BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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See Pages 7-16

NE's Irish organizations focus on giving a boost to outreach efforts

The agenda centers on many issues

By Dan Sheehan BIR Staff

How can Irish diaspora organizations from across New England find some common ground on how they tell the stories that matter to those who cherish their heritage? That was the overriding topic last month (Oct. 13) at a conference sponsored by the Consulate General of Ireland in Boston and the Irish Cultural Centre of New England at the centre's facilities in Canton.

Delegates from dozens of

Delegates from dozens of groups, including Boston College's Irish Institute and Burns Library, the Celtic Studies programs from both Harvard and University of Vermont, the Charitable Irish Society, Irish Network Boston, the Boston Irish Business Association, the Irish Pastoral Centre, the Irish American Partnership, and the Amherst Irish Association offered their opinions on such topics as:

How best to protect and promote Irish heritage; how to better collaborate with other groups; how to better raise funds; how to manage events; how to use social media to best effects;



The gathering at the ICCNE campus in Canton last month. *Ed Forry photo*

and how to promote community welfare. There was also discussion about the Ireland-New England relationship; Irish studies, the Irish language; and Irish history.

When it comes to raising money, Mary Sugrue, Boston CEO of the Irish American Partnership, offered this: "The key to fundraising is building relationships with individuals. You have to be passionate about what you're asking them to support." Speaking on a panel on managing successful events, Ellen Joyce of the GAA Continental Youth Championship host committee, touted inclusivity as a key part of expanding an organization's reach.

For her, success is about "being inclusive and getting out there to other areas and towns, and not thinking it's just Canton and Dorchester or

Quincy or Braintree." It also means "getting more kids, not just Irish-American kids," she noted, adding,

"It's all basically your heritage and getting people to come back. And they do."

And they do."

The ICCNE said that it was "delighted to host such a dynamic day at the Irish Consulate conference. Collaboration was one of the recurring words of the day. This gathering will help forge stronger relationships & indeed promote the emergence of new relationships between local organizations."

Added the office of the Consulate General: "Dear All, Thank you for attending the Conference of New England Irish Organizations at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton, MA. We feel it was a huge success, and hope everyone found it just as rewarding and insightful as we did."

For Aine Minogue, it's all about Eve and what she has meant for all of us

By SEAN SMITH SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The Boston-area Irish harpist and singer Aine Minogue has a certain philosophy about brainstorms: If you have one, don't get in the way – just let it happen and then figure it all out afterwards. So, a few years ago, Minogue found herself in what she calls "a mad writing fit," in which hundreds of songs seem to pour out.

"I didn't know what was going on," recalls Minogue, a Tipperary native. "Some of the songs seemed to come from my subconscious. They were coming out, and I was just along for the ride, trying to keep up. I felt I was the messenger, and so it became a matter of figuring out what I was meant to convey."

This surge of creativity became the basis for her latest album, "Eve," her 15th overall – and her first consisting entirely of original songs.



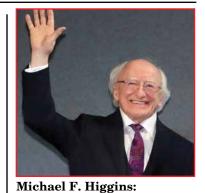
Aine Minogue's latest album, "Eve," is her first of all-original songs.

Minogue's work is marked by a serene, meditative sound, with elements of new age and world music blended with those of Irish and other Celtic traditions, and an abiding interest in the spirituality and mythology found in the ancient Celtic world and its traditions and rituals — as demonstrated in albums such as the holiday-themed "To Warm the Winter's Night" and "The Spirit of Christmas," and "Circle of the Sun," a collection of songs and tunes that mark the passage of seasons.

Here, however, Minogue's focus is on the many iterations of Eve – not just as a Biblical or literary character, but as the essence and embodiment of femininity itself, throughout history and humanity.

"It's about everything that Eve represents, and not just as it applies to being a woman," she explains. "There is the idea, as

(Continued on page 18)



Irish voters' choice

Higgins breezes to second term

Ireland re-elected its leftist president, Michael D. Higgins, to a second term and voted overwhelmingly on Oct. 27 to remove a ban on blasphemy from the Constitution.

Higgins won easily, with about 56 percent of the vote, despite a late surge by a former reality show celebrity whose support soared after he criticized an ethnic minority group. In a separate ballot, about 65 percent of voters, or 951,650 people, chose to abolish a constitutional ban on blasphemy.

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Words to abide by from a Silver Key honoree of the Charitable Irish Society

The Charitable Irish Society presented Silver Key awards to Paul Doyle, an Irish community activist and a volunteer champion of the St. Vincent DePaul Society and other nonprofit organizations, and to Linda Dorcena Forry, a former state senator who is now an executive with Suffolk Construction, at its annual Awards Reception at the Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel on Oct. 4.

The Society was formed in Boston in 1737 to "cultivate a spirit of unity and harmony among all resident Irish and their descendants in the Massachusetts Colony and to advocate socially and morally the interests of the Irish people and their cultural heritage."

After he was presented with his Silver Key, Mr. Doyle, a New Haven native who with his wife Margo raised their family in Weymouth, congratulated his co-honoree, Sen. Forry, saluted his wife and family and friends, then offered a few remarks, excerpts from which follow:

"I would like to cite several examples of where the Society of St. Vincent DePaul (SVdP), with financial assistance from the Charitable Irish Society (CIS) were able to make positive differences in the lives of others less fortunate.

"There is a family consisting of a mother, father, and six children under the age of 17. The father became a naturalized citizen several years ago. The children were all born here, making them US citizens. The mother was brought here on a visa from the Philippines to work as a nanny. The people moved out west, leaving her with an expired visa and the fear of deportation. Fortunately, we were able to provide her with legal assistance through the efforts of Tony Marino of the Irish International Immigrant Center, who forwarded her paperwork to Fragoman Law Offices, who took on her case probono. We covered all the costs of filing fees, transportation, and a physical, which eventually led to her receiving a green card, which was her key to opening the door to opportunities, including driving lessons and a full-time job.

"Another family is an Egyptian father and mother with a three-year-old daughter, who was born here. The father became a citizen several years ago after fleeing Egypt with his wife because of religious persecution. These people are Coptic Christians, living in a country which is 90 percent Muslim. We helped the mother with obtaining a green card, helped her to get a job, and now she is working at QCAP's Head Start Program in Quincy, and on her way to receiving her designation as a Child Development Associate. We are paying for her books and tuition and other incremental costs.

"A third family we helped was that of an immigrant single mother from Brazil with three children, two with learning disabilities. The mother had a job 1.5 miles from her home to where she worked every day. She had to depend on The Ride for various doctor appointments and shopping. We encouraged this woman to take driving lessons (she was terrified), and she eventually received her license. We then gave her a key-a key to a reliable used car, which to this day she is still driving both to work and appointments.

"These are just several examples of the work we do. ... Looking out over this fine gathering, I would guess that most here are immigrants, children of immigrants, or grandchildren of immigrants, many of whom arrived mostly from Western and Eastern Europe in the 1800's and early-1900's and were subjected to the harsh reality of not being welcomed.... Eventually, with the help of various groups and organizations, like the AOH and the Charitable Irish Society, these immigrants were able to assimilate into the fabric of American society by getting decent jobs, working hard,



Silver Key honorees Linda Dorcena Forry and Paul Doyle.

raising families, paying taxes, and joining political parties, so they could share the benefits offered in their new home, called America. All they needed was a chance, a helping hand, and the right key to succeed. ..

"Today, I believe each one of us holds a key. The question is: How will we use it? Will we use it to lock inside these doors anger, hostility, paranoia, and fear? Or will we use it to help our fellow human beings who are coming to this country in search of a better life for themselves and their families, by unlocking those doors, which are now being slammed in their faces and offering to them what was offered to our immigrant ancestors the opportunity to better themselves by working hard, raising families, paying taxes, and becoming productive members of our society? I sincerely hope so!

Let us not forget: We are all immigrants!"

Consulate 'fireside chat' on Douglass, O'Connell scheduled for Nov. 14

The Irish Consulate will host a "fireside chat" at 5:30 p.m. on Wed., Nov 14, with Dr. William H. Smith, founding executive director of the National Center for Race Amity, and the Irish author Don Mullan, of Hope Initiatives International.

The two men recently eturned from Ireland where they completed a four-province screening of Smith's documentary film "An American Story: Race Amity and the Other Tradition,"the "Other Tradition" being the experience of amity and close cross/racial collaboration to advance equity and social justice. The film focuses on the relations between pivotal figures of different races who worked together to advance equality, including the meeting in Dublin

in 1845 of Frederick Douglass and Ireland's Daniel O'Connell, the Liberator.

The event will discuss the visit of Frederick Douglass to Ireland, his encounter with Daniel O'Connellincluding an inspirational speech by O'Connell which Douglass transcribed and sent back to the Abolitionist Movement in the USA and the view that having come to Ireland as a single issue campaigner (to help end American slavery), Douglass left Ireland as an internationalist.

Smith and Mullan will be reflecting on their experiences in Ireland, their vision for a Frederick Douglass and Daniel O'Connell "Season", and their views on the issues facing the US and Ireland in the area

County Cork Club Mass set for Nov. 10 at 6 p.m.

The Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr, the County Cork Club, will sponsor a mass for deceased members at 6:30 pm on Nov. 10 at the Malden Irish American Club. The service will be celebrated by club chaplain Fr. Dan Finn. Coffee,

tea, sandwiches and Irish baked goods will be served after the Mass, followed by dancing to the music of Erin's Melody until 11 pm. Donation: \$10. During the evening the Fr. Dan Finn award will be presented.



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November 2018

The BIR's Irish Honors speak each year to a heritage of appreciation

By Ed Forry

A couple who have spent decades helping Boston kids stay safe and achieve their dreams; a Catholic priest who ministers to the city's most vulnerable; and a pioneering ENT physician with roots in Dublin.

These were the very worthy honorees at this year's Boston Irish Honors luncheon, which took place on October 18 in the main ballroom of Boston's Seaport Hotel.

Founded in 2010 as a way to celebrate the contributions of Irish-American families and individuals who have brought honor and distinction to our city and region over many decades, this event has become a welcome tradition in our fall calendar. The event last month was our 9th annual gathering, and it has become one of the season's premier celebrations of Irish-American achievement in Massachusetts.



This year, we were thrilled to tell the stories of four Boston Irish Americans: Mary and Bob Scannell, who have become surrogate parents to thousands of children as they lead the amazing Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester; Trevor McGill MD, who trained in medicine in his native Ireland and came to our city for a "brief stay," and for more than 40 years has

stay," and for more than 40 years has performed medical miracles here at Children's Hospital; and Father Richard "Doc" Conway, a Roman Catholic priest of the Boston archdiocese whom Boston Police Commissioner Willie Gross has nicknamed "Rev. Clint Eastwood."

These honorees represent the best qualities of the Irish— devotion to our fellow Bostonians; a sense of compassion for all people, no matter their place of birth or station in life; and a deep connection to our common ancestral homeland, Ireland.

In their personal and professional lives—as both individuals and with their families—they inspire us and our fellow citizens with their dedication to our country, to our Commonwealth, and to the neediest among us.

In the almost 30 years since the first edition of this newspaper, we have been amazed to learn about the accomplishments of so very many of our fellow Boston Irish neighbors, and we have been truly privileged to tell many of their stories. People of my generation will remember that phrase from a 1960s era television program- "There are 8 million stories in the city, and this is just one of them."

Joe Leary column Page 25.



From the very first sample edition, published in the fall of 1990, the BIR has "told the stories" of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of our neighbors who share our Irish ancestral roots, and have led exemplary lives right here in our midst.

Past Boston Irish Honorees include: 2017- the Kennedy family, Nora, Annmarie, Bill; Tom Tinlin, Kevin Cullen; 2016-Jim & Mary (Cahill) Judge, US Sen. Paul G Kirk Jr, Kevin & Joe Leary & family; 2015 - Margaret Stapleton, Mike Sheehan, BPD Commissioner William Evans & family; 2014 - Katherine Craven, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, the Burke family of South Boston; 2013-State Senate President Therese Murray, Gerry and Bob Mulligan & family, John P. Driscoll Jr. (posthumously); 2012 - Congressman Richard Neal, Brendan & Greg Feeney, Mary & Bob Muse family family; 2011- Kathleen O'Toole, State Sen. Tom Ken-

nedy, Joseph Corcoran family, James Hunt family, Mark & Tom Mulvoy and family. 2010 – US Sen. Ed Markey John Donohue, Jim Brett family, Mayor John Hynes family.

In today's BIR, three gifted writers, Jack Thomas, Peter Stevens, and Bill Forry have filed profiles of the 2018 honorees. We invite you to enjoy reading about them on Pages 7 to 16 in this annual celebration of the best in our Boston Irish community.

We are already planning for next year's event, and we hope to continue this luncheon celebration for years to come. We encourage you, dear readers, to send us your recommendations of other exemplary persons and families who help to make Boston's Irish communities vibrant and strong. We welcome hearing from you. You can contact the BIR at honors@bostonirish.com

A letter to my grandchildren

Dear "Magnificent Eleven,"

Having lived now almost 80 years, I thought it would be a good time to impart what wisdom I have accumulated in a long, happy, and productive life, the happiness being in no small part attributable to you. To tell the truth, the reason your grandmother and I had children was to get to you.



James W. Dolan

My life has spanned all or part of the terms of thirteen presidents, from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Donald J. Trump. From one of the best to one of the worst in our history. I recommend that you study history. It provides context, perspective, insights into human nature, and an awareness of things gained and lost. Progress, particularly in the areas of science and technology, is obvious. Less apparent and often not anticipated, is the price paid for it. More and more distrac-

tions tend to overwhelm us. Lost is the time to think, contemplate, or pray. Find time for simple things like nature, quiet reflection, and connections.

War is madness, mass murder on a gigantic scale. Too many have been fought in my lifetime, only two of which — World War II and perhaps Korea, in my opinion — were justified. Where is the sanity when young people of one country seek to maim or kill young

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Off the Bench

people of another over policies they do not understand and for which they are not responsible. Under different circumstances, they could be friends. I pray that in your lifetime, mankind will finally see the utter futility of war.

On a related subject, our obsession with guns is irrational. They are efficient instruments to maim or kill. Despite claims to the contrary, the reason this country has such a high murder/suicide rate is the availability of guns. There are more guns here than there are people. Nations that restrict guns have far fewer murders. Due to a dubious interpretation of the Second Amendment, there now exists a constitutional right to own a gun. Through the efforts of gun rights activists, gun ownership has taken on an almost religious fervor. If only such devotion were displayed for protecting human life!

I have always prayed for courage, fortitude (moral courage), wisdom, understanding, and self-control. These virtues, along with integrity, honor, and humility, are all part of what is known as character. A commitment to being principled should be an essential part of your development. It provides a solid foundation for anything you do.

Be as generous to your parents as you would like your children to be to you. We are all flawed and will make mistakes. Parents make mistakes, some of which they may not even be aware of. You, too, will make mistakes, perhaps not the same ones as your parents, but you will make them. Part of loving is understanding and forgiveness. Remember: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." It asks for understanding and forgiveness in the same portion that we provide it. Those who hold grudges for real or imagined grievances usually expect antipathy in return and are often won over when, instead, they receive love and understanding. Try throwing a "love bomb" to someone who is angry or alienated. It often works.

Avoid being drawn into controversies over matters unimportant, damaging, or senseless. Refuse to engage in personal disputes, the consequences of which may be far more damaging than the underlying grievance. Strive to be a peacemaker even to the point of apologizing for a real or imagined offense. Anger invariably makes a bad situation worse.

There are reasonable arguments for and against the existence of God. Both require a leap of faith. I have concluded that the only thing more preposterous than belief in God is to believe there is no God. To think that the cosmos, nature, and life are the result of some enormous cataclysm, an endless series of coincidences/

accidents without any rhyme or reason, is folly. While I do not understand it, I believe there is planning and purpose (some call it "intelligent design") behind evolution. Without a creator, where did the stuff that initiated this ever-so-complex process come from?

I also believe in transcendent virtues. Truth, love, and justice, are not mere artifacts, customs, or social norms that evolved but can change over time. They are absolute, and further evidence of a deity. We may not do a good job of understanding and applying these virtues, but they are not malleable, artificial, or subjective. They are the standards by which our success or failure as human beings will be measured. They are further defined in the Beatitudes, Ten Commandments and the Declaration of Independence.

As a Christian, I accept the teaching that we are all ultimately accountable for our behavior; good is rewarded and evil punished by a merciful God. Otherwise, Hitler and Stalin would escape into oblivion and never have to answer for their monstrous deeds. Without absolute justice, the poor, sick, suffering, and oppressed of the world would share the same fate as despots.

The rich and powerful no more merit opportunities and success than the disadvantaged of the world deserve their pain and suffering. True justice requires a final reckoning, a balancing, when a person's capacity to do good or evil is measured against his or her actions. Only an all-knowing God can make that judgment. Human justice is flawed in several respects: It is limited by an inability to always establish the truth, arbitrary in in its application, and more concerned with behavior than capacity. Legal or illegal is no substitute for knowing right from wrong.

Transcendent love is the paramount virtue from which all others flow. Because of obvious flaws in human nature, mankind is incapable of selfless love, fully identifying truth or doing justice, individual or social. Love, truth, and justice as we know them are only pale reflections of the absolute virtues embodied in God. Our job is to strive to achieve them as best we can.

In my opinion, the fundamental weakness in human nature is not "original sin" but free will. We were given it as a gift and a burden. Without it, we would be like robots, not responsible for our actions. Implicit in free will is the capacity to sin. Christian redemption was an act of supreme love wherein Christ died to atone for the inevitable evil that would result in the exercise of free will.

Love you all! You have been life's greatest gifts.

- Papa

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

Point of View

A TALE OF TWO IRISH AMERICANS

By Peter F. Stevens BIR Staff

"Trust" them. If you have a preexisting condition, your fate may literally rest in the hands of an Irish American judge whom an Irish-American senator sent to the US Supreme Court with her pivotal confirmation vote. That senator, Susan Collins, of Maine, trusts that Judge Kavanaugh will keep his word. After all, he "assured" her face to face that he would never, ever vote to strike down mandated coverage for preexisting conditions nor to chip away at Roe v. Wade. His word is his bond, Collins snarled in her oh-so-righteous indignation that anyone could have any doubts about Judge Kavanaugh's honesty. For the sake of her own political career and for the sake of millions of Americans who grapple with preexisting conditions and agonize over the threat to life-preserving healthcare, Collins had better be right.

In 2017, Collins stood up for healthcare protections with fellow GOP Senators Lisa Murkowski and, most notably, the late Sen. John McCain to thwart their president's and their party's obsession with eradicating the Affordable Care Act—without offering any semblance of a real replacement. According to Collins, Kavanaugh—despite his evasions and outright refusal to answer any questions about his past views of Obamacare and its protections of preexisting conditions—Collins is convinced that the jurist will safeguard them.

Here's the thing: What did Kavanaugh say in private to the Republican Collins that was 180 degrees removed from what he asserted to Democratic Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, of Rhode Island, in their closed-door meet and greet? Whitehouse told Politico reporter Dan Diamond that Kavanaugh "had told him privately—that he [Kavanaugh] could not commit to upholding the pre-existing conditions protection." In his confirmation hearings, Judge Kavanaugh bobbed, weaved, and slithered away from any and all questions about the issue, hiding behind what he called "nominee precedent."

Don't worry, Collins contends. He gave her his word. One can either believe what he told her or what he told Senator Whitehouse. Both politicians can't be telling the truth unless Kavanaugh told a different story to both.

If a case titled Texas v. Azar barges its way before the Supreme Court, Collins's trust in Kavanaugh will be put to the test. Filed by 20 Republican attorneys US Sen. Susan Collins has faith that Kavanaugh will keep his word



general, the argument is that since Congress eviscerated the ACA's individual mandate, it follows that what's left of "Obamacare" must also be tossed out as unconstitutional. That includes protections for preexisting condition.

Perhaps Collins believes legal experts who assert that the case is shaky; however, if it comes to an actual vote before Kavanaugh and his new colleagues, she might discover that his word was as vague, even fraudulent, as when he was pressed in the confirmation hearings about his alleged high-school nickname—"Bart." Even though a letter he wrote as a teen was signed "Bart," he still refused to acknowledge the nickname was his.

Of course, the seemingly innocent question came against the larger and heated backdrop of Dr. Ford's allegations of sexual misconduct against the judge. Wherever one comes down on – did Dr. Ford or Judge Kavanaugh told the truth? – Kavanaugh stubbornly refrained from admitting he was — by his own youthful handwriting — "Bart" Kavanaugh. Someone so willing to "bend" the truth about something that obvious now sits on the nation's highest court. Democrats' fantasy that they can impeach him is lunacy. Collins does not deserve the death threats from those enraged by her vote. No senator does. All of them, though, deserve the judgment of their voters. In 2020, Collins might well discover that her supreme confidence in Kavanaugh's veracity was delusional. If so, her constituents will remember her guarantees.

so, her constituents will remember her guarantees. Collins and a great many other Republican senators

have been delusional or duplicitous about one other key aspect of the Kavanaugh hearings. It defies all reason for anyone to profess that they believe both Kavanaugh and Ford. Anyone who supported the judge should man up or woman up and declare that they believe Dr. Ford either lied or was and is crazy. Also, don't believe Senator Leader Mitch McConnell's viscous praise of Collins as some latter-day version of her self-professed Maine role model, the late Senator Margaret Chase Smith. Smith took on Joe McCarthy by castigating her own political party; Collins merely fell in lock step with McConnell's party line. McConnell blurted out recently just what that blueprint includes: slashing Social Security, Medicare, and Medicare to pay for the president's and the GOP's trillion-plus tax giveaway to the wealthiest among us.

Don't hold your breath for any genuine profile in courage to magically emerge in the US Senate. The jaw-dropping parade of profiles in cowardice by both parties in the Trump Era trudges on.

Carping over the Man Booker Prize Winner Born and raised in Belfast, Anna Burns has become the first writer from Northern Ireland to win the prestigious Man Booker Award for Fiction. Earning her the honor was her third novel, "Milkman."

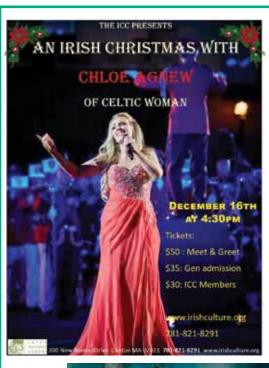
Burns grew up in the working-class Catholic district of Ardoyne and now resides in East Sussex, in England. Her work has drawn deeply from her coming of age in Belfast amid The Troubles, her first novel, "No Bones," capturing the strife in ways that garnered comparisons to James Joyce. "Milkman" has drawn similar comments from reviewers. It is an experimental work that challenges the readers, and for those who favor fiction that rips along, Burns's lyrical prose compels one to consider every word. She pulls the reader into the complex emotional and physical world of her narrator, a nameless 18-year-old depicted simply as "middle sister." An ominous, much older man relentlessly pursues her. A dreaded para-miltary figure, he is known as "the Milkman."

A number of critics have derided "Milkman" as a

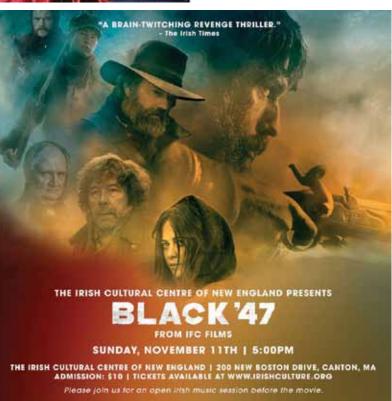
wrong-headed choice for the Booker, complaining that it is everything from ponderous and unfocused to pretentious. It is none of these. Challenging, yes, but well worth the time spent in the author's and "middle sister's" world.

"middle sister's" world.

("Milkman," Anna Burns, Graywolf Press, paperback reprint edition, Dec. 11, 2018, ISBN-10: 1644450003; ISBN-13: 978-1644450000, 360 pp.)









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Preparing for winter with IIIC Wellness

As we head into the colder months and approach the holidays, IIIC's Wellness team is always available to problem solve and to figure out the next step. Rachel Reisman, LICSW, and Siobhan Kelly, BSW, are here to chat with you and have great resources to help you along your journey. Never hesitate to be in touch, send an email, check out our Facebook, or give us a call!

IIIC's Wellness team would also like to sincerely thank Carol Gaudreau of Cathedral Cares and the BC School of Nursing for their wonderful partnership with our recent free flu clinic! We saw a great

vaccinations to 50 members of our community, including Irish students and immigrants from around the world. This was a great way for us to prepare for the chilly New England months ahead, which is always accompanied by flu season! We appreciate the support of our partners and all who joined us, and look forward to seeing you next year! Stay healthy!

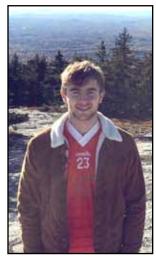
Rachel and Siobhan, 617-542-7654, rreisman@ iiicenter.org/skelly@ iiicenter.org.

Follow us on Facebook: @IIICOut reach and Well-



IIIC's Case Manager, Siobhan Kelly, is joined by Carol Gaudreau of Cathedral Cares and nurses from Boston College to host a free community flu shot clinic.

Irish student finds a home away from home in Boston



When Paddy Clarke stepped off the plane at Logan Airport this year, it was a dream come true. Paddy hails from County Derry and was about to begin a year-long journey working in Boston. After spending a summer in America in 2016, he knew the J-1 Irish Work and Travel visa was an opportunity not to be missed: When I realized the op-

Paddy enjoying all that New England has to offer in the autumn on a recent hike.

portunity that there was [...] I was adamant that I'd live here for a year." Determined to realize this dream, Paddy spent two years saving to be able to afford to move to Boston on a J-1 visa.

A current Queen's University Belfast student in mechanical engineering, Paddy knows the meaning of hard work and dedication. He decided to take a year out of university to focus on his career and understand what he wanted for the future. Without the experience of interning in America,

Paddy feared that his career choices would have been much more limited. The J-1 enables him to "find a career path" and broaden his horizons: "In many ways you could say my work is almost preparing me better for final year than my previous two years studying prepared me for work.

Paddy is currently an assistant project manager for MG2 Group, an investment property firm. He enjoys his position so much he knows he now wants to take management courses in his final year at Queen's.

There will be no homesickness for Paddy, who describes Boston as his "home away from home" due to the city's strong Irish heritage. His favorite place to relax is Lo Presti Park, East Boston, where there are "unparalleled views over the city" which he enjoys while "shooting hoops and playing soccer on the pitches."

A keen sports fan, Paddy has played Gaelic football in Ireland for twelve years. He couldn't wait to get involved in American sports and has attended

multiple games such as the New England Revolution, the Boston Celtics and the Bruins. He loves the great atmosphere and Boston's "very passionate sporting fans.

bostonirish.com

But he is able to keep up with his love of Gaelic football here and says the most memorable part of his J-1 experience has been "the network of friends I've built [...] a lot of which is down to joining Cork Boston Gaelic Football Club.'

Immigration Q&A

Permanent residence through a marriage: right way, wrong way

Q. I'm a US citizen who is engaged to be married to a man from Ireland. He is there now and we want to live in the US after we're married. Can he just come here as a visitor on the 90-day visa waiver, get married, and apply for a green card? Or can we get married in Ireland, after which he comes to the US on the visa waiver and then files his application?

A. Emphatically no in both cases. This is a fundamental mistake that is not at all obvious to people who don't know the ins and outs of the relevant immigration law, and it happens quite frequently. The problem is that the visa waiver (as well as travel on most temporary visas) is granted on the basis of what the law calls "non-immigrant intent," that is, the person traveling honestly intends to stay in the US for no longer than the period allowed by US Customs and Border Protection at the port of entry. On the other hand, someone entering with temporary permission but who actually intends to stay in the US - to apply for a green card or for some other reason – has "immigrant intent." So the immigration authorities would conclude that the while the application is being processed.

person had committed "visa fraud," which, generally speaking, renders him ineligible for benefits such as permanent residence and indeed subjects him to removal from the US and a bar to entering this country from abroad in the future.

There, are however, two basic ways to get legal permanent residence for your future husband without legal problems. In general terms, they are:

(1) The fiancé visa. You, the US citizen, file a petition with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for your future husband. This process includes providing proof that the two of you have met personally during the last 2 years and intend to marry in the US. Once USCIS grants the petition, the US State Department takes over the case. Ultimately your fiancé has an interview at the US Consulate in Dublin. He receives the visa and travels to the US, after which he has 90 days to marry you. As soon as the marriage has taken place, he can immediately file for permanent residence with USCIS and remain here

(2) Consular processing for an immigrant (permanent resident) visa. With this option, you get married abroad. Then you file a petition with USCIS and, again, once it is granted the case is transferred to the US State Department. Your future husband then files an application for an immigrant visa, has an interview at the US Consulate, receives the visa, and travels to the US – only this time he enters with permanent residence already granted and no further applications need to be filed in the US.

Which option is preferable for a particular couple depends on the details of individual cases. You can visit one of our weekly legal clinics as noted in this edition for a free, confidential discussion of the options.

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Immigration law is always subject to change. 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 IIIC immigration legal staff.





Kerry Kennedy Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

Leadership Award



Northern Ireland Bureau Trinidadian Immigrant Service Award



Norman Houston OBE Shevonne De Pina Courage Award

For more information, please contact Megan Miller at 617.695.1554 or mmiller@iiicenter.org

DECEMBER 6, 2018 | SEAPORT HOTEL BOSTON

5:30pm Registration and Reception | 6:30pm Dinner and Program

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Irish International Immigrant Center's immigration attorneys and social workers are available at our weekly clinics for confidential, legal consultations, and case representation for all immigrants during this time of uncertainty and concern in our community. For information, or if you or anyone you know would like to speak to an immigration attorney, please call us at 617-542-7654.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule

(Clinics are in the evening – please do not arrive more than 30 minutes before your's begins)

Downtown Boston - IIIC, One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston – Tuesdays, Nov. 6 and 20 at 4 p.m; Brighton – The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington

Street – Mon., Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m.; Dorchester – St. Mark's Parish, 1725 Dorchester Avenue – Wed.,. Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Citizenship Clinics-IIIC offices in Boston-Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. Walk-ins are welcome!

Our downtown Boston location is fully accessible by public transportation.

Phone: 617-542-7654; Fax: 617-542-7655; iiicenter.org.



Congratulations to the

2018 Boston Irish Honorees





Bill Forry, Aidan Browne, Dr. Trevor McGill, Ed Forry.



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Mike & Maureen Sheehan



The Boston Irish Honors 2018 for Distinguished Public Service

Rev. Richard 'Doc' Conway, Shepherd of the Streets, man for others, sums up his life: 'God was good to me'

BY JACK THOMAS

Late one recent afternoon, while the rest of us were worried about the big things in life, like Kate Middleton's net worth, Melania's safari helmet, and whether A-Rod feels constrained by JLo, an elderly Roman Catholic priest named Fr. Richard Conway, or "Doc," as everyone knows him, was doing what he often does, walking the streets of immigrant Dorchester, speaking in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and worrying about the small things in life, like whether Tony Barbosa would be deported, at age 30, to Cape Verde, a country he's never seen, and whether Zamira, three, will sip booze from her great-grandfather's plastic cup, and about the next tour Fr. Conway will lead for students of Boston College High School that will open their eyes to poverty, crime, and desperation in a part of Dorchester unknown on the hard-bitten streets of Hingham, Newton, and Wellesley.

The Boston Irish Reporter is honoring Fr. Conway for his remarkable ministry in Dorchester as an indefatigable advocate for marginalized youths, and yet, that does not fully describe the six decades in which he has contributed to Greater Boston, and especially now, at age 80, what he is giving to the youth of Dorchester, to the image of the Catholic Church, and to the heritage of Irish clergy.

In nine years, Fr. Conway is the first person to offer not to receive the Boston Irish Honors award. After recipients were notified, the Roman Catholic Church was rocked by news of a sex scandal in Pennsylvania, and in an act of grace, Fr. Conway telephoned the publisher of the Boston Irish Reporter, Ed Forry, to say that if the newspaper wanted to withdraw the award, he would understand.

His ministry in St. Peter Parish on Meetinghouse Hill, St. Ambrose in Fields Corner, and St. Teresa of Calcutta on Columbia Road, formerly St. Margaret's, and especially his courageous walks through gritty neighborhoods to encourage troubled youth, rather like a Shepherd of the Streets, he is a reminder that when Jesus said to his disciples, "Follow Me," what he may have had in mind was Fr. Conway, or as Christ would have called him, "Doc."

Richard Conway grew up in Roslindale, graduated from Boston College High School and St. John's Seminary, and was ordained



Nora Baston, now a superintendent in the Boston Police Department who heads up the new Bureau of Community Engagement, has long worked with Rev. Conway as they pursue an improved quality of life on inner-city Boston's streets. "Father Doc is being far too modest in saying that all he does is walk the streets," said Baston in 2014. "There's so much more to the daily life and charitable work of thistruly remarkable human being." Tom Kates Photography/Photography for BC High web site and publications.

in 1963, but it was not until 1980, after he government surplus in Taunton, but we needed had served parishes in South Weymouth, Framingham, West Quincy, and Hyde Park, that he found his ministry to the poor at St. Patrick's, Lowell, a parish suffocated by debt and challenged by rampant immigration, by an impoverished congregation that had dwindled from 5,500 to 2,000, and by financial credit so weak the parish could no longer borrow money. Even the milkman was owed \$2,000.

Later, after serving in Newton, Concord, Shirley, Randolph, Brockton, and Somerville, Fr. Conway was assigned to Dorchester, and in its focus on the poor and upon immigrants, the Dorchester ministry is a bookend to his early work in Lowell, where he learned lessons not taught at seminary.

"In our Lowell parish most immigrants were Southeast Asian, and they had nothing," he recalls in his office at St. Teresa. "They were sleeping on floors, and we hustled mattresses, beds, any furniture. We had access to cheap

an inexpensive way to move it, and I thought, maybe a tractor-trailer."

Driving a tractor-trailer is another lesson not taught at seminary, so Fr. Conway found a junkyard where he could practice on a 27-footer so decrepit the passenger seat was a folding chair. Because the truck would not qualify for a sticker, the owner, an ex-cop, got in touch with a guy who finagled a sticker.

Alas, however, Fr. Conway flunked the

"The cop said, 'I'd *give* you the license, Father, but my boss has been watching you knock over all these orange cones.' So he sent me to a guy in East Boston, and after a few lessons, I passed."

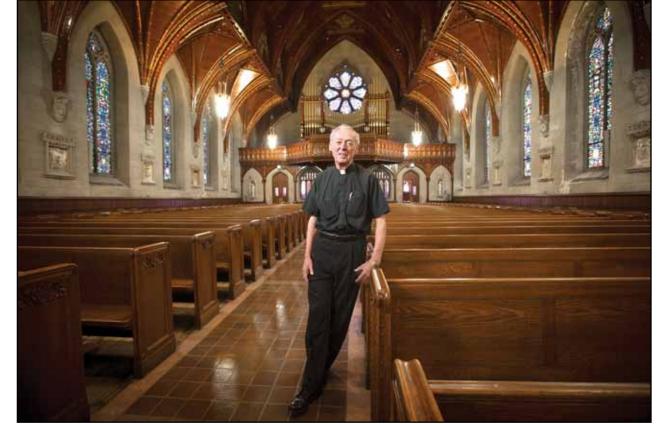
He cannot be the first priest to have wondered whether seminary might have better prepared a young priest to run a big parish by dropping one course in, say, the Pentateuch, and adding a course in - plumbing.

In Lowell, Fr. Conway said, "the equipment was old, but we had a plumbing-heating guy in the congregation who gave me lessons in using alligator clips, wired together, to jumpstart the boiler and also in how to drain its water."

The seminary might have dropped that course in Liturgical Chants in favor of a class in conflict resolution, because parish priests run into conflicts every day. Fr. Conway's docility camouflages a tenacity against anyone taking advantage of God's churches, and here's an example:

In Newton, at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Fr. Conway was troubled by a parishioner who parked illegally every day in church lot, making it difficult to plow, so he left a note telling the man not to park there.

"The guy said, 'But I'm in the parish.' I said, 'Then, you get our report and know the average weekly contribution is \$2?' Yeah, he said, and so I told him, "You're telling me that for two bucks a week, you want three priests, a heated church, and free parking in Newton? You gotta be crazy.' Well, he hung up, but he never parked there again. I can be a son of a bitch."



Rev. Richard "Doc" Conway at home in St. Peter's Church in Spring 2014.

Tom Kates Photography



The Boston Irish Honors 2018

After assignment to Concord and then Shirley, Fr. Conway was assigned to St. Margaret's in Brockton, home to so many Cape Verdeans that he enrolled in a course to study Portuguese.

Another class not taught in seminary is how to handle inspectors who arrive on Friday to shut down a decrepit Brockton church.

The conversation was brief.

"You're not closing this church," said Fr. Conway.

"Oh, yes we are. We're going to put a notice on the door."

"I'll take the notice down."

"We'll chain the door."

"Then I'll break the chain. We've got Mass on Sunday and a funeral Monday, and I'm gonna bury the guy out of this church."

Thanks to that defiance, Mass was celebrated Sunday and the funeral Monday, but eventually, the diocese closed the church rather than invest a million dollars in repairs. In the interim, and with approval of the diocese, Fr. Conway arranged for Roman Catholic Masses, weddings, and funerals, to be held at the neighboring Lutheran Church, an ecumenical collaboration unheard of at the time.

"When the closing of the parish was upon us, we had \$2,000 in the bank, and the parish council met for a regular meeting, then reassembled across the street at the Cape Cod Café, where a decision was made to blow the money on a big parish picnic, which we did."

For Fr. Conway, the next stop was Dorchester, St. Ambrose, and needing to preach in Spanish, he took lessons from a secretary.

"The first time I preached in Spanish without notes, I was talking about the parable of the mustard seed, but I couldn't remember the word for it. I shouted, 'What's the Spanish word for mustard seed?' Nobody understood, so I gestured, 'You know, the stuff you put on a hot dog?' And everybody yelled out, 'Semilla de mostaza.' "

At a time in America when enmity has displaced comity, Fr. Conway navigates the poor neighborhoods with the tact of Jesus, and no one is more in awe of his skill than Boston's new commissioner of police, William G. Gross.

"Fr. Conway is one of my favorite people in the world. I met him after a controversial shooting near Uphams Corner. The neighborhood was upset, but when I saw him talking to kids, I liked his demeanor, his candor, and I thought, 'Wow, here's a priest who doesn't hide behind the pulpit, but goes into homes of gang members and speaks to Cape Verdeans in Portuguese, and in his duty to God, he's tenacious, a real bad ass."

After the nomadic years, Fr. Conway has settled into what may be his most productive ministry. Technically retired, he works a full week, officiating at services and interacting



Sitting on the sidewalk, Arthur Gerald, is dining on what he identifies as Chinese chicken, and sitting in his lap is his great granddaughter, Zamira Alexander, 3, who offers her plastic fork with a morsel of chicken to Fr. Conway. "No, you have it," he says, and then whispers to Gerald, "Don't let her drink any of that," he says, pointing to plastic cup with alcohol.

Boston Police photo

with parishioners in an area that encompasses half of Dorchester, Boston's most diverse

neighborhood (Pop. 124,000).

"I fight with Boston College High School all the time. There's a teacher who asks me to walk her kids around the parish. Nora Baston comes with me. She's a superintendent with the police. We walk Bowdoin Street, and I tell the students, 'I don't' know what you pay for sports equipment, but kids here don't have money for that. They struggle. They live in three-deckers, one parent, the threat of drugs and a shooting on the streets every week, for crying out loud."

"After one tour, I got a letter from a junior at BC, Ryan Murray of Scituate, who said the stories about drugs, gang violence, shootings, and domestic violence had touched his heart. "I highly admire your work of trying to bring the community together through block parties ... because they aren't blessed with the privacy of huge backyards like other people have."

"Rents for a two-bedroom start at \$1,800. How do these people survive? They depend on extras. We run a food pantry twice a week. We've got people coming out of a family shelters, and they get into an apartment under Section 8. We went into one new apartment and all they had in the kitchen was two pots, one for beans, one for rice.

"So we made a list: plates, glasses, bedding, a bathroom plunger, and sent it to parishes and said 'Help us." We collect the stuff in a garage

behind St. Peter, and we send word to shelters for people to take what they need."

Capt. Jack Danilecki, a night commander with the Boston Police who met Fr. Conway 12 years ago in Roxbury, describes him as an inspiration.

"A hot summer night, eight o'clock, and he'll call to say we should walk the neighborhoods. I'd moan, 'oh, c'mon, Doc,' but I couldn't say no. So he in his collar and me in uniform, we'd walk tense neighborhoods and he'd talk to kids bad to the core. Having Doc in my life makes me a better man."

The tales Fr. Conway tells are not always flattering to clergy.

"In Hyde Park. I was with a priest who loved the horses. So, we get a call from the State Police because they found this little black box at Suffolk Downs, the racetrack, on Good Friday. 'Yeah,' the priest told the cops. 'It's my Mass kit. After services, I thought I'd catch a couple of races.' "

Fr. Conway is bold enough to disagree with the Vatican on controversial issues, like women as priests

"The church should operate like the missions. My sister was in Peru as a nun, in prisons and hospitals, and she told me that many priests in missions have a "housekeeper," and people don't care. Women as priests? We could adjust."

Along with many priests, he was in the front lines of Boston history during the busing crisis. As the only white person aboard a bus bearing

(Continued on next page)





The Boston Irish Honors 2018

Priest rescues a parish from debt,

By SHARON BRITTON Sun Staff

LOWELL - With radio rock music playing in the background, there's an easy-going feeling in the kitchen of St. Patrick's rectory.

Parishioner Carol Evans sits across the table from the pastor, the Rev. Richard Conway, planning a light after-Mass menu.

Chain smoking all the while, Conway, known as "Doc" by his friends, is interrupted several times to take phone calls. Rectory staffers offer good-natured wisecracks to the the pastor as they come and go. Conway fires off sharp comebacks.

The friendly, buoyant spirit of the kitchen spills out the back door into the church yard and sprawling urban parish of tenements, public housing projects and Irish, French, Greek, Hispanic and Asian residents.

As Conway walks through the poorest section of the Acre parish, which stretches from the parishioner

November 2018

Connell saw St. Patrick's as an Irish parish only and did little to recognize Hispanic or French parishioners, said Poitras.

"It was tough. The church was just going down... All Father Connell did was talk about money," said parishioner Carol Evans.

He aimed to close the parish grammar school and wouldn't let parishioners participate in decisions about how to spend funds.

"The church was in rough shape," said Evans. "The downstairs church was a foot of water all the time."

Parishioners complained to Lowell's Bishop John M. D'Arcy and Cardinal Humberto Medeiros Conway was installed as parish administrator five years ago and eventually replaced Connell, who resigned as pastor.

'Discouraging'



mind of Archbishop Law as significant city," said Bisho D'Arcy, who was bishop of th Lowell region for four years an now heads the diocese of Sout Bend-Fort Wayne, Indiana.

"The debt that Lowell owes thim (Conway) is the restoration of that beautiful parish," he said.

Conway's greatest strengt, said D'Arcy, is that "he sees the priesthood in a very full manner. He's not just a priest of the sanctuary." Conway knows ho to get people to work togethe and how to foster cooperation from city officials, said D'Arce "He can go into City Hall and go anything he wants."

Conway visits City Hall ofter and doesn't make apologies for going there to solve problems to get cooperation on neighborhood events. "If you're trying get something for somebod then that's where you have to a to get it," he said.

In 1984 the Lowell Sun recounted the way Rev. Conway showed the managerial side to his ministry.

black youngsters to school in South Boston, he heard the hateful language and heard the rocks pinging off the bus. "I felt so bad for those kids, and for the cops, too, because people turned on them.

At 11 o'clock Mass at St. Teresa, before a magnificent altar of wood, stone, and marble, where candles flickered and morning light shimmered through stained glass windows onto sprays of Autumn flowers, Fr. Conway delivered a brief homily on family life in words of comfort, neither condemnatory nor demanding.

"The breakdown of family is probably the biggest problem in our society ... In St. Peter Parish in 1945, there were 180 weddings. Last year there was one, and the year before, none ... the greatest support for marriage is dependence on God through prayer

and worship ... ask God to be part of your marriage and family."

On an hour-long walk along littered Bowdoin Street, he visits the usual commercial enterprises, beauty parlors, fast food joints, popup "universal" churches behind grated windows, and the occasional exotic establishment like Cesaria, where stewed goat with yucca is served along with live Cape Verdean Creole music.

Teenagers wave from across the street. At Johnny's, barbers leave customers in the chairs and come to the door to greet Fr. Conway. Sometimes he has to speak above flashy convertibles blasting cacophonous Caribbean music.

Here are highlights:

• "That house," he said, pointing to a three-decker, "a girl accused her mother and stepfather

of bullying, and so the girl moves in with her grandmother in Charlestown. So I get her a job with the city, and when she finishes her application, she asks me: 'Will they take you if you're pregnant?' Well, she had twins. The father was a drug dealer. She was 15 years old."

• An older man interrupts the tuning of his guitar, and grasps Fr. Conway's hand, pressing it to his forehead, a Portuguese bid for blessing.

• Fr. Conway leans down to a schoolgirl tapping her cell phone. "Did your boyfriend text you back?" She looks up, suspiciously, then laughs. "I ain't got no boyfriend."

• "We had a shooting here, a guy was shot right through that door."

• Sitting on the sidewalk, Arthur Gerald is dining on what he identifies as Chinese chicken, and sitting in his lap is his great granddaughter, Zamira Alexander, 3, who offers her plastic fork with a morsel of chicken to Fr. Conway. "No, you have it," he says, and then whispers to Gerald, "Don't let her drink any of that," he says, pointing to plastic cup with alcohol.

Richard Conway never had a second thought about being a priest, but what else might he have done?

"If I had been thrown out of seminary, a strong possibility, I would have taught political science. Philosophically, I'm a Bill Buckley Republican, and for president, I wrote in 'Jesus Christ.'"

Having survived triple-bypass surgery, he jogs several times a week to keep his weight at 155, but at 80, the thought of death is never far off, and he's planned his funeral.

"If I get shot, then my funeral will be at St. Peter, with dinner at the teen center, and if I die of natural causes, it'll be at South Weymouth, because they have a downstairs where you can have dinner and an open bar.

"The music will be the "March of the Hebrew Slaves" from "Nabucco," he says, humming a few bars. First reading is from the prophet Micah, about walking with the Lord, and the Gospel from Matthew, about separation of sheep and goats.

"For the program, most people use a picture of themselves, but I've chosen a formal photograph of my parents, my siblings, and me, because, without family, where the hell are you?"

Asked about the first paragraph of his obituary, which will sum up his life, he demurs from mentioning his many achievements.

"I would hope it acknowledges that God was good to me."

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

THE CONWAY FILE In his own words

- The nickname "Doc" comes from my father's vocation. Someone called me that in fifth grade and for some reason it stuck. Neither of my two brothers who became doctors ever had the nickname.
- My father's family was from a small village in Galway. My mother's family was a mix of Welsh and Irish. My father grew up on Mission Hill and went to Mission Grammar School, in the same class as former Massachusetts Gov. Maurice J. Tobin.
- My father's office started in the home at 950 South St. in Roslindale. After a few kids in the house, my grandmother, and an occasional relative from Ireland, the office was moved to Beacon St. in Brookline. When he retired from active practice, he was an assistant administrator at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and we were living in Newton.
- The oldest, my sister Ellen or Sister Mary Pedro, SMSM, a Marist sister who spent most of her life in Lima, Peru, as a chaplain at Lurigancho Prison, died in July 2016. I am second. I was ordained in 1963 with four others from Holy Name parish. Third is Jim (BCH '57), a retired urologist now living in Manchester, NH. He met his wife Ruth while both were serving in the military in Da Nang. They have six kids.

Next came Mary, a graduate of Emmanuel (as was my mother). She taught school for a while and then started her family - three kids. Then there is Michael, who retired from the phone company. A CM grad (we didn't hold that against him), he never married.

The youngest is Steve (BCH 65). He was an



"Dickie" Conway with his parents Dr. James and Mary Conway of Roslindale after his First Communion.

ophthalmologist in Rhode Island. Lectured at Brown Medical and taught eye plastics at Tufts Medical. Unfortunately, he died in 2013 with Alzheimer's disease. He left four children, one a BC grad who became a pediatrician.



The Boston Irish Honors 2018 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

Bob and Mary Scannell: Power couple who empower Dorchester's kids and teenagers

BY BILL FORRY

Boston is a city blessed with a cadre of "power couples" who combine talents to lead us in business, media, and philanthropic endeavors and even in our sports franchises.

Then there are couples who are powerful because they empower others. They take on the mission of uplifting whole communities and the young people on whom our collective future rests.

Bob Scannell and Mary Kinsella glide easily between these two definitions. But they are most at home in Dorchester, the neighborhood to which they have devoted their working lives since the late 1980s. The Scannells have built their Boys and Girls Club campus into a sanctuary and a springboard—launching countless careers, saving scores, perhaps hundreds, from often unforgiving streets, and acting as surrogate parents to three generations—and counting—of Bostonians.

Meanwhile, they managed to raise their own family, a trio of children — Olivia, 23, Bobby, 21, and Julia, 18— who are their pride and joy.

Together, they are a "force of nature," says Lee Kennedy, one of the region's leading builders, who himself has devoted many years to Dorchester as the club's board chairman.

"I have known Bob and Mary for more than 25 years and there are no more thoughtful, selfless, and tireless people in our community," said Kennedy. "We consider ourselves very blessed at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester to have their daily care and leadership."

Bob Scannell arrived on Deer Street in Dorchester in 1988. He was fresh out of Suffolk University, by way of BC High, which would one day honor him with its highest alumni honor, the Ignatian Medal. The Scannell family, led by Robert Sr. and his wife Gerry, were Mission Hill, second-generation Americans with roots in County Cork. Bob and his siblings spent their formative years in Brockton and Milton.

He didn't expect to stay too long in Dorchester. "I figured I'd spend a couple of years here. I always wanted to run a business and work with kids," Scannell said. "I figured I'd spend two years, you know, kind of learn the ropes. Get something and move on. It just didn't work out that way, you know. But I've enjoyed it from Day One."

Mary, fresh out of college herself, joined the staff in 1989. Bob met her as the sister of his best friend, Richard 'Dick' Kinsella. A romance soon blossomed, much to the delight of Bob's older sister, Susan Young, who recalls that Mary Kinsella was—and is—"a knockout." The two married in 1992.

The club— as everyone calls it in-house—was then known more broadly as the Marr Club, a nod to the Marr family and, specifically, Colonel Daniel Marr, whose generosity and vision led to a clubhouse on what was once a forlorn lot off of Savin Hill Avenue.

When Bob Scannell took charge, he had no idea that the city was about to plunge into some of its most violent and turbulent days. Crack cocaine, intense poverty, cheap guns, and a gang culture conspired to make some streets within a mile of the club treacherous, especially for kids and teens. In 1990, 153people— many of them club-aged teenagers from Dorchester— were killed on Boston's streets.

As the violence churned and summer loomed, the club — led by Bob Scannell and board members like Maureen Peterson—sprang into action.

"We sat over at the Phillip's [Old Colony



Bob and Mary Scannell are a "force of nature," says Lee Kennedy, the board chairman of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester. The couple have devoted 30 years—and counting—of their lives to the kids, teens, and families of Dorchester. Below: The Scannell clan includes Bob and Mary's children, from left, Julia, 18, Olivia, 23, and Bobby, 21.

Scannell family photos



House] in a conference room with some key staff and the board and we said, 'We've got to do something,'" Bob recalled. "'We can't close at 5 p.m. We've got to stay open for the teens.' Those were the dire times. There was no money. And the casualties were stacking up. One hundred-and-fifty-three murders. My God, it's startling to think back to that. But, we did that with no resources. We found a way."

The way was Safe Summer Streets — an allencompassing, on-site summer camp that ran for 14 hours each day. Kids and teens flocked into the clubhouse early in the morning and stayed late, many of them getting a ride home from staff members after-hours because the streets were too hot.

The year 1990 was a turning point because

Safe Summer Streets — a emergency response to an acute problem— kicked off a period of steady growth at the club as Bob and Mary and their team identified needs and met them.

The kids were showing up hungry and staying hungry, so a meals program was developed and implemented. The teens needed their own space. The club hustled to raise new dollars, secure land, and build the Paul R. McLaughlin Teen Center facing out onto Dorchester Ave. Child care and early childhood education— a particular focus of Mary Kinsella Scannell— expanded and perfected its model.

The base membership cost per child per year has stayed the same since Bob's tenure began:

(Continued on next page)

The Boston Irish Honors 2018

\$5 a year. There's no other deal like it in the

"The money should never be a barrier for the opportunities like the type we offer here," he explains. "That will never happen. That's why we fund raise. That's the bill. Families don't need to come up with that money."

Like the community it serves, not all of the club's families are impoverished. In fact, the diversity of children and teens - both ethnically and economically – is what makes it special, says Mary. Parents who are struggling with finances or any kind of adversity - and their kids- are able to model behavior on other families who are in a better place at that moment. It's a form of community building that defies some of the pre-set expectations of a youth center in a place like Dorchester.

"It's very diverse on all levels," she says. "It's not just like the poorest of the poor, you know? So often funders try to make us fit into this box where we only do this, we only serve this. And what makes our programs different and

enriched are the people."

"It's never the same day," she says. "Like when we go to Disney World [an annual trip that has been ongoing thanks to the generosity of Don Rodman of Rodman Ford since 1992] every year. It's never the same because you get to see it through the eyes of a child who has never left Boston."

Part of that diversity is now inclusive of children and teens with physical or mental disabilities – a cohort of city youth that was, for many years, forgotten or sectioned off. With partners like Brendan McDonough and the Martin Richard Foundation - which now funds a special inclusive league based at the club called 'Challenger' — these kids can learn to play baseball, basketball, and other sports, using a buddy-system that engages other club members.

"We are big admirers of Mary and Bob Scannell," said Bill and Denise Richard. "Mary and Bob's efforts improve the quality of life for all of us here in Dorchester. They continue to be that steady influence for families in need, and with an eye to the future for other ways they can help. We can't wait to see what's in store next!"

The nature of their work has kept the Scannells grounded in more ways than one. Bob, for instance, has never been to Ireland, his ancestral homeland, despite repeated invitations from his brother Billy, who travels there frequently on business in his role as an executive for Dell Technologies. They keep travel relatively light. Much of their world, their clocks, revolves around the half-block radius of the club's campus - and a satellite clubhouse on Columbia Point, where a smaller footprint facility serves kids and teens from the Harbor Point community.

That's not to say their skill sets have escaped notice-and offers. Both Scannells have declined multiple offers to take on lucrative executive positions.

Olivia Scannell, Bob and Mary's eldest daughter who now works part-time at the club as a teacher herself, recalls growing up wishing her parents worked at a "real business" so she and her siblings "could live like many of my friends" in Milton, where the family has its home.

"I especially remember wanting to travel like my friends during the holidays. Instead we spent the days leading up to Christmas gathering gifts from the various toy drives stored in our basement. I remember being embarrassed that our basement looked like "Toys R Us" had thrown up in it," Olivia wrote in a college essay.

"There's companies out there that have offered [Bob] huge sums of money - and that's happened multiple times," said Kevin Chapman, the actor and BGCD board member



Longtime Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester board member and former board chair Maureen Peterson, Amy Koch, and Mary Kinsella Scannell at the BGCD's annual Grand Drawing gala in 2016.

Flavio DeBarros photo

who is a close friend, in a 2011 Reporter as interview. "People say to him, 'Bob, why don't you take this— you've got three kids of your own to put through school.' He always says the same thing: 'Who's going to take care of the kids?'"

Scannell puts it this way: "I've been offered opportunities to do things in this field or something totally different." Mary, he says, is also in high demand.

Why have they stayed? "It's the community, it's the community as a whole. I think just to be here for 32 years in Dorchester. What a privilege, you know? I feel honored to be part of the strongest community I've ever been involved with. The people are amazing and the other organizations in town are amazing. Everyone comes together to get things done and provide a good network for the families.

"But it's the kids. I've just had so many thousands of kids that I've met and they were awesome. And they're friends, you know, friends. Whether they're three years old or some of them, they're 47 or 48 now."

The impact of their work has touched lives outside of Dorchester, too.

As Lee Kennedy noted: "When the Brockton Boys & Girls Club was experiencing near catastrophic challenges, the national organization called Bob to ask for his help in saving that Club. Bob and Mary didn't think twice, they were all in, and over the course of 18 months had fully repaired the Brockton operation from absolute despair to success. Today, Brockton is forever grateful to Bob and Mary for literally saving their Club," said Kennedy."

Mary has mobilized other early education providers across the region to press lawmakers for policy reforms – taking best practices from her 30-year career at the club and bringing them to the fore. She's a passionate advocate for the largely female educators who work in the field – and for the idea that they should be well paid.

"Mary is a rock star when it comes to childcare and is highly regarded here and abroad," says Kennedy. "The infant and childcare programs that she has built at our Club are internationally recognized for their innovation and outcomes.'

Roots in Ireland

That passion for teaching — and for caring for people – definitely trace back to Mary's mom, Katherine 'Betty' (Nee) Kinsella, who died in 2016. Her mother's wise counsel— "Be good to everyone" - was a family edict, learned from her own Galway-born parents, Patrick and Mary Nee, who emigrated to South Boston from the coast of Connemara around 1921. The Nees originated in Rosmuc – the same village

Walsh's Mayor mom Mary – and followed a familiar migration pattern to many in this room.

Mary Kinsella remembers her mom's father – Patrick Nee – as an animal lover from his days tending sheep along the Wild Atlantic Way. He was also a jack-of-alltrades who could "fix anything" and loved



Katherine "Betty" (Nee) Kinsella

to go to wrestling matches at the old Boston Garden.

"My mother would tell us how my grandpa Pat would go for a job and, you know, sometimes they'd say 'Irish need not apply,' that whole thing. But, if they needed a plumber, you'd be like, 'I'm a plumber!' So, he could kind of do a lot of things. He was very handy."

"My mother and her sisters grew up in South Boston and they said that there was always somebody visiting on the couch and there was always a relative coming through and always kind of an open door," says Kinsella. "My grandfather, I just remember him as being just very quiet and just so kind. He met my grandmother here, even though they both came from Ireland. They both came through Ellis Island."

Mary Nee, Mary Kinsella's second cousin, recalls that the South Boston family clustered close to one another as they gained a collective toe-hold in the United States, gathering every Sunday in a first-floor flat on West Fifth Street, where Mary Nee's family lived.

"They were Gaelic speakers," recalls Nee. "Everyone convened and would eat something boiled and then they would go into the parlor and the men would smoke their pipes. It was just a very, very tight-knit family.

Betty Nee and her three sisters - Mae, Helen, and Margie – "were, and are, strikingly beautiful women," just like their mom, says Mary Nee. Betty met and married Richard Kinsella, a Boston-born Irish-American whose own roots were in Tipperary and Cork. Richard Kinsella was the warden at Deer Island prison and Mary Kinsella spent several years of her childhood living next door in the warden's residence. She remembers the waters of Boston Harbor washing up under the home during storms and the sirens from prison breaks.

Her dad – who was in recovery and sober 40 years before his death in the 1980sentertained select prisoners in their home. Despite a reputation as a tough disciplinarian, Richard V. Kinsella "had a soft spot," his



The Boston Irish Honors 2018

The things that make the **BGCD** programs different

BY MARY KINSELLA

People ask me all the time: "What makes your programs different from others?" After 30 years of experience, I can easily rattle off the research based on policy related reasons, but recently I began to reflect more about my response to this question.

What is it exactly? We are not perfect. But we do seem to do things differently and often more successfully than other youth agencies.

I began to think that maybe it's not what we do. It's more about who is doing it and how we do it. We all want the best for these kids; we want them to have stable homes, caring families, and food on the table. We also realize that we cannot always control these outside factors, so we focus on what we can offer to provide them with access to the best and most enriching opportunities for learning, programs that build resiliency, and support children of all abilities and their families.

We hire great staff. They are caring and committed. I believe we have the absolute best staff around. They teach me as I work alongside them every day. The relationships we develop are, I believe, the single most important part of the work we do and our staff are approachable, intelligent, responsive, honest, and fair.

We have created an inclusive and diverse model that goes far beyond gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic backgrounds. It encompasses every possible combination of people and places, circumstances, and values.

We believe that instilling joy and fun into



Mayor Martin J. Walsh addressed the crowd at the Boys and Girls Clubs Grand Drawing in 2016. Flavio DeBarros photo

learning will keep kids interested and engaged. The magical journey of learning begins for our children as early as two months old. We all know that early education experiences cast a lifelong shadow, especially for the most at risk and vulnerable children. We have created a highly recognized program so that our kids are not starting out laps behind their peers.

We believe education is as much about human aspiration and relationships, selfrespect, and the capacity to continuously reinvent ourselves and our society as it is about academics. Increasing the margins of how, when, and where we nurture and teach our children becomes expected.

Overall, we strive for long-term youth engagement, experiential education programming with a focus on overcoming challenges, and goal setting with a focus on planning. We measure accomplishments in various ways, but know that we have achieved success when our members are involved and connected members of their community.



Bob Scannell is shown in 2012 with two club members, Precious Ruiz, left, and Damaris Nova. As Bob stood chatting with parents in the lobby of the McLaughlin Center, the two pre-teen girls approached bearing handmade signs singing the praises of their friend Bob. Nothing fancy, just two more grateful kids who know that with Bob, as Damaris's card read: It's 'Love all the time.'

Bill Forry photo

(Continued from page 8)

daughter recalls, along with two degrees from Boston College.

"Sometimes, he would have guests in from the prison and I would put it on like my Tutu and tap dance for them. These men - they missed their families so much. So my parents definitely came from that social work side."

The Kinsellas eventually moved off Deer Island and Mary and her siblings - Richard, Jr., Michael, and Katie – were raised in Milton alongside many of her cousins.

After her dad died, Mary's mom became a fixture at the Boys and Girls Club, staffing the front desk and getting to know each child, each family by name. "She admired all the staff here and she definitely admired Bob. She was a giving spirit," recalls Mary.

Bob Scannell's family roots stretch back to Killorgin in County Kerry, but the connections "back home" are not as strong.

His father - Robert Scannell Sr. - had three brothers and one sister enter religious life- all Redemptorists, including Rev. Joseph Scannell,

who served in the missions in Brazil and eventually became pastor at Roxbury's Mission Church. Robert started down his own path to the priesthood and lasted about six months in the seminary, before he decided – according to his daughter Susan — to pursue Gerry, his high school sweetheart, instead. The couple were married on May 4, 1957 at Mission Church.

The couple raised five children —Susan, Bobby, Billy, Laurie, and Kevin, who have stayed tight, and, like Bob, have settled into long, stable careers and settled in suburban Massachusetts with their families.

Susan (Scannell) Young, the eldest sibling, remembers Bobby as a quiet boy who "wouldn't tell you if your coat was on fire." He attended St. Agatha's grammar school in Milton from grade five until he went to BC High, where he was devoted to the Jesuit credo – "Men for Others."

Susan – and the whole clan – marvel at the family that Bob and Mary have managed to raise while nurturing so many other children from the city. "Those three kids - Olivia,

Bobby, Julia – are the most wonderful kids," says their aunt Susan.

Olivia is following in her mom's footsteps working as an early childhood teacher at the club. Bobby is a senior at Boston College. Julia, 18, just started her freshman year at St. Anselm's College, where she is a standout hockey player, much to the delight of her dad, who is in the stands without fail.

The mission continues

There is no end in sight to the impressive growth at the Boys and Girls Club's campus in Dorchester. When Bob Scannell took charge in 1988, the organization— with its single clubhouse on Deer Street- had an annual operating budget of \$300,000. It has now surpassed \$5 million— a figure that counts on generous donors and foundation grants to subsidize its programming and operational

"Every year is hard," Scannell says of raising the funds. "We get it done every year, but it's a real challenge. But when people come here and see what's happening, they're sold."

The Scannells — and their board — will need to do much more selling in the months and years to come. There are early plans now for a new, modern facility to replace the original building on Deer Street, a two-story brick and cement fortress-like structure that opened in 1974. Another conceptual plan - to build a field house in conjunction with the Martin Richard Foundation in another part of the neighborhood – is also on the drawing board. Together, the two projects could necessitate \$40 million in capital funds to build and then create a sustainable operating budget.

"It's a huge undertaking," says Bob Scannell, who noted that his board - an all-volunteer outfit led by Kennedy and peppered with names like Wahlberg and Walsh and Marr and Brodigan – continues to impress him with their devotion to the cause. Joe D'Arrigo, he notes, has been serving since the 1970s.

"Whenever we decide around this table that we need to start a new program - and there are often three new, significant programs every year – the board just says: 'Okay, we've gotta do this, let's do it. We'll find a way.' And they're in our corner.

"A lot of organizations, I don't think operate like that, you know? The CEO probably doesn't make a lot of headway with boards when they want to do new and different things. We don't have that issue. They literally inspire us, they inspire me. I get a lot of motivation from them. They're just volunteers out there who care. I get to see what they do and what they put in to make this place work," says Scannell.

"Mary and I, as a team, are so blessed to be surrounded by so many people who are committed to our vision and our mission and we're lucky to have so many people support

"It doesn't make it easy, but it makes... it makes everything work."



Break time, Guinness style, for the Scannells.



The Boston Irish Honors 2018 Distinguished Career in Medicine

Dr. Trevor McGill matches trailblazing surgical skills to a deep sense of compassion and a sense of community

BY PETER F. STEVENS **BIR STAFF**

By any measure, Dr. Trevor McGill embodies the quintessential immigrant success story. He devoted his life and professional career to helping children with major ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat) issues through his surgical and research skills. He did so at Boston Children's Hospital for some four decades, garnering international standing as a pioneer in the field of pediatric surgery and as a professor of otolaryngology at Harvard Medical School. To his colleagues and his patients, though, his kindness and caring shared equal footing with his medical expertise and accomplishments.

Those accomplishments are legion. During his years at Children's, Dr. McGill devoted his prodigious skills to the treatment of children needing ENT attention, which includes patients with head and neck tumors and vascular anomalies. He played a pivotal role in developing his unit to its current status as one of the premier pediatric units in the world.

With his reputation, the 74-year-old Dr. McGill, who retired from his clinical practice at Children's in November 2016 but remains on the staff, is a much-sought-after lecturer at universities across the globe. He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed papers and chapters and has edited three textbooks in pediatric otolaryngology. He has received an honorary degree from Harvard University and an honorary doctorate from University College Dublin.

To his colleagues, associates, family, friends, patients, and their families, Dr. McGill is known for something else-his boundless empathy, kindness, and caring.

Deep Roots in the "Old Sod"

Trevor McGill was born in the village of Kells, Co. Meath, some 40 miles northwest of Dublin, the second youngest of Jack and Kathleen McGill's seven children. Jack McGill was the town postmaster, and Kathleen ran a hairdressing salon.

The parents always stressed the importance of education to their children. "When I was nine or ten," Trevor McGill recalls, "my mother told me that 'the only way out of this village is education. Otherwise, you might find yourself sleeping in the streets."

Her admonition took root with her children. Five, including Trevor, headed to medical school. His early education came from the Christian Brothers, and at age eleven he went off to Presentation College, a Catholic secondary school established in Bray, Co. Wicklow, in 1921. There, in his teens, he met a local young woman named Angela Scruggs who, over time, became a very special person in his life

At seventeen, Dr. McGill was off to University College Dublin Medical School, interning in surgical training at a local hospital. Angela, meanwhile, made her way to a job in Montreal with Air Canada.

A Lad in Liverpool

From UCD, Dr. McGill went to England to continue his education in otolaryngology. He trained first at the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital in Golden Square, in London, and then at the Myrtle Street Hospital, in Liverpool. In 2015, he told Patrick Bradley (ENT & Audiology News), "Those four and a half years were some of the happiest times of my life." He counts his time there at Alder Hey Children's Hospital as a key period in his medical development.

In Liverpool, his life took another key, and welcome, turn. Angela joined him there, and as the adage goes, the rest was history.

of my career," he says. "My hours have always been long, and even from the start of our marriage in 1971, I was often gone to the hospital from Friday to Monday. She did a wonderful job of raising our son, Trevor, Jr. He's successful in the finance field, and we have three beautiful granddaughters "ages five to eleven" - Maddie, 11; Lily, 9; and Regan, 5. We're truly blessed."

Boston Bound

"After Liverpool," Dr. McGill says, "I wanted research experience and got the chance through a NIH (National Institute of Health) scholarship to do that at Mass Eye & Ear. Dr. Schuknecht asked me in the spring of 1976 to fill a full-time position at Children's Hospital, and I accepted. Actually, my original plan was to head home to Ireland after Mass Eye & Ear. But there were no pediatric ENT positions available in Ireland.

Ireland's loss proved to be Boston - and beyond's - gain.

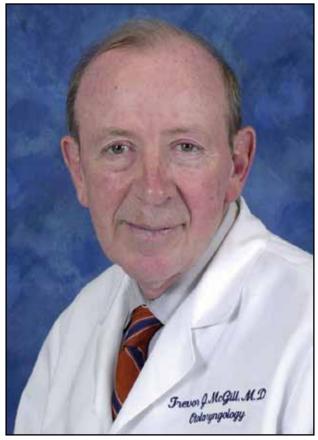
Dr. McGill continues: "From my very start at Children's, it has been eye-opening. It's so wonderful a place. We've treated patients from all over the globe, and there's little that's more rewarding than helping children.

"Angela and I initially lived in an apartment in Brookline-it was right behind the old Village Coach House. Today, we live in Wellesley."

At Children's, he met a fellow Irishman and physician with whom he established one of his most important professional and personal relationships. Dr. Gerry Healy arrived at Children's a little after Dr. McGill to guide Boston University otolaryngology residents through their rotations. Dr. McGill, at roughly the same time, was doing the same for residents from Harvard Medical School. At that time, Children's Otolaryngology Department was small, with just Drs. McGill and Healy, two residents, and a part-time administrative assistant. By 2015, the department had grown to 16 surgeons, 4 fellows, and 3 residents, with a staff of some 180. The two Irishmen had been instrumental in building Children's Pediatric ENT program into one of the world's foremost pediatric facilities.

Dr. McGill credits Dr. Healy, who retired in 2009, for beginning the hospital's Fellowship Program in 1978, and under their guidance, the program became world-class, training more than 400 residents and 74 fellows. Some have, like their mentors Drs. McGill and Healy, become some of the world's foremost men and women in pediatric otolaryngology.

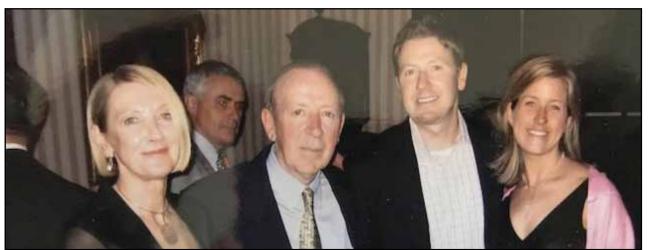
Dr. McGill gained renown for his innovation in the treatment and care of children suffering from head and neck tumors, hemangiomas (benign tumors of blood vessels often forming a pronounced red birthmark), and vascular malformations. During the 1980s, Dr. McGill, Dr. Healy, and their team led the way to the reintroduction of surgery as the preferred treatment for children's head and neck Wedding Day for Trevor and Angela McGill in 1971.





Trevor McGill MD after graduating from University College Dublin Medical School as his parents Kathleen and Jack McGill proudly look on.





"Angela has always been so supportive The McGills: Angela, Trevor, Trevor Jr. and his spouse Shannon.



The Boston Irish Honors 2018

sarcomas, and to the use of laser technology, and numerous other procedures and protocols.

As Dr. McGill's reputation spread globally, he has continued to lecture on pediatric otolaryngology at national and international forums. He has served as co-editor of three textbooks in his field of practice.

"My work in helping further Children's well-deserved global reputation for excellence and innovation is truly gratifying,' he says. "It's all been a wonderful experience there from day one. I have had surgical opportunities at Children's that I could only have dreamed of anywhere else. Chief Healy share Dr. McGill's love among them was my exposure to complex ENT problems.'

Dr. McGill has performed surgeries all over the world, members of the Saudi royal family and desperately poor kids alike.

Paving the Way for Fellow Ex-Pats

Aidan F. Browne, an attorney and partner at the Boston law firm Sullivan & Worcester LLP and a friend of Dr. McGill since 1987, will introduce him at the Boston Irish Honors Award luncheon. As Browne tells it, he is a beneficiary of Dr. McGill's commitment to helping fellow UCD graduates. "Trevor is affable, to say the least, without the self-importance that so many others have, and he has done so much for Irish men and women like myself, not just in Boston, but all over. I met him in 1987, when the president of UCD suggested I contact him to help establish an alumni group for UCD ex-pats. I did business at UCD and later went into the law. He not only became engaged to help UCD grads locally, but also all across the US."

Dr. McGill had always kept in touch with UCD Medical School and was the president College of the University Medical Graduate Association of North America from 1996 to 1998. In 2001 he was honored as the UCD Medical Alumnus of the Year. Drawing on his own background, he worked to establish a bond between Boston Children's Hospital and the Program. For six months annually, an doctor from Ireland rotates throughout the department at Children's.

Because of Dr. McGill's geniality, Aidan Browne suggests, "For a long time, I didn't grasp the full extent of his medical reputation. He has written a definitive ENT tome that's like his field's Book of Kells. He has been incredibly helpful to doctors all over the US and has sponsored many from Ireland, including Dr. Karen Watters at Children's Hospital. She's a Dubliner."

According to Browne, "there have been only two Irish doctors who have become full professors at Harvard. When Trevor was named, it was a big affair at Harvard, and a big deal in Ireland."

"A Good Walk" Savored – not "Spoiled"

Dr. McGill's passion for the "Blessed Malady" – golf struck him at an early age in Meath, eventually claiming his entire family. "We had a family membership at Kells Golf Club - ten pounds a year for dues," he says. "As my medical studies took over my life, I didn't play as much. I got serious about the game again in my early 40s. Today I'm a member locally at Brae Burn and in Ireland at Portmarnock and Ballybunion. At one point, I was a 12 handicap."

Aidan Browne and Gerry of the links, and the Children's physicians parlayed "malady" into a long-running golf competition with fellow pediatric otolarvngologists at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Drs. McGill and Healy also organized many golfing junkets to Ireland and other countries with their colleagues. To the writer Patrick Buckley, Dr. McGill affirmed that while golf is a "very humbling and frustrating game...I would highly recommend it not only to surgeons, but to anyone who enjoys "a good walk spoiled."

Dr. McGill is also a huge rugby and hurling fan. "You'll often find us together at a pub carrying the matches," Browne says with a laugh. "Trevor and I both enjoy a pint of Guinness—we're happy to travel just about anywhere for that!"

From Those Who Know

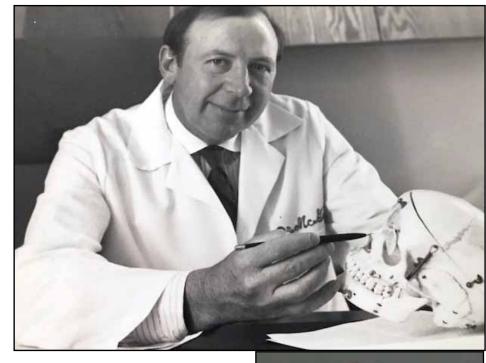
"Trevor is the unassuming person despite his achievements," Browne says. "He has a phenomenal sense of humor. He has truly touched so many lives of patients and doctors, and he is first and always a friend to so many, generous and kind. What stands out the most – ask any of his patients or fellow doctors—is his empathy. Trevor is so dedicated to patients and to anyone underprivileged and in

"Trevor Jr. threw Trevor a huge fete when his father retired. There were over 300 in attendance."

Dr. Gerry Healy, in the ENT & Irish Otolaryngology Training Audiology New (Jan. 2015), said of his close friend and associate: "My admiration for him as a doctor, teacher, and friend is boundless. His love of family and ability to tell great stories are in the finest tradition of his Irish culture."

The importance of balancing family with a demanding practice has always been paramount to Trevor and Angela McGill. He asserts that family vacations and holidays spent golfing and visiting relatives and friends in Ireland, trips to Europe and elsewhere, and the family's passion for skiing helped maintain that balance between career and home.

"He is the rare individual who has found the 'perfect' balance between being a full-time academic clinician and a devoted



Says his friend Aidan Browne, right, of Trevor McGill: "He has truly touched so many lives of patients and doctors, and he is first and always a friend to so many, generous and kind. He is so dedicated to patients and to anyone underprivileged and in need.' Above, Dr. McGill in earlier days making a point to his class at Harvard Medical School.



The self-styled "Irish Otolaryngology Mafia" at Children's Hospital: From left, Dr. Paul Lennon, Dr. McGill, Dr. Karen Watters, and Dr. Stephen Kieran. Dr. McGill worked to establish bond between Children's and the Irish Otolaryngology Training Program whereby for six months annually, a doctor from Ireland rotates through his department.



family man," Dr. Karen Watters told ENT & Audiology News.

Adds Browne, "for me, the Boston Irish Honors Award to Trevor is so fitting. He has always Boston area, I'm lucky and been one of my closest friends blessed to be among such a cadre and supporters. I've benefited greatly from his generosity and kindness. By association with him, you get some of his status and more importantly his deep empathy. That's the legacy he's given me, and I know he has done the same for so many others. His empathy is not just what makes him an incredible doctor, but American. It's a true privilege it's is also what makes him an to be awarded the Boston Irish incredible human being. It's a knack. It's simply who Trevor is. It's the craic with him—his joy and love of laughter and of people, the great and the small."

One Foot in the States. the Other on the "Old Sod"

Dr. Trevor is truly a man of two nations. "I get back to Ireland several times a year," he says. "Last year I went over five times. Much of the visits are family things, weddings, anniversaries,

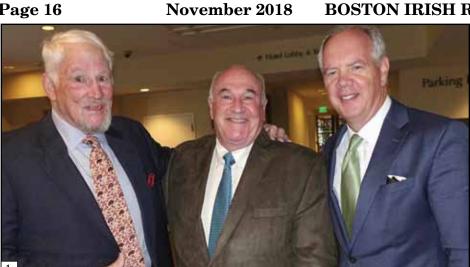
and unfortunately funerals. Most of the time, I get in lots of golf.

"After four decades in the of Irish people here. The sincerity of the Irish community in Boston is special. I'm deeply proud to be associated with those who have been leaders and humanitarians in every field-medicine, law, politics, business, and so many

"I'm very proud to be an Irish Honors Award, and none of this would have been possible without Children's Hospital."

As to his "home" of 40 years, Dr. McGill is now engaged in writing a history of the Otolaryncology Department at Children's.

Dr. Trevor McGill, proud Irish American, truly embodies the credo that "patients don't care how much you know unless they know how much you care."























BRETT'S BOSTON By Harry Brett Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

More than 300 persons came together October 18 for the ninth annual Boston Irish Honors luncheon hosted by the Boston Irish Reporter at the Seaport Hotel. First published in 1990, the newspaper celebrated its 28th anniversary at the gala event.

1.) Jim O'Brien, Lowell; Paul Doyle, Weymouth; Joe Sullivan, Mayor of Braintree; 2.) Fr. Jack Ahern, St. Gregory Parish, Dorchester; Ann Murphy, Roslindale; BPD Supt. Nora Baston; 3.) Craig Carlson, Martina Carlson, Boston; Clodagh Boyle, Quincy; Natalie Metz, Brookline; Mary Sugrue, Norwood; 4.) Jim Foley, Hingham, Rich Gribaudo, W. Roxbury; 5.) BPD Commissioner William Gross; Lou Pasquale, Braintree; 6.) Kathryn Magnoli, Charlestown; Cheryl Shaughnessy, Dorchester; 7.) Rev. Tom Kennedy, Brookline; Della Costello, Dorchester; 8.) Greg Feeney, Canton; Matt Feeney, Charlestown; 9.) Jim and Robin Hunt, Dorchester; Stephen O'Neill, Andover; 10.) Jill Broune, So. Boston; Angela McGill, Wellesley; 11.) Roger and Barbara Croke, Dorchester; 12.) Burt Abel, Norwood; Dan Grady, Westwood; Ralf Adolfsson, Sudbury; Dr. Trevor McGill, Wellesley; Mike Paquin, Framingham; Paddy Grace, Somerville.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Arts & Entertainment

BCM Fest: Workshops by headliners

BCMFest (Boston Celtic Music Fest) will feature renowned fiddlers Liz Carroll from Chicago and Scotland's Kevin Henderson when it takes place for the 16th year from Jan. 17 to Jan. 20. The two will perform at the BCMFest Nightcap concert on Jan. 19, and hold workshops on the festival's final day.

While the presence of Carroll and Henderson as headliners represents a new direction for the Harvard Squarebased all-ages festival, organizers say BCMFest will continue its longstanding mission of showcasing the Greater Boston area's rich trove of music, song and dance from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton

and other related traditions.

The 2019 BCMFest lineup shows a diversity of sounds in Celtic music, whether strongly rooted in traditional styles or reflecting contemporary influences and perspectives. Among the other acts confirmed to appear are: Laurel Martin with Mark Roberts and Jim Prendergast; Katie McNally and Yann Falquet; Joey Abarta; The Bywater Band; Scottish Fish; Rakish; Pumpkin Bread; Kieran Jordan; The Fens; Yann Falquet and Friends; Adam Agee and Jon Souza; Fade Blue; Boys on the Hilltop; Michael O'Leary with Bob and Jen Strom; Elizabeth and Ben Anderson; Wooden Nickels; Cape Breton Showcase; Yaniv Yacoby and Eric Boodman; Colleen White and Sean Smith; Molly Pinto Madigan; Celtic Roots; Leland Martin; Hornpipalooza; and Live at The Druid. [Information and updates on BCMFest 2019 performers will be available via the BCMFest website, passim.org/bcmfest]

BCMFest will be centered around Club Passim (47 Palmer St.), with evening concerts on Jan. 17 and 18 — each fol-

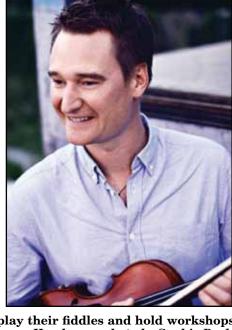


Liz Carrolland Kevin Henderson will play their fiddles and hold workshops at the BCM Fest in January. Henderson photo by Sophie Bech

lowed by a late-night "Festival Club" — and a marathon "Dayfest" on Jan. 19; performances also will take place that day 19 at The Sinclair (52 Church St.) including BCMFest Nightcap, the festival's traditional closing event. Also on the schedule is BCMFest's perennially popular Celtic dance party, The Boston Urban Ceilidh, on Friday night, (Jan. 18), and participatory sessions in Harvard Square locations late the following afternoon The final day, will be devoted to workshops with Carroll and Henderson, as well as other BCMFest performers, at the Passim School of Music.

The National Trust for

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Carroll is one of the most influential Irish fiddle players of her generation, with five solo albums to her credit and eight others in collaboration, including two with guitarist John Doyle - one of which, "Double Play," was nominated for a Grammy Award. A past recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship Award, she also is known as a composer of tunes in the Irish tradition. She has appeared locally as part of "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn" and the 2008 ICONS Festival, among other events, and at The Burren. Henderson is a native of Scotland's

RISH INTERNATIONAL MMIGRANT CENTER

Shetland Islands, which has a distinctive fiddle tradition. He was a founding member of the acclaimed Shetland group Fiddler's Bid and, more recently, the Nordic Fiddlers Bloc. Henderson has served as a faculty member of the Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School, and performed with the Nordic Fiddlers Bloc

at "Christmas Celtic Sojourn."
BCMFest organizers say the idea to invite Carroll and Henderson builds on some innovations and changes of the past few years, such as expanding the festival's Friday night/Saturday footprint and adding The Sinclair as a venue, to help both broaden and strengthen BCMFest's

community-oriented focus.
"We asked ourselves 'What else can we do to support this incredibly rich music community? How can we make BCMFest not only an opportunity to share and showcase local music but also to inspire our local community?" explains BCMFest co-founder Laura Cortese. "We reached out for input and critique, considered a lot of options, and decided to make a few changes. So for the first time ever, we are inviting two 'mentors' whom the community feels a strong connection to - musicians who, though not from Boston, have contributed to our scene in a lasting way. We expect this vibrant exchange of music and ideas to make a lasting impression.

BCMFest is a program of Passim, a Cambridge-based non-profit that supports a vibrant music community through Club Passim, music school, artist grants and outreach initiatives.

Festival details, including ticket information, will be available at passim. org/bcmfest.

www.wgbh.org/celtic



For Aine Minogue, it's all about Eve and what she has meant for all of us

(Continued from page 1) of course, but the scope

advanced by Jung, of each person possessing both feminine and masculine traits – the feminine archetype being more intuitive and empathetic, the male more linear and structurally oriented and that we express these in our own unique ways.

"But I also find fascinating the character of Eve, and her portrayal down through the ages. She is called 'Mother of All Creation,' and yet you can't find a classic artist depicting her as a mother, only as a woman exiled. I find that ironic and mindblowing: After all, she's someone who lost a child, Abel, to murder at the hand of her other child, Cain. She has this huge life that seems so underexplored."

While contemporary gender-related controversies and issues may seem to dovetail with the album's premise, Minogue says the impetus for "Eve" is based on more universal and timeless themes.

"I can't point to one or two specific things that inspired this whole torrent of songs; it just happened for whatever reason, and I felt compelled to bring them to life. The album is not about current controversies: It's not about, say, male/female income disparity, or about #MeToo," she says.

'Not that those issues aren't important, of 'Eve' is independent of them. It has to do with how humans treat each other, and also how our female aspect treats our male aspect, and viceversa. There is a certain darkness to the album, because it does speak to women's efforts to deal with negative things, of carrying shame for the other, as Eve did-dancing to tunes not of their own making."

Minogue alludes to such struggles in "The Perfect Eve" – one of three songs on the album that includes the titular name: "A perfect mirror for the shame/A perfect Eve to your Adam/A perfect key to lock your shadow." "All About Eve," meanwhile, does have a specific source of inspiration: the Bette Davis movie of the same name. But in evoking what she calls the film's reflection on "unspeakable women-on-women misogyny," she also notes that such contempt can turn inward as well: "Beware your mother's dreams, my dear/No apple falls far from its tree.

The other "Eve" song, "Oh, Eve," is about the different interpretations and impressions of Eve accumulated throughout the ages, to such an extent that her true nature has become obscured: "Eve, drawing water from the children's well/Could you tell me the story of the time/When the Gods pledged love to you, and me, and all Mankind/ Eve, come back from the water's edge/Eve, All is Well..."

Minogue revisits the question in "Before the World Was Made": "I am looking for the face I had/Before the world was made"; "The face I knew before the world was nigh/ Who was I?/Before they cut me off and cast me aside.'

"There is so much going on with identity these days: This is how the world sees me, but is that who I really am?" Minogue says of "Before the World Was Made." "Yeats, of course, wrote a poem with the same title, and the night before I recorded this I found out Van Morrison had made a song of that poem. I certainly admire Yeats, and Van, but I felt the Eve in me had something to say: 'What was it like before shadow and shame were cast on women?"

Yeats comes up again in "Warrior or Healer," its opening line ("The center breaks/Yet on I go") a variation on his famous line from "The Second Coming." Minogue says she's been offered numerous interpretations of the song ("As the messenger, who am I to disagree?" she says), but the dual-nature, dueling-impulses Jungian view of the individual is evident: "This warrior's

sword/this healer's hand/I carve the wound/I thread the strand."

Minogue says she has been influenced by the work of scholar-authors like Joseph Campbell and Marion Woodman, and their use of psychology and related disciplines in analyzing and interpreting folk tales and folklore.

"Marion Woodman in particular, and her book Sitting By the Well, made an impression on me. She broke down fairy tales in fascinating ways, such as explaining the imagery of castles, drawbridges, stairs and doors in Jungian terms; the song, 'Ghostly Love,' that's on this album – with lines like 'My ghostly love pulled the drawbridge tight' – is totally a nod to her.

"On the one hand, I appreciate the pure, emotional and visceral aspect of traditional folk songs and tales, but I also like being able to step back and see them in a different context."

From a musical standpoint, "Eve" sees Minogue take a few new pathways. Her graceful Irish harp and her stellar work on keyboards are an integral part of the mix as always; Seamus Egan (whistle), Eugene Friesen (cello) and Alasdair Halliday (Scottish pipes, harmony vocals), all of whom have appeared on previous recordings, are a key

presence as well. So there are plenty of familiar Minogue trademarks, like the liturgical feel to "Echo of Love," a round sung with multi-tracked vocals over an electronic soundscape, or the Irish/Celtic dimension underscored by Egan's whistle and Halliday's pipes on songs such as "The Perfect Eve" and "Warrior or Healer."

One conspicuous addition is Billy Novick's clarinet, which appears on seven of the 12 tracks. At times, Novick is in the background, providing a mid-range tonal complement to Egan and Friesen. On "Puppetmaster" – a commentary on the illusions that exist in performance, whether on stage or real life – he comes to the fore, the clarinet's bluesy swoops and glides conjuring up images of greasepaint and circus tents.

But the most significant contribution to "Eve" came from Jon Evans, who has worked with popular singer-songwriters like Sarah McLachlan and Tori Amos. Besides mustering acoustic and electric guitars, bass, banjo and other instruments, he served as mixer and engineer, providing important insights along with fine musicianship, according to Minogue.

"Jon is very gifted, and he's had all these different experiences that include pop and rock, session work for commercials, and so on. So he brought a different perspective that fit in well with what I was trying to accomplish, and gave me a lot of courage to try out some new things."

Minogue acknowledges the irony of having an allmale set of accompanists on an album dedicated to an icon of femininity. "But I think there is a strong feminine aspect to their playing - and I mean that as a great compliment," she says, adding with a laugh. "I think it helps that they have nothing to prove, so they're beyond ego and testosterone.'

Over the course of this month, Minogue will start to prepare for her annual slate of Christmas/New Year's season concerts, including at Club Passim on Dec. 21. It has become a tradition in and of itself for her – this year, she notes, is the 25th anniversary of the release of "To Warm the Winter's Night" - and thus offers a familiar sort of comfort and joy.

At the same time, Minogue has an inkling that whatever guiding spirit inspired the creation of "Eve" may not be finished with her yet.

"Something's shifted, I think. I've been feeling a whole new energy," she says. "We'll see where it goes. I'm just along for the ride."

For more on Aine Minogue and "Eve," see aineminogue.com.



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Says Jarlath Henderson, MD, and musician: 'I love trauma – that's why I sing about it'

By SEAN SMITH SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's not just the regular influx of highprofile, established acts - Lúnasa, Dervish, The Chieftains, Altan – that make Greater Boston such an Irish/Celtic music fan's dream. Area venues also frequently host performers who have attained a solid following at home, and are looking to do the same in the US, like Róisín O, The Maguires, Connla, and JigJam.

Add Jarlath Henderson to that list. The multi-talented Armagh-born, Tyronebred, Glasgow-based uilleann piper and singer and his band came through town last month as part of his first-ever American tour, appearing at The Rockwell in

Davis Square.

"I had an opportunity to play in New York City, and that was just too good to pass up," said Henderson prior to his arrival in Boston. "So I decided to give [the tour] a go. I've made a lot of connections in the US, and thought people might be interested enough to come out and see us. We've had a grand time of it so far – standing ovations every night.

Really enjoying ourselves.'

Henderson's American audiences no doubt enjoyed themselves, too, as have audiences everywhere since he began playing in public during his teens. Yet for Henderson, music was more than a youthful pastime or extracurricular interest: It was a vital activity for a kid who had a difficult time finding his way, a fulfilling outlet for his considerable energy – to such an extent that, in addition to becoming an accomplished musician, he has successfully pursued a career as a doctor.

"I look on music as my salvation," said Henderson. "I was written off in school as a 'messer,' a hyperactive kid always getting into trouble. I was under-stimulated, and nothing mattered to me – I needed something to give me focus. But once I really got into playing, I began to see what I was capable of doing, and it gave me a lot of confidence."

Henderson's track record bears that out. He won three All-Ireland titles in piping and in 2003 became the youngest musician – and first from Ireland, and first uilleann piper – to win the coveted BBC Young Folk Award, all of this before he was 20. He then embarked on a rewarding partnership with Scottish piper Ross Ainslie, whom he met through the famed Armagh Pipers Club, the duo releasing two albums. He also recorded with, among others, Wolfestone, the Peatbog Faeries, and Deirdre Moynihan, and even had his music featured in the Disney/Pixar movie "Brave."

Considerable though his instrumental prowess may be – he's equally proficient on flute, whistle, guitar and cittern -Henderson attracted a different kind of attention when he released his first solo album, "Hearts Broken, Heads Turned," in 2016 [jarlathhenderson.bandcamp. com]. Its eight traditional songs are a



Jarlath Henderson: "I may not have made it easy on myself to have two careers, but I really think it's because of music that I'm not a typical burned-out doctor. I'm in a fortunate position in that I can come in feeling fresh and revived after playing somewhere."

showcase for his vocals, with a phrasing, enunciation, and timbre often compared to another Northern Irish-born singer of note who also happened to pass through Boston earlier this fall: the legendary

"Hearts Broken, Heads Turned" also shows an astonishing breadth of creativity and innovation, as Henderson and his cohorts – notably Hamish Napier (keyboards), Duncan Lyall (double bass, synthesizer), Innes Watson (fiddle, guitar) and engineer/mixer Andrea Gobbi - infuse the album with dashes of electronica, rock and jazz in a fashion that enhances, rather than subsumes the songs. "Courting Is a Pleasure," for instance, is propelled by gritty electric keyboard riffs as well as sound effects sampled and sequenced from the bellows, bag, and valves of Henderson's pipes. Similar electronic tinkering adds percussive character to "Farewell Lovely Nancy" and "The Mountain Streams Where the Moorcocks Grow." Pipe drones combine with synthesizer flourishes and vocalized soundscapes to make for about as eerie and ominous a version you'll hear of the murder ballad "Young Edmund in the Lowlands," climaxed by a chilling rendition of the melody by Henderson's pipes. By contrast, the tender "Sweet Lema-

ny" is gently supported by an enchanting arpeggio from Napier's electric piano and the interlaced acoustic guitars of Henderson and Watson. "The Slighted Lover" glides along at a breezy, jazzy 3/4 to upright piano, electric guitar and double bass plus a small brass section, which also appears towards the end of the otherwise spare "Ye Rambling Boys of Pleasure" and, for good measure, as a backing (along with a beatboxing track) for Henderson's pipes and Watson's fiddle in the finale of "Mountain Streams Where the Moorcocks Grow," which closes out

"It's a look inside my head, and all that I've been soaking up during the past decade or so," said Henderson of the recording, which has drawn widespread critical acclaim (and was nominated for album of the year by the Scottish Music Industry Association). "There's a strong electronic, modern feel to it, but the folk-acoustic-traditional roots are still very much in the mix. I wanted to put something out there that came across as a full expression of my interests, with a big red sound carpet. I'm very happy with the response it's gotten."

Henderson has heard the Paul Brady comparisons, of course, and is fine with them ("It's a helluva compliment"), but henderson.co.uk.

he notes that he also has been influenced by the work of other venerable Northern Irish traditional singers like Sarah Makem, Paddy Tunney, and Geordie Hanna. Then again, Henderson had plenty of musical inspiration around him: His father plays the uilleann pipes, his mother sings and plays guitar, and both his sisters also are musically inclined - the younger of the two, Alanna, is an intriguing singer-songwriter and cellist who provided exquisite vocal harmonies on "Hearts Broken" ("Sweet Lemany" and "The Mountain Streams Where the Moorcock Grows"); she and Jarlath also did a cameo appearance during the live broadcast from this year's Fleadh Cheoil.

When Henderson began taking an interest in the pipes at age 10, he went for classes at the Armagh Pipers Club and found a haven. "It was a different environment than school, where I took classical flute – that was the kind of thing you kept to yourself. At the club, there were kids who were interested in the same music I was. At the same time, I was relating to adults, people in their 60s and 70s who were real mentor figures. The social skills you gather in that setting are so positive, and it spreads to other areas of your life."

But Henderson ultimately wound up studying medicine, not music: "I guess I thought of music as a release, not something that would be my 'job.' At the same time, I was always good at science, and the more I thought about it, the more I felt I would like to go into medicine.

While music may be his "off switch" from the rigors of being a doctor, Henderson – who hopes to eventually work as a general practitioner with a special focus on emergency medicine - views it as a complement to his medical persona, in that both involve a certain amount of empathy and intuition. "I love trauma – that's why I sing about it," he quipped. "I may not have made it easy on myself to have two careers, but I really think it's because of music that I'm not a typical burned-out doctor. I'm in a fortunate position in that I can come in feeling fresh and revived after playing somewhere."

Perhaps one drawback to a dualcareer life is that it may create a wrong impression. "Some people assume that, as a doctor and a musician, I must be loaded," said Henderson slyly. "That's

not the case."

Whatever the demands on his time, Henderson's energy seems to be in fine shape. He's already planning for three more albums, including one that's more tunes-oriented as well as another in the vein of "Hearts Broken, Heads Turned."

"There's so much music happening out there, and I don't listen to just one thing, so I get a lot going on in my mind,' he said. "That's as true as it gets. Yeah, it makes for a busy life, but better that than being a Victorian monk."

 ${\it Jarlath Henderson's website is jarlath-}$

A talk about love and consent in pre-famine Ireland

cal works of literature, and numerous academic journals. But the current focus of his scholarly attention is a personal diary from 1840s Dublin that chronicles an illicit love affair.

The diary kept by Trinity College Dublin law student James Christopher Fitzgerald Kenney, and what it reveals about love, class, courtship, and moral conduct, will be the subject of a lecture on Nov. 6 by O'Neill, who is the Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies this semester. The Burns Scholar Lecture will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Burns Library's Thompson Room, and is free and open to the public.

For O'Neill, who has been the Ussher Lecturer in History at Trinity College Dublin since 2011, spending the fall at BC represented an opportunity to reconnect with friends and acquaintances and enjoy the wealth of holdings at Burns Library. He is utilizing Burns' resources for a book about social and political power and its dynamics in Ireland.

"There is so much material at Burns I wanted to get my hands on," said O'Neill, a native of County Laois, some 50 miles southwest of Dublin. "If you love teaching,

career in academia, Ciaran O'Neill has any opportunity to do research, because woman of lower social stature about four ultimately makes you a better teacher."

As a scholar with research interests rooted in 19th-century Ireland, O'Neill views the Kenney diary-which has been preserved and digitized at Trinity College—as a window unto a time when Ireland's status as part of the British Empire seemed to simultaneously mask and amplify the complexity of its social relationships and mores. Part of the diary's significance lies in the fact that Kenney was an elite Catholic, who represent a largely unexplored chapter in Irish history, explained O'Neill, who is collaborating on a study of the diary with Juliana Adelman of Dublin City University.

"Not much has written about the Catholic elite," said O'Neill. "There is an assumption that those who were in positions of power and influence in preindependent Ireland were defined by their non-Catholic status. But it's possible to trace the Catholic elites from school, where they came together, and through the various networks and clusters they

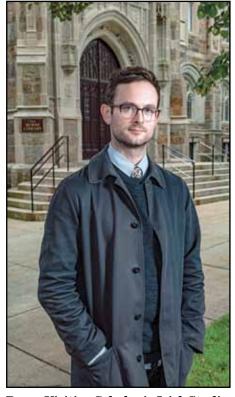
built up over time."

An heir to his family's fortune and a future magistrate, Kenney became

Throughout his education and his which I do, you have to make the most of involved with Mary Louisa McMahon, a that made the affair an unsavory one, said O'Neill. It was a potentially, but not equally, dangerous relationship for both: McMahon, an unmarried woman in her mid-20s (practically a spinster by the era's standards) from a scandal-wracked family, risked her chance of redemption and respectability; Kenney risked his

This diary offers many topics for reflection and discussion, about love, power, and consent, and the social structures in 19th-century Ireland. But there are other questions beyond history that can be considered: How does a researcher deal with this material—a personal diary—in an ethical manner? And how much do we trust the veracity of what the narrator is saying, especially if it's written in this literary manner? The gender and social inequality glimpsed in the diary is all the more profound given that we know how Kenney's life and career turned out, while Mary McMahon, as far as anyone can tell, just drops off the face of the earth."

The above article was excerpted from a Boston College Office of University Communications release.



Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies Ciaran O'Neill will discuss his latest research on Nov. 6 at Boston College. Gary Wayne Gilbert photo



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Traveling People

Into caves? Then Doolin Cave in Clare is a must-place to visit

By Judy Enright SPECIAL TO THE BIR

If you have ever visited the magical, mystical Burren in Co. Clare, it probably won't surprise you to learn that there's nearly as much going on in places beneath the karst landscape as there is above ground. **DOOLIN CAVE**

One such place is just north of the village of Doolin on the Wild Atlantic Way. In 1952, two young men who were visiting Ireland with an expedition from the Craven Hill Potholing Club in England's Yorkshire Dales discovered a cave while

exploring the Burren.
While most other members of the group stayed in a hotel, Brian Varley and J.M. Dickenson camped out on a hillside. In the morning, they decided to explore the area around a cliff they had seen the previous day. They followed a small stream that seemed to disappear under the cliff, struggled to move several large boulders aside, then crawled into the narrow passageway. The rest is history. After a long, dark, difficult crawl, their lamps lit up the main chamber of the Doolin Cave and they looked upon the Great Stalactite, reputed to be Europe's longest free-hanging stalactite. It had formed over thousands of years from a single drop of water.

The men are quoted as having said, "Scrambling over boulders, we stood speechless in a large chamber of ample width, length, and impressive height. As our lamps circled this great hall, we picked out a gigantic stalactite, certainly over 30 feet in length, the only formation in the chamber and set proudly in the very center. It is really majestic and poised like the veritable sword of Damocles. With our headlamps inadequately floodlighting this huge formation, we tiptoed ... to the bottom of the chamber, not daring to speak lest the vibration of the first voices ever to sound in this hall since the beginning of time should cause it to shatter.'

In 1990, local restaurant owners John and Helen Browne bought the land where the cave was located, did the necessary preparation work and finally opened the cave to the public in 2006. They have since added a farmyard nature trail and a visitors' center with a café and gift shop. The center is dedicated to Helen's longtime friend, the late journalist and author Nuala O'Faolain.

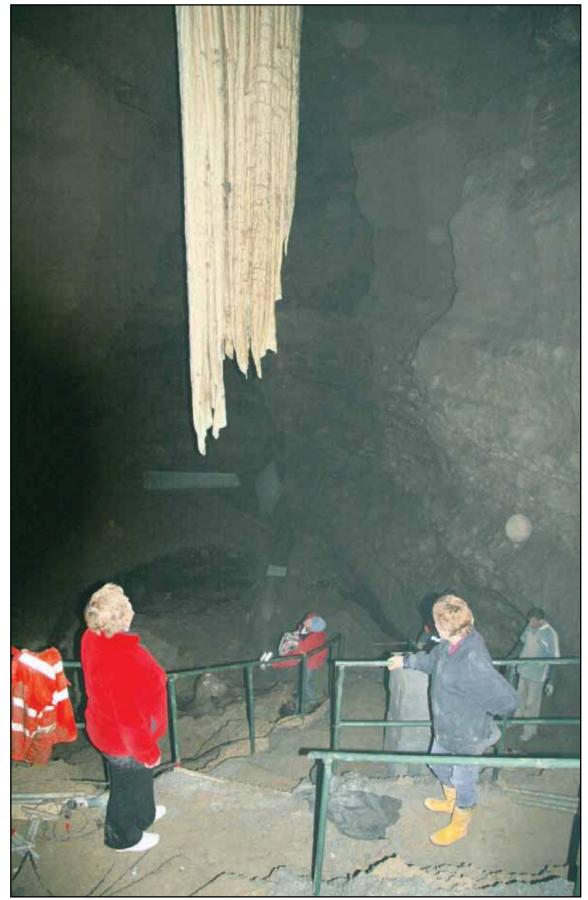
The Doolin Cave and its amazing stalactite are truly worth a visit, as is that entire area of Clare. There's so much to do and so much natural beauty to see there. Be sure to visit the Chils of Moner and spend time in one of the great local pubs for a rousing music session.

Doolin Cave is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, see doolincave.ie.
AILLWEE CAVE

Outside the nearby village of Ballyvaughan is Aillwee Cave, discovered in 1944 by local farmer Jack McGann, who followed his dog as it chased a rabbit into the cave. He didn't go too far inside and didn't tell anyone about the cave for almost

In 1973, he told some cavers about his find and that summer Aillwee Cave was explored as far back as a boulder blockade that was removed in 1977 when access was gained to the rest of the cave.

A tunnel was finished in 1992 to give visitors a circular trip through more than a kilometer of passageways where they can view an underground river and waterfall as well as large stalac-



Visitors to the Doolin Cave, in Co. Clare, admire the Great Stalactite, which is estimated to weigh more than 10 tons and measure 23 feet in length. Judy Enright photos

tites and stalagmites.

Remains of bears have been found inside the caves and some claim that Aillwee was the last bear den in Ireland. The cave is older than most others in Clare and originally had a large stream, which is now filled with glacial material.

Formations seen on tours led by Aillwee's guides are rarely more than 8,000 years old, but samples from the deepest recesses of the cave were tested and are said to be more than 350,000 years old.

Down the hill from the cave is the Aillwee Cave Farmshop, where award-winning Burren Gold Cheese has been made since 1985. The cheese is similar to Gouda and is really delicious. We bought the Garlic and Nettle and the smoked cheese the last time we were there and can attest to its excellence.

Across the way from the farmshop is a great attraction. Aillwee's Birds of Prey center. We have also enjoyed and taken guests to these amazing shows several times. The Birds of Prey Center is home to various birds including eagles, owls, hawks and falcons and they are so much fun to watch as they perform, although I always wonder if they will really come back after soaring off into the distance.

For the younger set (and maybe the older set), a Santa's Workshop sets up at Aillwee every Christmas season and sounds like a lot of fun. See santa1@aillweecave.ie for more

information. For details on the cave, see aillweecave.ie.

BURREN DISCOVERY

The Irish are most proficient at promoting tourism and have created a Burren Discovery Ticket that gives tourists extra value during the season when they visit Aillwee Cave, the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience, and the excellent Burren Centre in Kilfenora within two to three days. For information, see: getyourguide.com/cliffs-ofmoher-l4550/wild-atlantic-wayburren-4-ticket-t45011/.

As with all attractions in Ireland in this shoulder season, be sure to check ahead to be sure they are open and whether they have curtailed their hours. The Burren Centre, for instance, closed in October. The Cliffs and Aillwee are open all year except Dec. 24, 25 and 26. Aillwee Cave is also closed New Year's Day.

MARBLE ARCH CAVES

Also on your agenda for cave visits might be the Marble Arch Caves in Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. These caves open from mid/late-March to September, are in a National Nature Reserve and have a souvenir shop, restaurant, exhibition area, and free audio-visual presentation. The caves open at 10 a.m. but prospective visitors are advised to call ahead - 044(0) 28 6634 8855 - or email: mac@fermanagh.gov.uk) to make sure the caves are accessible on the day they plan to visit as heavy rain can close them.

The caves are part of a Geopark area that stretches from the northern shores of Lower Lough Erne in Co. Fermanagh to the lowlands of Lough Oughter in Co. Cavan. All Geopark areas except the caves are open all year.

For more information, see marblearchcavesgeopark.com.

BEER, CIDER **FESTIVAL**

If you're a beer or cider fancier, you might want to make note of the 19th Annual Belfast Beer & Cider Festival in Ulster Hall from Nov. 8-10. More than 100 ales and ciders will be offered. Sample the various brews while listening to music and chowing down on dishes from Northern Ireland's culinary capital.

For more information, visit belfastbeerfestival.co.uk.

TRAVELS

No matter when you visit Ireland, there is always something new and interesting to see and do. If you've been before, then you no doubt have favorite spots that were fun and are well worth another visit.

Enjoy the island whenever and wherever you go. For more information on events, accommodations, attractions, and more, visit Ireland.com.



A performer at the Birds of Prey exhibit at Aillwee Cave in Co. Clare. There is also a cheesemaking shop, gift and tea shop on site as well as a Santa's Workshop for the younger set.

A 'Wrong' Play That's Comically Right

By R. J. Donovan SPECIAL TO THE BIR

From the time he was a small boy growing up in Marblehead, Lucas McMahon set his sights on becoming a commercial theatrical producer. Even when he was performing in a show, he was focused on what was going on backstage, behind the scenes.

This month, Lucas returns to Boston as a coproducer of the national tour of "The Play That Goes Wrong," coming to The Emerson Colonial Theatre from Nov. 7 to Nov. 18.

"The Play That Goes Wrong" is an out of control comedy about the theater. Co-written by Mischief Theatre Company members Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields, the play looks at "The Cornley University Drama Society" attempting to present a 1920s' murder mystery. Despite the best of intentions, everything falls apart as the accidentprone thespians race to their final curtain.

The New York production continues at Broadway's Lyceum Theatre while the original London company is in its fourth year of phenomenal busi-

All of this is remarkable when you consider that the play began at a London fringe theater with an audience of four at its first performance. It has now been seen by more than 2 million people around the world.



The Play That Goes Wrong National Tour. Photo by Jeremy Daniel

Lucas was born in Boston and attended Phillips Academy before heading to Northwestern University. He spent a summer handling publicity at Williamstown Theatre Festival and then joined the New York offices of Tony Award-winning producer Kevin McCollum ("In The Heights," "Avenue Q" and "Rent"). His parents still live on the North Shore and his brother and sister live in the Back Bay, across the street from each other. Lucas previously worked on the national tour of "Something Rotten" that played The Opera House.

November 2018

He spoke about his work by phone from his office in Manhattan. Here's a condensed look at our conversation.

Q. How do you describe the job of Producer?

A. There's the kind of functional aspects of the job of producer. And there's also the philosophical aspects. And they're both equal in importance. Functionally, a producer is the person who oversees the development of a project. They hire the creative team, they oversee the artistic development of the show as well as the marketing and the fundraising to make the

project happen.
Q. And the philosophi-

A. The philosophical aspect is really kind of setting the tone, for everyone from the creative team, to the actors, to the marketing team, to the backstage

crew - what the shared goals are of the project and creating a real sense of teamwork . . . So many different people work to make one show happen, and it's the producer's job to make sure they're all driving towards the same goal.

Q. You've had your heart set on "putting it together" since you were a kid.

A. When I was in elementary school I actually convinced the school to let me use the free period to create a theater club where I produced and directed plays with my classmates. In fourth, fifth and sixth grade. It was always kind of what I wanted to do.

Q. How did that impact

your time at Phillips Academy?

A. They had a phenomenal theater program where students could direct and produce and be really involved in the production process of the shows. And that's really when I found my kind of passion for producing . .

They encouraged us to dream big and gave us the resources and the support to achieve those goals. Q. Tell me about work-

ing at Williamstown. A. I ran their PR operation in 2012 . . . That was the season Bradley Cooper and Patricia Clarkson were doing "Elephant Man," and Blythe Danner was doing a new play, and Tyne Daly was there as Lady Bracknell in "Importance of Being Earnest" with David Hyde Pierce directing. Kelli O'Hara was there in "Far From

incredibly talented people. Q. I understand you have a personal history with The Colonial.

Heaven." It really was a

spectacular season with

A. I saw my first show at The Colonial Theater. "Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" with Donny Osmond and I absolutely loved it. I saw it with my Nana. There are two sides of my family. I have my Boston Irish side and my Russian Jewish side, so I'm an Irish Jew. (Laughing) I'm very proud of that

Q. Producer Kevin McCollum really gave you're your professional start and brought you up through the ranks.

A. A friend of mine from college worked for Kevin. When I was graduating (college), he knew Kevin was looking for a new assistant. Kevin was a hero of mine . . . He had done so much work that I deeply respected . . . The opportunity to sit down with him was so exciting . . So I flew to New York (from Chicago) and had a meeting and we really just hit it off. After that I called him and said, "You have to hire me. I'm not gonna let you *not*" . . . I've been with the company ever since.

Q. And now you're back in Boston with a show. Somewhere your grandmother must be

smiling.
A. My Nana (Frances McMahon) was one of the most influential people in my life. She was a classic Boston Irish matriarch. She had six kids and 12 grandchildren and she was so proud of all of us. . . I know she's still with us and being able to bring shows to Boston reminds me of her and that's really special . . . She would be telling anyone who walked past, "My grandson has a show at The Colonial!"

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

"The Play That Goes Wrong," Nov. 7 - 18, Emerson Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston Street, Boston. Info: 888-616-0272 or broadway in boston.com.

VMTE EARLY BOSTON 2018

Monday, October 22 - Friday, November 2

Registered Boston voters can vote at any early voting location in the City, including City Hall. Pick a time and place that is best for you.

WEEK 1:

MON. OCT. 22, 9A.M. - 5P.M. Boston City Hall (Downtown)

TUES. OCT. 23, 12 - 8P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown

9a.m. - 8p.m.) Holy Name Parish Hall (Roxbury)

Dot House Health (Dorchester)

Tobin Community Center (Mission Hill)

WED. OCT. 24, 9A.M. - 5P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown) THUR. OCT. 25, 12 - 8P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown

All Saints' Church (Dorchester)

(Jamaica Plain)

Honan-Allston Library (Allston)

Margarita Muniz Academy (Formerly Louis Agassiz Elementary School)

FRI. OCT. 26, 9A.M. - 5P.M. Boston City Hall (Downtown)

WEEK 2:

MON. OCT. 29, 9A.M. - 5P.M. Boston City Hall (Downtown)

TUES. OCT. 30, 12 - 8P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown

9a.m. - 8p.m.)

Harvard-Kent School (Charlestown)

Benjamin Franklin Institute of **Technology** (South End)

Wang YMCA of Chinatown (Chinatown)

WED. OCT. 31, 9A.M. - 5P.M. Boston City Hall (Downtown)

THUR. NOV. 1, 12 - 8P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown

The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Community Ctr. (Dorchester)

ABCD Thelma D. Burns Building

The Blue Hills Collaborative (Hyde Park)

FRI. NOV. 2. 9A.M. - 5P.M. **Boston City Hall** (Downtown)

WEEKEND VOTING:

SAT. & SUN. OCT. 27 & 28, 10A.M. - 6P.M.

Paris St. Community Center (East Boston)

James F. Condon Elementary School (South Boston)

Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy Neponset Campus (formerly known as St. Ann's School) (Dorchester)

Perkins Community Center / Joseph Lee School (Dorchester) Mildred Ave. Community Center. (Mattapan)

Roche Community Center (West Roxbury)

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building (Roxbury)

Copley Square Library (Back Bay) Jackson Mann School (Allston)

In order to vote early or on Election Day, you must register to vote by October 17.

If you miss the early voting period, you can still vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6.





five-string kind)

continues to carve out and consoli-

date its territory

in the "Celtgrass"

genre they've

championed for

the half-dozen-or-

more years they've

been together: a

shrewdly, inge-

niously assembled

mix of Irish and

American folk,

both in form and

CD Reviews

By SEAN SMITH

Altan, "The Gap of Dreams" • One of Donegal's greatest natural resources returns to the firmament with this, its 13th studio album. Where Altan's previous release, "The Widening Gyre" (2015), was Irish-Americana fusion (with guest stars like Alison Brown, Jerry Douglas, Tim O'Brien, Mary Chapin Carpenter, and Boston's own Darol Anger), "The Gap of Dreams" is a paean to the group's birthplace and celebrates the indispensability of music, songs, dance, and stories to past generations coping with the demands of rural life, as well as famine, conflict and emigration.



In the interim between "Gyre" and "Gap," with the departure of fiddler Ciaran Tourish, the band has become a quintet, which puts the focus more than ever on the band's co-founder — and in many ways its heart and soul — Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh. She, along with accordionist

Martin Tourish, carry most of the instrumental sets and if the sound isn't as full as it was in past incarnations of Altan, it's still got plenty of heft. Small wonder, though, when you've also got Ciarán Curran (bouzouki), Dáithí Sproule (guitar), and Mark Kelly (guitar) in your crew.

Ní Mhaonaigh and Tourish are at their most robust on tracks like the set of reels "Seán sa Cheo/Tuar/Oíche Fheidhmieúil (A Spirited Night)," the latter two composed by Tourish ("A Spirited Night" is an expression unique to the Donegal Gaeltacht), and another trio that's about as good a primer there is for Donegal fiddle, "The Tullaghan Lasses/The Cameronian/The Pigeon on the Gate." Their fretted-string colleagues also get some well-deserved attention, with Curran taking the lead—supported by some outstanding guitar backing—on the slow reel "The Piper in the Cave," which is followed by the jig "An Ghaoth Aniar Aneas (South-West Wind)"; Kelly is in the spotlight on his composition, "Port Alex."

An especially pleasing revelation on the album's opening track might be termed Altan: The Next Generation, as Ní Mhaonaigh's daughter Nia Byrne appears on fiddle, playing a jig she composed, while Kelly's son Mark is featured on concertina on his own "The Beekeeper."

No drop-off in quality on the vocal tracks here: Ní Mhaonaigh enriches the well-known "Month of January" (from the repertoire of the great Paddy Tunney), and "Dark Inishowen," a Donegal song of characteristically haunting splendor. There are also four Gaelic songs, including one from her childhood, "Níon a' Bhaoigheallaigh," and "An Bealach Seo 'Tá Romham (This Road Ahead of Me)," written by Clannad's Moya Brennan.

Capping off the album in brilliant style is "Fare Thee Well, a Stór," written by Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin (and set to the tune of Shetland fiddler Tom Anderson's "Da Slockit Light"), which Ní Mhaonaigh graces with a sweet, not saccharine, air of regret, enhanced by a gentle chorus from the rest of the band.

The phrase "The Gap of Dreams" is taken from a Francis Carlin poem, in which he writes, "The Gap of Dreams is never shut" – a reference to the portal to the mystical "Otherworld which has long nurtured the music, folklore and popular imagination of Donegal. Altan's reference to it here is an affirmation, that no matter where their musical travels take them, geographically or creatively, they are always rooted to that much-loved in-between place. [altan.ie]

We Banjo 3, "Haven" • With their fourth studio

We Banjo 3, "Haven" • With their fourth studio album, the Galway quartet (obligatory disclaimer: Yes, there are four of them, but only two actually play banjo; also, the banjos in question are the four-string tenor variety, played with a plectrum, not the finger-picked

Burials in Massachusetts or Ireland



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content.

In more recent years, though, brothers Enda and Fergal Scahill and David and Martin Howley have shifted toward the Americana end of the spectrum, a movement which included a geographical component: "Haven" was recorded in the US, with Bryan Sutton – a bluegrass-style guitarist who's played with Ricky Scaggs – serving as a co-producer. This transition has seen WB3 emphasize its own material rather than traditional tunes and songs, or covers of, for example, Danny Dill and Marijohn Wilkin's "Long Black Veil" and Guy Davis' "We All Need More Kindness in This World." In particular, the band's focus has been on songwriting in a folk-rock-pop idiom that's drawn comparisons to Mumford & Sons or The Lumineers. The result is a sound that is definitely hook-laden and might be described as, yes, more "mainstream."

Here's the thing, though: These guys are so darn good at this stuff. The sheer ability, the tightness of their playing, the force of personality – all those qualities that have brought so many admirers into the WB3 tent are still in evidence, even if the material isn't as uniformly strong as before. David Howley's singing remains a key asset: He can project vulnerability

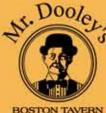
without sounding pitiable or maudlin, as evidenced by "Don't Let Me Down" – not a rendition of the Lennon-McCartney hit but in a similar vein – or "War of Love," which makes a persuasive case for not attending your ex-love's wedding (guest accompanying vocalist Sierra Hull strengthens the argument); and he can deliver on the uplifting, feel-good/do-good songs, such as "Pack It Up," "Light in the Sky" – which touches on the experiences of immigrants and refugees – and "Hold Onto Your Soul." His bandmates also deserve credit for their fine vocal harmonies.

The album's instrumental tracks—all four comprising band compositions—are as dazzling and intricate as ever, and uphold WB3's brand of Irish-Americana meld: Enda Scahill (banjo), Fergal Scahill (fiddle, bodhran, percussion) and Martin Howley (mandolin, banjo), along with David Howley on guitar, effectively blur the distinctions between traditions and styles, often in the same set. "Dawn Breaks," for example, starts off with an Irish-style jig, segues into a sauntering, bluegrasslike 4/4 tune, and then a breakneck reel which, toward the end, lets up a bit as the band creates a repeating riff from the tune's B part, before resuming full speed. Listen to "Granny's Bonnet," the second half of the medley "Sugar House," and you'll hear Enda playing an old-time/bluegrass-style variation alongside Fergal's more Celticesque fiddling. "Annabelle's Cannon" has a similarly hybrid feel to it, as does the waltz "Marry Me Monday," highlighted by Martin's mandolin duet with cellist Erin Snedecor.

Speaking of guest musicians, it's worth noting that, as on their two previous albums, WB3 once again utilizes brass but doesn't overdo it; the trumpet, sax ,and trombone appear on four tracks, including the title song and (with great effect) "Dawn Breaks."

We Banjo 3 strikes one as a band that, well-established though it may be, is still contemplating where Celtgrass can take them. "Haven" doesn't necessarily represent that ultimate destination. [webanjo3.com]





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Saving Now for Future Education Expenses

Presented by Brian W. O'Sullivan, CFP, ChFC, CLU

College costs are up - it's in the news, part of the political debate ... it's everywhere. But what does that really mean? Is college still a good investment? And if so, what's the best way to save for it?



If you're like most parents, you're concerned about how you'll fund your child's education. Even if you've managed to start saving, the fact remains that it just might not be enough. With all the competing priorities that you need to consider, such as retirement savings,

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you may be left confused and overwhelmed.

Develop Your Strategy Early (If You Can)

The earlier you can start planning, the more money you can save. It's hard to think beyond diapers and daycare at first, but even putting a small amount aside with each paycheck can make a big difference in the long run.

Save

When developing your saving and investment strategy, there are a lot of options at your disposal. Setting up a savings account is a good start and can be part of your long-term financial plan. Another possibility to consider is a 529 plan. Operated by a state or educational institution, a 529 plan is an education savings account designed to help families plan for college. A 529 plan can allow parents, relatives and friends to help invest in a child's education over time.

Reduce Costs

Applying for scholarships is one that should never be overlooked. Many local organizations offer small scholarships that may seem insignificant but can be a nice extra to pay for expenses beyond tuition, room and board. And then, of course, there are more substantial scholarships that help supplement the cost of college that are based on academic or athletic achievements.

Borrow

You may think taking a loan is a last resort, but the reality for many is that borrowing will ultimately fund a significant portion of their children's education. There are a lot of options, both governmental and private, that you may use to supplement what you or your child has been able to save. The good news is that loans are available and many students and their parents take advantage of them as a way to help pay for college.

There are some resources that are often overlooked. For instance, you may have a permanent life insurance policy with cash value that you could borrow against to help supplement some of the costs of school¹.

A Sound Investment

Despite challenges that come with financing higher education, college is still a smart investment and there are many options to help save for it. And when saving isn't enough, there are plenty of other ways to help reduce the costs or help you borrow the funds you'll need for the education that is a priceless gift.

Brian W. O'Sullivan is a registered representative of and offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MML Investors Services, LLC, Member SIPC (www.sipc.org). Supervisory Address: 101 Federal Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02110. He may be reached at 617-479-0075 x331 or bosullivan@financialguide.com.

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THE BIR'S OCTOBER CALENDAR OF IRISH/CELTIC MUSIC EVENTS

The return of all-star fiddle ensemble **Childsplay** – which plays at the Somerville Theater on Nov. 20 – highlights Boston-area Irish/Celtic music events these next several weeks.

Childsplay comprises some two dozen 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

Among the area musicians involved in the present iteration of Childsplay are Sheila Falls, Shannon Heaton, Laurel Martin, Katie McNally, Kathleen Guilday, and McKinley James; renowned Irish singer Karan Casey has served as the band's lead vocalist since 2016; Kevin Doyle will be the featured dancer.

Childs announced in 2017 that Childsplay will end its two decades-plus run after its 2019 tour. The group recently released its seventh recording, "The Bloom of Youth."

For links to tickets and other information, go to somervilletheatre.com/live-events.

• In addition to her appearance with Childsplay, **Karan Casey** will perform at Boston College's Gaelic Roots series on Nov. 7. A native of Co. Waterford who immigrated to New York City in 1993, Casey came to prominence as a co-founder of thye pioneering band Solas. Casey released her first album in 1997, and began her solo career two years later; since then, she has made seven recordings, the most recent being "Hieroglyphs That Tell the Tale," released last month. In addition, she has collaborated with an array of artists such as Lúnasa, Tim O'Brien, The Dubliners, and James Taylor. Solidly grounded in traditional music, Casey also has shown herself to be versatile in R&B, jazz, blues and other genres, and as a songwriter: Her previous album, "Two More Hours," consisted of her original songs.

The concert will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Cadigan Alumni Center on BC's Brighton Campus. For more details, see events bc.edu/group/gaelic roots series.

details, see events.bc.edu/group/gaelic_roots_series.

• Another Childsplay veteran, Hanneke Cassel, brings her band – Mike Block (cello) and Keith Murphy (guitar, vocals) – to the Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport on Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. Cassel's strongly expressive, emotive fiddle style draws on the traditions of Scotland's Isle of Skye and Cape Breton Island, blended with Americana grooves and other musical styles and trappings. Since beginning her career more than 15 years ago, Cassel has built up a repertoire of original tunes written in the traditional idiom to go with the older music. She has appeared locally at BCMFest, the Boston College Gaelic Roots series and "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn," among others, as well as events such as the Milwaukee Irish Fest, Celtic Colours in Cape Breton and Celtic Connections in Glasgow.

For tickets and other information, see rockportmusic. org/hanneke-cassel.

• Husband/wife duo **Tommy and Saundra**O'Sullivan lead off this month's Burren Backroom series on Nov. 7. Tommy is known to many audiences as the guitarist and vocalist for Sliabh Notes (with Matt Cranitch and Donal Murphy) and as an accompanist for uilleann piper Paddy Keenan, with whom he has recorded two albums. Saundra, a native Texan, had considerable experience singing in choirs and as a soloist during high school and college, but first became active in Celtic music as a tenor drummer with a bagpipe band. This led her to explore the Irish tradition – and to an Irish music retreat in 2007, where she met Tommy, who was one of the instructors. The two made a musical connection, as well as a personal one (they were married three years later), and now live in Dingle.

One of the Irish folk revival's most accomplished fiddlers, Kevin Burke, comes to the Backroom on Nov. 9. Born in London but with family ties to Sligo and its storied fiddle tradition, Burke made the round of sessions and other musical gatherings among London's Irish community as a teenager and became part of an All-Ireland champion ceili band. Burke moved to New York City at the invitation of singer-songwriter Arlo Guthrie, and there met a number of musicians, including Irish ex-pats Joe Burke and Andy McGann, who inspired him to take up music full-time. He eventually wound up in Dublin's fertile folk/trad scene, and became a member of the groundbreaking Bothy Band; he went on to equally rewarding stints with Patrick Street and the Celtic Fiddle Festival. A resident of Portland, Ore., since 1980, Burke was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship in 2002.

A master fiddler of a more recent generation, **Oisín Mac Diarmada**, along with his wife, pianist-step dancer **Samantha Harvey**, and longtime friend and partner, accordionist-vocalist **Seamus Begley**, will perform on Nov. 21. Cork-born but greatly influenced by the Sligo fiddle tradition, Mac Diarmada is a cofounder of the acclaimed traditionally-rooted band Téada, of which Begley – from a venerable musical family in West Kerry – has been an occasional member/guest. Classically-trained Californian Harvey has fully developed into an astute accompanist of Irish music, and as a dancer in the sean-nos, Irish and Ottawa Valley traditions.

All shows begin at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and other information about Burren Backroom events, go to bur-

ren.com/EventsCalendar.html.

• The annual Massachusetts Fiddle Hell, which takes place Nov. 1-4 at the Westford Regency Inn in Westford, offers workshops, mini-concerts and evening performances that showcase numerous fiddle styles, among them Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, Appalachian and Scandinavian; instruments such as guitar, mandolin and cello also are featured. This year's line-up includes Gerry O'Connor, Jay Ungar, Laurel Martin, Ellery Klein, Katie McNally, Keith Murphy, Lissa Schneckenburger, Mark Simos, Rose Clancy, Flynn Cohen, Brian O'Donovan, and David Surette.

For more details, go to fiddlehell.org.

• The Canadian American Club of Massachusetts Gala on Nov. 11 will feature several hours of music and dance from Cape Breton, Irish, Scottish, Prince Edward Island, Quebecois and old-timey traditions. Among the performers are: Michael Kerr; the Jackie O□Riley Dancers, with uilleann piper Joey Abarta; fiddler Leland Martin; musicians from Boston's Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann branch; the Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra; Adrienne Howard and friends; the Jen Schoonover Dancers with Ian MacDougal; Lorraine Lynch with Helen Keisel and Bernie Doucet, and Canned Ham, with accompaniment throughout the day by Terry Traub, and Lloyd Carr. There also will be Cape Breton Mabou set dances for all who will.

For details, see canadianamericanclub.com.

• The New England trio Fodhla will perform traditional, contemporary and original tunes from Ireland, Brittany and Quebec on Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Medford. Fodhla is fiddler Ellery Klein, a former member of all-female quartet Long Time Courting and popular international Celtic rock band Gaelic Storm; flutist Nicole Rabata, whose musical experiences include a four-year sojourn in the west of Ireland and contributing along with Natalie MacMaster to the film "The Heavenly Angle"; and guitarist Bethany Waickman, a frequent accompanist of fiddler Lissa Schneckenburger and a member of contra dance band Anadama.

The church is located at 34 Oakland Street in Medford. Go to firstbaptistchurchmedford.org/concerts for more details

• The fourth **Lexington Ceili** takes place on Nov. 4 at 4:30 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Lexington (1580 Massachusetts Avenue). Popular ceili dances such as "Siege of Ennis" and "Shoe the Donkey" will be taught; all ages and experience levels are welcome. Live music provided by Nora Smith (fiddle), Natasha Sheehy (accordion) and John Coyne (bouzouki). Information at facebook.com/events/720795561620639.

• The Gore Place Carriage House Series in Waltham hosts two concerts this month featuring Irish/Celtic music. On Nov. 13, the series will present "Music of the Misty Isles" with Michael O'Leary and O'Carolan Etcetera. Gloucester resident O'Leary is a singer of Irish, Scottish, and maritime ballads and songs who has appeared at BCMFest, Irish Connections Festival, New England Folk Festival and other festivals and concert venues in New England. He also organizes music cruises in Gloucester Harbor and sessions on the North Shore. In 2003, O'Leary was co-recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant that enabled him to study the traditional Irish sean nos singing style from Bridget Fitzgerald. He will be accompanied by O'Carolan Etcetera, which comprises flute, fiddle, guitar and hurdy-gurdy.

On Nov. 27, the duo of Colleen White and Sean Smith will come to the Carriage House. Of different generations, White (flute, whistle, vocals) and Smith (guitar, bouzouki, bodhran, vocals) find common ground in the song and instrumental traditions of Ireland, Scotland and England; their repertoire also includes contemporary songs from writers like Kate Rusby, Karine Polwart and Steve Tilston. White, who spent most of her childhood in Minnesota, came to Boston in 2007, and studied flute and whistle with Jimmy Noonan. Smith has been part of the local folk music scene for more than three decades, playing in various bands and collaborations. Together, they've appeared at BCMFest, Canton's Open Book Coffeehouse, and the Dorchester Irish Heritage Festival.

Both concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information and other details, see goreplace.org/programs/concerts-music.

• One of Boston's more iconic singers, **Pauline Wells**, will present her holiday-themed show "Home for Christmas" on Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Norwood Theater. A deputy superintendent in the Cambridge Police Department, Wells has become a familiar figure at local and regional charitable events, as well as at Red Sox and Patriots games, and venues ranging from the Massachusetts State House to the National Mall in Washington, DC. Her songs include many Irish/Celtic favorites such as "Tell Me Ma," "Fields of Athenry" and "Ride On," as well as patriotic and other classic material.

Proceeds from the concert will go to benefit Cops for Kids with Cancer. Go to norwoodstage.org for tickets and information.

• Highland Dance Boston and The Boston Scottish Country Dancers will host a Scottish Ceilidh on Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Irish Social Club of Boston (119 Park Street, West Roxbury). The event will include performances and ceilidh dancing for all. Music will be provided by The Celtic Beats and the New Hampshire Pipes and Drums. For information, e-mail ceilidh@rscdsboston.org, or see highlanddanceboston.org/hdbceilidh.html.

Commentary

You can vote to eliminate the smell from the Washington sewer

By Joe Leary SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Washington, DC, has been called a swamp by many people, but it has now descended into sewer status and its smell is spreading throughout the world. Take for examples the horrendous personal conduct of the president, the Republican hypocrisy on the making of the rising deficit, the complete politicization of our immigration policy, and the disgraceful Kavanaugh hearings last month.

In our capital, it seems that loyalty to the principles of our Constitution and to all Americans comes second to loyalty to political parties. The villains in establishing this attitude are Donald Trump and 78-year-old Mitch McConnell, the GOP's majority leader in the US Senate who can trace his ancestry back to County Down in Northern Ireland. His demeanor is reminiscent of the hardest of hardline Unionist Bowler hat, Orange Sash marchers in that small artificial province.

Make no mistake: The Kavanaugh/Ford hearings were run according to McConnell's rules. Two octogenarians, Sen. Chuck Grassley and his Democratic colleague, Diane Feinstein, did as they were told.

The contrast between the calm, deliberate Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and the crying, moaning Judge Kavanaugh was stark. His challenging of Sen. Amy Klobuchar when she asked him about his drinking - "Did you ever black out, Senator" - would have disqualified him in any job interview. And watching him frantically exclaiming "I am innocent" caused serious doubts about his mental control. Are we proud to have such a man on our Supreme Court?

McConnell claims that he always following Senate



Joe Leary

rules but when President Obama nominated Merrick Garland for the high court, McConnell refused to even consider his nomination as mandated by the Constitution. The amorality is self-evident. Mc-Connell has vowed as recently as last month to move to repeal Social Security. The Yahoo right and the red-neck sheriffs seem to be in charge. Where are the likes of Senators Leverett Saltonstall

and Henry Cabot Lodge?

At the Kavanaugh hearings, the Republicans hired a woman prosecutor from Arizona to question Dr. Ford because it would look bad to have the men-only Republican contingent on the Judiciary panel do the interrogation. But they fired her three quarters of the way into the hearing when they became nervous that she was getting Kavanaugh close to admitting to too much. The questions were concluded before the complete answer was given.

Then a screaming, snarling Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina went on a multi-minute tirade against the Democrats on the committee, condemning them for cooking up Dr. Ford's testimony. Graham seemed more blinded by his loyalty to the Republican Party than open to searching for the truth.

This type of fact fixing is a trademark of the Trump presidency. It has caused many to question the impetus behind the trumping up of the so-called danger from the much-heralded migrant caravan in Mexico. The president makes note of it in every speech. To have

such a march so close to the midterm elections is quite a coincidence, one that the CIA should be very skeptical of. Was it arranged and financed by Trump operatives? We may never know, but it just didn't happen by itself. Roiling up the unsettling immigration issue is a favorite Republican fear tactic.

For all that, there is plenty of blame to go around. Where are the influential Democratic voices challenging this obvious amorality? We are two years before the next presidential elections, and except for a few well-tarnished names, there is no cadre of nationally known and respected nominees speaking out against the Trumpian disgraces.

When Lindsey Graham pointed at the Democratic members of the judiciary committee and accused them of creating a sham hearing, not one Democrat spoke up. He was allowed to scream, yell, and snarl without any response. Tyranny is only successful when its words and deeds go unanswered.

Republicans wave the American flag, pledge allegiance to the Constitution, and praise the US military, but behind the scenes they do everything they can to suppress voting opportunities. Look at what is going on in Georgia, where something like 50,000 voter registrations are being delayed; in Iowa, where new regulations were enacted to make it much more difficult to vote; and in Texas, where redistricting has stifled minority votes.

On Tues., Nov. 6 we have the opportunity to vote and exercise our freedom to choose better leaders. We owe it to each other to go to the polls before the smell from the Washington sewer suffocates us.

BIR HISTORY

TALKING TURKEY

Fact or fiction about the mythic Feast of the Pilgrims?

By Peter F. Stevens **BIR STAFF**

Seasonal images of the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians gathered at long wooden tables piled with platters of food abound. You might think that Thanksgiving traditions do not reflect anything Irish, but you would be wrong in that assumption. In fact, several scholars contend that without the Irish, the first Thanksgiving might never have happened.

Tradition dictates that we celebrate Thanksgiving in November. While the date of the legendary Pilgrim and Native American feast cannot be pinpointed with certainty, the Irish-American historian Michael J. O'Brien, an author and the main contributor to the Journal of the American Irish Historical Society from 1898 to 1941, contended that our Thanksgiving began with the arrival of The Lyon (or Lion), a ship out of Dublin in the midst of a brutal New England winter. The problem is that the Lyon anchored off Massachusetts in February 1631—not in 1621, the purported year of the first feast.

In the 1700s in The Annals of the Year 1631, New England chronicler Reverend Thomas Prince wrote:

"As the winter came on provisions are very scarce (in the Massachusetts Bay), and people necessitated to feed on clams and mussels and ground nuts and acorns, and those were got with much difficulty during the winter season....on February 5th, the very day before the appointed fast, in comes the ship Lion, Mr. William Pierce, master, now arriving at Nantas-ket laden with provisions. Upon which joyful occasion the day is changed and ordered to be kept (on the 22nd) as a day of Thanksgiving."

What murkily endures is whether a Day of Thanksgiving in 1631or the custowary date of 1621 is correct. Much of the timeline imbroglio hinges upon the accounts of Prince and Pilgrim leader William Bradford and when and how the event morphed into the annual harvest feast celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. According to John Cusack's "How the Irish Saved Thanksgiving" (Irish Central, Nov. 23, 2017), "It turns out, from records at the Massachusetts Historical Society, that the wife of one of the prominent Plymouth Rock brethren was the daughter of a Dublin merchant and that it was he who chartered the vessel, loaded it with food and dispatched it to Plymouth."

Further, the issue is that the Lyon did arrive in early 1631 "at Nantasket" with sorely needed provisions, but this date and the earlier date of 1621 remain at odds.



"The First Thanksgiving," by J.G. Ferris.

Library of Congress

So what to make of the "Irish claim?" Some will dismiss it as a bit of blarney, but Cusack maintains that "the Massachusetts historical records revealed the tale, giving the Irish a fair claim to saving Thanksgiving.

A Place at the Table

In 1889, at the ceremonies dedicating the national monument at Plymouth Rock, the broad-shouldered, mustachioed poet who rose to deliver the main speech was not someone bearing the name Bradford, Alden, Winslow, or Carver. Nor was the speaker 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, and 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 him 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"; 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 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 paean 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, John Boyle O'Reilly stepped forward. A New York Times newspaperman recorded that "the introduction of John Boyle O'Reilly elicited much

"Mr. O'Reilly was the poet of the day," wrote the Timesman. The Irishman cleared his throat and began to read aloud his 260-line ode, "The Pilgrim Fathers," to a riveted throng: "Here, on this rock, and on this sterile soil, Began the kingdom not of Kings, but 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 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 the Fenian and poet John Boyle O'Reilly claimed a place, so to speak, for the Irish at the Pilgrims' historical table.



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Heavy smoking tied to poor oral health of Famine victims

Irish Famine victims were heavy smokers, an addiction that caused badly rotten teeth, researchers from the University of Otago and Queen's University Belfast, in Ireland, have discovered. The research was carried out on the teeth of 363 adult victims of the Great Irish Famine, who died in the Kilkenny Union Workhouse between 1847 and 1851. Their remains were discovered in an unmarked mass burial ground by archaeologists in 2005.

The findings show poor oral health among most of the famine victims, with 80 per cent of the adult remains showing evidence of tooth decay, and over half missing teeth. There were also revealing signs of pipe smoking marks on their teeth.

This is the first study that has explored the relationship between smoking and oral health in an archaeological sample of a historical population.

a historical population.
Professor Eileen Murphy, from the School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's University Belfast, says that this research is important because the current clinical understanding of how smoking affects oral health is not fully understood, and this discovery adds to that discourse.

"As well as this," Professor Murphy said, "the study also gives us a unique insight into the living conditions of the working classes in Victorian Irish society at the time of the Great Famine.

Smoking was evidently an important part of life for these people, a habit that they could enjoy amongst deprived social conditions and a very harsh and difficult life, but it may have contributed to their ill health," she added, noting that "despite a vast amount of historical records surviving from the nineteenth century, very little is known about the experienced living conditions of the poor and laboring classes."

Said Dr. Jonny Geber, from the Department of Anatomy at the University of Otago, "We believe the bad condition of the teeth studied was because of widespread pipe smoking in both men and women, rather than their diet of potatoes and milk, as a comparative study of the 20th century population on the same diet didn't have the same evidence of poor oral health. Our study," he added," shows that it is not only diet that affects your oral health, but many other factors-and we believe that smoking was a major contributing factor in the Kilkenny population sample.'

Lastly, he said, "the high frequency of clay pipe facets or marks from clenching a pipe between the teeth in many of the skeletons was evidence of smoking in both males and females. The current study adds to the growing body of evidence that demonstrates that smoking is not only bad for your health, but it is also bad for your teeth."

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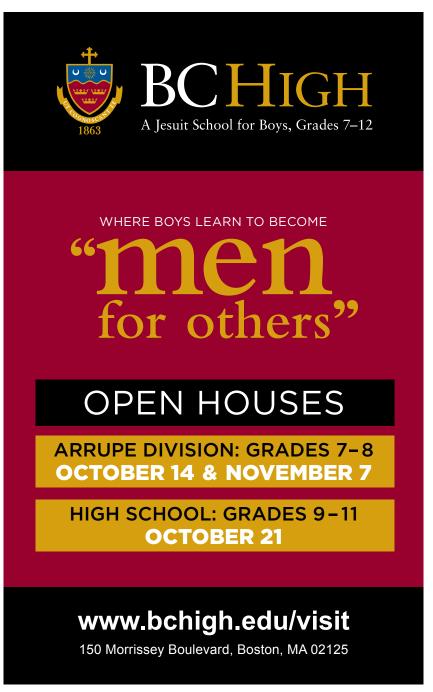
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Ireland Northwest businesses join investment mission to US

"The North West City region is open for business!" That's the collective message that nine businesses from across the Donegal, Derry, and Strabane Council areas will be sharing when they join a high-level trade and investment delegation to Boston and Philadelphia this month

Among the companies travelling from Donegal to spend the week of Nov. 12 in the two US cities are Triona Design, Fire Cloud 365 and CFish. While Atlantic Hub, Joule Group, Northern Ireland Clinical Research Sciences, Automated Control Systems, Baronscourt Brewing Company, and Bridie Mullin Ltd. from the Derry and Strabane area will also be taking part alongside both Councils, third level and further education providers and development organizations from across the North West, including Ulster University, Letterkenny Institute of Technology, the North West Regional College and Udaras na Gaeltachta.

"The North West City Region has a compelling business proposition for any outward looking global business in that we are uniquely located for ease of access to both the UK and European markets" says Councillor Seamus O'Domhnaill, Cathaoirleach of the Donegal

County Council who will be jointly leading the delegation with John Boyle, the Mayor of Derry City and a Strabane District Councillor.

"The collaborative approach undertaken by both Councils over the last number of year's means that as a region we are well positioned to not only respond

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constructively to post-brexit challenges but to avail of the opportunities that will exist for the region given our unique geographical location," says O'Domhnaill. "The businesses participating in this year's trade mis-

"The businesses participating in this year's trade mission will showcase the ambitious, diverse, resilient and outward looking nature of our SME sector in Ireland Northwest," says Mayor Boyle.

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