• For those who enjoy dancing, there will be a ceili on Nov. 13 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Lexington, 1580 Massachusetts Ave. All dances will be taught and called, and all ages are welcome – no dance experience is necessary. The caller is **Rebecca McGowan** and music will be provided by **Nora Smith and Josie Coyne** (fiddles) and **John Coyne** (bouzouki). Admission is \$10, \$20 per family.

• The **Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston** will hold its annual concert on Nov. 12, featuring a performance by the **Jeremy Kittel Trio**. Kittel is an inventive fiddler who melds Celtic styles with bluegrass, classical, jazz and other genres; he’ll be accompanied by Keith Murphy (guitar) and Joshua Pinkham (mandolin). Opening for the trio is the duo of **Will Woodson** (bagpipes, flute, whistle) and **Eric McDonald** (guitar, mandolin). **Highland Dance Boston** and the **RSCDS Demo Team** also will perform. The event takes place at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum

in Lexington. For ticket information and other details, see rscdsboston.org/Concert2016/concert2016.html.

• The Irish Cultural Centre of New England hosts the duo of **Ann Kirrane and Gabriel Donoghue** on Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Kirrane, a Clare native, is from a family of traditional musicians and an All-Ireland champion on concertina – following in the footsteps of her father, Chris Droney – but has become better known as a singer. She recently released her second album, “Behind Yon Mountain.” Galway-born Donoghue, who lives in Philadelphia, is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter who has toured or recorded with many prominent Irish/Celtic performers, including The Chieftains, Eileen Ivers, Liam Clancy, and James Keane. He also is regarded as a top-flight album producer and engineer. For tickets, call 781-821-8291. The Irish Cultural Centre website is irishculture.org.

• Dublin native **Fionn Ruadh**, a student at Berklee College of Music, will present his unique arrangements of Irish traditional music on November 9 at 4 p.m. in Berklee’s Oliver Colvin Recital Hall (1140 Boylston Street). Ruadh is a piper but also plays bass guitar, and has collaborated in jazz and blues/rock ensembles. Admission is free.

• Franklin House Concerts in Sharon will host an evening with **Debra Cowan and John Roberts**, distinguished singers whose repertoire covers many traditions, including from the British Isles, Ireland, and America. Cowan, who lives near Worcester, has toured frequently and far and wide throughout the United States – including at area venues such as the Woods Hole Folk Music Society, Me and Thee Coffeehouse, BCMFest, and Coffee House Off the Square – and the United Kingdom. British-born Roberts has been living in the US for more than 40 years, and is well-known for his partnership with fellow Brit ex-pat Tony Barrand, with whom he organized and performed in the annual “Nowell Sing We Clear” concerts of Christmas-New Year’s seasonal music. Cowan and Roberts released an album, “Ballads Long and Short,” in 2015.

For information, see franklinhouseconcerts.org.

– SEAN SMITH



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CD Reviews

By Sean Smith
Beoga, “Before We Change Our Mind” • Remark- ing on a band’s “newfound maturity” can come off as a back-handed compliment, perhaps suggesting that because of youthful excess, some necessary elements weren’t in place for artistic (and/or commercial) success. Not so with Beoga. This Armagh quintet has from the get-go been one of the most inventive and high-energy groups to emerge in Irish music this century. Unques- tionably, part of Beoga’s appeal was its fun-spirited, even whimsical turns – one minute a classic ceili band sound, the next New Orleans ragtime or gypsy jazz – to go along with an obvious command and precision.



Now, with its first studio album in five years (and first release since their 2014 CD/ DVD commemorating their 10th anniversary), Beoga has toned down the antics. “Before We Change Our Mind” throws into sharpest relief the band’s most admirable qualities: the double accordion pulse of Da- mian McKee and Sean Og Graham, who also wields a mean guitar; Liam Bradley’s dexterous piano-playing; Niamh Dunne’s agile fiddling and exquisite vocals (more of which later); and Eamon Murray’s solid bodhran and percussion.

And these individual strengths – to which a flair for composing should be added (all tunes are band originals, mainly written by Graham and McKee) – are, as always, magnified by Beoga’s cohesiveness and intelligent arrangements. “The Homestead Hero” set, for example, starts out with McKee and Graham on a pair of formidable-sounding jigs – Bradley in particular helping provide the build-up – before transitioning at full gallop into a climactic reel, “Jam and Jelly.” Tracks such as “The Convict” and “Before We Change Our Mind” (with its shifting time signatures) display Beoga’s rhythmic sophistication, while “Jump the Broom” re- veals their capability to tone things down. Meanwhile, the presence of the Arco String Quartet on some of the tracks, especially “Aurora” and “Eochaid,” adds depth and refinement.

While Beoga’s song choices are historically eclectic – from Steely Dan’s “Dirty Work” to The Band/Rick Danko’s “Home Cookin’” to “Out of the Rain, Barney McShane” to traditional fare like “Our Captain Calls All Hands” – the arc here is not as sweeping. In fact, three of the four songs have a common, maritime-related thread: the traditional rouser “The Bonny Ship the Diamond” with a counterpoint of sorts in Tommy Makem’s “Farewell to Carlingford”; and “Like a Dime,” a landlubber’s-eye view of the sea by Eamon O’Leary (of The Alt and The Murphy Beds). The outlier is “Wexford Town,” penned by musician/singer/storyteller Patrick “Pecker” Dunne and based on his family’s difficult adjustment from Traveller life to town life. The big revelation – or, perhaps more accurately, a continuing revelation – is Niamh Dunne’s singing, aided in no small way by the arrangements – or lack of them as is the case with “Wexford Town,” which she does in a stark *a cappella*. She captures the swagger on “The Bonny Ship the Diamond” (with a cool four-tone riff and Graham and Murray’s brisk rhythm in the bargain), the sweet, sad nostalgia in “Like a Dime,” and the emotional tug-of-war at the core of “Farewell to Carlingford” (with a stately backing by Arco).

So call it maturity, or simply a more focused ap- plication of energy and talents – whatever, this “new” Beoga is an even stronger asset to the Irish music scene. [beogamusic.com]

New Road, “Stone Walls & Street Lights” • There are a couple of antecedents to “Stone Walls & Street Lights”: One is from uilleann piper Leonard Barry’s 2014 record- ing, “The New Road,” which marked his return to playing after a lengthy absence; the other is “The Unwanted,” an album of Atlantic Fringe mu- sic (Ireland, Appalachia and adjacent places) by the trio of

Californian Rick Epping, Seamie O’Dowd and Cathy Jordan – all of whom appeared on “The New Road.” So, here it is Barry, Epping (harmonica, concertina, banjo, jaw harp), O’Dowd (guitar, fiddle, mandolin) and fiddler Andy Morrow – who also played on “The New Road” – joining forces as the band New Road for this fascinating cross-stitching of Irish traditional and American folk roots music.

While Irish-Americana ventures abound these days (We Banjo 3, Grada, Dervish’s “Widening Gyre” album, to name a few), New Road works particularly well: Instead of self-consciously grafting together elements of the traditions, the band filters them through one another, creating a more consistent blend. In their version of “The Galway Shawl,” for instance, they take the song down to the southern Appalachians, escorted by O’Dowd’s slide guitar and Epping’s concertina and harmonica, redolent of a front-parlor harmonium – yet O’Dowd’s vocal keeps it linked to its Irish ancestry. There follows immediately a brilliant trio of Irish reels, with Epping switching to jaw harp and thus maintain- ing an Americana feel (mention should be made of the contribution here by bodhran player Johnny “Ringo” McDonagh – who provided the original inspiration for “Galway Shawl” when he, Epping and O’Dowd were part of Arcady – and guitarist Shane McGowan, not to be confused with the Pogues vocalist).

Epping’s harmonica playing is indisputably a center- piece of the band, supplying rhythm, melody, or a good,

bluesy improv. It’s the latter he dials up in a duet with O’Dowd’s guitar to lead into a simply marvelous medley of hop jigs (“Tommie Potts/Rocky Road to Dublin/John Kelly’s”), before joining up with Barry’s pipes and Mor- row’s fiddle to grand effect. The harmonica – along with five-string banjo – also provides a bridge in the opening track from a rare version of “Road to Lisdoonvarna” to “Keep the Old Ark Rolling” (an American tune that he reconstructed with the aid of the classic hornpipe “Boys of Blue Hill” – got that?), which then segues into “The Blackbird,” a tune with many versions in both Irish and American traditions.

So much else to recommend the album: a waltz-and-jig combo (“McCaigue’s/The Orphan”) that easily could’ve been on an the “Hell on Wheels” soundtrack; a trio of infec- tious Sliabh Luachra slides; and Epping’s salty but sure vocals (a striking but winning contrast with O’Dowd’s) on “Saturday Night My Wife Died” and the concluding track “Down in the Home Town” – with a guest appearance by Jordan – on which the song morphs into an Irish-style reel and ends with the “shave-and-a-haircut” fanfare. A new road, certainly, but not an unfamiliar one, either. And that’s its charm. [newroadmusic.com]

Micheál Ó hAlmhain, “Tuile Agus Trá–The Flow- ing Tide” • A three-time All-Ireland Fleadh champion on flute – but also versed in tin whistle and uilleann pipes – Dublin native Ó hAlmhain has been a mainstay on the teaching and organizational front of Irish music, including through involvement with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and as creator of the Craiceann summer music school on the island of Inis Oirr, where he lives. He’s also had plenty of performance experience, though, such as with Ceoltóirí Laighean – a seminal 1970s band whose other members variously included Paddy Glackin, Mary

Bergin, and John and James Kelly – the Irish Harp Orchestra and a group you may have heard of named The Chieftains.

This 14-track album is a highlight film of sorts, the fruit of Ó hAlmhain’s many years of associations with masters like Seamus Ennis, Joe Rya,n and his fellow Ceoltóirí Laighean members and of his own historical research. “Tuile Agus Trá” includes a couple of O’Carolan pieces, “Murtach Mac Cana” and “Lady Maxwell,” and the 18th-century air “Eibhlín Gheal Chiúin,” collected by the eminent Armagh musician and scholar Edward Bunting. And then there are loads of reels and jigs, from the familiar (“Mug of Brown Ale,” “The Primrose,” “The Ivy Leaf”) to the less familiar (“Now She’s Purring,” “Gerdie Cumane’s Reel,” “Boys of the Hilltop”), as well as a pair of hornpipes (“The Cuckoo’s Nest/Alexander’s”), and medleys of slip jigs, slides and polkas.

Ó hAlmhain’s flute-playing harkens back to a some- what earlier style – a touch gentler, perhaps, and rhythmic without being percussive – but you don’t have to be attuned to such elements to enjoy the album. He’s joined on all tracks by guitarist Steve Cooney, whose unconventional approach to accompaniment (often toggling between intensive rhythm and finger-picked melody or harmony) helps give each tune set a distinctive character. The CD’s introduction, written by Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin, cites Igor Stravinsky’s quote that “music is the best means we have of digesting time.” clearly, the five decades or so have been a delightful repast for Ó hAlmhain. [gael-linn.ie]



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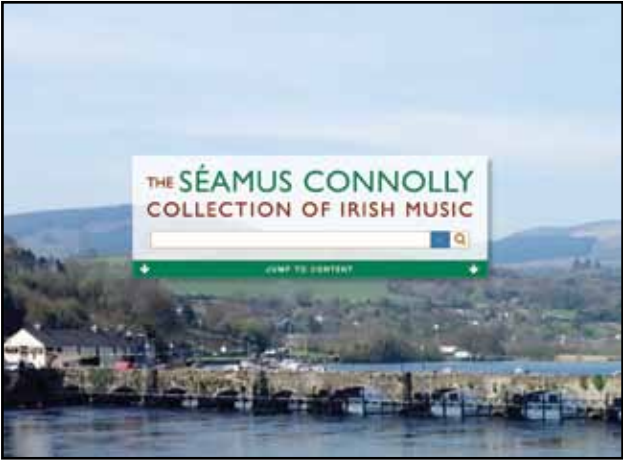
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BC launches the Séamus Connolly Collection of Irish Music

A groundbreaking digital collection from Boston College Libraries signifies the vibrancy and constancy of traditional Irish music and one of its leading figures: retired Sullivan Family Artist-in-Residence Séamus Connolly, a teacher and scholar at the university for a quarter-century.

The Séamus Connolly Collection of Irish Music [connollymusiccollection.bc.edu] presents audio recordings of more than 330 tunes and songs by such traditional Irish music performers as Liz Carroll, Kevin Burke, Matt Cranitch, Martin Hayes, Kevin Crawford, Rita Gallagher, Paddy Glackin, Liz Knowles, Charlie Lennon, Tony McMahon and Tommy Peoples, and Connolly himself. These recordings—many of them previously unreleased—are complemented by music transcriptions, stories and essays.



The Séamus Connolly Collection includes audio recordings of more than 330 tunes and songs, as well as music transcriptions, stories and essays.

Project organizers note the collection links three generations of musicians and pays tribute to those in previous generations who kept the tradition alive.

The collection also is a testament to the perseverance of its namesake, who for years collected and

organized the materials for publication, and to the collaborative effort of several Library departments to bring Connolly's vision to life—albeit in a different format than he originally planned.

— who retired from the University at the end of 2015—writes in the intro-

duction to the collection. “The Boston College Libraries and I are delighted to be able to present the Séamus Connolly Collection of Irish Music free of charge via the Internet, for all to enjoy, download, learn, and play.”

“In producing and publishing this extraordinary cultural resource as a digital collection, the Boston College Libraries are enabling users worldwide to not only listen and read, but to search, explore, navigate and share,” said Irish Music Librarian Elizabeth Sweeney, a member of the project team.

The collection is a unique window into the life and career of Connolly, a 10-time All-Ireland fiddle champion and the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts' National Heritage Fellowship as well as a Faculty Award from the BC Arts Council. The recordings

and other materials reflect many of the friendships he has cultivated throughout—and even beyond—the Irish music world, and evoke countless stories, anecdotes and musings associated with the music tradition.

The collection also has local and regional dimensions. A tune composed by the late Brendan Tonra, a mainstay of Boston's Irish music scene for many years, is included. Current or former Boston-area musicians like Helen Kisiel, Tara Lynch (daughter of accordionist Jerry Lynch, a member of Ireland's legendary Kilfenora Ceili Band), Brendan Bulger, Tina Lech, Eamon Flynn and Matt and Shannon Heaton are featured on the tracks, along with New Englanders such as Donna Hébert, David Kaynor, Pete Sutherland and the late Bob McQuillen.

Connolly is quick to credit the many hands, at



“What began simply as 100 tunes for a book and CDs is now a digital collection of over 330 tunes and songs, each with its own transcription, recording, and story,” says Séamus Connolly.

BC and elsewhere, and in particular the musicians who helped him in creating the collection: “Were I asked to define this collection in a few short words, I would not hesitate to say, ‘so much love from so many people.’”

Aidan Browne, Esq. and Sullivan & Worcester are proud to support the **Boston Irish Reporter** in recognizing the 2016 Boston Irish Honorees

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The Boston Irish Honors 2016 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

Devotion to faith, family, good works fill center of the Judge family universe

By Bill Forry
Editor

Boston Irish Reporter

Jim Judge will never forget the day he encountered his future father-in-law, Jack Cahill, on the front stairs of a three-decker on Holiday Street in Dorchester. It was early in his courtship of Mary Cahill and it was a Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. Jack carefully balanced his way down the stoop while carrying an aluminum platter bulging with a freshly cooked ham, a holiday meal prepared by his wife, Maura. As was the case every Easter, and on most holidays, it was a home cooked meal with all the fixings and it was en route to the Pine Street Inn.

A few months earlier, Jack had been abruptly “let go” from his job as a steel craftsman at the All Stainless company. He’d worked there for 19-and-a-half years and was just about to be eligible for a pension when he was cut loose. For the first time since he emigrated to America from Cork City in 1954, he was without a job.

“You can imagine, they had *nine* kids and he was out of work for six months,” recalls Jim Judge, now 60. “And here he was, bringing this meal out of his home and heading for the shelter. It was a simple gesture, but it impacted me, greatly given the turmoil in his own life.”

“It was an indication of the character that’s in her DNA,” says Judge, 60, referring to Mary, his wife of 35 years. It was also a character trait that Judge, himself born and raised in St. Peter’s Parish on the side of Meetinghouse Hill, knew well from his own home.

“I’m so fortunate that my parents are still alive,” Judge told the BIR in a recent interview. “My dad [Jim] was a Boston cop who retired at 65 after 30 years of working nights in Roxbury. My mom [Cathy] was a volunteer librarian at St. Peter’s and a daily presence there. “At my core, I’m just a guy from St. Peter’s and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

Since their marriage in 1981, Jim and Mary Judge have raised a family of four – Courtney, James, Sean, and Jack. More recently, they have welcomed five grandchildren to the fold. They now live in Hanover, but are fixtures in Boston’s neighborhoods to this day, giving back with the same quiet, purposeful resolve that Judge spotted in Jack Cahill’s face on a Dorchester porch back in the early 1970s.

The Judges have thrived in more public ways in recent years. Last April, in a promotion that made headlines across the country, Jim



Jim and Mary Judge on their wedding day in 1981. Below, time for a hug three decades later.

All photos from family albums



was named the new president and CEO of Eversource Energy, the utility company that serves more than 3.6 million customers across New England. Judge, who had served as the company’s chief financial officer since 1995, succeeded Tom May, 68, who had led the company for more than two decades.

Just months into his role as CEO, Judge’s path from St. Peter’s Grammar School to his current perch atop the Pru still seems like a stretch, even to the couple themselves.

“I’ve said to him so many times, Jimmy and I never had a dream when we started out,” recalls Mary. “It was simply to have a good life, a good marriage, and a good family. We just dug in and worked hard every day. When he was named CFO at 37, I remember we were both really stunned. It was a leap of faith on Tom May’s part. But it was really about work ethic. And no one has worked harder than Jimmy has.”

There’s no question where he learned it.

“My parents were born here in Roxbury, but were of very strong Irish descent and very proud of it,” explains Jim. “My father’s parents were from Lahardene, at the foot of a mountain in County Mayo. My mother’s roots were Bantry Bay, Cork. She is a McCarthy and she was always quick to tell anyone that the McCarthys were the kings of Ireland.

His dad played the accordion and his mum had a “very good singing voice.” They performed what Jim remembers as a “kitchen racket” – a kind of in-home seisiun that fueled the party at any occasion.

“There were lots of Irish songs every Christmas and really on any holiday, or any wedding or wake, they were the cornerstone. I loved it and so did my extended family,” said Jim, who marvels not only at his dad’s long career as a policeman, but at his mother’s work as a librarian and the generation that preceded her as new arrivals to Boston.

“My mother has fond memories of her grand aunts. They came

here and they played the traditional roles of domestics, working for wealthy families. So many of our roots come from that generation that did what it took to succeed. I’m proud of those roots.”

For families like the Judges and the Cahills, life in 1960s and 70s Dorchester extended just beyond the parlors and porches of tightly-packed three-decker battleships and into Ronan Hall, the school gym at the parish school, and the ball fields of the hilltop park that was also named for the founding pastor at St. Peter’s.

“Ninety-five percent of our life was St. Peter’s church,” recalled Mary, who is the eldest girl in a family that included her older brothers Jim and Shaun, followed by Donal, Gerry, Peggy, Noreen, Kathleen, and Patrick.

“All of us when to parochial school. We left the house at 7:45 and were back home for lunch. My parents were very involved – dad was a collector and was very involved with St. Vincent de Paul Society. And, every St. Patrick’s Day, we all walked out with an Irish bread to bring to each of the nuns.”

Jim and Mary have known each other since their sandbox days. “He likes to tell people he met me in diapers,” laughs Mary. It’s almost certainly true. “He’s been my brother’s best friend since kindergarten.”

Mary’s oldest brother, Jim Cahill, met Jim Judge at age 6 and the two, along with a crew of six other neighborhood kids, became best buddies for life. When they weren’t in class or working, they played CYO baseball and BNBL hoops in Ronan Park. The park was their refuge well into adulthood and even after many of them moved from the neighborhood.

“Jim hit the lottery because of his parents,” recalls Jim Cahill. “His father was a Boston Police officer and gave him a lot of guidance. None of our friends had dads in BPD or in the utilities and some of them came from dysfunctional homes. But Jim and I were lucky enough. We came from strict, immigrant households and our parents led by example.”

“Jim’s dad wasn’t a typical cop. He was calm, nice, a straight guy. He wasn’t an A type personality to Jim and his sister Cathy. He worked hard. So Jim was very disciplined in academics and was always working, too – with paper routes, summer jobs with city, you name it.”

Jim cut his own trail away from Meetinghouse Hill in high school – trekking out daily to the wilds of West Roxbury to attend Catholic Memorial.



The Boston Irish Honors 2016



In 2014, two generations of Cahills and Judges smiled for the camera at St. Finbarr's Club in Cork City at the dedication of a pitch wall (rear) in memory of Mary's father Jack, a top-flight GAA athlete in his day.

"Jim didn't go there as part of a crowd, he was the only one from our group in St. Peter's," said Cahill. "But he had a strong commitment to what was bred in him in those eight years with the nuns in St Peter's. And the Christian Brothers continued that."

Cahill was delighted when his best friend and his older sister became an item. "I wasn't surprised," he said. "I think any time your best friend is marrying your sister, we were all very happy about that. And they were both St Peter's people."

The couple's most direct connection to Ireland is through Mary's family. Her mom Maura, the oldest of seven Scanlan children, met her father Jack on a train to Cork City from Dublin, where they'd both attended an All-Ireland hurling match. "He said to her: I'd like to see you tomorrow night, but first I'm doing a novena," says Mary.

They were married in Cork in 1954 and that fall they made "the leap" across the pond. "It was a fluke, really," said Mary. "My mother's younger brother - my uncle Liam - was a delayed vocation and went into the priesthood and he offered the visa to my parents and they said 'yes.'"

They were sponsored locally by one of her mother's uncles, James Courtney, who had emigrated to Boston in the 1930s. Maura, who had two years of business school education, a rarity for a woman at the time, took a job at Jordan Marsh. Jack, who left a sure-fire job offer in Cork, struggled to find employment in Massachusetts, but eventually landed in the stainless steel factory.

Even as they began to raise their young family in Somerville, Cambridge, and,



Jim, his sister Cathy, and their parents, Cathy and Jim, in Summer 2009.

later, Dorchester, Ireland still beckoned. They nearly moved back to Cork in the early 1960s, but they were reluctant since their young children were not Irish citizens.

"My mother was very homesick," said Mary, who noted that Maura and Jack were the only members of their immediate families to leave Ireland. "They both left big extended families. I have 104 first cousins in Ireland."

The Cahill connection has become the Judge family's most endearing link with the Ould Sod. Her mom's father, Sean Scanlan, was one of the Fenians who rose in rebellion against the crown in 1916 and read Pádraig Pearse's Proclamation of the Irish

Republic aloud in Cork City.

"It was always so much a part of who we were, but especially in the last eight years, we've learned so much from my mom," said Mary, who spent the summer in Cork with her parents in 1969 and still visits regularly, often on large family trips. "We go back and forth a lot. But I think from the historical side I'm much more invested in it. I cannot believe the suffering and the lives these people had."

Recently, the Judge and Cahill family made a donation to build a practice facility for St. Finbarr's National Hurling and Football Club in Cork City. It's the team that Mary's father, himself a top level GAA player, played for

before leaving home.

Jim observes: "We go every couple of years with her extended family - over 30 of us go over. And it's exposed me to the Irish culture I wouldn't have seen otherwise."

The Cahill clan moved their camp to Milton in 1973 "very reluctantly," and Jim and Mary were married in 1981 in her new parish, St. Gregory's in Lower Mills. They had started dating around age 19, after Mary graduated from Monsignor Ryan Memorial and took a job at Boston Edison. Jim would soon make his way to the Edison, too, after completing his studies at Babson College.

"Jimmy was the first in his family to go to college among his cousins," recalls Mary. "That work ethic was the same with his schoolwork. He studied the longest, he was the last one at the library."

"The other night we were at a wedding and a woman said to me, 'I met your husband 30 years ago and I told my husband, I think I just met the next CEO of Boston Edison. He was so smart and so great with people.'"

Judge says his experience at the Eversource helm so far has been like an extended "honeymoon" period.

"Tom May did a wonderful job in terms of passing the baton. The company just finished our best year ever in terms of reliability," he said. "I've got 8,000 dedicated employees that I continue to be blessed with and they really do try to do the very best they can every day."

Judge's focus is on continuing to position Eversource, already ranked number one in its industry for clean energy efficiency, to rely less on fossil based fuels.



The Boston Irish Honors 2016
Exemplary Boston Irish Family

Judge family practices devotion to values

“It can’t happen overnight. We still need bridge fuels. But our company is at the leading edge of that shift in the paradigm.” Boston Globe CEO Mike Sheehan, a friend and admirer who was an honoree at the Boston Irish Honors last year, says Judge “rose to the top the old-fashioned way – he earned it.”

“There is no bluster to Jim. And why should there be? He knows what he’s doing, and he leads by example. Clearly, actions speak louder than words with Jim,” said Sheehan. “Nobody makes it to the top without a lot of hard work and a little luck. Jim knows how lucky he’s been, coming from a strong family and having deep roots in his neighborhood and community. He doesn’t take any of it for granted.”

Staying Grounded

Jim and Mary keep their family rooted in giving back as well. On Easter Sunday and Thanksgiving, with help from donors like SullyMac and Lambert’s Rainbow Fruit, the Judges and the Cahills descend on a home near their old St. Peter’s stomping grounds. The Quincy Street house is headquarters for the Little Sisters of the Poor – Saint Teresa’s order of nuns – where they work a day-long effort to feed local families in need. Over the last 20 years, they have provided relief to hundreds of Dorchester and Roxbury families at no cost – other than a compulsory prayer.

“The nuns hold them up and make them say the rosary,” Judge says matter-of-factly. “We’ll be there again next month. Our entire family participates and it’s a wonderful experience.”

Judge has been a key ally for another important cause rooted in the old neighborhood. He



The Judge family plus one in Cork in 2014: From left, Courtney (Ceurvels), Sean, Jim, Mary, Mary Shields, the-then Lord Mayor of Cork, Lauren and James Judge, and Jack Judge.

serves as a board member of College Bound Dorchester, which focuses on steering kids away from gangs and into two or four year colleges as a means of interrupting generational poverty and violence. The program is particularly active along the Bowdoin Street corridor where Jim and Mary were raised.

“Jim is a quiet and humble champion for Dorchester who put our youth and their future first in all that he did,” said Mark Culliton, who runs the College Bound organization. “He is a Dorchester kid who did well and understands it’s his responsibility to give back. In his years of service he has been responsible for

bringing more than half a million in funding to the students of College Bound. Jim and his wife Mary never forgot where they are from and the debt they owe their community. They quietly give and give to create a better future for the next generation of Dorchester kids.”

The Judges carry Dorchester, and the people they met there, wherever they go.

“Our closest friends to this day are Jim’s friends from first grade. We’ve had lots of friends along the way but we were never a couple that cared about your checkbook. When we bought our first two-family house on Ashmont Street, we used to say to each other,

‘Who’s luckier than us?’” says Mary. “I think we just never lost who we were. We’ve been around people who lost their moral compass. But we were brought up by parents who put faith and family first. And we have.”

“The family is the center of our lives,” agrees Jim. “To have my parents at their age – and Mary’s mom is 91– we’re just so fortunate. The rapport that they have with that next generation is so special to see. The values that they were able to try and instill in their children—you can see it in the personalities of the future generations. We’re so lucky to have these role models in our lives.”



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Mary Casey Forry
Foundation

Mary Casey Forry, a spouse, a mom and a grandmother, was founding president of Boston Neighborhood News, Inc., publisher of the Dorchester Reporter, and a gifted writer whose “Urban Gardener” columns delighted scores of readers. She was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in February 2003, and lived with the disease for 22 months.

As the end of her life came near, she and her family found great comfort in the compassionate care provided by hospice. For Mary, hers was a peaceful death. For our family, we were privileged to welcome hospice into our own home.

But in-home hospice care may not always be possible – a spouse may be unable to care for a partner, or there may be no family or friends nearby to ensure a death with such dignity. Our family has resolved to establish a facility that can be shared by people in need. It is called a “residential hospice,” an environment where persons can receive end-of-life care with compassionate caregivers able to provide the necessary palliative care. Our hope is to

establish a hospice home in the Dorchester-Mattapan-Milton area, a place where individuals may spend their final days “close to home.” For our neighbors, it will be a place for a loved one to die with dignity. For more details, or to offer support, please visit marycaseyforry.org

- Maureen Forry-Sorrell, President

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The Boston Irish Honors 2016 for Distinguished Public Service

For Paul G. Kirk Jr., Democrat, it's 'all about the work, not the credit'

By MARTIN F. NOLAN

His middle name is Grattan, after Henry Grattan, the Dublin orator who fought for Irish parliamentary freedom. Charles James Fox, the British leader, called him "the Irish Demosthenes."

Paul G. Kirk Jr., a political leader and for 40 years confidant of the Kennedy clan, has seldom heard praise for his speechifying. As a captain in the US Army Reserve, he was known as a tough, fair officer. In his career as a political organizer and Senate aide, he was known for something unusual in Washington: silence.

"He's an amazing listener," according to Caroline Kennedy, US Ambassador to Japan. "It's all about the work for him, not the credit." That rare trait was cherished by her uncle, Edward M. Kennedy, who recruited the dark-haired young Bostonian after Kirk worked in Robert F. Kennedy's presidential campaign of 1968.

"I'll give it two years," Kirk told Kennedy several times. The temporary assignment multiplied into decades as the senator came to depend on Kirk. In "True Compass," Kennedy's memoir, Kirk and his wife Gail make frequent appearances: at Harvard football games (Paul played on the varsity in the 1950s); at Thanksgiving and other family dinners in Hyannis Port; and sailing on Nantucket Sound.

The senator may also have been a matchmaker. Paul and Gail met when they were working in Kennedy's Senate office. In the 1960s, senators often banned intra-office dating, but as Kennedy told me, "That's a stuffy, old-fashioned custom. Gail and Paul are made for each other! You know that! What's the Latin phrase?" "Amor vincit omnia?" "Yes," Kennedy roared. "Love conquers all!"

Now 78, the Newton-born Kirk and Gail live on Cape Cod in Marston Mills.

The senator's dependence on Kirk grew. Kennedy asked him to be his personal lawyer, representing him in divorce proceedings. After Kennedy's death in 2009, Kirk was master of ceremonies at the televised funeral. Kirk also carried out the provisions of his friend's last will and testament.

It seemed almost inevitable that when Gov. Deval Patrick was seeking to name someone to a short stay in Kennedy's Senate seat, he considered many worthy names, but Massachusetts ended up with US Sen. Paul G. Kirk.

As a young Kennedy aide, Kirk "was lucky enough" to make the acquaintance of Larry O'Brien of Springfield, a close adviser to President Kennedy, Postmaster General under President Johnson,

THE PARTY MAN



Paul Kirk, chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 1985 to 1989, is shown banging the gavel at the party's convention in the summer of 1988. He has played many roles for the Democratic Party's cause during his life, working closely with legendary Democratic stalwarts like Ted Kennedy, shown below with him in 2005, and Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., in 1990.

All photos courtesy of the Kirk family



and loyal son of the Mattoon Street neighborhood of Springfield, where he learned politics at the ward-and-precinct level.

O'Brien, who later became commissioner of the National Basketball Association, knew what a "ground game" relies upon. "Political organization is not complicated," O'Brien would say, "but it is hard work, and not many people care to perform it 10 or 12 hours a day."

Kirk listened in 1985 when friends urged him to seek the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee. The party was still recovering from nominee Walter Mondale's 49-state loss to President Reagan's re-election effort. Even Massachusetts went the Gipper's way; the Republican incumbent won 51 percent of the Bay State's vote.

Running for national chairman is seldom easy. Among the half-dozen contenders Kirk faced were formidable opponents from the South and West. Former North Carolina governor Terry Sanford was supported by other Southern governors. California State Chairman Nancy Pelosi had been endorsed by New York's governor, Mario Cuomo, and its senior senator, Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

The Massachusetts candidate had the support of the most reliable voting bloc in the Kennedy era's success in American politics: labor union members. With their help, Kirk won the chairmanship.

In 1987, Nancy Pelosi was elected to Congress and went on to become the first female Speaker of the US House of Representatives. In her storied and formidable career, the only time she lost an election was to Paul Kirk.

As DNC chairman, he supervised get-out-the-vote efforts in the 1986 congressional elections when Democrats made a modest comeback, winning five House seats and eight in the Senate.

Kirk then became involved in shaping the future of American presidential politics. He listened in 1987 when a newly formed nonprofit group, the Commission on Presidential Debates, asked him and the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr., to serve together. Since 1976, presidential debates had lacked the two parties' official endorsements and had been targets of candidate manipulation.

Fahrenkopf, a Nevadan, was an ardent Reagan Republican but he and Kirk agreed to share the chairmanship. They became friends and remained so after Kirk left the commission in 2009.

Kirk did not run for re-election at the DNC, returning home to Boston. He was a longtime member



The Boston Irish Honors 2016

of the law firm of Sullivan & Worcester and became involved in civic causes, including chairmanship of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. He also served as a director of several companies, including ITT, Bradley Real Estate, and the Hartford Financial Services Group.

Today, Kirk serves as chairman, CEO, president, and treasurer of Kirk & Associates Inc. He is of counsel to the law firm Sullivan & Worcester, where he was a partner from 1977 to 1989.

A loyal alumnus of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, he has often returned to the playing fields of Cambridge. He is past chairman of the Harvard Board of Overseers nominating committee and is the chairman of the Harvard Overseers Committee to Visit the Department of Athletics. He has been a trustee of St. Sebastian's School and at Stonehill College, which awarded him an honorary degree.

In 1999, his interest in football attracted Boston civic leaders who were alarmed at the prospect of the New England Patriots moving to a new home in Connecticut. Hartford was offering the NFL franchise a new stadium on the banks of the Connecticut River.

Even though some NFL owners disliked the idea of swapping the Boston television market, the nation's sixth largest, for the smaller Hartford market, the clock was ticking down in Foxborough.

Luck and an Irish connection

THE FAMILY



Clockwise from top left: Paul and Gail Kirk in 2002; Paul and his mother in 1981; Paul and his siblings, Christmastime 1998; Col. Paul G. Kirk, Sr., home on leave from World War II service, his wife, Josephine (O'Connell), and children in 1943. Paul is next to his mother.





The Boston Irish Honors 2016 for Distinguished Public Service

The debates: 'They reveal much about both candidates'

By Peter F. Stevens
BIR Staff

As the former head of the DNC and co-founder with Republican Frank Fahrenkopf of the Commission on Presidential Debates in 1987, Paul G. Kirk, Jr., is uniquely qualified to assess the role they have played in every presidential campaign since then.

In the overheated battle between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, numerous pundits and media have pontificated on whether the Commission is genuinely nonpartisan, as intended. Kirk relates:

"After the 1984 election, think tanks, policy groups, and many sources examined the funding of presidential campaigns, the conventions, and all other aspects of the race. Both Democrats and

Republicans agreed that debates were essential to voter education, that it was crucial to give voters face-to-face, unscripted looks at the candidates. The major party chairs came to a consensus on this, and Frank, I, and our teams created the groundwork for three presidential debates and one for the vice-presidential candidates."

Addressing the issue of nonpartisanship, Kirk says, "To start with, the Commission has to be nonpartisan to retain its nonprofit status. I would argue that the conduct of the Commission has remained nonpartisan."

He adds that the rise of social media has in some ways changed the nature of the debates: "'Mike McCurry [Democrat] and Frank Fahrenkopf have had to adjust to

an audience that gets much of their information from social media. Live-streaming, Google, Apple, Twitter, Facebook, and so on are now a big part of the political process and progress. They give the debates an even broader impact."

Discussing the viability of the debates, Kirk notes, "The Commission, I believe, did and continues to do its job. The purpose of the debates – 90 minutes each – allows for more in-depth questioning of the candidates. Whether people like it or not, the public needs to know as much as possible about the presidential candidates, good or bad. The fact is that the debates do reveal much about the major candidates. They let the voters view the contenders and allows the voters to make their own judgments."

Kirk offered his view on the often-controversial issue of third-party candidates. "Since its inception, the Commission has relied on candidates' eligibility on enough state ballots that they could get to 270 electoral votes. Also, the threshold of polls that expect a viable candidate to reach 15 percent of those polled allowed Ross Perot to participate in the 1992 debates. The framework for third-party candidates is there, and the courts have always upheld the approach. In any presidential election, some 200 or so people file as candidates."

In regard to the 2016 race, Kirk said, "I believe that the debates have worked to reveal much about both candidates."

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

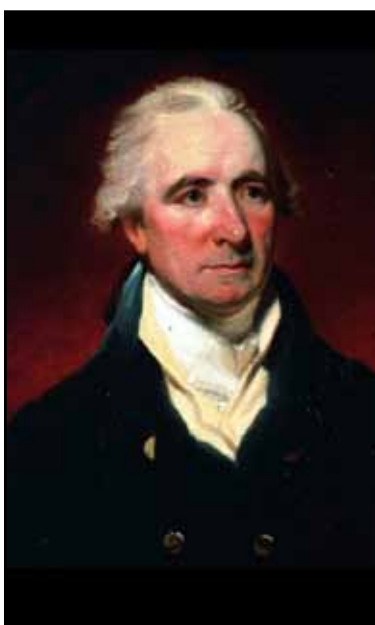
By Peter F. Stevens
BIR Staff

For Paul G. Kirk, the "G" stands for "Grattan" – one of the greatest Anglo-Irish statesmen of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Born in Dublin on July 3, 1746, the son of a Dublin lawyer and member of Parliament, Henry Grattan was part of a prominent family in Ireland's ruling Protestant class. Grattan followed his father's path into law and politics and joined Henry Flood's Irish nationalist movement in the 1770s.

Grattan first served in the Irish Parliament in 1775 and quickly became the oratorical titan of the nationalists. In 1778, he stood in the vanguard of the Irish Volunteers, a militia created to preserve

order in Ireland as British regiments were shipped off to fight in the American Revolution. Many

dubbed the militiamen "Grattan's Volunteers." Strongly sympathetic to the American colonists' cause, Grattan and other nationalists used the Volunteers as political leverage against the British Prime Minister, Lord North, to win concessions for Ireland. Grattan compelled North to free up constrictions on Irish trade in 1779. The following year, Grattan demanded that North's government repeal Poynings' Law, which required British Parliamentary approval of any bill enacted by the Irish Parliament. Grattan's brilliant speeches and the presence of the Volunteers



HENRY GRATTAN

prodded Britain to repeal both Poynings' Law and the Irish Declaratory Act of 1719, which had given London the right to legislate directly over

Ireland. So potent a force was Grattan that the Irish parliament from 1782 to 1800 was hailed as "Grattan's Parliament."

From 1782 to 1797, the Protestant nationalist had another mission – to allow Catholics into the Dublin Parliament and win voting rights for Catholics. He embraced some of the ideals of the French Revolution but decried the violent turn it took. As more radical voices for Irish Catholic emancipation emerged and sparked more repression from the Crown, Grattan criticized the measures but was unnerved by the rising militancy of the United Irishmen. Once opposed to allowing Catholics to actually own land, he struggled for changes to

the Draconian Penal Laws against Catholics and advocated fuller rights for Ireland's Catholics.

Ailing and worn down both physically and emotionally from his political battles, Grattan stepped down from Parliament in May 1797. He was in England when the ill-fated Rising of 1798 erupted in Ireland, and after Prime Minister William Pitt announced his plan for the union of the British and Irish Parliaments, Grattan vigorously but futilely opposed the measure. From 1804 to his death, in London on June 6, 1820, he continued his fight in the House of Commons for emancipation for Ireland's downtrodden Catholics

For this party stalwart, it's 'all about the work'

intervened, as the *New York Times* explained on April 21, 1999:

"Blame it on Dan Rooney, the Pittsburgh Steelers' owner. Last December, Rooney and Paul G. Kirk Jr., the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, were at a reception honoring the Irish winners of the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize. They spoke about "what a tragedy it would be if the Patriots left the area," Rooney said. "I said it didn't look like anybody was doing anything," he added, "and Paul said it looked like a foregone conclusion that they're gone. I said, 'They still have to take it to the league.' Paul took it from there."

Kirk's Irish roots are in County Cavan and County Louth. On the Kirk side, his grandfather left Ireland at age 14 to seek his fortune in America. One of his sons, Paul G. Kirk Sr., became an associate justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court.

On his mother's side, today's



1979: Paul Kirk Sr., and brother Eddie in Co. Louth looking for directions to the boyhood home of John Lennon Kirk in Emlagh Townland.

honoree was an O'Connell, a family that settled in Lowell in the 1850s. One of its sons was Cardinal William Henry O'Connell, who presided over the archdiocese of Boston from 1907 to 1944.

After the death of Henry Grattan in 1820, the British writer Sydney Smith said, "No government ever dismayed him. The world could not bribe him. He thought only of Ireland."

The Grattans, the Kirks, and the O'Connells could salute today's Boston Irish Honoree in a bipartisan fashion with a favorite saying from Ronald Reagan of the Tipperary Reagans:

"There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he does not mind who gets the credit."

Martin F. Nolan was a reporter, editor, columnist, and editorial page editor at the *Boston Globe* during a 40-year career at the newspaper.



The Boston Irish Honors 2016 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

Joe, Patsy, Betty, and Kevin Leary learned their lessons of faith and charity at home

By Jack Thomas

The story of the Leary family of Boston is rooted in an event so shameful in Boston history that it's not talked about much, but in the summer of 1834, Protestant thugs burned the Ursuline sisters' school and convent in Charlestown and drove the nuns out of Boston.

Nearly a century later, in 1928, a young Dorchester woman, Mary Nolan, graduated from an Ursuline school, the College of New Rochelle in New York. In 1946, she collaborated with Boston Archbishop Richard J. Cushing and others to induce the Ursulines back to Boston to establish Ursuline Academy on Arlington Street. She helped raise funds, and sent her two daughters to the nuns' school. Today, the academy prospers on a 28-acre campus in Dedham, offering independent Catholic education to 430 girls in Grades 7 through 12.

Joseph and Mary Leary's children continue their mother's mission on behalf of the Ursulines, an order of sisters founded in Brescia, Italy, in 1535, and noted for its commitment to the education of girls.

One afternoon in October 2015, 182 years after the devastation in Charlestown, Mary's daughter Patsy was at home in Milton with her husband, Stephen A. Dowling, and they were mulling a number of charitable gifts. His success as an investment banker has made them wealthy. While lugging laundry to the cellar, Patsy turned to Steve. "I want to give some money to Ursuline."

"Okay, how much?"
"I think a million dollars would be nice."

"If you want to do that, honey, you can. Go ahead."

Afterwards, Patsy wept in gratitude for his acquiescence and for the opportunity to honor the memory of her mother.

When it was announced in August that the Leary family would be celebrated at the 2016 Boston Irish Honors luncheon, no one asked why. For half a century, the Learys have contributed to peace in Ireland and, philanthropically, many millions of dollars to such causes as Nativity Prep, Boston College, The Irish American Partnership, and Boston Health Care for the Homeless.

In their contributions to the culture of Boston and to its business, educational, and charitable communities, the Learys symbolize the influence of Irish Catholics on American life from the middle of the 20th century.

...

So, let's meet the current generation:



Newlyweds Joseph and Mary Frances (Nolan) Leary



The Leary children: Patsy, Joe, Betty, and Kevin.



And some years later: Kevin, Patsy, Joe Sr., Betty, and Joe Jr.

• Joseph F. Leary Jr., 83, of Newton, father of two, was an executive at Gillette, then the longtime president of The Irish American Partnership, which encourages education, employment, and economic development in Ireland. He met his wife, Eileen, while she was a nurse at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and they married in 1959. She died in 1981.

• Mary Patricia Leary Dowling, 81, of Milton, managed the Admirals Club for American Airlines at Logan Airport. Ursuline Academy will honor her at its annual Brescia Ball at The Lantana in Randolph on Saturday, Nov. 5.

• Elizabeth Ann Leary Horrigan, 78, of Avon, CT, mother of three sons, is a nurse, and a hospice caretaker.

• Kevin W. Leary, 75, of the South End, father of four, is founder and owner of VPNE Parking Solutions, a \$30 million company that provides valet parking at hospitals and donates 10 percent of its net income to charity. In the past decade, he and his wife, Mary Kelleher, have given more than \$3 million to charity. Now coping with illness, Kevin retains a charm, insight, and remarkable humor. In telling a story, he loses his way, then apologizes with wit: "Last July, I had a bunch of seizures," he said, "and I've had difficulties with memory. I'm sorry, but I've forgotten the story I was just telling, but I can assure you that it was a fantastic story, very funny and very compelling."

All four Learys have degrees from Boston College, and the men served in the military, Joe in the Army, in the military police, and Kevin in the Navy, aboard a destroyer.

...

At Kevin's South End condo, over a lunch of tuna, turkey, and roast beef sandwiches, the anecdotes and funny stories roll forth about the quaint life at Ursuline Academy in the 1950s.

- Because the nuns were cloistered, a policeman had to be summoned to escort the girls across Arlington Street to the Public Garden. "The policemen were happy to do it," said Patsy.

- Both sisters shudder to recall the uniforms they wore: green bowler, white blouse, green bolero jacket, green jumper, thick, white cotton stockings, and what Betty calls Girl Scout shoes, ugly oxfords.

- "Every day after school," recalled Patsy, "we'd head across the street to the Ritz-Carlton, and use the ladies room to comb our hair and take off those horrible stockings. Then we'd go to Schrafft's for ice cream." Noted



The Boston Irish Honors 2016

Betty, "My mother would not have approved of Ritz visits."

- It was proximity to the Ritz that enabled Betty to shake hands with history. "One day, as I approached, I saw a crowd, and as I got close, I realized it was Winston Churchill arriving, so I slipped into the lobby at the Ritz and bought a cigar, a cheap one, because I did not have much money."

"As Churchill walked into the Ritz, I presented him with the cigar, and he thanked me, then looked at the label and probably realized it wasn't very good. The Secret Service, or whoever, stepped in and gave it back to me. I still have the cigar upstairs, although it's probably corroded and fallen apart."

Of the two sisters, Patsy was the saint, and, metaphorically at least, Betty the sinner.

"When I was in ninth grade, I skipped school to go to a movie, and it was stupid, because there were so few girls in my class - 11 at graduation - that any absence was conspicuous. Well, I was suspended, and although my mother did not find it amusing, my father thought it was hilarious that he had to go with me while I apologized to the nuns. Yes, I was a rascal, but do you know what? I'm very glad."

The Learys were more Catholic than Irish, or as Joe put it, extremely Catholic. "The house at 480 Brook Rd. in Milton was dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus," he recalled. "There was a big picture of the Sacred Heart on the wall, over the RCA floor-model radio - there was no television - and we'd all go into the living room as a family and kneel and say the rosary - my mother, father, the children, and grandmother. And no there was no fooling around about it. Father saw to that."

At the death of their mother in 1955, another Catholic rite was singed into the memories of her children: "My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in April," said Patsy, "and she died on Dec. 31, midday, at home, in her bed."

For Betty, it was a moment of unique intimacy.

"I remember it vividly," she said.

She was then 17 and a student in nursing at Boston College. "The family had circled the bed, and I was holding my mother's hand while the priest was reading a Prayer for the Dying: "... Heavenly Father, take away fear in the heart of our loved one who's about to see You ..."

"I interrupted and said, 'I think she's gone.' "The priest checked and said, 'Yes, she's gone,' and we bowed our heads and continued with the prayer. Now, it may have been my nurse's training, but I had accepted it would happen, and so, I didn't think of it as traumatic, and I still don't. It was a beautiful Catholic experience."

The wake, however, brought a less than beautiful moment.

Consistent with Irish tradition, Mary was waked from the family home, and as Joe recalled, among those attending were former Boston Mayor James Michael Curley and a monsignor with whom Curley often feuded.

"Curley and his entourage were in the dining room, and when the monsignor entered, the two of them started arguing so loudly - with my mother in the casket in the next room - that 25 people crowded into the dining room to hear Curley."

Fifty years after their childhood, one aspect of Catholic life in the Leary household remains a mystery.

"After Mass, my father would get a glass of water, then bless himself and take a sip," said Betty. "Three times, he did that, and then he'd fill glasses for the rest of us, but none of us can recall *why* we did that. I guess he was washing down Communion, but I never heard of anybody else doing it. And my father didn't even go to Catholic school - he went to Boston University, then Northeastern Law."

According to catholic.com, "in some cultures, the faithful follow the pious practice of drinking plain water before taking nourishment after Communion. Such acts, while praiseworthy expressions of reverence, are voluntary and are matters of custom, not legislation."

Litanies of life in the Leary home are a reminder of how rapidly life in America has changed.

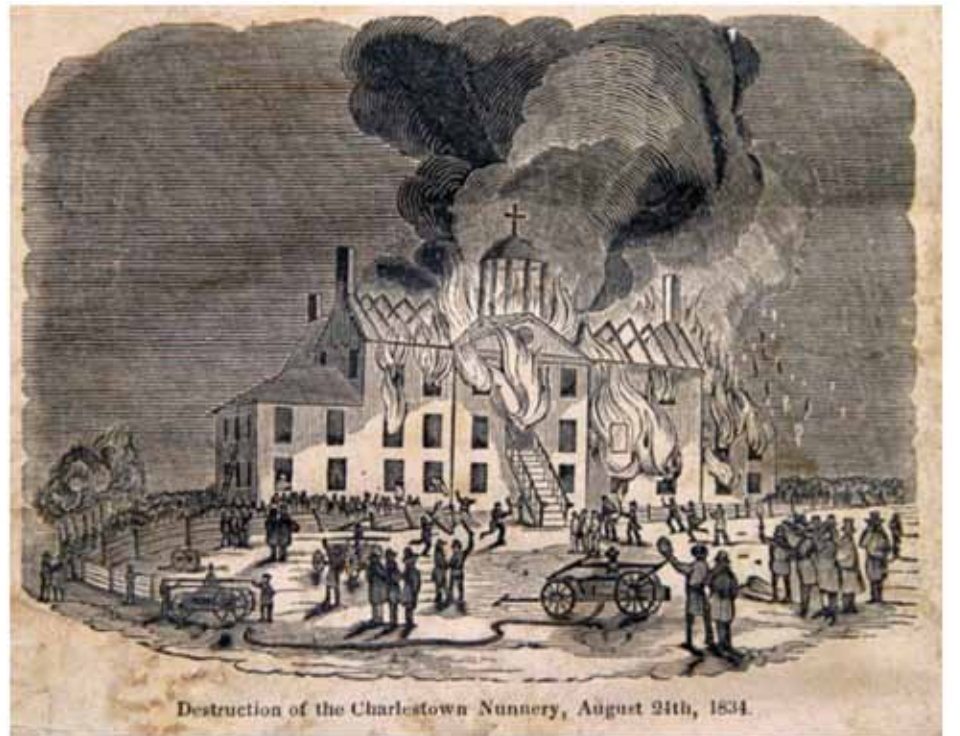


Image courtesy New England Historical Society.

FIRES OF HATE

By Peter F. Stevens
BIR Staff

The Aug. 9, 1834, missive's message radiated menace:

To the Selectmen of Charlestown! Gentlemen - It is currently reported that a mysterious affair has lately happened at the *Nunery* [sic] in Charlestown. Now it is your duty, gentlemen, to have this affair investigated immediately; if not the Truckmen of Boston will *demolish* the Nunery Thursday night - August 14.

The "mysterious affair" that the handbill referred to was that of Sister Mary John, a young nun at Charlestown's Ursuline convent. On July 28, 1834, she had lurched in a daze from the convent, showed up at a nearby home, and had been returned to the convent, where she was calmed by her fellow nuns.

With Boston's anti-Catholic, anti-Irish fervor simmering from rumors of "Popish plots" and from inflammatory books and articles warning that Irish immigrants, "Papists," would destroy Anglo-America, many locals imagined something sinister behind Sister Mary John's "ordeal." Chief among rumors were wild tales of "deviant" behavior and secret, bloody rituals behind the wall of the convent.

Antipathy between local Irish Catholics and Boston Protestants had never run higher, and for the latter, the graceful, three-story brick convent, less than seven years old

and perched on a Charlestown slope close to Bunker Hill, symbolized the inroads of the growing Irish community so threatening to many Bostonians. Ironically, many of the girls studying and boarding at the convent's school hailed from prominent Protestant families who considered the all-female academy as the best in the region.

By 8 p.m. on August 11, 1834, a mob of Yankee workmen had gathered in front of the convent's gateway. Anti-Irish, anti-Catholic epithets filled the evening air. The "Truckmen's" rage against Irish Catholics seeking a new life in Boston and environs had irrevocably targeted the convent.

Torches cast an eerie glow outside the gate.

The crowd, up to several hundred strong, was led by twenty-nine-year-old John Buzzell, a New Hampshire-born bricklayer who stood six feet, six inches. At 11:30 p.m. Buzzell and his boys, torches in hand, stormed into the convent. The mother superior and her nuns had evacuated their sobbing students to a "summer house" at the rim of the convent grounds.

Flames erupted from every corner of the convent at 12:30 a.m. Fire bells pealed across the city, and the engine companies - Yankees all - dispatched "water-wagons" and crews to the blazing convent. Once there, they did nothing but watch the blaze. The convent was a charred ruin by sunrise.

Buzzell and eleven other rioters stood trial for the crime. Only one, a youth, was convicted, and he was quickly pardoned. Boston's outraged Irish heeded Bishop Benedict Fenwick's appeals not to retaliate. The *Boston Galaxy* acknowledged: "The Irish population have been remarkably orderly and quiet."

The flames of August 1834 burned not only Charlestown's Ursuline convent, but also the very soul of Boston's Irish community. For years, the burning of the convent remained tangible proof of the obstacles the Boston Irish would overcome. The Ursulines were not to return to Boston for more than a century.



Fathers & Sons: Joseph F. Leary, Jr., his son, Joseph F. Leary III, Kevin Leary and his son Kevin.

Bill Brett photo



The Boston Irish Honors 2016 Exemplary Irish Family

Home-grown spirit of faith, generosity highlights the Leary family's way of life

Joe was eight years old that day of infamy, Dec. 7, 1941, when his mother returned home to report that she'd heard on the radio that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. "I wondered, where the heck is Pearl Harbor," Joe recalls, "and so we looked it up."

He awoke the next day to a shock, an endless line of anti-aircraft guns along Route 28 heading from Otis Airbase on Cape Cod to Boston Common.

"A terrible presence overcame us. We didn't know what war was, but we learned quickly, because suddenly there were German ships off Boston, and German spies on Cape Cod. My father was issued a helmet and assigned to a tower at Milton Academy to watch for German planes."

In the age before television and before sophisticated radio news, many people looked to newspapers as the primary source of world events. In the late spring of 1944, as Americans awaited news that the Allies had invaded Europe, 11-year-old Joe was something of a celebrity as he delivered morning and evening Boston newspapers in Milton. "My mother said to me that I'd be the first to get the news, and if the newspapers had a story about the invasion, I was to call her right away."

Politically, the Learys look back yearningly on their generation as comfortably swaddled in the Democrat Party. "I don't recall anybody in my family being Republican," said Joe. "Perish the thought," chimed in Kevin's wife Mary.

Although they agreed on 99 percent of political issues, being Irish, the family would ferret out the one percent and argue it to death.

To the discomfort of the Learys, the political alliance has shifted.

"In the next generation, among our nine children and the cousins, there are a lot of Republicans and bitterly conservative people," says Joe, ruefully.

"We had a dining room table," he continued, "and we'd sit down on Sundays for dinner with aunts and uncles, and there was no inhibition on conversation except that my father would never permit disparaging remarks about Jewish people or black people. In the Irish community, there was a lot of bigotry at the time, and there may still be, although probably less, but not at our table, never, never, never."

"If my father heard it, you were in trouble," said Kevin.

How would he express disapproval?

Patsy rises from her seat,



Thanksgiving Day 1946 at the Leary household in Milton. Mary (Nolan) Leary is in the center of the second row.

picks up a spoon from the table, and approaches her questioner menacingly, and when near, she snaps the spoon like a captious nun. "CRACK!" she says. "You'd get a rap on the knuckle."

"The one thing we did know about everybody who lived on our street," says Joe, "was who was Catholic and who was Protestant. If there was a dividing line, that was it: religion. Remember, at that time, we were not permitted to go into any Protestant church, even for a wedding. I did go to a Jewish wedding, but only after I got permission from the church."

The oldest sibling, Joe made his mark, first, as an executive at Gillette for 30 years, and then for 28 years as president of the Irish American Partnership, a non-profit that supports education, job training, and economic development in Ireland, North and South. Headquartered in Boston, the Partnership, with more than 5,000 members, is one of the largest Irish American organizations in the United States.

Joe was recruited by Charles

Feeney, the philanthropist, and although it took the new president three visits, the person he recruited to be chairman was former Marine Corps Commandant Paul X. Kelley, whose military manner made an impression in Ireland.

One of Joe's first stop was the office of House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, although the first moments were bumpy.

"You IRA, Leary?"

"No, sir."

"How do I know that?"

"Call the British and the American Embassies. They'll tell you."

O'Neill's endorsement helped raise money in mail campaigns and at golf tournaments. Leary shuttled to Ireland more than 70 times and listened to lectures by Cardinal Cahal Daly, who wagged his finger, barking in a brogue: "We've got to bring the IRA into the government."

Over 15 years, the Partnership issued grants of \$20 million to almost 300 projects in Ireland.

Having retired Aug. 31, Joe no longer worries about meeting a payroll, raising funds,

maintaining a public image, and balancing the seesaw of Irish politics. He's embarked on a new passion, Boston history, particularly before the Revolution. He'll also continue to write a monthly column about Ireland for the *Boston Irish Reporter*.

What would their parents say today about the four Learys and about the award from Boston's Irish community?


Joe does not hesitate. "They would wish better health for my brother, Kevin, but they'd be happy that we're all together, and about my sisters and brother, Patsy, Betty, and Kevin, my parents would be proud of their success, their generosity, and their goodness."

The poignant silence that follows is broken, at last, by Kevin.

"They'd be proud of you, too, Joe."

"I hope so."

Jack Thomas was a reporter, editor, columnist, and ombudsman during a 40-year career at the *Boston Globe*.



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6 Sunday

12 Saturday

Andy Healy
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13 Sunday

19 Saturday

Noel Henry
The Sean Folan TV Show and Tom Clifford’s Ireland On the Move TV Show’s Annual Fundraiser. Music by Margaret Dalton.\$15 admission. For more information, please call Sean Folan at 857-719-6979.

20 Sunday

27 Sunday

Erin’s Melody with Margaret Dalton
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DECEMBER

1 Thursday

Members Meeting. 7:30 pm Please bring your membership card for admittance.

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Before we look at the following conversation there are a few things that we must know. The first is what Patrick says as he enters the Public Room. It is a “set phrase” that doesn’t make individual word by word sense such as the English equivalent, “God bless all here.” The next is in Line 3 when Patrick uses the word **Thagadh**. This is the Habitual Past Tense of tar, “to come”, and can be translated “used to come”. You had this tense last summer but it will be reviewed below.

The next are the Irish words mall, “late”, a roimh “by’ in reference to time, imigh “to go”, thall ansin “over there”, and turasóirí “tourists”. The last are the terms beirt, cuigar, and thiúr. The closest English is “duet”, “quintet”, and “trio”. Irish has a different and obligatory set of words used to count persons up to ten. Beyond “ten” Irish uses the numeral plus duine, “person” – although remember that duine comes between the parts of, for example, “thirteen” which is “three teen” in Irish. So you must say “three person teen” or trí duine deág. The noun, here duine, is always in the singular even if English uses the plural.

duine amháin	/DEEN-yuh won/	“one person”
beirt	/byerth/	“two persons/couple”
triúr	/CHEE-ur/	“three persons”
ceathrar	/kahr/	“four persons”
cuigear	/COOG-uhr/	“five persons”

Now see if you can translate this conversation between Patrick, who enters the pub late, and Nora who tends the bar. There are a couple of strangers in the pub.

Patrick: **Dia anseo isteach.**
Nora: **Dia ‘s Muire duit, a Phádraig.**
Patrick: **Cá ait Micheál? Thagadh sé roimh a ochd a chlog. Bhí sé anseo aréir.**
Nora: **Nior tháinig sé. Nach bhfuil tú mal anocht?**
Patrick: **Tá, cinnte. Cé atá an bheirt thall ansin?**
Nora: **Tá turasóirí. Bhí an chuigear ach d’imigh an thiúr a gcodladh. Cád atá mhaith leat?**
Patrick: **Pionta, más é do thoil é.**
Nora: **Ceart go leor!**

Translation:
Patrick: “God save all here.”
Nora: “God ‘n Mary to you, Patrick.”
Patrick: “Where is Michael? He used to come by eight o’clock. He was here last night.”
Nora: “He didn’t come. Aren’t you late tonight?”
Patrick: “Yes, indeed. Who is that couple over there?”
Nora: “They’re tourists. There were five but three have gone to sleep. What would you like?”
Patrick: “A pint, please.”
Nora: “Right!”

There are other “set phrases” in this brief conversation that you already know . The response, “God ‘n Mary to you” is one. Others are “What would you like?” (literally, “What’s good with you?”), “Please”, and “Right!”.

In English we say, “I used to” to refer to an action that we habitually “used to do”. Or we can qualify the action with adverbial phrases such as “... when I was ...”. Irish simply uses a special verb form for this “habitual” repeated action. Take the verbs “to plant, **cuir**”:
“He planted potatoes yesterday” (Definite Past) Chuir sé prataí inné.
“He planted potatoes every year.”(Habitual Past)Chuirseadh sé prataí gach bliain.

The endings of the Habitual Past are a bit unusual, For example, note that for the first time in this course the “I” form does not have an –m and the “you” form does not end in –t although the –t- is there. All forms of the verb are lenited (“aspirated”) to show past action. Note also the insertion of a required “dummy” vowel letter highlighted in these examples to balance the vowel of the verb.

Chuirinn	“I used to plant”	Ghabhainn	“I used to take”
Chuirteá	“You used to plant”	Ghabhtá	“You used to take”
Chuireadh	sé,sí,sibh	Ghabhadh	sé,sí,sibh
	“He,she,you-all used to plant”		“He,she,you-all used to take”
Chuirimis	“We used to plant”	Ghabhaimis	“We used to take”
Chuiridis	“They used to plant”	Ghabhaidis	“They used to take”

You will not use these forms often but you should be able to recognize them when other do. The next column may be my last and we will study the **Conditional Tense**, “if we can.”

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