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Congratulations

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Full coverage of the Boston Irish Honors luncheon
Pages 4-13

Decision on Brexit put off until January; Britain to hold national election on Dec. 12

BY JILL LAWLESS
AND DANICA KIRKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP) — Britons will be heading out to vote in the dark days of December — on the 12th, as it turns out — after the House of Commons on Oct. 29 backed an early national vote that could break the country's political impasse over Brexit — or turn out to be merely a temporary distraction.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson hopes that electing a new crop of lawmakers will give his Conservative Party a majority and crack open the stalemate that blocked his plan to take Britain out of the European Union by the end of October.

Earlier that week, the EU had granted Britain a three-month Brexit extension, until Jan. 31. But after three years of inconclusive political wrangling over Brexit, British voters are weary and the results of an election are hard to predict. The Commons vote was 438-20, with dozens of lawmakers abstaining, for a bill authorizing a national election on Dec. 12. The date was to become law once it was approved on Wed., Oct. 30, by the unelected House of

Lords, which does not have the power to overrule the elected Commons. But even before the result was announced, the political parties were in campaign mode. Johnson, who was forced to abandon his vow to lead Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 "do or die," accused his opponents of seeking to frustrate voters' decision to leave the EU and prolong the

**Fears of unrest are aired
in the North Pg. 2**

Brexit process "until the 12th of never." He added: "There is only one way to get Brexit done in the face of this unrelenting parliamentary obstructionism, this endless, willful, fingers crossed, 'not me gov' refusal to deliver on the mandate of the people — and that is to refresh this Parliament and give the people a choice."

The road to polling day opened up when the main opposition Labour Party, which had opposed three previous attempts by Johnson to trigger an election, changed its position. With Brexit delayed, Labour leader Jer-

(Continued on page 23)

Rothstein to leave JFK Library post at year's end; Flor will succeed him

Steven M. Rothstein will step down from his position as executive director of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation at the end of the year and will be succeeded by Deputy Director Rachel Flor, who will begin transitioning into the role next month and assume full responsibilities in January 2020, according to a statement released by the foundation last Friday.



Steven M. Rothstein
Taking his leave

"The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation is for-



Rachel Flor
Taking over

tunate that Steven came to us with his experience
(Continued on page 2)

Echoes of three decades of memorable music, and tour band fellowship will resound this month as the fiddles of Childsplay fall silent

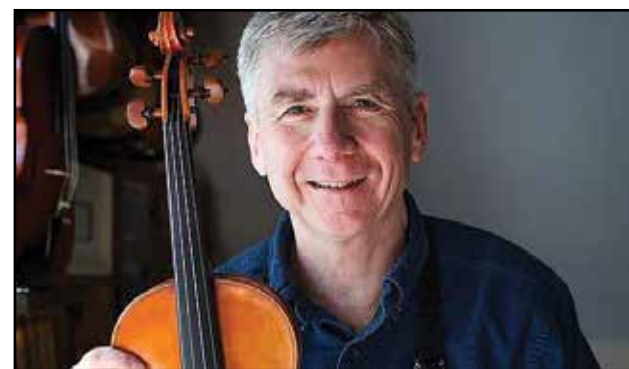
BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Understand, it's not as if Bob Childs *wants* Childsplay to end. For more than three decades, the Boston-based all-star fiddle ensemble for which Childs serves as artistic director as well as namesake has gathered almost every fall to present a series of concerts featuring music from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, American, Scandinavian, and other folk traditions. The band's name derives from the fact that its fiddlers, all skillful musicians in their own right, play violins and violas created by Childs, who also takes part in the performances. Childsplay has released seven albums and two films, one of which was shown widely on PBS.

But this month marks the finale of Childsplay, which will say goodbye with a mini-tour of New England and New York culminating in two shows (3 p.m. and 8 p.m.) on Nov. 24 at Sanders Theater in Cambridge.

Economics is the most immediate reason for Childsplay's farewell, according to Childs: "The touring costs and logistics associated with taking a large group on the road have simply become too great." But he also points to what he calls "a changed landscape" for folk and acoustic music in an era of proliferating entertainment choices and increasingly segmented media.

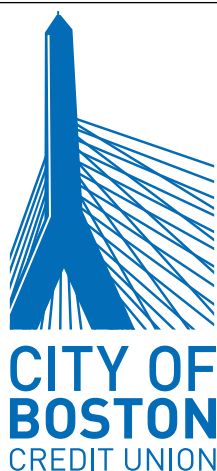
"We hear how CDs are in decline, and there just doesn't seem to be as much folk, acoustic, and traditional music on the radio anymore. It's become more



Bob Childs: "The numbers just don't work."
village soup.com photo

challenging for performers to get the wider exposure they need to build an audience. So the calculus of what's necessary for a viable band tour has reached a point where the numbers just don't work."

(Continued on page 19)



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CEO of the Gaelic Players Association, Paul Flynn, with Partnership Board Member and Co-Chair of the Irish Invitational Golf Tournament Aidan Browne, Co-Chair of the Irish Invitational Golf Tournament Patrick Sarkis, and Partnership Board Member Dessie Farrell

After golf in Kerry, the IAP distributes \$80K in grants

The Irish American Partnership (IAP) hosted the 2019 Irish Invitational Golf Tournament in Co. Kerry in late September with the competition spread three championship courses: Waterville Golf Links, Ballybunion Golf Club, and Tralee Golf Club. The play on the fairways and greens – and in the bunkers – brought American and Irish players to the elite layouts in support of Irish education.

The tournament culminated in a gala dinner on October 1 at the Killarney Park Hotel, during which the Irish American Partnership disbursed \$80,000 in grants to education and

community programs in the southwest region.

The IAP provides funding for education and community development programs in Ireland, North and South. Proceeds from the biennial tournament are granted to primary schools to enhance their libraries and science materials.



Co-Chair of the Irish Invitational Golf Tournament Ted Sheehan presents a grant to John Sugrue of Banteer National School, Co. Cork



Chairman of the Irish American Partnership Michael Clune, with Maeve Liston of Mary Immaculate College

Truck deaths probe expands in NI; all 39 victims are from China

By Danica Kirka
And Jill Lawless
Associated Press

A 25-year-old man from Northern Ireland has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after 39 people were found dead in a refrigerated container truck near an English port last month. British police confirmed the arrest on Oct. 24 as they investigated one of the country's deadliest cases of human smuggling. All of the victims were Chinese.

The Essex Police force said 31 men and 8 women were found dead in the truck early on Oct. 23 at an industrial park in Grays, a town 25 miles east of London.

On Oct. 25, police charged the driver of the truck, 25-year-old Maurice Robinson, with 39 counts of manslaughter, conspiracy to traffic people, conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration, and money laundering. He was to appear in court in late October.

Irish police reported that another man had been arrested on Oct. 6 in connection with the case.

Police in Northern Ireland searched three properties there as detectives sought to piece together how the truck's cab, its container, and the victims came together on such a deadly journey.

Pippa Mills, deputy chief of Essex Police, said the process of conducting post-mortem examinations and identifying the victims would be "lengthy and complex. This is an incredibly sensitive and high-profile investigation, and we are working swiftly to gather as full a picture as possible as to how these people lost their lives."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Chinese Embassy employees in the UK were driving to the scene of the crime to aid the investigation.

Police believe the truck and container took separate journeys before ending up at the industrial park. They say the container traveled by ferry from the Belgian port of Zeebrugge to Purfleet, England, where it arrived early Wed., Oct. 23, and was picked up by the truck driver and driven the few miles to Grays.

The truck cab, which is registered in Bulgaria to a company owned by an Irish woman, is believed to have traveled from Northern Ireland to Dublin, where it caught a ferry to Wales, then drove across Britain to pick up the container.

Global Trailer Rentals Ltd told Ireland's national broadcaster RTE on Oct. 24 that it owns the trailer and that it was leased Oct. 15 in Co. Monaghan, in Ireland, at a rate of 275 euros (\$299) per week. The Dublin-based company said it will make the data from its tracking system available to investigators.

On Oct. 23, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed in Parliament that people smugglers would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Britain, with its high demand for tourism, restaurant, and agricultural workers, remains a very attractive destination for immigrants from all countries, even as the UK is rethinking its immigration rules as it prepares to leave the 28-nation European Union.

Police, pols warn: Brexit moves could trigger unrest in North

By Jill Lawless
Associated Press

UK police and politicians are raising alarms about what could happen in Northern Ireland under British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's proposed Brexit deal, with the regional police chief warning that a badly handled divorce from the European Union could bring violence back onto the streets.

Police have long warned that if Britain's departure from the EU imposes a hard border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland, that could embolden Irish Republican

Army splinter groups who are opposed to Northern Ireland's peace process and power-sharing government.

Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Chief Constable Simon Byrne told the BBC on Oct. 23 there also was potential for unrest among Northern Ireland's pro-British loyalist community. He said, depending on how Brexit unfolded, there could be "a lot of emotion in loyalist communities and the potential for civil disorder."

He added: "There are a small number of people in both the loyalist and

nationalist communities that are motivated by their own ideology and that have the potential to bring violence back onto the streets."

The all-but invisible Irish border now underpins both the regional economy and the peace process that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland.

DUP lawmaker Nigel Dodds warned on Oct. 24 that the British government risked undermining "the political institutions and political stability in Northern Ireland by what you are doing to the unionist community."

Transition time at JFK Library

(Continued from page 1) in education, human services, and government to create stability and reinvigorate our fundraising efforts, which resulted in one of the most successful periods in the Foundation's history. We thank him for his dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of the Foundation," said Ronald Sargent, the JFK Library Foundation Board Chair.

"Looking forward," Sargent added, "the Board

unanimously chose Rachel Flor as the Foundation's next executive director due to her steadfast commitment to the Foundation's mission and the significant accomplishments she has already achieved at the Foundation over her 13 years with the organization. The Board recognizes Rachel's proven success in engaging new generations who are inspired by President Kennedy's example of public

service, civic engagement, and thinking boldly to change the world."

The JFK Library Foundation is the 501(c)(3), non-profit that provides financial support, staffing, and creative resources for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, a federal institution governed by the National Archives and Records Administration.



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IIIC hails 30 years of service and advocacy at Solas Awards event

Viewed as Boston's Welcome Center for immigrants and refugees, the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIIC) celebrated 30 years of supporting families from around the world at its annual Solas Awards last month. The event honored Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, and Tony Rodriguez, a Boston Public Schools student.

Surrounded by community support, the Awards event raised a total of \$725,000 for the IIIC's vital work, and through the contributions and pledges of the 500 guests, the IIIC raised more than \$80,000 that evening.

"Looking back over thirty years of helping more than 40,000 immigrants on their journey to new beginnings," said IIIC Executive Director Ronnie Millar, "I am deeply grateful for all the staff, volunteers, supporters, partner organizations,

and board members who have made all of this possible. We look forward to continuing to work toward a society where all are welcomed and valued."

Added Solas Awards hosts Robin G. Jones and John Donohue, who is also co-chair of the IIIC Advisory Board: "It's a privilege to have the opportunity to play a role in recognizing the extraordinary track record of such a special organization. The work of the IIIC has always been critically important, but never more important than during these most challenging times."

The IIIC assists immigrants and refugees from more than 120 countries by providing the legal, wellness and educational support they need to build successful lives. Immigrants benefit from receiving the organization's services and engaging more deeply in their new communities, and, the IIIC adds, existing com-



From left, Ronnie Millar, IIIC executive director; Robin Jones, Solas host; Laoise Moore, Consul General of Ireland to New England who accepted the Solas Award given to Leo Varadkar, An Taoiseach of Ireland; John F. Donohue, Solas host; Linda Dorcea Forry, of Suffolk Construction; Tony Rodriguez, Solas Awardee and BPS student; Maura Healey, Massachusetts attorney general and Solas Awardee; Kevin Mawe, the IIIC's acting board president.

munities benefit just as much when immigrants are safe, welcomed, and able to fully participate in society.

Baker names Sherrill House CEO to Nursing Facility Task Force

Sherrill House, a not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, has announced that its CEO, Patrick Stapleton, has been appointed by Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker to serve on the state's recently established Nursing Facility Task Force.

The 15-member panel is charged with evaluating ways to ensure the financial stability of skilled nursing facilities, to enhance their role within the continuum of elder care services, and to address current workforce challenges.

"I am honored to serve with this exceptional



Patrick Stapleton

group of officials and advocates, all of whom share my commitment to identifying the best strategies to bring financial stability

to the nursing home industry in Massachusetts," said Stapleton of his appointment. "There will always be a need for skilled nursing facilities and the level of care that only they can provide, particularly as the aging population continues to increase. I look forward to fulfilling the mission as laid out by Governor Baker and the Legislature."

Stapleton has more than 25 years of experience in the skilled nursing industry and is certified by the American College of Healthcare Administrators. He joined Sherrill House in 2003 and has served as CEO since 2005.



Delta Air Lines, a co-sponsor of last month's Boston Irish Honors luncheon and the donor of two grand prize round trip flights to Ireland for a lucky luncheon guest, will expand from seasonal to year-round daily service from Boston to Dublin next spring.

Pictured at the luncheon are, from left: Delta New England executives Gail Branchini and Charlie Schewe, Boston Irish publisher Ed Forry, Boston Irish president and managing editor Bill Forry, and Siobhan Rieley, market manager for the Americas, VisitScotland, Scotland's official tourist board.

Eire Society and Charitable Irish present Prof. Catherine Shannon speaking about John Boyle O'Reilly

During the late 19th century, John Boyle O'Reilly achieved great fame and respect as an Irish patriot and shaper of Irish American nationalism as well as an influential editor of the Boston Pilot and a leading literary light in Boston.

A gifted orator as well as writer, O'Reilly also used his talents as a champion of social justice for the most marginalized groups in this contemporary society, i.e. African Americans, Native Americans and the exploited laboring classes during

America's "Gilded Age."

Hear Prof. Catherine Shannon expand on this brief mention of the man and his times on Sun., Nov. 17 at 1 p.m. at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton. Admission is free. Info: Mdooh@irishculture.org

HAPPENING NOVEMBER 2019

Irish Pastoral Centre events in November – The Irish Pastoral Centre at 512 Gallivan Blvd. will host author Maureen Kavanagh on Thurs., Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and read from her memoir recalling her daughter's opioid addiction. On Fri., Nov. 15 the IPC will host a performance by Annawon Weeden of Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to commemorate Native American Heritage Month. Suggested donation: \$10. Space is limited for both events. Call 617-265-5300 or email info@ipcuboston.org to reserve a seat.

Fri., Nov. 1 - The Irish Holy Ghost Fathers hold a 35th Annual Benefit Dance at the Irish Social Club, 119 Park St., West Roxbury at 8 p.m. Donation \$10. For tickets: Cathy Coppinger, 617-323-2800.

Sat., Nov. 2 - The Irish Music Club monthly dance at the Viking Club, 410 Quincy Ave., Braintree. Music by the Noel Henry Irish Show Band from 7-11 p.m.

• The County Donegal Association's 111th annual banquet at Florian Hall at 7:15 p.m., with music by Erin's Melody with Margaret Dalton. Tickets \$60. Contact: President J. P. Doherty, 617-605-9878, or Mike McCarron, 857-364-7665.

Sun., Nov. 3 - The Irish Cultural Centre will hold its monthly Irish Mass, 11 a.m.

• The Irish Social Club in West Roxbury hosts breakfast from 10 to noon to benefit "Rosies Place."

Mon., Nov. 4 - The Sligo Association holds its monthly meeting at Waterford's, Dedham at 8 p.m.

Tues., Nov. 5 - The Leitrim Society's monthly meeting at the Irish Butcher Shop at Adams Corner, Dorchester at 7:30 p.m.

• The Irish Pastoral Centre Immigration Clinic at the Banshee Restaurant, Dorchester Ave in Savin Hill. 6:30 p.m.

Wed., Nov. 6 - The County Donegal Association's monthly meeting at the Irish Butcher Shop at Adams Corner at 7:30 p.m.

Thur., Nov. 7 - The Irish Pastoral Centre Mass with Fr. Dan Finn and lunch at the ICC at noon. RSVP: 617-265-5300.

• Irish Pastoral Centre hosts a book signing with Maureen Cavanagh from her memoir about her daughter's opioid addiction. 6:30 p.m. at the IPC Offices in Dorchester.

Fri., Nov. 8 - The Boston Police Dept. sponsors an Irish concert with the tenor John McDermott to benefit the Boston Police Foundation. At 100 Causeway Street Boston. 617-262-7200.

• The Irish Social Club in West Roxbury. Pub night featuring Derrick Keane from 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission \$5.

• The Irish Cultural Centre presents "The United Irishmen and the French Invasion" at 8 p.m. A historical presentation by Frank Costello. Admission \$15. Members \$10. 781-821-8291

Sat., Nov. 9 - The Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr - Cork club will have their annual Mass at 6:30 p.m. at the Malden Irish American Club, 177 West Street.

After Mass, Erin's Melody will play for your dancing and listening pleasure until 11 p.m. Donation is \$10.

Sun., Nov. 10 - The Irish Social Club will have the Denis Curtin Band for its Sunday evening dance from 7 p.m., 10 p.m.

Mon., Nov. 11 - The IPC offers Ceol & Craic at Cara Club in Brighton from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 15 - The Irish Cultural Centre holds a book launch by David Latimer (First Derry Presbyterian Minister) entitled "A Leap of Faith." Admission is \$10.

Sat., Nov. 16 - The Norwood Irish Music club will have John Connors and the Irish Express at the K of C hall, 572 Nichols Street. Call Val Feeney at 781-414-9332 for information.

Sun., Nov. 17 - The Irish Social club will have Erin's Melody for its Sunday evening dance.

• Restorative Yoga Workshop with Mary O'Toole from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the IPC offices.

Mon., Nov. 18 - The IPC offers an immigration clinic at the Brick & Beam Tavern in Quincy at 6 p.m.

• The Irish Cultural Centre will have the Eire Society of Boston and the Charitable Irish Society present a talk about John Boyle O'Reilly with Professor Catherine Shannon at 1 p.m. RSVP mduoh@irishculture.org.

Thur., Nov. 21 - IPC has Ceol & Craic at the Crossroads Cafe in West Roxbury from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 22 - The Irish Social club will present "Kerry Night in the U.S.A.", two great acts with Irish step dancer David Geaney, and "Dreams of Freedom" at 7:30 p.m. Contact Pat at 617-901-6760.

• An open house at the Irish Pastoral Centre in Dorchester from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 24 - The Irish Social club will hold a Mass for deceased members celebrated by Fr. Darcy, Chaplain, at 5 p.m. followed by the installation of officers. Music by Mossie Coughlin.

• The Irish Cultural Centre presents Tom Comerford and Andreas Durkin in concert at 2 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 29 - The Irish Pastoral Centre will sponsor a benefit for the O'Donovan family at Florian Hall in Dorchester from 8 p.m. to midnight. It's "A Night for Mike." Mike is being treated for stage three colon cancer.

• The Irish Social club have Sean Wilson and Tony Mac from 8 p.m. to midnight. Adm. \$20.

Our sincere thanks to the Boston Irish Reporter, Stations WROL 9.50 a.m. and WUNR 1600 a.m. for keeping the Irish tradition alive and well in the Boston/New England area. "Happening," a monthly list of functions by Irish clubs and associations in the Boston area, is prepared by the Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr - Cork club. To the best of our knowledge the listings are accurate; however all are subject to change.

– Richard Archer



The Boston Irish Honors 2019 for Distinguished Public Service

One man’s pilgrimage to the Seaport

Jim Carmody’s odyssey began a few miles away

By Jack Thomas

Jim Carmody is manager of the elegant Seaport Hotel overlooking Boston Harbor, and from the Irish enclave in Dorchester, where he grew up in a lower middle-class two-decker as one of eight children in a family living paycheck to paycheck, the distance, geographically, is a 14-minute drive, but culturally, it’s about a million miles.

The pilgrimage began when he was a pupil at St. Ann’s grammar school, and then went on to Cathedral High School in the South End, and on for degrees from the Culinary Institute of America and Cornell University, followed by assignments in the food and beverage industry at the Four Seasons in Chicago and Dallas, the Omni International in Atlanta, the Boston Harbor Hotel, Tufts-New England Medical Center, where he was head of general services, and, finally, since 2004, Boston’s Seaport Hotel and Seaport World Trade Center.

It has been a long odyssey impossible to navigate without the moxie Jim has exhibited since boyhood. “When Jim was five years old,” recalls his older brother, Charlie, “he was playing in the street near our house when a car came along. Jim ignored the car, kept playing in the street. The car slowed, and when the driver beeped, Jim turned and – remember, he was five years old – he glared at the driver and yelled, “Go around me!” ”

Audacious, to be sure, but as time would show, not out of character.

A few years later, at age 14, Jim was caddie at the old Wollaston Golf Club in North Quincy, and he bristled to hear Pecksniffian golfers address him patronizingly -- “Be quiet, boy.” One blistering day, he was assigned to caddie for a physician



The managerial touch: Jim Carmody, vice president and general manager at the Seaport Hotel & Seaport World Trade Center. Bill Brett photo

in a party of three playing for big money. The physician was a good golfer, but he was having a bad day. So was Jim.

“I lost his ball twice, once because I ducked to avoid getting hit, and the ball disappeared in deep grass. The physician was furious, and the amount he left for me was \$2. I told the caddie master I was classified as an “A” caddie, and the fee was \$2.50. He told me to get lost. Caddies were not allowed in the clubhouse, but I marched into the locker room, demanded to know where the physician was, then walked into the shower and told him he owed me 50 cents. I was suspended for two weeks, but I got my 50 cents.”

•••

The Carmody family of Dorchester is another colorful entry in the remarkable tale of the Irish in the United States, and one more narrative about immigrants who struggle to make it to America, and then to find a home in a strange land, adapt to a new culture, cope with prejudice, work at two or three menial jobs to stave off poverty, and then, often, raise large families and educate their children so that, eventually, in a generation or two, they assimilate.



The managerial touch: Jim Carmody, vice president and general manager at the Seaport Hotel & Seaport World Trade Center. Bill Brett photo

The Carmody Family’s chapter begins with a coincidence.

One day in 1929, the German steamship S.S. Karlsruhe glided into Boston Harbor and tied up at Commonwealth Pier, 500 yards from the site of today’s Seaport Hotel. Among those disembarking were a little girl, Mary O’Grady, who would become matriarch of the Carmody family, and her brother, John. She was ten, he was eight, and they made the crossing unchaperoned.

As they trudged down the plank to take their first steps on United States soil, she waved an American flag and he the Irish flag.

Mary was 22 when she married an Irish bus driver named Joe and moved to a modest house on Narragansett Street in Neponset, where they raised eight children in a setting so traditional it makes Norman Rockwell paintings seem heartless.

•••

Over a lunch of tuna niçoise at the Seaport Hotel, Jim, at age 66, is eager to describe his cheerful childhood. “When it came to parents, I hit the jackpot. My mother was a great cook and amazingly smart. She seemed to have an answer for everything, and my father could fix

anything. He built a room in our house, fixed televisions, cars, appliances, and he worked hard.

If there was a code in the Carmody home beyond their Roman Catholic Church and Irish heritage, it was a work ethic personified by Jim’s father, who held three jobs, full-time as bus driver, and part-time in the repair of televisions and service in the National Guard.

One inducement to work was pervasive: a shortage of cash.

“One Saturday morning when I was 10,” recalls Jim, “my father took me grocery shopping. I asked for this and that, and he’d say no. At the register, he showed me the bill, about \$95. At home, he pulled out a pay stub that showed a take-home pay of \$85.

“How can that be?” I wanted to know. “You just paid \$95 for groceries. How are you going to pay the other bills?”

His message: Stop asking for things we can’t afford.

“Raising eight kids on a bus driver’s salary? A lot of men would have packed it,” says Jim. “My brother Joe says our father was “constructively oblivious.” He ignored mundane pressures, and led a happy life.

“I didn’t know we didn’t have any money. None of us did. We all went to St. Ann’s with ironed shirts, our shoes shined, and as altar boys, our cassocks were clean, our surplices wrinkle-free. With three boys clustered in age, my mother would sew colored thread into the toe of socks so we’d would know whose sock was whose. My color was purple.”

As Jim learned, older brothers like Joe can be a blessing. “When I was 10, I asked some construction guys for work. They told me to clean a crawl space under the building. I worked three days, six hours a day, and when I asked to get paid, they said to beat it.

“I went home in tears. Joe was in high school. My mother told him to take care of it. So, Joe and I went to



Home, sweet home for lots of Carmodys

Above, the house on Narragansett Street in Dorchester where Jim Carmody, his parents, and seven siblings lived upstairs and the children’s Nana and Pa, at right, lived on the first floor.



A family keepsake: A Boston newspaper was on hand in 1929 when ten-year-old Mary O’Grady, the future wife of Joe Carmody, and her brother John, 8, arrived in Boston after an unchaperoned voyage across the Atlantic from Co. Sligo. Mary is waving the American flag, and John the Irish banner.



The Boston Irish Honors 2019

the site. He told me to stand back in case trouble broke out. He asked for my money, and they told him to beat it. ‘Suppose I go to the press and tell them you’re hiring under-age kids and not paying ‘em?’ Well, we got our money.”

Jim worked odd jobs to pay high school tuition, caddying from age nine and canvassing the neighborhood for bottles to redeem, sometimes in batches of 20 cases. At 14, he answered a newspaper ad and after assuring Howard Johnson’s in Dorchester that he was 16, he was hired to cook. To pay for courses at Boston State College, he cooked overnights shift at Hayes-Bickford, and when short for tuition, siblings May, Joe, and Charlie chipped in.

“A guest speaker at Cornell was Isadore Sharp, founder of Four Seasons Hotels, who talked about excellence and uncompromising quality. I was mesmerized, and I decided that was my career.”

Jim’s conversation is crowded with references to food, rhubarb pie, and soda bread, and his mom’s prune soufflé and working on menus at Tufts to keep a promise to Julia Child to improve hospital food.

A waiter approaches to ask if he wants to take home the remainder of his tuna niçoise. “No, thank you,” said the manager of the hotel, which enables him to head upstairs to a board meeting without a doggie bag.

...

Bostonians like to pick on Seaport District, dismissing it as a mobocracy of traffic, and a hodgepodge of architecture devoid of the traditional bricks of Back Bay and South End. Not Jim Carmody.

“The Seaport is a phoenix rising from a sea of old parking lots, where Pier 4, Jimmy’s, and the No Name were the only attractions,” he says. “The partnership of Fidelity and John Drew was a catalyst. Strategic investments by government have led to explosive development. Roger Berkowitz, Joe Fallon, and Barbara Lynch sent market signals that we were ready. The Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and Vertex Pharmaceuticals were so large the nation took notice. It’s an expensive place to live, work, and play, but reflective of the investment required in today’s market to develop.”

And who lives there? “The demographic is skewed to the young with fair representation of empty nesters,” he says. “The population is international, diverse, highly educated, socially active. Within a year 2,000 units of housing will come on line within a block of the hotel.

“Like every other neighborhood, Seaport has its challenges,” he concedes. “One battle is what retail survives, given high rents and online competition. Traffic is another conundrum, but I hope for a monorail, North to South Station, connecting through the Innovation and Design Center. Fidelity’s redevelopment of Commonwealth Pier will bring an iconic building and new vibe to old bones, and the water sheet will see more ferries and water taxis.”

...

When you arrive for lunch at Jim Carmody’s small home on a side street in Milton, you are not surprised to be told that he is in the yard, grilling chicken for lunch. But you are startled to see him rush into the kitchen, having burned himself on a side grille, and what’s pressed to his blistering finger for relief is a frozen pouch of green peas.

The home is where Jim and his wife, Theresa, raised their four children: Casey, 37, of San Jose, a speech therapist; Michael, 34, of Falmouth, a bartender at Bucatino Restaurant; Frances, 31, of South Boston, catering sales manager at Boston Harbor Hotel; and Mary, 29, of Germany, who is studying for her doctorate at the University of Freiburg.

After introductions to three of Jim’s siblings – Ellen Joyal, of Marshfield, Joe, of Oxford, and Charlie, of Middleborough – you settle down at the dining room table for lunch of an exquisitely grilled chicken marinated in tangy Dijon

(Continued on page 10)



In 2006, the Carmody family of Milton smiled for the camera as they celebrated Jim’s Father of the Year citation. From left, Casey, Mike, Theresa, the honoree, Mary, and Frances.



Hail, Hail, The Gang’s All Here: At May’s wedding, from left, Dad Joe, John, Jim, May, Joe Jr., Charlie, Tom, Mom Mary, and, seated, Ann and Ellen.



Joe Jr., Ellen, Charlie, and Jim in recent days.

Jack Thomas photo



The Boston Irish Honors 2019 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

COMMON GROUND

By dint of her position, Boston College High School President Grace Cotter Regan is always in the middle of things, and that's where she likes to be. Here, she is surrounded by the institution's most precious assets, its students, as they make their way across a labyrinth in the school's Common area. The artwork is meant as a metaphor for the reflective journey we all take through life, as well as the internal discovery of ourselves.

John Gillooly photos



'I grew up Jesuit,' says Grace Cotter Regan

BY TOM MULVOY

For some, the notice released by the Jesuit order on Aug. 24, 2017, came out of the blue; for others, it seemed appropriate by a certain measure: "Today, the board of trustees of Boston College High School announced the election of Grace Cotter Regan as the school's next president. Regan comes from Saint Mary's High School in Lynn, Mass., where she used her formidable skills to grow and develop the urban Catholic school.

"We are delighted to welcome Grace Regan as the individual who will lead Boston College High School. We look forward to our work together as we advance the BC High mission and our relevance as a preeminent and flagship Jesuit school for boys in the country," said Rev. Brian Conley, SJ, chair of the board of trustees.

"Grace's leadership and background in education, advancement, enrollment, brand management, and her understanding of and fidelity to the Society of Jesus and the Catholic school environment make her the ideal choice."

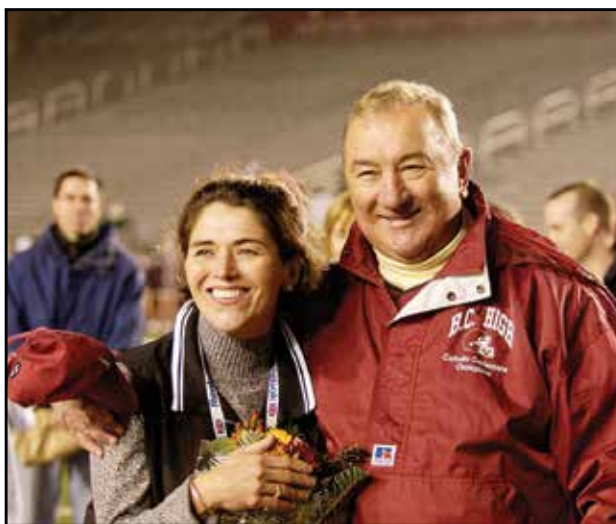
That sense of destiny becoming reality for some perhaps derived from what the school's press release did not say in those first few paragraphs: Grace was assuming the presidency as the first woman selected to head the 154-year-old Jesuit (and Boston) institution where, for just six weeks shy of 50 years, her father had forged a legendary status as teacher, counselor, coach, athletic director, and, in retirement, chief booster.

He began teaching at the school on Sept. 8, 1960, which was also the day that his first child, a daughter named Grace, was born into a family with deep roots in the sod of Co. Cork in Ireland's southwest, and a grand-maternal heritage drawn from the Polish terrain of Middle Europe.

She looks back at her Irish connections

"My mother's parents - her mother was a Lehanes, her father was a Grace, emigrated from Cork through Ellis Island. My Nana, May (Grace) Lehanes, was one of 18 children born on the family farm in the village of Clonakilty. Her brother Michael is my cousin Dennis Lehanes's father, and my cousin PJ Lehanes is running the farm today. The Graces hail from a farm in Drinagh/Dunmanway.

"When my Nana Grace came over, she found work as a domestic with a family in New York, on



GRACE AND JIM - Grace and her dad, Jim, a 41-year fixture in the classrooms, courts, and athletic fields of BC High who died in 2010 of ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease. Says one admirer of hers, "the devotion that she showed to her father while he battled ALS was nothing short of awe-inspiring. On a daily basis, she demonstrated her love and passion for her father, and did so in a way that inspired others with her strength and optimism. Grace shows up - not just in the good times, but also in the most difficult times."

Long Island. My grandfather was then working at odd jobs in the city. At one point, Nana's brother Jim made a friend of a young fellow named Tom Grace at a wedding that Nana also attended. The young man later found the nerve to ask Nana out on a date but when the day came, he was mugged on the way to her place. The assailants, the family story goes, ripped the clothes right off his back and he showed up in a very bedraggled state. Nana wasn't amused. She said she was done with him; this was before their first date! Then Jim explained what happened. Marriage followed, and they moved to Boston, to Savin Hill, where they raised four children, one of them Ann, my mother. I was named after mom; she was Ann Grace and I am Grace Ann.

"My dad's parents, George Leslie Cotter, known as Les, and Olga (Hubachek) Cotter, whose nickname was Dixie, also lived in Savin Hill, and were good friends with the Graces. Les was a stevedore who employed most of Savin Hill on the docks. He was also a very good athlete. He had a tryout with the old Boston Braves. He was a rugged guy who did some boxing. But he and I had this remarkable rapport from the time I was

little. He had these sparkling eyes and I would disarm him with a hug. He was tough as nails, but he'd melt when we would talk. Those were special times.

"Ah, the memories. My mother loved Savin Hill and was so happy to visit my grandparents and aunts. While we lived in South Weymouth when I was growing up, we spent an awful lot of time in Savin Hill, where, when we stayed there and were going to bed, Nana would whip out holy water and spread it all around as we said our night prayers. And, of course, our dad was teaching and coaching at the high school less than a mile away. It's wonderful to reflect back. You'd go there for a cup of tea, a piece of Irish bread, and just to sit with Nana and Papa. It was a warm, safe, and engaging place to be. And they just loved us all. It was special.

"I think all my Lehanes aunts and uncles, grand aunts, and uncles came to my wedding. I was the first grandchild on that side. So, I kind of had it all. My brother Mike and sister Kel would say, 'Yes just another party for Gracie!'"

The next generation: Cotters and Regans

"My mother and my father met when they were pre-teens. St. William's parish, CYO, and the band played a big part in their lives and Dom Bianculli and Fr. Peter Hart were very big figures in their lives. Dad graduated from BC High in 1955 and BC in 1959, playing baseball and football, and I came along in September 1960, the first of three. I was followed by Kelly, now in Colorado, in 1963, and Michael, a Wrentham resident, in 1965.

"The BC High connection in my husband Bernie's family is strong as well. His father (Class of 1934) and two brothers are alumni, but he's a Catholic Memorial and BC grad who is now retired from his position as a produce broker with the firm Scott and Allen.

"Our boys split things up, too, in much the same way. Luke, now 28 and working with the Suffolk Construction Co. in Montana, went to St. Sebastian's and on to captain the baseball team at Bowdoin after that. Bartley, or "Moe," as he is known, graduated from BC High in 2012 where he was a three-sport athlete, most notably as captain and quarterback of the Super Bowl champions his senior year. He went to Stonehill, and later served as an assistant athletic director at Catholic



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Memorial. He now works for Shields Healthcare Solutions."

Sister Grace Regan, SND de Namur?

In the late 1970s, when Grace Cotter was thinking about her life after graduation from Notre Dame Academy in Hingham, where the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were in charge, her mind was aswirl with questions: Is God calling me to become a Sister of Notre Dame? Is that the best way for me to serve others? While the answer long term was a "no," the question lingered as she moved on to Boston College.

"I was struggling with my vocation during those years," she said. "When I was in high school, we had this formidable group of sisters who involved us in helping the less fortunate, and we would go over to Columbia Point and help out in a soup kitchen and in other ways. I was always looking to pitch in with that sort of thing. When I moved on to Boston College, I kept up with service activities, and with graduation approaching, I was offered a placement with a Jesuit volunteer mission band, with the first option listed as San Quentin, the prison in California. That wasn't a big hit with the family, especially my dad.

"In the end, there were 17 of us who were sent out on missions; five, including me, went to Belize, a small country located south of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula; three went to Peru; and the rest set off for Jamaica. It was a special time for Belize, which used to be known as British Honduras; it was still celebrating its newly established independence. I taught at a high school for girls, among other positions. It was really amazing, a great experience. And I have gone back several times, one of which was with a troupe from Boston College in a service immersion experience. I so want to maintain my connection to the country where I have friends working and leading in St. Martin de Porres Parish and at St. John's, the Jesuit school there."

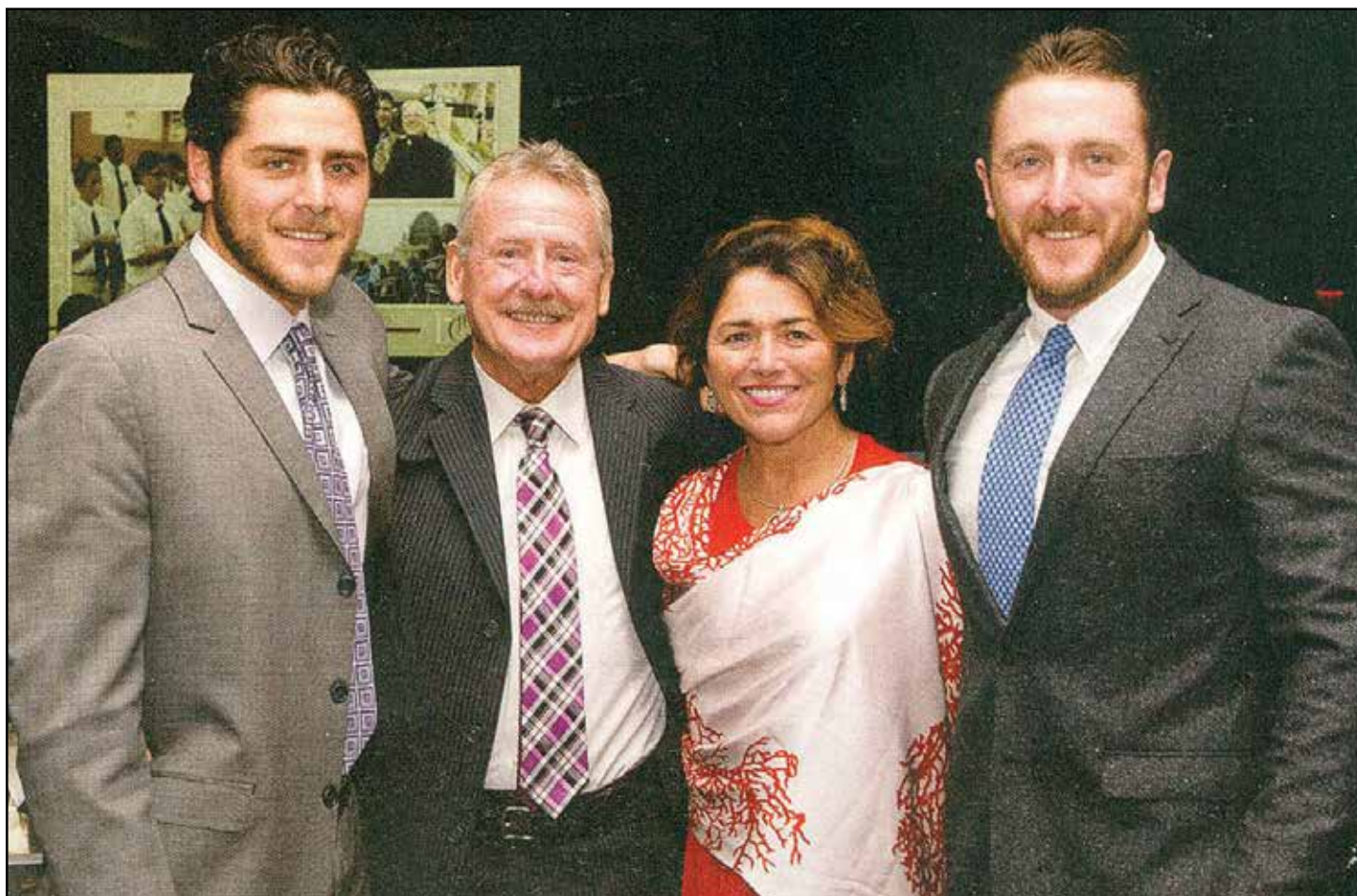
On to the task of making a difference

Under the heading "My Vocational Journey," the BC High Today magazine listed the following positions by way of introducing the new president to the student body and its alumni:

- Director of the Parent Fund, Special Events, and Donor Relations at the College of the Holy Cross.
- Vice President for Development, the Boston Public Library Foundation.
- Executive Director, Boston College Alumni Association.
- Executive Director of Advancement, New England Province of Jesuits.
- Head of School, St. Mary's High School, in Lynn.

While making her way through these offices, Grace found the time to go back to the classroom where she earned a master of arts degree in pastoral ministry and spirituality from Boston College and a master's in education from the University of Vermont.

This resume of accomplishment comes as no surprise to Grace Regan's relatives, friends, and



REPRESENTING WEST ROXBURY – Bartley "Moe" Regan (BC High '12), husband and dad Bernie Regan (Catholic Memorial), the president (Notre Dame Academy), and Luke (St. Sebastian's).

colleagues. She has an ardent and active fan club whose members are happy to say why they are sitting in her cheering section:

John Fish, president and CEO of Suffolk Construction, who attended first and second grade with her at St. Francis Xavier's parish school in Weymouth in the 1960s, calls her "a phenom, tireless and selfless in everything she takes on. Very much a family person, she has continued to grow with every new experience. And she's indefatigable in pursuit of her and her institutions' goals."

In a salute to Grace on the occasion of her selection to the BC High presidency, Rev. Tom Regan, SJ, who had worked with her in the order's New England offices, wrote, "When Grace came to work with us, she brought not only her considerable

knowledge, experience, and people skills, but also an inherent ability to bring people together."

Leo Smith, a senior executive with Shields Health Solutions, is a contemporary of Grace's who grew up a mile from the Cotter home in Weymouth and came to know the family well. He was a star athlete, especially in football, at BC High in the mid-1970s with Jim Cotter when Grace was also roaming the campus, and the sidelines as the BC High Eagle at practices and games. Both of them later attended Boston College

"I called her 'Slick,' after the Grace of Jefferson Airplane," said Smith. "When I heard of her appointment, I couldn't have been happier for her and the school. She's an extraordinary person, multi-talented, warm, engaging. For over

50 years now, I have watched with appreciation as Grace has served with distinction in so many positions of responsibility."

When asked to come up with one word to describe Grace, Timothy O'Donnell, Class of '83 at BC High, retired president and CEO of OmniClaim, Inc., and now vice chair of the school's board of trustees, offered "passionate," adding, "I see that on a daily basis, and it shows itself in many forms, most notably in her ubiquitous presence. Grace is present at events morning, noon, and night. At most any event - whether theatre or a sporting event, Grace will be there rooting for the boys. As a leader, she knows her presence sends an important message to the students, coaches, and parents of BC High.

"Grace also brings that same passion to her friends and family. The devotion that she showed to her father while he battled ALS was nothing short of awe-inspiring. On a daily basis, she demonstrated her love and passion for her father, and did so in a way that inspired others with her strength and optimism. Grace shows up - not just in the good times, but also in the most difficult times."

Chimed in Jack Connors, legendary Boston advertising executive, civic activist, and philanthropist: "Grace has always been very good at the many positions she has held. She's savvy and works hard. In all, she displays the best traits of her parents."

From the close friends and family fronts, Grace drew expressions of love and respect, even awe.

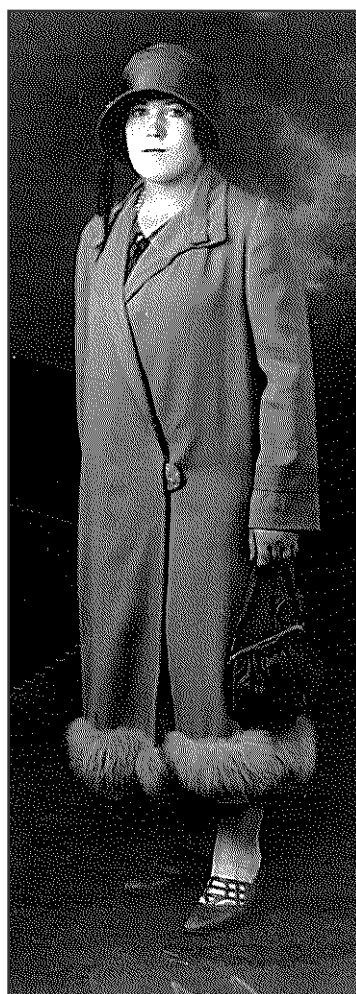
Gayle Corcoran, whom Grace calls a "bestie" friend of longstanding (they met in the '90s while prepping together at L Street to run in the Boston Marathon), said it's "impossible to describe her in a word. When it comes to morality and doing the right thing, she is a Jesuit, for all practical purposes ('I grew up Jesuit' is how Grace puts it). She has always

(Continued on page 10)

Family Album



Above, Mary and Patrick Lehane, circa 1956. They lived busy lives as parents of 18 children. Below, handholders Nana and Papa (Tom Lehane). At right, the young Mary Lehane Grace.





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John and Kathy Drew deal in relationships

BY PETER F. STEVENS

The adage “geography is destiny” holds true for John and Kathy Drew. From South Boston and Dorchester to today’s local waterfront, geography has very much helped to shape the couple’s lives.

Take a look at the soaring Boston Seaport district, and you’ll see the literal impact of John Drew, founder and CEO of the eponymous Drew Company. Not so long ago, many local power players did not believe that the rundown waterfront’s polyglot scene of grimy warehouses, dingy parking lots, and shabby buildings could even be renovated, let alone renewed. John Drew, however, viewed the Seaport differently. He saw the potential for a major redevelopment of the site and made it happen in a major way.

Today, the ongoing transformation of the Seaport into one of Boston’s commercial and residential gems stands as testimony to Drew’s vision and talent, not to leave out his tenacity.

How tangible is the Drew Company’s presence in the Seaport District? The Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center Boston, Seaport East and Seaport West—all are testament to Drew’s and his company’s innovative public and private partnerships. Far beyond his Boston turf are Drew’s national and international projects such as the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington and, in Ireland, the World Trade Center Dublin.

The Drew Company was also the proverbial guiding hand in the former Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts (today’s Xfinity Center), the Bayside Exposition Center, and Boston’s Constitution Plaza. Recently, Drew can point to the 2014 opening of the Seaport’s glittering Waterside Place.

For many who garner immense affluence, a frequent push to turn away from, or simply forget where



Development Maestro John Drew and Kathy (Morley) Drew agree: “We’ve never forgotten how fortunate we are.”

they came from, is all too common. John Drew and his wife Kathy have never fallen into that trap. To the contrary, they not only treasure their respective middle-class South Boston and Dorchester roots, but also prize their families’ immigrant Irish heritage. Most importantly, the Drews have always remained committed to giving back to the community. The developer’s success in business has offered the Drews the ideal conduit for helping others, which is exactly what the couple has done.

John Drew’s path to the Seaport’s renaissance began not so many blocks away from that very site. Born and raised in City Point, he was a member of St. Brigid parish and began his education at the parish grammar school. From there, he went on to graduate from BC High, earn his bachelor’s degree from Stonehill, and his master’s at Boston University.

Kathy Morley Drew grew up on Elm Street in Dorchester, a member of St. Ambrose Parish and was educated at the St. Ambrose parochial school and Gate of Heaven High School.

‘The other side of the world’

Early in his career some 50 years ago, John Drew worked as chief of policy for Massachusetts Gov. Francis W. Sargent, and it was then that his development and redevelopment portfolio began to bloom. “I was responsible to find re-use for closed military bases and related sites such as the Charlestown and Southie Navy Yards,” Drew says. “I loved it, and my career took off from there.”

“For Kevin White, I was involved in a lot of renovation projects, and to me, as I studied other cities’ urban-renewal projects, I came to see how the opportunity of so much neglected waterfront space in Boston was

unparalleled.”

Drew believes that “the waterfront is therapeutic, it’s in our genes. I’ve always felt that intuitively and professionally about the Boston waterfront. Even when the area was so rundown and considered so remote from the city – ‘the other side of the world,’ critics said – I saw it as such a great opportunity, even after some early projects failed.”

His early career in local and state renewal projects stoked Drew’s passion for real-estate development that would benefit commerce and the community alike. “I was involved in the Lafayette Place project and others,” he notes, “and when Joe Corcoran invited me to join his projects at Columbia Point, I jumped at the opportunity. Joe, Frank Sargent, Ned Johnson [long-time Fidelity CEO] Kevin White, and Joe Moakley have been such big influences in my life. They all

had such vision and such love for Boston.”

Drew adds: “In the early ‘80s, while I was working on the Bayside project, I wanted more and more to branch out on my own. That’s how and why the Drew Company came into being. It took about three years for my company to establish itself, and the Great Woods project was a huge one for me.

“One thing about the ‘80s was that many politicians and developers believed that Southie and the Seaport were two areas to steer clear of. I never saw it that way. Was there risk there? Sure, but, again, the opportunity I saw – the waterfront – always was in me. You have to be willing to take a risk you believe in.”

Discussing the many obstacles to redeveloping the Seaport, Drew says, “There’s always a ‘NIMBY’ (‘Not in My Backyard’) factor that can come with big projects. With the Seaport, I had grown up in the neighborhood. I understood the importance of building trust by living up to what we promised we would do. We held extensive neighborhood and community meetings, emphasizing the help we would provide to schools, and the employment opportunities. We promised and delivered parks, public spaces, as well as underground parking for the high-rise buildings going up.

“Fidelity was a huge partner for us. They stuck with us. That’s so key in our business. Things don’t always go your way, sometimes through no fault on your part. For example, in 2008, when the economy nearly went down, we had a massive project on Summer and Congress Streets, with all the major retail pieces – Stop & Shop, Nordstrom, and others – almost in place. The retailers pulled out, and it was a lost opportunity.”

Not so with the Seaport. During the interview,

The Drew family

with Cardinal O’Malley
From left, Michael Pace, Maureen (Drew) Pace, Joanne (Drew) Brown, John P. Drew and his wife, Helene, Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Kathy (Morley) Drew, John E. Drew, Carolyn (Drew) Jepsen, and Chris Jepsen.





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Drew's mind continued to churn with ideas to make the waterfront an even more resident and visitor friendly area. "People would love a public library here," he said, "and I'd like that, as well as a new school. More than anything, we want to create even more reasons for people to come to the waterfront even if they don't live or work here. I think that a hockey and ice-skating rink could do well and be a magnet for high school and college tournaments. It's financially viable in hockey-mad Massachusetts and would open more doors to visitors."

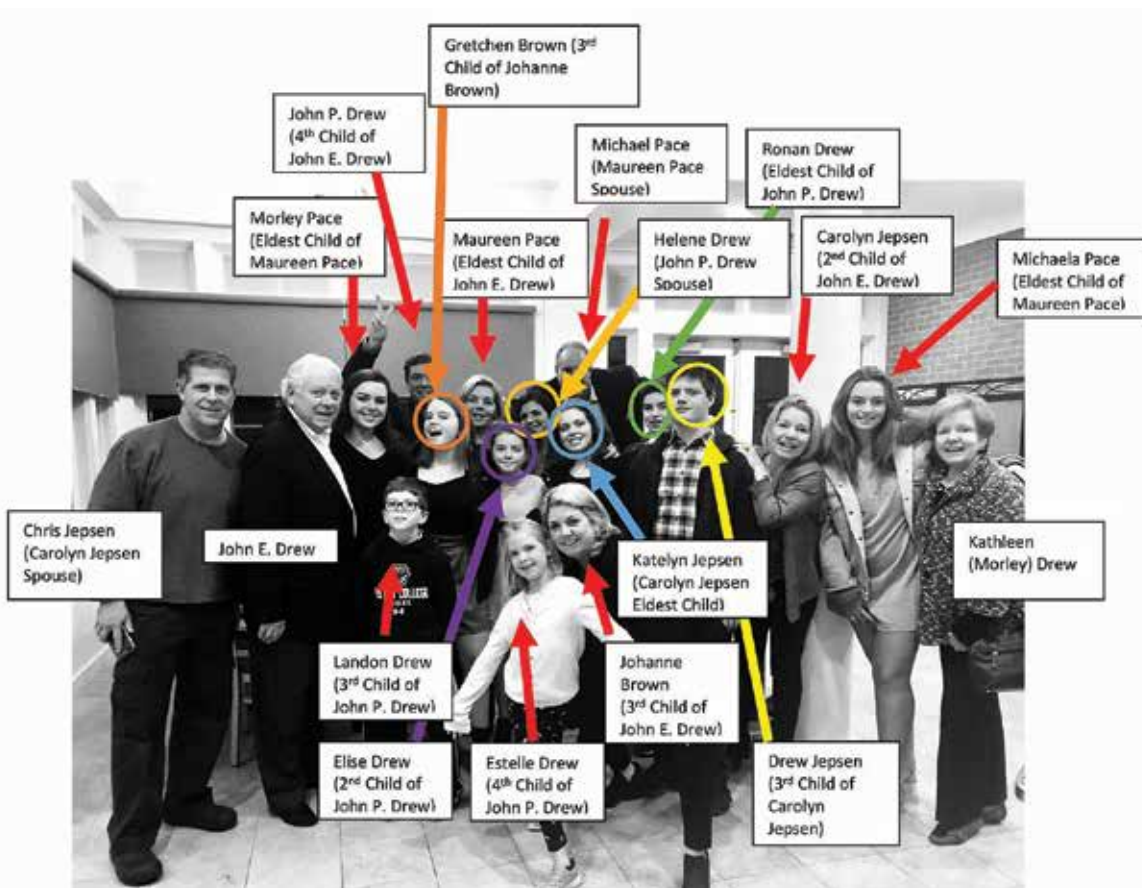
Opening doors to ventures funded through private and public partnerships is Drew's true stock in trade, his ability to understand and negotiate with politicians, fellow CEOs, and community leaders alike nearly unparalleled locally. He again cites Kevin White, Ned Johnson, and Joe Moakley as mentors who taught him how to navigate often treacherous development currents.

Drew speaks from deep experience when he describes what it's like to cultivate relationships among bottom-line businesspeople, politicians with their varying agendas, and, from both realms, genuine visionaries and risk-takers. In many ways, Drew embodies the saying "no risk, no reward. You have to be able to work with both the private and public sides to get a project off the ground," he says. "You have to be able to get all the principals to buy in—not just financially. The thing is to get everyone on the same page with vision, trust, and, of course, a strong financial plan."

Stopping for a moment to reflect, Drew says, "Not long ago, Kathy and I came across an old article in which Tom Menino is talking about the Seaport and saying, 'Nothing happens.' Well, something's certainly happening here now, and we've had groups from China, Japan, and lots of other countries considering waterfront development projects and coming here to see how we've done it."

Family and Community Come First

The family histories of John Drew and Kathy Morley are classic "Southie" and "Dot" Irish. One of Edward and Theresa Drew's two sons (brother Paul is deceased), John learned early on that three of his grandparents hailed from the "old sod" of Galway and Cork. Kathy's parents both emigrated from Ireland, her father from Knock and her mother from Mayo. She was



A family gathering, complete with some antics, in 2009.

one of three children, with two brothers.

The couple look back with pride in their Irish roots and with fondness—actually, love—of their South Boston upbringing. "I had a great childhood in Southie," John says. "Our parents and our neighbors were middle-class, hard-working people. My dad was a printer, and my mom was an operator at City Hall. We had neighbors who were cops, firefighters, IRS workers, contractors, laborers—you name it."

"One thing that always stood out was how tight and supportive our community and parish were. It

sounds cliché, but people genuinely looked out for each other. If someone ran into financial or medical problems, the community helped. That's simply the way it was. When you're raised that way, the desire—the duty—to help those in need becomes ingrained. Our upbringing was very Catholic, and we're proud of the community values that the church, our parents, and our grandparents brought us."

For her part, Kathy says, "My upbringing was similar to John's. It was a happy one, a full one with family friends, and our close-knit

parish. John and I met the old-fashioned way—a friend of mine introduced us. We were both 17, and we got married in John's senior year of college."

John jokes, "For a city girl, Kathy had everything—a driveway and a backyard. I guess I married her for her driveway." Chuckling, Kathy teases, "I brought John over the bridge."

Four children—three girls, one boy—and twelve grandchildren, the rest is history, family history.

Three of John and Kathy's children have followed their father into the family business. John is deeply

involved in the operations of the Reagan Center and Maureen manages the Drew Company's business-to-business software platform and oversees the Dublin office. In Boston, Carolyn holds crucial roles with the company's marketing department and also the company's and family's charitable commitments.

"Johanne's the only one who escaped the family business," John jokes. "She's a pre-school teacher."

Charity begins at home and also in the office

Throughout their lives, John and Kathy Drew have devoted themselves to a wide array of charities and community aid. They have been unflagging in their support of Catholic Charities and, in a nod to their Irish heritage, the Ireland Fund. These are but a few of their civic and religious endeavors to help "the least among us." While John is not up to too much talk about the many business and civic awards he has won, he has no hesitation in elaborating about a charity that is especially meaningful to him.

"I'm deeply involved with the Adopt a Student Program, which supports Cathedral High School, right next to Holy Cross Cathedral. It pays deserving kids' tuition and gives them a chance to achieve a great education and a path toward a great life and career that might otherwise be blocked for them. I tell anyone that it's an example of how we can all help make things better one kid at a time."

Once again, both John and Kathy emphasize that their Irish-American, "Southie," and "Dot" upbringings instilled in them a determination to parley their success into community and charitable service.

"We've never forgotten where we came from and how fortunate we are," says Kathy. With another chuckle, she adds, "I'm not sure how many sermons John really listened to at church, but there's one I know he listened to."

"Best sermon ever," John responds. "The priest said that you help others not to be thanked, but because it's the right thing to do."

It seems altogether fitting that a developer who is a proud Boston-Irish son of Southie has so changed and renewed a once-moribund seaport space that lies so near to the streets of his youth. "Geography is destiny"—the words are apt for both John and Kathy Drew, whose charitable works stand as true testament to the values of their heritage.



John, Kathy, and grandchildren enjoy Christmastime at the beach in 2018.

One man's pilgrimage to the Seaport

(Continued from page 7)

lemon-mustard sauce, a perfectly prepared Caesar salad, and several hours of conversation about the Irish experience, boyhood and girlhood in old Dorchester, Irish politics, Irish humor, Irish food, the Kennedys, the Roman Catholic Church, sibling rivalries, and how Neponset was populated by only Irish and Italians, and any Irish girl who married an Italian was considered to be in a mixed marriage.

Stories ranged across decades, some familiar, some heard for the first time.

• Joe recalls a divine intervention. "May was a sophomore, and tuition at Cathedral was \$75. We were at the table, and May said she needed \$35 for the January payment. My father said he didn't have the money. May said she'd be kicked out of school. We didn't know what to do. A few minutes later, the doorbell rang, and someone said my father had won the Knights of Columbus pool and he handed over \$100. My father counted out \$35, gave it to May and said, 'Here's your tuition.'"

• Once Joe arranged to have the house painted by young Irish men with brogues, and for their pleasure, he set up a radio in the window that blared out Irish music. He was astonished when they asked him to turn the station to country-western.

• Ellen was 17 when she arrived with her mother at John Hancock for her high school banquet. Her mother was annoyed that other girls were accompanied by boys. "Look," she said "They have boyfriends. You should get a boyfriend, too." She spotted a boy alone, and in the tradition of forceful Irish mothers, she used her umbrella to hook him by the arm, draw him close, and say, "This

is my daughter, isn't she nice?" Ellen shudders at the memory.

• When Christmas came," says Joe, "our mother would make sure all the kids had the same number of gifts." And, Jim adds, "Everyone got new underwear."

For the Carmody children, the house was a commune, and with their grandmother downstairs, there was always a partner with whom to play checkers or old maid. But she also insisted on frequent recitations of the rosary, every night during Lent. "We knelt on the dining room floor while Cardinal Cushing recited the rosary on the radio," recalls Ellen, "and God help you if you leaned back to sit on your heels."

• • •

Even intrepid investigative reporters would exhaust themselves finding anyone to speak ill of Carmody.

His wife, Theresa: "He deserves not only Father of the Year Award but also Husband of the Year. Through good and bad times, he's very consistent. He enjoys good times with each of the kids, and he steps back and lets them enjoy themselves. But he's also here for the tough times. And that's what life's about."

John Drew, president of the John Drew Co.: "A great guy. I recruited him to work for me at Seaport Hotel and worked with him on the Boston Guild of Oenophiles. Our shared wine experience started when Jim was at Boston Harbor Hotel, and along with others, we ran Boston Wine Expo for 20 years, which has benefited more than two dozen local charities. Jim, by the way, knows good wine from not very good wine - not me."

Larry Moulter, executive in residence, UMass Center for Collaborative Leadership: "When I'm asked what makes culture important, I

think of Jim's view - it's built person by person, each sharing values that aren't slogans but can be put into action daily as people go about their roles. He good at raising dollars, but knows it's not just about money. It's about mentoring and giving folks skills they need to achieve."

Cindy Brown, Boston Duck Tours: "I work with Jim on Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau. He's chairman. What I admire is his commitment to our industry. His integrity and honesty have led him to the success he's earned, and I like that he doesn't take himself seriously - he lightens stress with a self-deprecating joke. A good friend."

Nicole Hand, of the New England Center and Home for Veterans remembers 2003, "when our shelter was in danger of closing. He raised money to save the Shelter. He helped organize the annual "Leave No One Behind" gala at Seaport, raising \$6 million for us. He partners with executive chef Richard Rayment and donates a world-class dinner for eight auctioned to a bidder. The meal is prepared in the winner's home by Rayment, and guess who's the waiter? Jim Carmody."

Dr. Deeb N. Salem, physician-in-chief, Tufts Medical: "It's been years since Jim was VP of facilities here, yet long-time employees still smile when his name is mentioned. He continues to have a soft spot for the hospital, participates in many of our charitable events, and helps family, friends, and hotel guests who need medical care to connect with our physicians."

Sister Mary Black, CSJ, Jim's homeroom teacher at Cathedral High School: "I was attending a fundraiser at the Seaport Hotel, where Jim was then assistant to the general manager. He tapped me on the shoulder, and when I turned around, I said,

'James Carmody, what are you doing here?' He was surprised that I remembered him. Since then, he has been a remarkable help with the annual fundraising dinners I work on for Cathedral High School and for the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston."

"We could not do what we do without his help. He's turned out to not only run a great hotel, but does so much for others - Cathedral kids, Sisters of Saint Joseph and many others that I have heard about from people in the fund-raising community."

• • •

As her mother lay dying, Jim's sister, Ellen, learned a lesson about mothering. "She was bed-ridden with cancer for a year, and on her last week, I asked how she did it, eight kids, different personalities, and all the crises."

"She said that, first, the crises do not come at once, and so you handle them one at a time. And with children of different personalities, you treat each accordingly, respecting who they are, and letting them know that they're special to you."

Mary Carmody died in 1982, at age 64, and Joe in 1991, at 76. In going through his father's papers, Jim discovered that at their wedding 50 years earlier, his mom and dad had danced to their favorite song, "Always."

On the day of Joe Carmody Sr.'s funeral at St. Ann's Church, Jim concluded the eulogy by asking the congregation to rise and join him in singing their song. With autumn sunlight slanting through stained glass windows, the congregation rose to sing a love song to his mom and dad: "I'll be loving you always ... not for just an hour, not for just a day, not for just a year, but always."

'I grew up Jesuit,' says Grace Cotter Regan

(Continued from page 9)

lived their values whether people knew it or not. To me she is first a friend, then a mentor, and, thirdly, a fashionista; she's a crazy shopper who is always very put together."

Lastly, a really-close-to-the-scene view, from the Regan family home in West Roxbury. Her son Bartley, the aforementioned Moe," wrote a column for the school magazine, BC High Today, as his mother was preparing to take the reins at the school:

"One thing about my mother is that she always has a plan, and when things get hectic, she keeps her cool and handles it. I remember my grandfather telling her, 'Gracie, it's not the crisis; it's how you handle the crisis, with strength and resolve.'

"Her passion for others to succeed is something that my brother Luke and I have been on the receiving end for our whole lives."

Looking at BC High in 2025

Change is always with us, and the institutions where today's young men and women receive their instruction are not immune to shifts in cultural and civic affairs - and in family budget considerations - that in many places threaten the unraveling of long-held understandings as to the way things should proceed.

In remarks delivered to students

during her inaugural Missioning Mass in May 2018, the new president looked ahead a few years, beginning with a phrase that one alumnus described as the Grace Regan "calling card" - "God is good, all the time; all the time, God is good." At the end of the Mass, some 1,500 students, faculty, staff, family, friends, and close to 40 Jesuits echoed the words back to her.

"Today," she said, "we stand with the Jesuit province in positioning BC High as the flagship Jesuit, Catholic school for young men in the city of Boston and as a global leader and partner in the network and the world. ... In some ways, we have it easy because our mission is so simple and so pure - to serve others. Our work now is to ensure that this mission continues."

"So whether it's a science class applying principles they've learned from textbooks to make the lives of people with disabilities easier, or an internship working on public policy at the State House, or a trip to Belize, Tanzania, Rwanda, or China that helps you see yourself as part of a universal body with a universal mission, or a trip to Downtown Crossing to minister to our homeless brothers and sisters, you will learn, as BC High students have since 1863, that care for the community in service



Said Cardinal Sean O'Malley: "Grace's history at BC High ... provides us confidence that the school's mission will be sustained and strengthened for the future."

to others is the greatest good that one can achieve in this life. That is when we acknowledge the great truth that we are the hands of God, and our talents are the gifts he has given us to share with our neighbors.

"The BC High of 2025 is a school that, through a first-rate education

and facilities, spiritual formation, and commitment to our alumni and the global Jesuit network is devoted to helping you make the most of your God-given talents. Your lives are changed in these halls, and, through you, the world is changed, too."

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The Boston Irish Honors

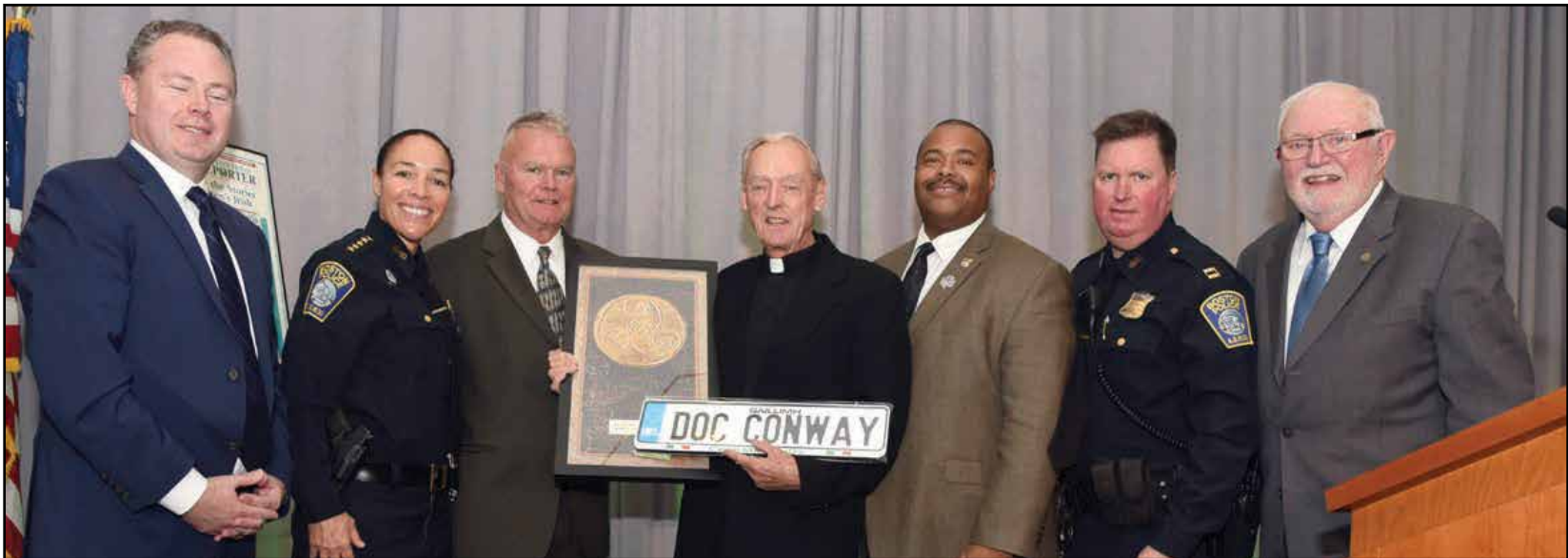
HONOREES OVER THE YEARS

The BIR is a family-owned news publication. In keeping with our own heritage, we tell the stories of exemplary Irish families and individuals who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland. Boston Irish Honors debuted in 2010 and has become an annual highlight on the fall calendar, with an appreciative audience of some 400 Boston business, civic, neighborhood and political leaders in recognition of Boston’s Irish heritage. The event, in support of Boston and New England’s own hometown Irish American newspaper & website, gives public recognition for achievements in public service, business and community leadership.

- 2018
Rev. Richard “Doc” Conway; Mary and Bob Scannell; Dr. Trevor McGill, MD
- 2017
Nora, Annmarie and Bill Kennedy; Tom Tinline, Kevin Cullen
- 2016
Jim & Mary (Cahill) Judge, Senator 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
Therese Murray, Gerry & Bob Mulligan family, John P. Driscoll Jr.(Posthumous)
- 2012
Congressman Richard Neal, Brendan & Greg Feeney, Mary & Bob Muse & family
- 2011
Kathleen O’Toole, State Senator Tom Kennedy, & families of Joseph Corcoran, James Hunt Jr., & Mark & Tom Mulvoy
- 2010
Hon. Ed Markey, John Donohue, and Irish families of Peg Geraghty, Jim Brett & Mayor John B. Hynes

2018





2016

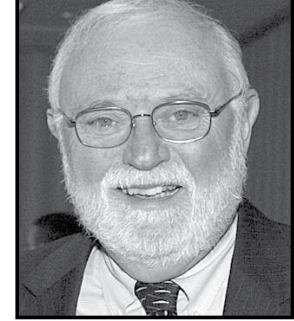


Publisher's Noteboook

Looking back: Irish Honors over the years

By Ed Forry

Ten years ago, when we first gathered with some friends and advisors to discuss how to sponsor an annual luncheon featuring stories drawn from Boston's large Irish community, we had a central idea in mind: We hoped to honor the remarkable people and families in our community who truly exemplify the best qualities of the Boston Irish.



In telling their stories, which speak to our heritage both here and in Ireland, we seek to reaffirm our immigrant roots and recall, with gratitude, the men and women who came here and made Boston our home.

Boston is an exceptional city because of all the cultures that have joined together to make it their

home. It's a team effort. But we believe it is important for those of us with roots and heritage in Ireland to tell our stories — to pass forward the tales of exemplary families for the benefit of our children, ourselves, and those who are coming next.

At that first gathering in October 2010, we told the inspirational stories of three families- the Geraghtys, the Bretts, and the Hyneses descended from the late Boston Mayor John B Hynes- and of two individuals, leading businessman and philanthropist John Donahue, and Malden's Ed Markey, who was a veteran member of the Congress and now serves as US senator.

Our plan for an annual event was not to present awards, but rather to give public recognition to exemplary persons and families and honor them for the examples they have set. Thus we called it Boston Irish Honors.

Over the ensuing years, the programs have featured the compelling narratives of some 40 Boston Irish men and women and families from many walks of life- from business, medicine, public service, non profits to the law- all of their stories compelling and inspirational, and in each instance, all honorees delivered moving, inspirational and often humorous remarks as they spoke before luncheon audiences of 300 to 400 guests.

One of my vivid memories came during the 2011 event, when Brockton State Sen. Tom Kennedy, who used a wheelchair for decades, rolled up the ramp to the stage to make his remarks. In the audience was his 101-year-old mother. After the program, he told me that as he talked, his mother began making gestures to him — sort of a slashing sign, her signing a way of letting her son know that he was going on much too long!

Typical of an Irish mother, Mrs. Kennedy was both proud of her son, and eager to make sure that he not become too self-impressed.

Jim Brett, a member of our luncheon committee since the beginning, remembers that his friend Tom told him later it was the best moment of his life, to be honored while his mother was there with him.

Sadly, Mrs. Kennedy passed away several months later, and her son died just four years later.

There's an old TV program that began, "There are eight million stories in the city." That can be said convincingly about our own Boston Irish community as well.

Last month, we were privileged to tell three more tales of the Boston Irish- the family stories of Jim Carmody, Grace Cotter Regan and Kathy & John Drew. We were honored to meet and hear them at our gathering at the Seaport Hotel on October 18. We invite you to read their stories in today's edition.

A new chapter in the BIR story: The introduction of 'Boston Irish'

On Oct. 18, our news organization celebrated the 29th year of publishing the Boston Irish Reporter with our tenth annual luncheon at the Seaport Boston Hotel.

The Boston Irish Honors luncheon is a celebration of people who we think exemplify the Boston Irish experience through their accomplishments, their family history, and their caring for others.

This year, we saluted two women and two men who have inspired us with their vision, their hard work and their caring for others: Jim Carmody, Kathy and John Drew, and Grace Cotter Regan.

The luncheon serves another purpose, too: It supports our brand of community journalism.

Since 1990, the Boston Irish Reporter has been a source of information for a constantly evolving, dynamic Irish American community in this region. As many of our readers know, we also publish community news about Dorchester and in Mattapan.

We choose to focus on these people and these places — our people — because that's who we are. And keeping a laser focus on our own communities has been our mission from the day that Ed — and my mom, Mary Casey Forry — started this enterprise in the 1970s.

By necessity, and quite naturally, we have evolved, and we have survived in a challenging environment. And that's happened, in large part, because of your support. Thank you.

We have a terrific team



of people around us — people like Tom Mulvoy and Barbara Langis and Dan Sheehan; Katie Trojano; Maureen Forry-Sorrell; Peter Stevens; Harry Brett; Sean Smith and Judy Enright. Thank you to all of the talented people who keep this project alive and well.

Next year — 2020 — will introduce a new chapter in our Boston Irish story.

We are preparing to relaunch our website, BostonIrish.com, which has been online since 1995. In the coming months, the site will become the primary vehicle for publishing our work. The print edition of the Boston Irish Reporter — the one you are holding in your hands — will continue, but in a seasonal form. It will no longer be a monthly publication.

This transition will be an exciting one for our news organization, which continues to draw talented and dynamic

reporters and editors to our newsroom. We're committed to continuing to tell our stories — and to enhance what we do with new platforms.

At the Oct. 18 luncheon, we unveiled the new look of the Boston Irish brand that you will see more regularly in the months to come. The new look is printed alongside this story as well.

What will this mean for how we engage with you, our readers and advertisers?

For starters, we will be publishing and curating stories more often. Instead of the familiar monthly cycle that was timed to support our print publication, our team will be generating news and updates online in more of a weekly, even daily pace.

In January, we will roll out our new and improved website — with features that will include more video and shared content from media partners. Our

social media channels — including Instagram, Facebook and Twitter — will also get busier and more interactive.

The December print edition of the Boston Irish Reporter will be our last monthly publication. Our next printed edition — which will be re-branded with the new logo you see here — will be timed to come out as a spring edition, ahead of St. Patrick's season.

If you're a subscriber, you will hear from us in a letter that will offer you a series of options to either keep receiving the seasonal editions or to opt out.

We view this transition as an opportunity to enhance the way we deliver our brand of community news. We welcome your feedback and critique along the way. Reach me anytime via email: billforry@bostonirish.com.

Off the Bench

It is now three years, and counting

By JAMES W. DOLAN
REPORTER COLUMNIST

Here I am three years into a new relationship following the death in 2015 of my wife of 53 years. I thought it appropriate to bring you up to date on a phase of life I neither expected nor prepared for. After recovering from the shock of the loss, I determined I would not be happy alone. I needed a companion; not just anyone, but someone special.

I found her, but not as a product of a nationwide search or a casual venture into the dating world. Instead, I relied on a character trait I had nurtured in my youth that served me well over the years: Dumb luck. The dumb part was easy for me, but how does one develop the insight to identify, capture, and retain luck.

I tried praying, but that didn't work. You can ask God for guidance, virtues, hope, understanding, and forgiveness, but not for something as superficial as luck. You cannot study and acquire luck. You cannot buy it or inherit it. If you're fortunate enough to get it, you can never be sure you'll retain it. Luck is fickle, good or bad, and often elusive. Once you think you've got it, it disappears. For whatever reason, I seem to have had more than my share.

Luck, in the person of a mutual friend, brought me Meredith. The friend told me a few months after my wife died that she knew someone who had also lost her spouse whom I might be interested in. Unfortunately, my friend had forgotten her name. A couple of months later, she called to say she had just seen her

again and said she was interested. I called, asked her to dinner, and like magic, we clicked. I was smitten!

There were just so many things about her that I found appealing. Not just that she was attractive; she was lively, smart, engaging, and fun to be with. We were compatible in so many respects, even to the point where my weaknesses were her strengths. We have never had an argument and when we disagree, which is rare, I know enough to happily capitulate.

Friends and family call her "Merry" for good reason. It's a name that captures her essential good nature. A great disposition masks her strength, courage, and perseverance in the face of life's travails. One disadvantage of love in later life is less time; on the other hand, there are fewer distractions. That combination tends to keep us focused on nurturing our relationship. Fewer distractions concentrates attention while limited time enhances intensity.

Sometimes we feel a little guilty with having such a good time after the loss of a loved one. I remind her that "you play the hand you're dealt." Our spouses would have wanted us to be happy. Although, I confess, perhaps not this happy. One of my wife's favorite expressions was: "Get a life!" So I like to think she would approve.

Between us we are able to bounce around among four homes — in Milton, Weymouth, Bretton Woods, and Marco Island. Our families seem happy that we found each other. Describing our relationship can be a little awkward. Introducing her as "my girlfriend" seems a bit juvenile. "Main squeeze" is even worse. "Beloved" is overly dramatic. So I've settled on "dear friend," a workable compromise with a touch of dignity.

So rest assured that old age can have an upside. With luck, even at this stage, you can enjoy some "just rewards" before the curtain comes down. A famous Greek philosopher once observed: "We're not here for a long time but for a good time." My time is running, but in the interim "let the good times roll."

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



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Point of View

On the holiday, why not ‘thanks’ in Russian and Gaelic

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

As the calendar turns toward Thanksgiving, several prominent Irish Americans are doing their level best to turn the conversation away from platters of holiday “gobbler” to the spewing of lies, and, in one case, an ill-advised confession to several of those whoppers. The Turkey Day menu from Irish American Hall of Shamers William Barr and Mick Mulvaney features endless dollops of Malarkey and Ukrainian Stuffing.

Mulvaney, as of this writing, is still holding on to his job as President Trump’s acting chief of staff. In what may go down as one of the most stunning public “confessions” in the annals of the presidency, Mulvaney chided the media and America in general to “get over it.” The “it” was his admission that the Trump Administration routinely uses extortion and coercion as tools of foreign policy. That’s why, according to Mulvaney and the president, their decision to withhold direly needed military aid to the Ukraine in exchange for the beleaguered nation’s new president doing the administration a little favor: Dig up dirt on potential Democratic rival Joe Biden for Trump’s 2020 reelection campaign. “Perfect,” bellows Trump, and perfectly okay, bleats Mulvaney. Except that it’s not.

For any American president, the issue is not even “quid pro quo,” as the Republicans desperately contend. The mere act of any White House secretly holding back military aid approved by a whopping bipartisan vote in the Senate and the House and even hinting that a favor is necessary opens wide the path to impeachment. That Ukraine is struggling to blunt the onslaught of Trump’s BFF, Vladimir Putin, evokes a somewhat less than “perfect” prism through which to view all of this. Mulvaney bluntly acknowledged that, of course, the Trump Administration was extorting Ukraine, and to paraphrase Mulvaney, that’s business as usual for Donald Trump, so “get over it.”

By Thanksgiving 2020, President Trump and his defenders might well be offering little thanks for the impeachment table they’ve set. There is scant doubt that the president will be impeached. Removal from office by a Senate controlled by Mitch McConnell and

the Saddest Sack Senator of all—Lindsey Graham—is far less likely. Still, if all of the Democratic senators, and just four of the Republicans, vote for removal, Donald Trump will enter the 2020 campaign as the only presidential incumbent impeached by the House and condemned by a Senate majority. Trump-haters, however, should fear one fact: he might well still win a second term—especially if our globe-trotting attorney general—and personal presidential counsel—William Barr reveal’s “Trump’s truth.”

Barr, the proud son of Mary Margaret Ahern (married name Barr) is on a mission to prove that not only was the Mueller Investigation a “witch hunt” and a hoax, but also that the president’s pal Vlad could not have been behind interference in the 2016 election. Far from it. Trump has a hard time believing that Vlad was behind the poisoning of an erstwhile Russian spy in the UK. Putin, our president avers, is “good people.” Now, racing in—or skulking around Europe—to prove that statement is Barr. He’s going to get to the bottom of things to unveil the “real” truth: It was Ukrainians, not Russians, who interfered in 2016 and conspired to help Hillary Clinton. One question: How did that all turn out, Secretary Clinton?

As Americans sit down to our annual orgy of food and football this Thanksgiving, we should not neglect to thank our holiday hosts and hostesses with a heartfelt “spasibo” or “spaciba”—that’s “thank you” in the Kremlin. William Barr and Mick Mulvaney would likely understand.

Something this pair of Irish Americans choose not to understand is the warning for the ages of Daniel O’Connell, “The Liberator,” one of the greatest human rights leaders to trod Irish turf: “Nothing is politically right which is morally wrong.”

Then again, the duo, good and grand Irish Catholics both, probably snicker at those words.

The Past Is Repast

Some might think that Thanksgiving traditions do not reflect anything Irish, but they would be wrong in that assumption. In fact, several scholars contend that without the Irish, the Pilgrims’ 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, Irish-American historian Michael J. O’Brien, an author and the main contributor to the *Journal of the American Irish Historical Society* from 1898-1941, 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 Nantasket laden with provisions. Upon which joyful occasion the day is changed and ordered to be kept (on the 22nd) as a day of Thanksgiving.”

The question lingers: Is a 1631 Thanksgiving or the customary date of 1621 correct? The accounts of Prince and Pilgrim leader William Bradford do not provide a clear answer.

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.”

The issue remains 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.

So what can one 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.”

‘ONWARD’

Brian Kennedy’s joust with cancer and his return to the stage

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

To say that Brian Kennedy has defied the odds is an understatement. The acclaimed Northern Irish singer and songwriter came of age in Belfast’s war-torn cityscape during The Troubles, and his gifted voice proved to be his ticket to international success.

The first international artist to record the world-famous anthem “You Raise Me Up,” which he performed at the funeral of soccer legend George Best, Kennedy has toured with such heavyweights as Van Morrison and captivated audiences across the globe.

Everything changed for him in 2016 when he was diagnosed with colon cancer. For the next two years, he endured round after round of chemotherapy and, in 2018, a nine-hour operation after which he needed two colostomy bags and additional chemo. All through the ordeal, he battled through it, moving, in his word, “onward.” Despite an initially dire prognosis, by June of this year he was given the near-miraculous news that he was cancer free.

In his darkest hours, he never forgot where he came from. He asserts that the resilience he has carried from Belfast’s once-violent neighborhoods has proven key to his battle with colon cancer over the past three-plus years. Now, he is back onstage and in the studio with a renewed sense of purpose and perspective—as well as new CD, “Recovery”—all of which he will bring on his current tour to audiences in Boston on Dec. 8 at John Hancock Hall, and at Carnegie Hall, in New York. The latter will mark the realization of a lifelong dream for the Belfast-born singer.

Recently, Kennedy—who is also a successful author, television star (The Voice-Ireland coach) and radio host (Clare FM Saturdays, “Live, Love and



Happiness”—spoke with the BIR from Dublin about his journey from The Troubles to his recovery from cancer and triumphant return to the stage.

Q. So many people who came of age during “The Troubles” in Belfast ended up embittered, and rightfully so, but how did you manage to come through it in just the opposite way?

A. Honestly, I think it has to do with the music yet again...I was so obsessed with that that it distracted from the awful world around us. Punk came along at a good time when the rules were that there were no

rules. I just missed punk but was glad of the glamour of the new romantic movement and the hopefulness of Boy George as he implored “Do you really wanna hurt me”...

Q. In the darkest moments of battling your illness, what helped keep you going and fighting?

A. I always knew that there was someone in the world who was much worse off than I was, whether it was someone trapped in Syria or even in a bad marriage. I kept visualizing myself well and onstage again. I managed to focus on that

even though friends were dying around me. I just knew I had so much more living to do yet.

Q. Since you’ve returned to the studio and stage, how, if at all, do you feel your musical perspective has changed or adapted?

A. I always hoped I had a deep sense of empathy, but I think that has deepened now that it’s almost exactly a year since my life-changing surgery. I feel incredibly lucky to still be here and doing such interesting work again, in and out of the studio.

Q. For others battling their own illnesses or demons, might

you have some advice?

A. It’s hard to give advice to anyone suffering, and I wouldn’t have been a great listener, especially when I was at my lowest, but you have to trust your instincts, and sometimes admit defeat and allow someone to help. Letting go of control is very weird at first, but it’s very freeing in the end.

Q. How would you describe your outlook and perception musically and personally before and now after your illness?

A. Honestly, they’re not that much different. If anything, the journey with cancer really reminded me of whom and what to prioritize in my life, and I only made a few wee changes. I’m an eternal optimist and I’m so lucky to have the friends that I do have.

Q. What are you hoping to convey to your fans during your upcoming performances in the states?

A. I would like to think that I’ll win over some brand-new fans, and the message is very clear to me that with the right outlook in life you can triumph over any adversity.

Q. On your new CD, “Recovery,” what themes and thoughts and personal insights are most important to you as you share the songs with your audience?

A. Well, recovery, for a start. I wanted to take the little selfies to try to document visually every stage of my stay in Hospital. “Child of War” was a very important song to write, given my childhood and the very real war in Belfast at that time, and then the very real difficulty with cancer as a man in my 50s and having to learn to walk again and start at the beginning. I really wanted this collection of songs to really sum up this period of truth, justice, and love...like the chorus of the song proclaims.

Brian Kennedy’s work is available online—Apple Music, Spotify, and Amazon.

Corner House sees its music telling of journeys, experiences, and ‘moments lived, and to come’

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

By definition, a corner house sits at the edge of a crossroads, in close proximity to all manner of passersby happening through the intersection. In the same vein, Boston quartet Corner House lies at a musical crossroads, its doors and windows open to the musical styles, genres, and philosophies at the metaphorical intersection: Irish/Celtic, bluegrass, old-timey, New England contra dance, plus contemporary and singer-songwriter folk.

For the band’s members, Boston itself has been a corner house of inspiration and creativity, and a welcoming destination at the end of their journeys from disparate locations. Fiddler Louise Bichan is a native of Scotland’s Orkney Islands; mandolin, mandola and bouzouki player Ethan Setiawan comes from Indiana, guitarist and lead vocalist Ethan Hawkins from Virginia; Casey Murray, who plays cello and banjo and joined the band last year, grew up in western New York.

With two EP/CDs to its credit, including the recently released “Smart Folks,” and an impressive resumé of past and future gigs, Corner House is the latest in a series of ensembles of current or former college students to find that Boston’s folk/acoustic music scene offers mighty good accommodations – whether your pleasure is jigs and reels from across the Atlantic, a high lonesome sound from the Appalachians, tunes from New England dance halls, or angsty, ironic, laid-back original songs. And even as they sort out all these influences and interests, Corner House’s members feel fortunate to be in this time and place of their lives.

“Everything’s developed pretty naturally for us,” says Bichan. “We haven’t even finished defining our sound – we certainly don’t kid on that we’re a trad Irish or Scots band, or an old-timey/bluegrass band, or whatever. We just play music that feels good to us. And Boston is ideal for doing that sort of thing.”

“I think this is largely our deep love for roots music as a band,” says Murray of the ensemble’s multifaceted musical personality. “But there is also a common drive among us for arrangement – a form of storytelling through music. Over the past year, we have worked on our Corner House sound and the different tunes and songs we each bring to the band are vehicles to take us and the listener on a journey through stories of experiences, moments lived and to come, songs of longing and growth.”

A listening excursion through Corner House’s two recordings readily attests to its ability to convincingly mesh the different genres. Bichan anchors “Lucy Farr’s,” the winsome barn dance tune associated with the East Galway fiddler who became an esteemed figure in London’s Irish music community from the 1950s on. The band’s Celtic influence also is prominent on a pair of contemporary slip jigs, “Farewell to Whalley Range” by Michael McGoldrick and Seán Óg Graham’s “Soggy’s,” with its famously quirky B part.

Setiawan, a former National Mandolin



Corner House is (L-R) Casey Murray, Ethan Hawkins, Ethan Setiawan and Louise Bichan.

Champion, shows off his prowess on such tracks as his instrumental composition “Friends with the Weather” and “Work,” a song he co-penned with Hawkins that seeks to reconcile stable home life with the challenges – and allure – of life on the road, as summed up in the refrain “Weary life is one worth living.” He also sets up an ear-catching counterpoint early on in the slip jig set to Bichan, who swaps off the melody with Murray; in the second part of the set, he and Hawkins take up the rhythm as Bichan and Murray duet, with sublime results.

A sequence of tracks on the first recording show off the Appalachian side to Corner House, beginning with “Red Rocking Chair,” a classic lament of frustrated romance (“It’s all I can do/It’s all I can say/Take me to your mama next pay day/I can’t get along this-a-way”), that opens with some nifty flat-picking by Hawkins – the son of a bluegrass musician – and features lovely vocal harmonies; they then segue into “Speed the Plow,” an old-timey reel that shares a name, though not the melody, with an Irish reel.

Besides “Friends with the Weather,” Corner House’s repertoire of original tunes includes “Gabe’s 24-Hour Tash” by Bichan, which has hues of both Celtic and American fiddle traditions, and Murray’s arboreal “Through the Snow-Covered Pines,” her clawhammer banjo underscoring the jovial Appalachian string band ambiance.

“One of the most unifying threads for this band is fiddle traditions,” says Setiawan. “We all love different fiddle-specific music including old-timey, Irish, Scottish, Scandinavian, bluegrass, etc., for different reasons. Obviously, we have fiddle/cello players, and us plucked-string players take a lot of inspiration from various fiddle players, as often the traditions we love have the fiddle at the very center.”

Another common thread for the Corner House members was the Berklee College of Music; Bichan and Setiawan are graduates, Murray is currently enrolled,

while Hawkins attended a summer session there and wound up staying in town. In the Berklee community, it’s not especially difficult to find musicians who share your interests, or will help you discover new ones, or both. And that’s where yet another common thread came in: a house just off Market Street in Brighton near the St. Columbkille Partnership School which has been living quarters, guest accommodations, crash space and a venue for rehearsals and jam sessions for a significantly high number of Boston-area folk/acoustic musicians; if you say “The Brighton House” to a fiddle or banjo player around here, especially those 30 and under, chances are they know exactly what place you mean.

It was in the crowded yet genial confines of The Brighton House that Bichan, Setiawan, and Hawkins began to fashion the Corner House sound. Although she grew up playing Scottish fiddle, Bichan greatly admires Irish players like Martin Hayes and Liz Carroll, and had accumulated a store of Irish tunes from sessions in Glasgow that seemed to work well with Setiawan and Hawkins. They in turn provided an opportunity for her to explore American-style fiddling in greater depth.

“At first, I had been nervous about the improvisational part of bluegrass or other American styles, and getting too far away from the melody,” she says. “But through Berklee I met a lot of people with whom I felt comfortable enough about messing up, so it felt great to try things out with the two Ethans.”

“I thought of Boston as a center for genre-bending music to emerge, and that’s what drew me as that’s what I really wanted to be a part of,” says Setiawan. “During my time at Berklee, I feel like I got into playing music in a somewhat traditional way – trying to really understand what made traditions traditions. Now I feel that I’m sort of back to making music that doesn’t fit into a genre, but hopefully with a deepened understanding of some of these traditions I draw on.”

In the fall of 2017, Corner House

formally debuted at the FreshGrass Festival in western Massachusetts, then appeared at Berklee’s Red Room at Café 939. After recording the first EP, the trio embarked on a summer 2018 tour of Scotland organized by Bichan.

This period produced an important revelation. Setiawan, in addition to playing fretted-string instruments, would switch to cello (his first instrument) in some instances. But ultimately, Bichan says, “we thought it would be awesome to have cello and mandolin at the same time.”

The three had become acquainted with Murray by then, so following the return from Scotland, they invited her to join. Murray, whose formative experiences included playing in the contra dance scene – which in recent decades has seen considerable innovation alongside the mix of musical traditions – was happy to accept the invitation.

“They had this unapologetic original and organic, but clearly well thought-out sound,” she says. “Their approach to arranging original and traditional material was the sound I had been searching to be a part of.”

“The cello can do so many things: bass lines, chopping rhythms, melody, chords,” says Bichan. “We were really struck by Casey’s playing, and thought she would fit with the band vibe. I like how one minute, you have two bowed instruments, fiddle and cello, duet with one another, and then the mandolin will take the lead and Casey will chop underneath alongside the guitar – there’s a completely different feel.

“Besides,” she adds, “a cello fits into a car much easier than a double bass.”

Corner House greatly needed that efficiency of space last summer, what with making the rounds of major folk/acoustic festivals like Grey Fox, Falcon Ridge, Red Wing, and Ossipee Valley. They also did tours of the Pacific Northwest, California and Virginia, among other places; in September, they formally marked the release of “Smart Folks” with a concert at Club Passim in Cambridge. This fall has seen them hit the road throughout New England, including the Sunapee Coffee House in New Hampshire and Stone Church Center in Vermont later this month, and a house concert in Wintertown in early December.

There’s been plenty of band-bonding along the way, some of it lovingly (and humorously) chronicled via social media. Long car rides, meals al fresco, side trips to swimming holes or curiosity spots, the hospitality of far-flung friends and acquaintances: For this quartet of people in their 20s, that is the residue of countless practices at The Brighton House or in other kitchens and living rooms, and the kind of adventure to savor, in all its small moments as well as grand achievements.

“We have food to eat and the means to live for a little while,” Hawkins wrote in one Facebook post during their summer travels. “Life has been achieved and in tow our happiness and optimism for the future.”

For more about Corner House, including links to their recordings, go to cornerhouseband.com.



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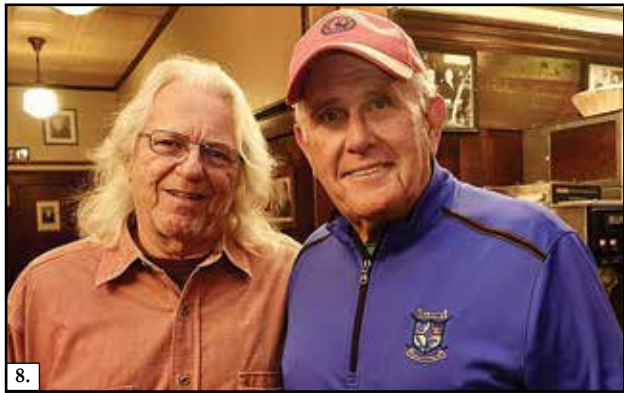
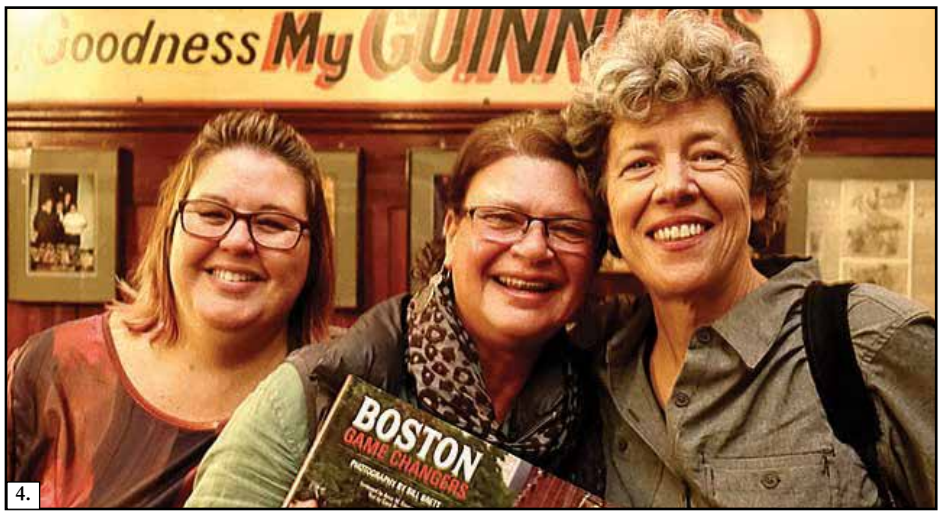
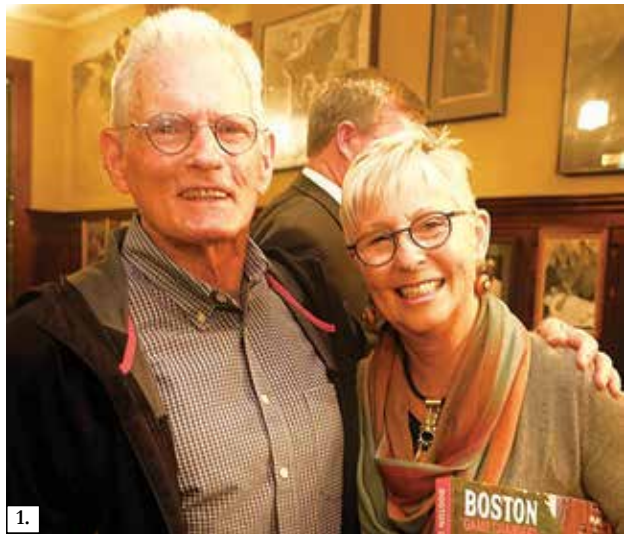
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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The historic Doyle's Cafe in Jamaica Plain, which closed its doors for the last time in late October, hosted a reception with Bill Brett for his new book, Boston Game Changers.

1.) Mike Barry and Joannie Jaxtimer, Milton; 2.) Garth Davis, So. Boston; Sarah Coderre, Somerville; Alice Tattersall, Cambridge; Mike Capasso, Roxbury; 3.) Catherine Towle, Quincy; George Manning, W. Roxbury; Meaghan Towle, Hyde Park; 4.) Heather Grant-Ford, Revere; Lori DeSantis and Carla Osberg, Jamaica Plain; 5.) Peter Gillies, Diane Gillies, John Gillies and Caroline King, Reading; 6.) Carla Osberg, Jamaica Plain; 7.) Alan Rouleau, Dorchester; Sonia Garufi, Roslindale; 8.) Ted Gartland, Belmont; Jim Fagan, Plymouth; 9.) Gerry Burke, Doyle's; Bill Lawler, Lawler Funeral Home, W. Roxbury; 10.) Gary and Lynne Smith, Wellesley; 11.) Monica McLane, New Jersey; Suzanne Noone, Belmont; 12.) Erica Shear, Somerville; Greg Sullivan, Allston; Maggie Farrell, Brookline; Emily Akin, Cambridge.

About kindness and caring in the middle of nowhere

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, on an otherwise beautiful fall day, terrorists hijacked four planes in the skies over America. All of them were intentionally crashed; two into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon, and one into a field in Pennsylvania.

At 9:42 a.m. that day, for the first time in history, the airspace over the United States was shut down and all ongoing private and commercial flights were ordered to land at the nearest airport.

Foreign flights approaching the East Coast were diverted to an airport in Gander, Newfoundland, and the 10,000 residents of this tiny town suddenly found their numbers almost doubled when 7,000 strangers on 38 planes landed at their airport. There were so many aircraft that the initial problem became where to park them all.

As word of the tragedy in America spread, the town rallied around the frightened strangers. Residents brought food, clothing, and comfort, opening their homes, and more importantly, their hearts, to their unexpected guests.

As *USA Today* stated, “To say this town of 10,000 people and its surrounding communities welcomed the passengers and crew from nearly 100 countries with open arms is an understatement. The town all but shut down for the ‘plane people,’” one of whom later remarked that after seeing the worst mankind was capable of on television, this was the best of mankind.

Residents refused to accept money for anything they provided to their guests. Much later, in appreciation, those who had been hosted in Gander sent gifts and donations that funded a new computer lab and created scholarships. Gratitude grew into enduring friendships.

The story of the town and those 7,000 stranded strangers who had “come from away” eventually inspired a musical of the same name.

“Come From Away” plays at the Citizens Bank Opera House from Nov. 5 to Nov. 17. Book, music, and lyrics are by Tony and Grammy Award nominees



“Come From Away,” Nov. 5-17, Boston Opera House, 539 Washington Street, Boston. 800-982-2787. [BroadwayInBoston.com](#)

Irene Sankoff and David Hein.

Included in the cast is the award-winning actor Kevin Carolan, who played Teddy Roosevelt in “Newsies” on Broadway, on tour and in the feature film. Carolan has also been seen onstage in “Chicago,” in the film “Can You Ever Forgive Me?” and on television in “The Good Wife,” “Boardwalk Empire” and “Curb Your Enthusiasm.”

Boston audiences will remember him delivering “The Bare Necessities” in the Huntington Theater production of “The Jungle Book,” for which he received an IRNE Award.

I spoke with Kevin by phone when “Come From Away” was playing in Michigan. Here are excerpts from our chat.

Q. There’s a strong emotional edge to this show. From your standpoint, what makes it so special?

A. For us, the story is such a feeling of positivity and kindness and goodness. We, as actors, feel more like missionaries. We’ve got a vocation to tell the story, especially at this time around the country

when this kind of news is so desperately needed . . . Every person in that audience brings their experience of 9/11 into the theater with them. And to be able to see the selflessness of the people of Gander and the grace under pressure from the people of the town who simply were just doing something because [they felt] you’d do it for them.

Q. Many Irish immigrants arriving in Canada between 1750 and 1830 favored Newfoundland. Is that presence reflected in the feeling of the show?

A. When you’re in Gander, which is the northeast tip of North America, it’s pretty much as close as you can get to the Emerald Isle. So there’s definitely a big musical influence. Our orchestra of eight is on stage. That includes a bodhran player. We’ve got somebody playing pipes as well, and fiddle. So that Celtic sense is very strong in this show. And I think it’s certainly one of the big draws . . . [plus] the sense of fun and playfulness that that music has to offer.

Q. Everyone takes on multiple roles in

the show, but you also play a major figure.

A. We all play many characters. But one of the ones that I associate with most is the mayor of the town, Claude Elliot. That’s really who I refer to with grace under pressure. Just a stoic man of the town, of the people, and just unwaveringly optimistic.

Q. Does playing real people bring added responsibility?

A. It’s a thrill to be able to portray them. I’m proud that I actually got a chance to meet Claude this week, strangely for the first time. We’ve been touring for a year and Claude and I have missed each other . . . Finally, after a year, we got to hook up and exchange pleasantries. And it was really nice to spend a little time with him . . . It may be the first time that I’ve played someone who I can talk to and have a conversation with. And it’s a thrill that it’s somebody as personable as Claude.

Q. I know your heritage is very important to you and that you have dual citizenship.

A. My father’s parents both emigrated from Ireland in the mid 30s. My father’s father is from County Cavan. My mother’s side of the family, the Paddons, are from Mullet in Mayo . . . We’ve made several trips over there . . . My wife and I honeymooned in Ireland. My younger brother had done a semester in Limerick and did the legwork and got some of the birth certificates for my grandparents. I kept the ball rolling when he came back. Interestingly, the biggest delay in my getting my dual citizenship was the lack of a long form birth certificate from the Bronx. (Laughing) It was a little slower on the US side.

Q. You’ve performed in Boston in the past. Anything special you’re looking forward to doing while you’re in town?

A. I’m prepared to take another challenge at who has the best cannoli!

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of [onstageboston.com](#).

“Come From Away,” Nov. 5 – Nov. 17, Boston Opera House, 539 Washington St. 800-982-2787. [BroadwayInBoston.com](#).

The BIR’s Calendar of Celtic music and dance

In addition to the Childsplay farewell tour (see separate story in this edition), here are some other Irish/Celtic music happenings in greater Boston this month:

• The annual **Massachusetts Fiddle Hell**, which takes place Nov. 7-10, at the Westford Regency Inn in Westford, offers not only mini-concerts and evening performances but workshops 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 Andrea Beaton, Barbara McOwen, David Surette, Eamon Sefton, Elizabeth and Ben Anderson, Ellery Klein, Flynn Cohen, Frank Ferrel, Janine Randall, Jenna Moynihan, Laurel Martin, Mark Simos, Paul Harty and Rose Clancy. Numerous sessions, planned and spontaneous, spring up at Fiddle Hell. For complete details, go to [fiddlehell.org](#).

• The Irish singer, music scholar, and author **Dan Milner** will give a lecture and concert at Boston College on Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m., sponsored by BC’s Gaelic Roots series. Born in England of Irish and English parents, Milner has amassed a diverse repertoire that includes traditional, music hall, Fenian/Nationalist, maritime and Tin Pan Alley songs. He has made six recordings, including one as a member of the band The Flying Cloud and others featuring performers such as John Doyle, Joanie Madden, Mick Moloney, Brian Conway, and Robbie O’Connell. He has written extensively for several publications, including *Irish Music* magazine and *The Journal of New York Folklore*, and has just published his second book, “Unstoppable Irish: Songs & Integration of the New York Irish, 1783-1883,” which he will discuss during his BC appearance. In “Unstoppable Irish,” Milner contends that Irish Catholics integrated rather than assimilated into the New York populace, and he examines how traditional, street and early popular songs can enhance historical knowledge by commenting on events from a street-level perspective.

The lecture and concert, which will take place at Connolly House (300

Hammond Street), is free. Go to [bc.edu/irish.html](#) for information on other Irish-related events at BC.

• The **Canadian American Club of Massachusetts’s annual fundraising gala** will feature Cape Breton, Scottish, Irish, and Quebecois music and dance from early afternoon to early evening on Nov. 3 at the club, located in Watertown. Performers will include Michael Kerr, Ken Perlman, Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, Planet Banjo, Malka and Terry Traub, Adrienne Howard and friends, musicians of the Boston Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann branch, the Jackie O’Riley Dancers with uilleann piper Joey Abarta, and a Cape Breton fiddle-pipes-Gaelic song mini-concert led by Katie McNally and Neil Pearlman. There also will be four Mabou sets with music provided by Maggie MacPhail, Gordon Aucoin, Rachel Reeds, and Jake Brillhart and Leland Martin.

The club also hosts a concert and dance with Cape Breton fiddle-piano duo **Wendy MacIsaac and Mac Morin** on Nov. 16 at 8 p.m. MacIsaac is highly regarded for her devotion to the Cape Breton “old school” fiddle style, and for her piano-playing and step dancing. She has performed with The Chieftains, Capercaille, and Ashley MacIsaac, and records and tours with Mary Jane Lamond and Cathy Porter. She also is part of the band Beolach, as is Morin. His other collaborations include Natalie MacMaster, Allison Kraus, and even Yo-Yo Ma and Art Garfunkel.

For more information, see [canadianamericanclub.com](#).

• Singers/entertainers/raconteurs **Tom Comerford and Andreas Durkin** will give a matinee performance at the Irish Cultural Center of New England in Canton on Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. Comerford, a former member of the Irish American band The Whole Shabang who began playing solo 20 years ago, has released seven albums, including “Galway Girl” and “Songs and Stories Live,” which feature his renditions of many popular Irish favorites (“Star of the County Down,” “Long Way to Tipperary,” “Black Velvet Band,” “Leaving of Liverpool”). In addition to solo touring, Comerford has

been a regular participant – along with Ronan Tynan and Andy Cooney, among others – on the annual Cruise of Irish Stars. Durkin, who’s also been on the Cruise of Irish Stars, plays with Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones as well as in his own band Cheap Whiskey and in a duo with his mother, country singer Kathy Durkin. Last year, he released his third album, “The Cowboy Rides Away.”

For ticket information, go to [irishculture.org](#).

• The Burren Backroom series will welcome New England-based quartet **Fàrsan** on Nov. 3 at 4 p.m. Its members (Katie McNally, fiddle; Neil Pearlman, piano, accordion, mandolin, step dancing; Elias Alexander, pipes, whistle, percussion, vocals; Màiri Britton, lead vocals, step dancing) present song, dance, and instrumental music from Scotland – particularly the highlands and islands – and the closely related traditions of Cape Breton, their arrangements providing a New World feel to Old World folklores. Fàrsan released its debut album last year and recently appeared as part of the Celtic Colours International Festival in Nova Scotia.

Opening for Fàrsan is the **Zeichner Trio**, siblings Yasi, Oliver and Loui Zeichner from central Vermont, who play a combination of traditional Irish and old-timey/Appalachian music on fiddle, uilleann pipes, tenor and five-string banjo, whistle and harp. Their gig history includes the New World Festival in Randolph, Vt., and the Big E in Springfield.

Innovative fiddler, composer and arranger **Jamie Laval** returns to the Backroom on Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. A former US National Scottish Fiddle champion, Laval has performed and taught in a variety of settings, from festival stages to small workshops, presenting a passionate, virtuosic brand of traditional music that brings in styles and influences ranging from jazz to classical and elsewhere. He has also taken his music to other realms, including movie and TV soundtracks and the Dave Matthews Band. His most recent album, “Murmurs and Drones,” won the popular vote for “Best World Traditional Album” in the

2012 Independent Music Awards; a new album, “Celtic Christmas: Music for the Deep Midwinter,” is nearing completion.

Two of New England’s finest folk/traditional guitarists, **Flynn Cohen and Matt Heaton**, join forces with local fiddler **Natalya Kay** on Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Cohen, also a talented mandolinist, and Heaton – who plays bouzouki, too – have been involved in numerous collaborations, including with one another; Cohen is part of the roots/Americana trio Low Lily, while Heaton and wife Shannon perform Irish and Irish American music. Kay, a Boston area native, studied under Laurel Martin and as a 17 year old won first place for under-18 solo fiddle in the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil. She has become a regular at many local sessions and Irish music events.

For links to tickets and information on all Burren Backroom events, go to [burren.com/music.html](#).

• In celebration of St. Andrew’s Day, a **Scottish Ceilidh** will be held on Nov. 2 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Irish Social Club, 119 Park St, West Roxbury. It is being sponsored by the Scots’ Charitable Society, Boston Scottish Country Dancers, and Highland Dance Boston. The event features performances by Celtic Beats, New Hampshire Pipes and Drums, Highland Dance Boston and the Boston Scottish Country Dancers, plus ceilidh dancing (with callers) with music by A Parcel of Rogues. See [scots-charitable.org/st-andrews-ceilidh](#).

• The local trio **Ceol Corvus** comes to the Gore Place Carriage House in Waltham on Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. The band’s members (Emily Peterson, concertina, whistle; Steve Levy, vocals, bouzouki, mandolin, tenor banjo; Sean Smith, vocals, guitar, bouzouki, bodhran) have long been active in the local music scene. Their free-reed/fretted-string dynamic combines the spontaneity and spirit of the Irish session with latter-day influences and arrangements inspired by the modern Irish folk revival.

Ticket information and other details available at [goreplace.org/programs/concerts-music](#).



A past incarnation of Childsplay, which will hold its final concerts this month, including at Sanders Theater.

Echoes of three decades of memorable music will resound this month as the fiddlers of Childsplay fall silent, say goodbye

Continued from page 1)

Childs, however, is not going into this last Childsplay tour with bitterness. He prefers instead to let these final shows be “about honoring the talent and commitment of the band,” and to focus on the fellowship and, most of all, the memorable music its members have created.

This year’s edition of Childsplay includes fiddlers and violinists with Greater Boston-area ties like Laurel Martin, Hanneke Cassel, Katie McNally, Sheila Falls, Amanda Cavanaugh, and Bonnie Bewick. As in past years, they are supplemented by a bevy of musicians on other instruments, among them Shannon Heaton (flute, whistle, accordion), Kathleen Guilday (Irish harp), Keith Murphy (guitar, piano), McKinley James (cello), Ralph Gordon (double bass), and Mark Roberts (banjo, bouzouki, percussion).

Renowned Irish singer Karan Casey, who joined Childsplay in 2016 and appeared on its most recent CD, “The Bloom of Youth,” will serve again as lead vocalist. Also returning is Kevin Doyle, long an audience favorite for his robust, spirited blending of Irish and American dance styles. Irish dancer Maureen Berry, whose credits include “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” is another

of the special guests this year. And Childs hints that there are likely to be some “surprise visitors,” including past Childsplay members, showing up on stage, especially at the last show.

Childsplay first began its near-annual assembly in 1986, when several of Childs’s satisfied fiddle customers played a concert in Washington, DC; they invited him to join them the following year. The group’s tours have not always been confined to the Northeast: In addition to Washington, DC, they’ve performed in the Pacific Northwest and one year traveled to a festival in Sweden.

Wherever they may play, and whoever shows up to participate – the lineup has seldom been the same from one year to the next – Childsplay’s devotion to high-quality music is a certainty. Rather than employ a straight wall-of-sound approach for its sets, the ensemble will in some instances spotlight a few players at a time – maybe a fiddle and flute duet, for example, or a trio of fiddles by itself or with guitar, or piano – and the arrangements might include counterpoint or contrasting rhythms juxtaposed against one another. Their repertoire of tunes spans traditional as well as contemporary compositions, some of them

by band members like Cassel, Murphy, Heaton, and McNally.

Childsplay’s vocal numbers, whether sung by Casey or her predecessors Aoife O’Donovan and Lissa Schneckenburger (who has done double duty as a fiddler as well), have been equally well-crafted and diverse. From traditional Irish or Scottish songs like “Sailing Off to Yankeeland” and “Rattling Roaring Willie” to Americana like “Dear Companion” and “Sweet Sunny South,” to contemporary material including Casey’s own “Dear Annie” and Steve Earle’s “Christmas in Washington” – and even a cover of “Love Me Tender” – Childsplay has been adept at creating arrangements and accompaniment that capably support the singer.

The archetypal Childsplay moment is when all its components “are in synch with one another,” says Childs: The fiddles swell together, or gallop through a jig or reel in unison, with the other instruments closely aligned. “Every year, there are a couple of those moments,” he says, “and they’re so beautiful it’s hard not to get emotional.”

Childsplay has inspired many such emotions for its members over the years: the anticipation of putting forth or trying out ideas for new additions to the band

repertoire; the delight in catching up with people you may not have seen since the last Childsplay tour; the exhilaration at putting in all that work and then sharing it with an enthusiastic audience. “Community” is an obvious and frequently heard description for the group, but it’s entirely apt.

“It’s been wonderful to have an annual occasion to collaborate with friends I see frequently,” says Heaton, “and a few I only see during the Childsplay events.”

Cassel, another longtime and frequent Childsplayer, likens the experience to a fiddle camp: “deep conversations, cooking together, jamming.”

McNally was still in her teens when she first took part in Childsplay, following in the footsteps of younger musicians like Sam Amidon, Graham DeZarn and the Gawler sisters, Elsie, Edith, and Molly, all of whom she’d marveled at as a child watching Childsplay shows from the audience.

“It was one of my first big professional gigs – I joined the band right after I got my fiddle from Bob,” she recalls. “It was so exciting when Bob called me up and casually asked if it would help me pay off my new instrument by going on tour with the band.”

Not surprisingly, Childsplay performers’ memo-

ries incorporate not just the rehearsals and concerts, but ancillary and even unusual events or circumstances. For Heaton, there was the year a nasty “catchy bug” made the rounds, creating a “literally infectious camaraderie between musicians, dancers, and the tech crew. Almost no one was spared.” But the show went on.

McNally likes to remember a post-concert excursion in New London, Conn., to a dive bar near the hotel where Childsplay was staying. A 1980s cover band was playing and, somehow, she says, “we eventually had all of the other patrons at the bar doing ‘The Virginia Reel’ to their music.”

Cassel, underlining the fiddle camp vibe of Childsplay, recounts an end-of-tour party that wound up taking place at the family home of one performer – despite the fact that her parents weren’t there. “So we went to the store, bought a bunch of groceries, and then chopped, cooked, grilled together and stayed up into the wee hours eating and playing music.”

When Childs adds those memories and impressions to his own, it serves to affirm his pride and satisfaction in what Childsplay has achieved in its three-plus decades.

“One of my favorite

parts of Childsplay has been its intergenerational nature; we have always had a spectrum of ages, from teen to young adult to middle age and older. To see the mentoring that’s taken place, to witness how people have grown – not just musically but personally – is something I’ve always been thankful for.

“Although I’ve had a leadership position in the band, I’ve never tried to be directive, but to let the music emerge and allow people to step forward and take on roles they’ve set for themselves.”

Childs has already had one important life transition recently, having largely retired from his violin-making after some 40 years due to eye problems. Childsplay’s finale – which will be filmed for another documentary – will be another.

“Endings in and of themselves are often difficult. But this is the opportunity to pay tribute to what Childsplay has accomplished. Karan Casey has called Childsplay ‘a democracy,’ and I appreciate that; it shows we’ve built a super-creative environment in which it’s possible to make wonderful things.”

For more about Childsplay and its final concerts, including the two at Sanders Theater, go to childsplay.org.

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CD Reviews

By Sean Smith

Kevin Crawford, Colin Farrell and Patrick Doocey, “Music and Mischief” • One of the many reasons to appreciate Lúnasa is that even when they’re not performing or recording as a full band, they cultivate opportunities to play together in smaller combinations. Flute and whistle player Crawford has often teamed up with the group’s uilleann piper, Cillian Vallely, for instance, and here he has joined with fiddler Farrell and guitarist Doocey to make an album brimming with excellent musicianship (of course), abundant good cheer, and the same creative spirit that energizes Lúnasa in its full incarnation. And in the same vein, grounded in tradition though the trio may be, “Music and Mischief” shows the contemporary mindset in their music, not least in their repertoire.



Lúnasan Donogh Hennessy) and Michael Goldrick’s “Ceol na Mara,” features Farrell pairing with Crawford on whistle, offering a glimpse of that distinctive layered, harmonic Lúnasa sound. The twin whistles also are at the forefront of the aptly named “Pure Irish

In one set, the three begin a with an elegant, festive Galician tune, “Pasacorredoiras do Condado,” and then launch into a pair of contemporary polkas, “The Corner House” (by Aidan Coffey) and “Ned Kelly’s” (by the musician of the same name). A pair of jigs, “Taylor Bar 4 a.m.” (by fellow

Drops” set, beginning with Carmel Gunning’s jig “Road to Maugheraboy” – with a lovely bouzouki backing by guest Alan Murray – and segueing into the traditional reel “Moneymusk” and Charlie Lennon’s “The Dowry.” Crawford’s slow reel, “The Headspinner,” exhibits his ability as a tune composer as well as the outstanding control and precision in his flute-playing, as does the reel that follows, Pat Walsh’s “The Teacake.” Doocey exhibits his lithe, melodic playing at the outset of his composition, “The Road to Foxford,” which Crawford’s flute then picks up, Doocey switching to a jazz-flavored accompaniment enhanced by Stephen Markham’s electric keyboard; then Farrell enters on “Wade’s Reel,” one of his many originals on the album, Jonny Hulme’s five-string banjo joining the mix.

Crawford does a fascinating solo whistle take on an 18th-century classical piece, Ferdinando Carulli’s “Opus 34 Duo in G,” Doocey providing an appropriately drawing-room-type backing. Farrell’s showcase is an epic medley of his own tunes, the jig “Head First” and reels “Night Heron,” “The Happy Shadow” and “The Wild Lime,” Hulme’s banjo helping engineer a gradual shift into a newgrass mode, with Farrell firing off hot bluegrass licks and jazz-like improvisations.

But don’t regard “Music and Mischief” simply as a stop-gap until the next Lúnasa release: It deserves to be listened to, and savored, on its own terms. [tinyurl.com/musicandmischief]

Steeleye Span, “Est’d 1969” • In a year chock full of 50th anniversaries (the moon landing, Woodstock, Monty Python, “Sesame Street,” “The Brady Bunch,” The Gap and ATMs, to name a few), there’s a very significant one where Celtic/folk music is concerned: Steeleye Span.

Steeleye was, along with Fairport Convention and Pentangle, a foundational force in the British folk revival. The band – particularly in its early years – showed a steadfast commitment to traditional music even as it experimented with electric guitars and bass (not to mention electric dulcimer) and eventually drums, and

contemporary-minded arrangements that grew increasingly sophisticated. Their repertoire covered not just rural and maritime folk songs but the older, literary ballads, especially those of the supernatural ilk (“King Henry,” “Allison Gross,” “Thomas the Rhymer,” “Twa Corbies,” “False Knight on the Road”) and songs of ritual and ceremony (“The King,” “Gower Wassail,” “Gaudete”), with the occasional set of Irish jigs and reels. Steeleye’s ranks have included a number of prominent, influential figures in the folk revival, notably Martin Carthy, future Pogue Terry Woods, John Kirkpatrick, Peter Knight, and, of course, lead vocalist Maddy Prior.

There were periods when Steeleye was dormant, or all but done, what with personnel changes, and members’ other musical activities and priorities. And the band’s shift to a more conscientiously rock, and commercial, sound and focus on original material may have produced some sales-measured success – namely their hit single “All Around My Hat” – but did not always sit well with many long-time fans or music critics.

Yet here they are still, with their 23rd studio album and fourth in the last 10 years. “Est’d 1969” recalls some of the same virtues that marked their earlier work: “Harvest,” a medley of two original songs, features the group’s trademark harmony vocals and celebration of rustic traditions a la “The King” and “A Calling-on Song”; “Mackerel of the Sea” and “Cruel Ship’s Carpenter” are of a piece with their long list of classic, deftly arranged ballad adaptations; and another medley, “Domestic,” dips into the store of comic – sometimes darkly so – songs about male/female relationships, in the manner of “Marrowbones” and “Four Nights Drunk.”

As a founding member, Prior herself, now 72, is a link to those past years and simultaneously a symbol of Steeleye’s fortunes, for better and worse, over five decades: During the mid-1990s, she began experiencing difficulties in her vocal range and shortly thereafter took an eight-year sabbatical from the band to pursue other projects. Her voice has mellowed and deepened over time, and no longer hits the high notes of a “Gaudete,” “Sheepcreek and Black Dog” or “The Weaver and the Factory Maid.” But she compensates very well, leaning more on her role as storyteller than folk chanteuse, such as in “Mackerel of the Sea,” or embracing a sultry tone in “My Husband’s Got No Courage in Him” – the second, more scurrilous part of the “Domestic” medley. The band has always made space for their other vocalists, anyway; one stand-out here is bouzouki/guitar/banjo/mandolin player Benji (son of John) Kirkpatrick, who leads on “Cruel Ship’s Carpenter.”

From a purely musical standpoint, this version of Steeleye also fares pretty well. Dublin-born drummer Liam Genockey, on his second tour of duty with Steeleye, has been praised for his adventurous flair, and guitarists Andrew Sinclair and Julian Littman (he also plays mandolin and keyboards) adroitly handle rhythm and lead. Jessie May Smart, who had the unenviable task of succeeding Peter Knight, is more violinist than fiddler, yet she can simulate trad-like lines and phrases as necessary; her style also works with the elaborate, progressive rock-type interludes in some of the songs, notably “Old Matron,” which is further enlivened by a cameo from flutist Ian Anderson of Jethro Tull.

Not everything works. The rendition of an Arthurian ballad, “The Boy and the Mantle (The Three Tests of Chastity),” comes off as rather twee and overly arty, especially with a harpsichord backing. The arena-rock accompaniment to “My Husband’s Got No Courage in Him,” complete with wah-wah guitar, almost overwhelms Prior. Their setting of a 1910 John Masefield’s poem “Roadways” seems unbecomingly gauzy.

It’s a fact of life that bands can and do change by necessity or inclination, especially over such a long stretch, and maybe holding them to past standards is unrealistic, even unfair. But long memories can be inconvenient: For some Steeleye aficionados, the period between, say, “Please to See the King” and “Parcel of Rogues” still stands as their strongest, almost perfectly balanced between folk and rock.

Yet if there are disappointing moments on “Est’d 1969,” the final track provides some redemption. “Reclaimed,” written by Prior’s daughter, Rose-Ellen Kemp, is about the ephemerality of man-made creations, of the tensions and sadness wrought by modern life, and our innate ability to fill the void. Steeleye sings it in exquisite a cappella harmony, and it’s almost impossible not to think of similar items in their lengthy discography that evoked green and pleasant lands of times past. Not a coda for Steeleye, perhaps, just a contemplation of future days. [steeleyespan.org.uk]



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Immigration Q&A

Wrong way, right ways to residence through marriage to a US citizen

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 person had committed "visa fraud," which, generally speaking, renders him ineligible for benefits such as permanent residence, and, indeed, subjects him or her 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 two 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 U.S. 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 while the application is being processed.

(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 advertised in the Boston Irish Reporter 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.



Ronan Organ of Cork, (right) at table with Arbella Insurance Foundation.

He has an Irish home away from home

Friendly, Irish, and sporty—these are the words Ronan Organ uses to describe Boston. Originally from Cork, Ronan was first attracted to this historic American city because of the Irish community, the professional opportunities, and his passion for sports. Having spent the past year in Boston, the IT professional has experienced all he had hoped for and more.

With an open-minded attitude, Ronan explored multiple avenues for find-

ing an internship. He found that the best way to get noticed by potential employers is attending networking events and seeking the help of others with professional contacts. He says that "organizations such as Boston Irish Business Association, Irish International Immigrant Center, and Consulate of Ireland Boston are always organizing networking events that help you to gain some invaluable contacts and mentors throughout your

time in Boston."

Ultimately, it was through these connections that Ronan found the professional opportunity he had been looking for.

Aside from work, he has been able to take advantage of what Boston has to offer. He enjoys the people, the history, and the familiarity of the city. The greatest memory Ronan says he will bring back to Ireland, however, ties back to his love of sports. "To see my favorite American football team winning

their 6th Super Bowl was something special for me. [...] To be able to watch the Super Bowl in a Boston bar, go into the Boston Common to celebrate with Pats fans, and see Tom Brady holding up the Vince Lombardi trophy the following Tuesday in a duck boat outside the Government Center was something that is unique to Boston."

Cheers to more wins for Ronan – and the Pats!

IIIC visits the ICC for the Irish Festival!

Ann-Marie, our Irish outreach coordinator, was out and about again last month. On Sat., Oct. 19, she attended the Irish Festival at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton where she had a great time meeting people and telling them all about the IIIC.

As always, the coloring competition was a big hit with the kids!

Thank you to Steve, Maudy, and all the wonderful staff and volunteers at the ICC for all their hard work and dedication in making this event such a success.



Ann-Marie welcoming people at the IIIC table.

Also pictured is William (age 6) with his mother Jill. William did a great job coloring the special IIIC Halloween pumpkin.

Upcoming:
A Holiday Chat Night!

Join us to celebrate the Irish language in this special time of year! We will be hosting a Irish Chat Night with the consulate as we approach the holiday season. Keep an eye on our IIIC and Wellness Facebook and Twitter pages as we roll out the details in the weeks ahead!

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Traveling People

The Irish have never forgotten their treasured antiquities

BY JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
Ireland is notable for many things, but high on that list is the dedication of its residents and organizations to preserving and sharing treasured antiquities. In cities, towns and across the countryside, there are monuments to the past – buildings, fortresses, castles, churches, abbeys, monasteries, and more, including portal and Neolithic tombs. Rather than plow under such heritage, the Irish respect, preserve, and share their treasures.

KILFENORA
 We visited the town of Kilfenora, Co. Clare, this spring, ostensibly to visit the excellent Burren Centre. Next door to the Centre is the Kilfenora Cathedral, which boasts the largest concentration of high crosses in the country. These limestone crosses are believed to have been carved in the late 11th or early 12th century, and include the well-known Doorty Cross. The cathedral, built in 1058 on the site of St. Fachnan's 6th century monastery, has deteriorated over time but is still impressive so you can appreciate how much more impressive it must have been in its heyday.

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands has reportedly allocated funds to ensure continued conservation and preservation of the Kilfenora cathedral, the crosses, and the cemetery.

The covered section of the cathedral is still used occasionally for Church of Ireland services and, thanks to its exceptional acoustics, for concerts from time to time.

When you next visit the Burren with its magnificent flowers and monuments, be sure to include a visit to Kilfenora. Both the cathedral and Burren Centre are well worth a stop, as is the nearby Burren Perfumery and Aillwee Cave (aillwee-cave.ie) with its Birds of Prey shows.

There's so much to do in this interesting section of the country. (Aillwee is open in November and December by appointment only and has a Santa's Workshop scheduled Nov. 29 and 30, Dec. 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22. There is a sensory morning on Dec. 6 from 11 to 2.)

There are many other tourist attractions in Co. Clare – in addition to the Cliffs of Moher – although places like Knappogue Castles in Quin and Bunratty Castle, which offer fun medieval banquets, do close for the winter. They reopen in the spring.

TIPPERARY
 When you're traveling across the country in search of more historic buildings, be sure to stop off in Loughmore, Co. Tipperary. Just off the N62, Loughmore offers history buffs the Purcell Fortress/Castle, the Abbey Church, the Mill, and the Cormack Memorial. The Purcells, known



Poul nabrone Dolmen, or portal tomb, is a popular tourist attraction in the Burren in Co. Clare.



Clonmacnoise in Co. Offaly is an Early Christian site that includes ruins of a cathedral, seven churches (10th-13th Century), two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of Early Christian grave slabs in Western Europe.

as the Barons of Loughmore, built their castle/fortress on the west bank of the River Suir with a five-storied southern tower. The walls are 10 feet thick at ground level in the tower – and there is a spiral staircase from the basement to the top. The last baron, Nicholas Purcell (1652-1723), was a signer of the Treaty of Limerick in 1691. The barony ended when Nicholas died without a male heir.

The Abbey Church ruins are in the graveyard near the current Loughmore church and date back to medieval times. Also see The Mill that was built by Samuel Rudd in 1842 and the mausoleum where brothers Daniel and William Cormack are interred. The lads were wrongly accused and hanged in 1858 for the murder of a land agent. The true murderer finally admitted his crime after Daniel and William were executed.

St. Crunain's holy well is also in that area and is said to heal arthritis and eye ailments.

And, don't miss Cahir Castle (tinyurl.com/h3y-9d6m), The 1848 Famine Warehouse in Ballinagarry, Ormond Castle in Carrick-on-Suir, or the magnificent grouping of medieval buildings on a limestone hill known as the Rock of Cashel. There is a 12th-century round tower, high cross and Romanesque chapel, 13th-century Gothic Cathedral and 15th century castle there.

CO. GALWAY
 If you decide to wander from the Midlands over to the West Coast and into Co. Galway in search of historic sites, a stop at Thoor Ballylee near Gort is highly recommended. The Norman Tower and adjoining cottages were purchased in 1916 by W.B. Yeats, who had seen the property many times when visiting his patron, Lady Augusta Gregory, a co-founder of the Abbey Theatre who lived nearby. Lady Gregory's home, Coole Park and Gardens, is now a nature reserve on 1,000 acres of land. It's a lovely place to spend a day walking the trails and enjoying



Carving of a bishop's head at Kilfenora Cathedral in Co. Clare.

See coolepark.ie for more information. The tower has been restored and looks much the same today as when Yeats and his family

lived there in the 1920s. There is now a picnic area, a large bus and car park, toilet facilities, a bookshop, and riverside walks to an old mill and

mill wheel there. It's well worth a visit.

Also in Co. Galway is Dunguaire Castle (Kinvarra), a 16th century edifice that offers medieval banquets from April to September. Like Bunratty and Knappogue, the banquets feature a theatrical performance with rhyme, verse, music, and song. There is also a craft shop there.

You could scarcely mention Co. Galway without urging visitors to head north to Connemara for a tour of beautiful Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Gardens. Kylemore is often said to be Ireland's top tourist attraction and you'll see why when you visit.

The Abbey hardly fits into the historic-but-derelect category, thanks to the Benedictine nuns who have overseen the property for nearly 100 years. In 1868, an Englishman, Henry Mitchell, was touring Connemara and came upon an old hunting lodge set at the edge of a lake with mountains rising behind. He was stunned by the brilliant scene, bought the property for his wife, Margaret, and built a castle there with 33 bedrooms, four bathrooms, four sitting rooms, a ballroom, billiard room, library, study, school room, smoking room, gun room and various offices and domestic staff residences. He added gardens, walks, and woodlands that eventually covered the 13,000 acres.

Sadly, Margaret died at the age of 45 after contracting an illness on a family holiday to Egypt.

Benedictine nuns settled at Kylemore in the 1920s. They ran a day school and boarding girls' school there for 87 years until it closed in 2010. During their time, the nuns have restored the Abbey, Gothic Church and Victorian Walled Garden to their former glory. Upgrades and changes are ongoing even today. Be sure to stop in Kylemore's outstanding café and gift shop while there too.

DARK SKIES
 The 14th European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky that will take place in Mulranny, Co. Mayo, from Nov. 3 to 5, will be a sister event to The International Dark-Sky Association's 2019 Annual General Meeting & Conference in Tucson, AZ, Nov. 8-9. The intercontinental collaboration highlights common challenges faced across the globe in the fight to protect the night sky from light pollution.

Attendees will gather at both events to examine best practices for night sky protection and to share their enthusiasm for the night sky. By collaborating on the events, ideas and outcomes will be exchanged internationally and strengthen the movement to protect the night sky. For more information, see darksky.org

Enjoy Ireland whenever and wherever you go.

Decision on Brexit put off until January; vote to come

(Continued from page 1) emy Corbyn said his party would vote in favor of an early election because the prospect that Britain could crash out of the EU without a divorce deal had been taken off the table. Brexit will form the unavoidable backdrop to the election, but the left-of-center Labour Party is calculating that voters will want to talk about issues such as health care, education, and social welfare — all of which saw years of funding cuts by Conservative governments — more than about Brexit. The party's position on the EU is convoluted, with a split between those who want to go through with Brexit and those who want a new referendum on whether to remain in the bloc. The strongly pro-EU Liberal Democrats have been eating away at Labour's support in Britain's big cities. "The choice at this election could not be clearer," Corbyn said in a statement that did not mention Brexit. "A Labour government will be on your side, while Boris Johnson's Conservatives — who think they're born to rule — will only look after the privileged few." The looming vote comes two and a half years before the next scheduled election, due in 2022, and will be the country's first December election since 1923.

“Johnson, who said just weeks ago that he would ‘rather be dead in a ditch’ than postpone the Oct. 31 Brexit date, was forced by Parliament to seek the extension in order to avoid a no-deal Brexit.”

Lawmakers rejected an attempt by the Labour Party to hold the election on Dec. 9. The party argued the earlier date would mean more students could vote because universities would not have begun their Christmas holidays. But Cabinet Office Minister Oliver Dowden said Dec. 12 was preferable because it gave lawmakers a few more days to finish up parliamentary business, and retained Britain's tradition of holding elections on Thursdays. Earlier, a last-minute hitch to the government's plans emerged when opposition parties announced plans to try to amend the terms of an early election to lower the voting age from 18 to 16 and expand the voting base to include citizens of the 27 other EU nations who are living in Britain. The government said it would abandon the bill if that plan succeeded. The amendments were not chosen for a vote by parliamentary authorities, who judged that they would have fundamentally altered the legislation. Johnson took office in July vowing to “get Brexit

done” after his predecessor, Theresa May, resigned in defeat. But the Conservative leader, who said just weeks ago that he would “rather be dead in a ditch” than postpone the Oct. 31 Brexit date, was forced by Parliament to seek the extension in order to avoid a no-deal Brexit, which would damage the economies of both Britain and the EU. Johnson plans to campaign as a leader who has a viable, strong Brexit plan for the country but who has been stymied by an anti-democratic opposition and a bureaucratic EU. He has argued that without an early election, the British government would be like the cartoon character Charlie Brown, “endlessly running up to kick the ball only to have Parliament whisk it away.” An election is a risk, though, not only for Johnson's Conservatives but also for Labour. Opinion polls currently give Johnson's Conservatives a

lead, but there's a strong chance that an election could produce a Parliament as divided over Brexit as the current one. Theresa May called an early election in 2017 with the aim of boosting the Conservatives' majority and strengthening her hand in negotiations

with the EU. The party ended up losing its majority in Parliament, and May failed to pass her key Brexit measures. Many voters here are fed up with politicians from all sides after more than three years of Brexit drama, and all the parties are worried about a backlash from grumpy voters asked to go to the polls at the darkest, coldest time of the year. “We all know that a poll in December is less than ideal,” said Pete Wishart, a lawmaker with the opposition Scottish

National Party. “But it is worth that risk in order that we remove this prime minister.” Meanwhile, the Brexit conundrum remains unsolved — and the clock is ticking down the new deadline of Jan. 31. “To my British friends,” European Council President Donald Tusk tweeted on the day of the vote. “The EU27 has formally adopted the extension. It may be the last one. Please make the best use of this time.”

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2. Show it to the pharmacist when you fill (or refill) a prescription.
3. Start saving up to 80% instantly.

DISCOUNT ONLY - NOT INSURANCE. There are no enrollment or membership fees for the program. Discounts are available exclusively through participating pharmacies. The range of the discounts will vary depending upon the type of provider and services rendered. This program does not make payments directly to pharmacies. Members are required to pay for all health care services, but can receive a discount from participating pharmacies. For customers in MA, this plan is not health insurance coverage and does not meet minimum credible coverage requirements under MGL c. 111M and 956 CMR 5.00. You may cancel your registration at any time or file a complaint by calling the toll-free customer care number at 1-844-863-0353. The program is administered by MedImpact Healthcare Systems, Inc. The drug formulary is open. Prescription prices may vary from pharmacy to pharmacy and are subject to change. The pricing estimates given are based on the most recent information available and may change based on when you actually fill your prescription at the pharmacy. Average savings of 54%, with potential savings of up to 810% based upon 2017 national program savings data. PROGRAM IS NOT HEALTH INSURANCE OR A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN OR a SUBSTITUTION FOR INSURANCE, and it may not be used in conjunction with any insurance plan or government funded program such as Medicare or Medicaid.