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# Strong base and key alliances fueled Marty Walsh’s win over John Connolly

By **BILL FORRY**  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

It was a long time coming. Many skeptics thought it would never happen. And, yes, it could prove fleeting. But for one day in November 2013, residents of the city’s largest neighborhood put aside long-standing differences to elect one of their own to the most powerful job in Boston and, arguably, the state.

Marty Walsh didn’t win white Dorchester. He didn’t win black Dorchester. He won Dorchester. Period. And he did it in convincing fashion, carrying more than 60 percent of the vote in his home neighborhood.

Walsh bested crosstown rival John Connolly in the first open mayor’s race in 20 years on Nov. 5. The four point margin (52-48 percent) was hardly a runaway win, but Walsh’s Dorchester-South Boston base — combined with decisive wins across the city’s interior, predominantly minority precincts — proved to be the difference.

Yes, Walsh — the son of

immigrant parents from Galway’s rocky region who’ll be Boston’s first mayor of Irish extraction since Raymond L. Flynn — did better in “white” neighborhoods than he did in “majority-minority” precincts. His seaside State representative district was always going to be his Fort Knox. But who would have guessed that Marty Walsh — who until six weeks ago had never appeared on a ballot west of Washington Street — would score decisive wins in Four Corners, Grove Hall, Lower Mills, and Mattapan Square.

Dorchester has always had this potential, but time and again, it has stumbled as consecutive waves traipsed through the underbrush of a bygone Boston. A knotted root-system of racial, ethnic, and geographic roadblocks has trumped neighborhood time and time again.

This time it was different. The iconic image of this election will be the one shot taken outside of First Parish Church on Meetinghouse Hill — the

historic center of civic, religious, and political life in this town-turned-neighborhood — showing Walsh, surrounded by Felix Arroyo, John Barros, and Charlotte Golar Richie, in full stride, walking to meet the camera array set up to capture Richie’s dramatic endorsement of her Dorchester neighbor. By election day, this “Team of Rivals” image had been hung on fence posts from Dudley to Cleary Square — Exhibit A in the tough-sell argument that a 46-year-old Irishman labor boss from Savin Hill could pass the sniff test and clear the color line. It worked.

If you think that the endorsements from Arroyo, Richie, and Barros (and yes, other, elected officials of color, including the state senator from Dorchester) didn’t swing this election, ask Marty Walsh or John Connolly.

They mattered: Walsh won every precinct in the city’s communities of color.

The knock-out blow came in the single-family side streets sandwiched between River Street

and Cummins Highway, where Walsh cashed in on a spike in the city’s second-most competitive district council race of the day. Walsh clearly won the larger share of the Haitian-American electorate that fueled Jean-Claude Sanon’s very respectable 7,879 tally in his campaign against Tim McCarthy for the District 5 City Council seat. While that total was only good for second place for Sanon, it helped to propel Walsh into a more comfortable three-point lead citywide. Notching marginal wins in East Boston, Allston-Brighton, and Charlestown helped the Walsh cause, no doubt, but Hyde Park — which forms the bulk of Super-Ward 18 — was the biggest prize of the day. Stunningly, Walsh ran the table there, a clean sweep of all 23 precincts.

Walsh won the mayor’s chair on the margins, but his victory was anchored in his House district, which churned out lopsided totals for Galway’s favorite grandson. Port Norfolk (16-10) and Wards 13, 15, and 16 effectively



Mayor Tom Menino and Mayor-elect Marty Walsh spoke to reporters after the two met in Menino’s City Hall office. Photo by Isabel Leon

cancelled out Connolly’s West Roxbury base vote tally. The Keystone precinct — Florian Hall’s 16-12 — turned the nozzle to full blast, hammering home Walsh’s best percentage win of the day: an Obama-esque 87 percent that deposited a cool 790 ballots into his kitty. Connolly’s best percentage precinct of the day was in Beacon Hill’s Ward 5, precinct 5 where he posted an 89 percent win by capturing 289 ovals. Clearly, Connolly would have been pleased to swap those superlatives.

With his Dot base outpacing Connolly’s West Roxbury base, Walsh continued to dominate South Boston, cancelling out Connolly’s advantages in the Back Bay and South End. East Boston was nearly a draw, with Walsh edging Connolly in the end. He won Jamaica Plain and even picked off a couple of Roslindale precincts. He performed better in Connolly’s base than expected as well, winning more than 40 percent in West Roxbury, a remarkable feat.

And so it all came back to the communities of color, the ultimate arbiters of the city’s mayoral future since Sept. 24 at 9 p.m. With some variation, voters of color broke

for Marty Walsh, the Dorchester guy, 60-40. It was true in Codman Square, where Marty is a known quantity, but it also carried through into the heart of Mattapan, the Blue Hill Corridor, and deep into Dudley.

Marty Walsh will be the next mayor of Boston because he managed to convince enough voters, many of whom probably had never heard of him until last spring, that he was a better choice than a man they had seen on their ballots a half-dozen times already. He mined the support of their trusted leaders and parlayed that vouchsafe into election day gold.

Marty Walsh — the individual, the politician — gets full credit. It’s his win because people like him, trust him, want him to succeed. Ultimately, he was able to build this remarkable coalition because he treated people well over many years and, even when he had to disappoint, he did so with respect.

But make no mistake: This is a victory for his home neighborhood, too. Much maligned, often dismissed, Dorchester finally figured it out. It’s a force to be reckoned with and it’s now beyond dispute.

Now, what to do with it?



Members of the Walsh Clan from Ireland celebrate their relative’s win on election night. Sean Folan photo

## BPL event to salute Heaney

The Consulate General of Ireland in association with Irish Network Boston will remember the poetry and life of Seamus Heaney at an event this month at the Boston Public Library.

Heaney who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995, died in August.

Local academics, poets, and musicians will gather at the BPL on Wed., Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. Participants include Seamus Connolly, National Heritage Fellow, the *Boston Globe*’s Kevin Cullen, Dr. Kelly Mathews, and Dr. Catherine Shannon.



## Irish Film Festival in ‘Call for Entries’

The Irish Film Festival, Boston, has announced its “Call for Entries” for the 14th annual festival, which will take place next March. Entries are accepted through withoutabox.com and the submission deadline is Dec. 30.

Discounts for IFTN members are available. Full details can be found at

[irishfilmfestival.com](http://irishfilmfestival.com).

The IFF awards, inaugurated in 2003, honor those filmmakers whose work constitutes celebrating the very best of Ireland and the Irish on screen — past, present, and future. Submissions will be received in the following categories: Best Breakthrough Feature, Most

Inspiring Short/Animation, and Global Vision Documentary.

Winners in each category will receive flight and accommodation to attend the event.

The festival will take place at the Somerville Theater, Davis Square, from Thurs., March 20, to Sun., March 23.

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# Boston and Ireland: The ties that bind are strong and deep

By Ed Forry

The ancestral bonds that will forever link the town of Boston with the Emerald Isle were in great evidence last month as Ireland's citizenry and its media were riveted with two huge stories from our city's Democratic politics.

The first, of course, was the anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination, an event that even today occasions spasms of tears from the Irish. In New Ross, where JFK had greeted his cousins just months before his death, a special commemoration was held on Nov. 22.

Back in Washington, it was reported that an elite group of 26 soldiers from the Irish Defence Forces had performed a silent three-minute drill, known as the Funeral Drill, at the burial site at the request of Jacqueline Kennedy. And late last month, another group of Irish soldiers joined Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson at JFK's gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery, a story prominently reported both in the US and in Ireland.

The other Boston political story that continues to capture attention in Ireland is the Nov. 5 mayoral election of Dorchester's Marty Walsh, an eight-term state Rep from Dorchester who as a young man spent many summers living in Connemara, Co. Galway. Irish television, RTE, had news crews in Boston before and after the election and the Irish newspapers have been treating Boston's mayor-elect almost like a native son.

An in-depth profile of Walsh in the *Irish Times* told readers that his late father John was born and raised in Callowfeenish in Carna. Mary, his mother, "comes from a few parishes farther away, in Ros Cide, Ros Muc," the newspaper reported. "The couple emigrated to Boston in the 1950s and settled in Dorchester, an Irish stronghold outside the city.


"Boston's mayor-elect used to visit Connemara every year," the *Times* related. "On each trip back, he visits the grave of his grandparents at the Atlantic-sprayed cemetery on Mweenish, the island a few miles out by road from Carna. 'It has been a couple of years since I have been back but I plan on going back after the new year,'" he says.

Of course, even as Walsh's upbringing in Dorchester prepared him for a life in politics, in many ways his Dot years parallel a truly Irish experience in Galway. Brian Donnelly, the Dorchester Lower Mills man who served 14 years in the US Congress and authored the so-called "Donnelly Visas" program that led to US citizenship for scores of Irish in the 1980s, once explained to me the similarities between the Dorchester and Ireland's counties.

I traveled with him to Galway on my first trip to Ireland in 1992, and he prepared me for the experience: "You're going to see faces that look familiar," he said on the plane to Shannon. "It seems like half the people from our neighborhood are from Galway, and you're sure to recognize them," he said. "A lot of people spend parts of the summer over in Ireland, so you will see people you think you recognize. But if it's not them, it's most likely their first cousins."

If Savin Hill's Marty Walsh was over there that summer, I don't remember seeing him in Galway city; he likely was out with his family in Ros Muc. But Donnelly had it right – walking along the prom in Salthill, I did run into a young Boston priest, Father Vin Dailey, who then was serving in his first assignment at St. Gregory's in Lower Mills, where he now is pastor.

The *Irish Times* story included the news that Walsh speaks Irish, a trait he shares with his mother, and quoted him on how he views his connection with the old sod: "I look at the story of my father and mother growing up on a farm in Ireland and working hard and never getting anything handed to them. ... That is very much part of my Irish heritage. I am very proud of my Irish heritage."



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# When Northern Ireland was at war Remembering can help prevent future horror

By JOE LEARY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The tragedy of the people of Northern Ireland killing each other was memorialized this past October by the families and friends of the 18 victims who died 20 years ago in two of the most tragic atrocities in the North's difficult history.

Today, as American observers sometimes become frustrated by the sporadic rioting and slow progress on agreement on nearly everything in Northern Ireland,



Joe Leary

we should recognize that going back to the old days is not an option. Interested Irish Americans should have patience and always focus on improving the hard-won peace.

It is always worth remembering just how brutal things were just a short 20 years ago.

First, there was the bombing on the Protestant Shankill Road in Belfast that incited a machine gun attack in a bar in the Catholic town of Greysteel outside of Derry a week later.

Both were retaliatory strikes that produced many dead and many injured, most of whom were innocent bystanders.

In the early 1990's, as the peace talks were repeatedly stalled, many innocent Catholics were killed while walking the streets by newly active UDA-UFF protestant paramilitaries.

Under attack, Catholic paramilitaries felt they had to respond.

On Saturday afternoon, Oct. 23, 1993, the provisional IRA, believing that the leaders of the UDA-UFF were meeting upstairs, bombed Frizzell's fish shop in a Protestant neighborhood on Shankill Road. With the shop and the streets outside crowded with women and children, two IRA members, Thomas Begley and Sean Kelly, took the bomb into the shop shortly after 1 p.m., but the UDA-UFF bosses had left their office upstairs. The bomb went off prematurely, killing 10 people, including Begley, John Frizzell, the owner of the shop, four women, two children, and two men. Kelly was severely wounded, and more than 50 were injured. The IRA then and now claims the explosion was supposed to be delayed so that civilians could be warned to leave the building.

## Off the Bench

# Loyalty is not always approval

By JAMES W. DOLAN  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

It is hard to find anything uplifting in the long and tragic era of James "Whitey" Bulger. At last now, there is closure. He is best forgotten, which is easy for the curious and uninvolved but far more difficult for the families of victims and his own relatives.

I recall sitting in the Drug Court session at Roxbury District Court many years ago and seeing a man much older than the drug-dependent defendants who appeared in the session weekly so that probation could report on their progress, or lack thereof. The purpose of Drug Court was to involve the judge on a continuing basis in the rehabilitation of defendants convicted of drug-related cases.



James W. Dolan

At the weekly session, each defendant was called before the judge and a probation officer described his or her performance during the previous week. The program required weekly urine screenings, detox, in and out-patient counseling, and the imposition of jail sentences on those not in compliance

I inquired of a court officer about the older man who was sitting among the defendants and was told he was the father of one of them. He said the man had accompanied his son week after week, month after month. to the Drug Court sessions.

He remained seated as his son was called to the bench and I received a report of another life ravaged by drugs. The young man had been in jail, in and out of drug programs, and once again was being closely monitored to see if there was any way the cycle of drug use and despair could be broken.

I could only imagine the pain and disappointment that his parents had suffered over the years at his repeated failure to get clean. Yet there was his father once again trying to be helpful, demonstrating by his presence his love for his son.

I called the father up to the bench and in front of his son told him how much I admired him. He refused, despite the pain and previous failures, to abandon his son. His love was constant, his loyalty undiminished regardless of what his son had done. Parental love is not earned by children; it is wired into the relationship.

The outrage was instantaneous. Protestant anger swept every part of Northern Ireland, and world leaders condemned the atrocity with great passion. And over the next several days, six Catholics were indiscriminately shot and killed in and around Belfast. Security forces were sent to guard all Catholic churches.

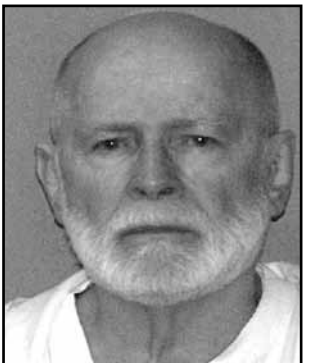
Then, on the following Saturday, Oct. 30, four UFF Protestant paramilitaries attacked the Rising Sun Bar in the small village of Greysteel, a Catholic town nine miles east of Derry on the other side of Northern Ireland. The men used machine guns to spray automatic fire toward patrons sitting at the tables and the bar. There were twenty-seven people were shot that evening, and eight of them died – six Catholics and two Protestants. Since Greysteel was 96 percent Catholic, the UFF gunmen had assumed they would only kill Catholics. Like so many assumptions in this terrible war, it proved incorrect.

The *Belfast Telegraph* newspaper reported the names of the four men who did the killings. Stephen Irwin led Torrens Knight, Geoffrey Deeney, and Bram McNeill, all fellow UFF members, into the Rising Sun Bar. Despite the cold-blooded horror they committed against their own countrymen, all of them, along with Sean Kelly, the IRA bomber in Belfast, were released from jail as a result of the Good Friday Agreement that was ratified by the Irish people throughout Ireland five years later, in 1998.

In Northern Ireland during those seven days of extreme violence, 24 citizens died and 69 were injured. The men who did this are free, and their leaders, who either told them to do it or condoned what they did, are still living their lives, having dinner with their families, and making speeches, with some probably serving in the Northern Ireland government.

Today, much of Northern Ireland life seems quite normal and business is thriving, but beneath the surface, especially in the neighborhoods where the 70 or so 12-foot-high "peace walls" are still deemed necessary, people are very wary, looking back over their shoulders every day. The police will tell you that there are frequent rallies and troublesome marches, with violent eruptions not uncommon.

Irish-American support is important to both sides as we see delegation after delegation coming to Boston from Northern Ireland to raise money, promote business, or simply gain support for their cause. The struggle for productive healthy lives there for everyone is not over.



The brothers Bulger: Jackie and Whitey

What has that got to do with the Bulger case? I read that at the sentencing hearing the only family member present was his brother John "Jackie" Bulger and that he was there every day during the trial. While it is likely the entire Bulger family suffered through the trial at the sordid crimes attributed to the oldest brother, John, the youngest, suffered most.

The well-regarded retired clerk-magistrate of Boston Juvenile Court, John was sent to jail for perjury, for denying any contact with his brother when he was on the run. He also lost his pension. Rumor and allegations of guilt by association also damaged the reputation of William Bulger, the former state legislator and University of Massachusetts president. The press would have been all over the former senate president had he attended the trial, adding to the circus atmosphere.

Perhaps family members were in denial. Until the trial, they lived the legend of James rather than the reality of "Whitey" – misguided but understandable, given their fierce South Boston loyalty.

Should they have abandoned this most prodigal of sons? God loves sinners; should we expect less of the family. Love and loyalty do not necessarily mean approval. There remains some hope that the condemned man will seek redemption. Without the love of family, that chance is diminished.

The victims and their families deserve love, compassion, and understanding. Should there be a little left over, if not for the perpetrator, at least for his family. Like the father at Roxbury Court, John would not abandon his brother. There is good in that.

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



# **SALUTING A SCHOLAR FOR A JOB WELL DONE**

## **A fond adieu to Robert O'Neill, Director of Burns Library at BC**

A black and white portrait of Robert O'Neill, a man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a suit and tie, looking slightly to the right.

BY PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

For the last 26 years, Robert O'Neill has been the director of the John J. Burns Library at Boston College. Now, as he prepares to retire this month and head for the warmer clime of Arizona, he leaves a deep legacy. The library, under his and his staff's tutelage, stands as one of the finest university research institutions anywhere. Its rich Irish collections have garnered worldwide acclaim, due in no small measure to the foresight of Robert O'Neill.

Scholar, librarian, author, manager, and adjunct political science professor – these are but a few of the hats O'Neill has worn so well at BC, but they barely hint at the imprint he has left for anyone who writes, studies, and researches about Ireland, Irish America, the diaspora, Irish art, culture, and, especially, literature.

He arrived at The Heights in September 1987 after serving as director of the library at the Indiana Historical Society and as head of special collections and associate professor of library science at Indiana State University. A trained and notable historian, O'Neill earned his BA in history at Merrimack College, his MA in European history at the University of Arizona, and his PhD in philosophy, European history, and MALS in library science at the University of Chicago. He has brought that blend of historian and archivist to the Burns Library for nearly three decades. Recently, Dr. O'Neill, a Holliston resident, sat down for an interview with the *BIR* to discuss his time at the Burns Library and in and around Boston.

**BIR:** When you took the post at the Burns Library, what were both your immediate and long-term goals?

**O'Neill:** When I came into the job, it was at a difficult time for the library and the university. My predecessor had been convicted of the theft of rare books, artifacts, and materials from the library. My immediate concern was to restore the staff's morale and confidence. My long-term goal was to build upon and expand the library's already outstanding collections. I wanted to help build on the strength of the collections, such as those of Boston, the Irish, and the Jesuitical, as well as others. Ultimately, what we wanted to do was to build our collections into one of the leading research libraries in the country.

**BIR:** What achievements for the library rank high on your personal list?

**O'Neill:** Collection development has been the most important. We have been able to acquire the second largest collection of W.B. Yeats in the world. Only the National Library of Dublin has a larger one. We also have one of the finest and most voluminous Samuel Beckett collections. That's true now of our George Bernard Shaw collection, too – over 3,400 items.

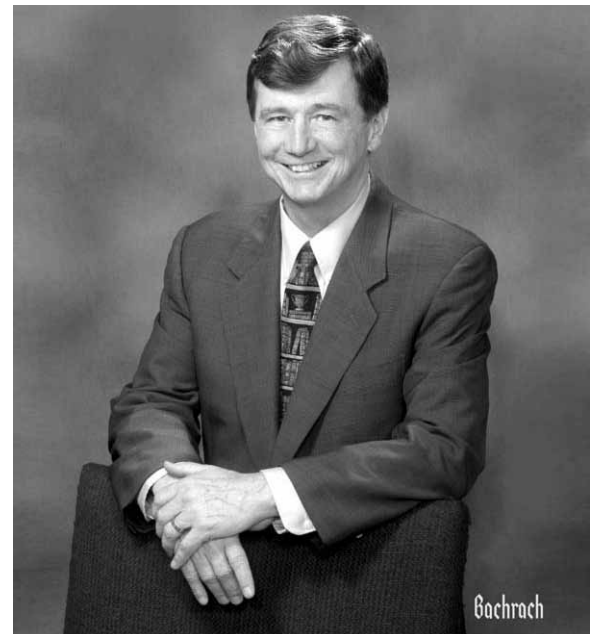
Along with these collections of great Irish writers, we also have such items as the papers of Thomas Clarke, hero and architect of the 1916 Easter Rising. Our Bobby Hanvey photographic archives have the work of this award-winning photographer living and working in Northern Ireland. His body of work is one of the finest photographic collections of The Troubles from the 1970s though 2007, everything from the violence to daily life in those decades.

**BIR:** What has been your most memorable moment at the library?

**O'Neill:** The 1990 FBI sting operation we became involved in when a “dealer” in Irish antiquities offered us a collection that included rare Irish gravestones. He claimed that the collection had been handed down through his family and claimed the artifacts were worth \$7 million. I was suspicious from the start and contacted the Irish consul and other experts both here and in Ireland, and they confirmed my suspicions. When I got in touch with the National Museum in Dublin, they sent stories on how some of these items were stolen.

By this time, the guy was asking a "mere" \$500,000. He brought the stones to the US as ballast and docked at Miami. At this point the FBI would only have been able to charge him with customs violations at port of entry, which was a misdemeanor. The FBI asked me to persuade him to transport the stones from Miami to Boston and also bug my office when I met with him.

We did it, he was subsequently arrested, along with three associates – including a police officer in the Midlands. Because the dealer claimed a connection to NORAID, the British press became interested in the story, and a reporter who talked to me – I tried to explain that there was no concrete NORAID or IRA connection – still wrote a London Times story entitled, “O’Neill Lured Kenny [the dealer] to Boston.” The



### Robert O'Neill: Recalls a "sting."

then-director of the FBI, William Sessions, gave me a framed plaque of thanks for my help.

**BIR:** What will you miss the most about the Burns and Boston?

**O'Neill:** It's been so much fun. I've met so many people – visiting scholars, students, faculty and such incredible figures as Seamus Heaney. Too many great people and times to even begin to list, and Boston College and Boston are such unique and terrific places.

**BIR:** As you leave BC, what would you most like people to remember about your tenure at the Burns Library?

**O'Neill:** That I had a hand in building one of the finest research libraries in the country today. BC achieved a prestigious Associate of Research Libraries membership, thanks in no small part to the Burns Library Special Collections.

**BIR:** What comes next for you?

**O'Neill:** To start, the third edition of my book on Irish libraries. I plan to research, write, and hopefully teach a little. I'm also looking forward to spending time with my grandchildren and playing a lot of golf. Actually, one of the things I'm most looking forward to is going to Ireland as a tourist – not on business – with my wife.

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# A Q & A with Mary McAleese

*Belfast-born Mary McAleese served two terms as president of Ireland during 1997-2011, the first native of Northern Ireland to hold that office. McAleese's presidency was marked by her advocacy for peace and reconciliation through regular trips to Northern Ireland and by hosting visitors from the North at her official residence. This fall, McAleese is serving as the Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies, accompanied by her husband Martin. She recently spoke with Sean Smith of the Boston College Chronicle. Excerpts from that interview follow:*

**Q.** I understand you have quite a lot on your plate this fall, in addition to being Burns Scholar.

Well, I'm also studying for my doctoral degree in canon law at Gregorian University in Rome, and doing some work for the European Commission on modernization of the European Union's higher education sector. So I've spent these past several months going from Dublin to Rome to Brussels and now to Boston. This is called "retirement."

**Q.** So, what with the studies at Gregorian and the work for the European Commission, why take the appointment at Boston College?

Boston College has a phenomenal reputation in Ireland as a university that has made, and is making, important contributions to Irish life. BC also is a remarkable story of success, going through tough times but then managing to become one of the best universities in the United States.

And I thought the leitmotif of that is where I see the Catholic Church. And maybe there's something in the air here that I could breathe, perhaps that eternal American optimism.

I have so much respect for BC's Irish programs, because they have helped Ireland to understand itself better; not just its literature and arts, but its politics, the whole panoply. The faculty members are deeply versed in Ireland. You think you know every nook and cranny, but then you talk with someone like Tom Hachey, Bob O'Neill, Bob Mauro or Robert Savage, and they'll tell you things you never knew.

And this is what's missing in our Church: discourse. Listening to people who are doing the work, doing the research, who are seeing other aspects of the situation.

**Q.** It seems fair to say that "peace and reconciliation" has been a continual theme for your career, political or

otherwise. In a world that often seems jaded, cynical and dubious about good intentions, how do you make these words real and substantive?

I can understand the cynicism, because too many things that have looked like peace and reconciliation wind up being photo opportunities. The words sound twee if you've never been put in a situation where they are the difference between life and death. I don't regard peace and reconciliation as nice, soft, soapy words – to me, they are damned hard disciplines.

My husband and I both lost our homes and friends in The Troubles, and knew many others who had similar experiences of suffering. Out of that, you have to decide, "How do I react?" Do I get angry? And if I do, do I just become another conduit for history's toxic spores of hatred? Or do I, somehow or another, try to stop this?

My view was, God put me here for a purpose: to stand my ground and make genuine peace with those from whom we were estranged. You have to invest in building, and maintaining, friendships because we are all neighbors – Loyalist, Republican, Protestant, Catholic – and we aren't going anywhere. The Good Friday Agreement gave us the political framework for peace and reconciliation, but on a day-to-day basis there is still much work to be done in building up that trust. We build to fill the centuries' arrears, as the poet John Hewitt said.

As president, I couldn't be involved in the political part – that's the prime minister's job – but I felt I could take on a pastoral mission. So we worked our way through all the onion layers, and talked with those who had been our enemies, who tried to turn us out of our homes, to really listen to them so we could learn what makes them tick. We made it something personal, rather than just a photo opportunity, and built up a connectedness between the office of the President of Ireland and a constituency that never thought it would have any connection at all with that office.

**Q.** What was an example of how you sought to accomplish this?

We focused on two very important historical dates. One was July 12, on which Protestants celebrate William of Orange's victory in 1690 over King James. We decided we would show respect for that day, even though it was a battle in which Catholics got clobbered. Each year we held a formal, official event to commemorate both the Williamite/Protestant and



**The former president of Ireland is the Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies at Boston College.**  
*Photo by Lee Pellegrini for Boston College Chronicle*

the Jacobite/Catholic traditions, because we saw it as an opportunity to help people living cheek by jowl see that we are all successors to those traditions, and as neighbors must build a discourse that allows us to live today in a humanly decent and mutually respectful, peaceful way.

The other was 11/11 – Nov. 11 – which is the date the armistice was signed to end World War I. Now, there is a myth that only Unionists and Protestants fought in the Great War, and that the Catholics and Nationalists did not.

I grew up hearing how heroic the Protestant 36th Ulster was, and they were, but I did not hear about the Dubliners who fought alongside them. In all, some 250,000 volunteers from Ireland – mostly Nationalist and Catholic – served in the war, and 50,000 of them never came home. It suited the Irish Nationalist narrative to suppress the idea that Irish were fighting on the side of the British, so their contribution was marginalized or forgotten, and that allowed the Loyalist/Protestant narrative – which said no Catholics or Nationalists were involved – to take root.

So we joined forces with those who had been seeking to change these narratives, to get the truth out there. And we were able to create a space whereby Northern Loyalist paramilitaries could stand at the World War I memorial at Islandbridge in Dublin or at the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Belgium in memory of their relatives who had served, or been killed during the Great War.

These things took effort, and they took consistency, and sometimes courage, because people might not understand why you were doing them. Being from Belfast helped and having grown up as Catholics in Protestant communities helped. We had many Protestant friends who were willing to work with us to effect the reconciliation that had eluded past generations.

**Q.** Your appointment at BC has coincided with a particularly bitter period of partisanship in US politics, culminating in the federal government shutdown. Do you see any parallels or lessons in comparing the discord you saw in Northern Ireland with what's going on in the US?

To be perfectly frank, although it was horrendous for the people who lived through it – the people who didn't get paid, and others who were worried about America's place in the global economy – I may have been one of the few in the country who took some meager crumb of comfort from this whole episode because it showed us in Ireland that fraught politics are not peculiar to Northern Ireland. There was a lot of tension in Northern Ireland this past summer, and the temper of discussion was generally crabby and contemptuous. So quite a lot of people got very fraught about the situation: "Things are terrible. Maybe the Good Friday Agreement isn't working?"

My response was, "This is nothing abnormal – look what's happening in America! And next week, next year, the Americans will find a way through it. Why? Because they have to." Politics can get ugly and mean, but in the end politics are about getting through the things you need to get through. So please don't jump up and down every time people have a spat – look at what's been happening in Germany, when Angela Merkel was trying to form a government, or in Italy.

This is the normalization of political discourse. Yes, we would wish politicians were able to cope with disagreements; yes, we would wish that they wouldn't fall out over tawdry and stupid things; and yes, we would wish they could handle things differently, and better. But this happens everywhere. It's a very human phenomenon.

*The full interview originally appeared in the Nov. 14, 2013, edition of Boston College Chronicle, published by the Boston College Office of News & Public Affairs.*



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# BRETT'S BOSTON

By Margaret Brett Hastings  
Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Mass. Memories Road Show at UMass Boston visited the Irish Cultural Centre of New England on Sat., Nov. 16, and Boston's Irish were invited to celebrate their family histories by sharing their stories of their immigrant ancestors.

The program is an event-based public history project that digitizes personal photos and memories shared by the people of Massachusetts. The Mass. Memories Road Show collection is now part of UMB's open archives, which are online at [openarchives.umb.edu](http://openarchives.umb.edu).

1.) Teresa Tapper, Stoughton; 2.) Mary McTigue, ex. director ICC; 3.) Carolyn Goldstein, event coordinator; Thomas Gallagher, Needham; Mary Spiers, Waltham; 4.) Erin Doherty with the image of her grandmother who sang with the Emerald Isle Band (grandmother was Rita Fitzmaurice Doherty); 5.) Kathy Roscoe, Brockton; 6.) Denise Peterson, Stoughton; Joanne Callanan, Stoughton; Patricia Dwyer, Brockton; 7.) Carol McElmoyle, Readville, Matt Person, Falmouth; 8.) Patricia Flaherty, Boston; Brian Reynolds, Dedham; 9.) Peggy Monahan, Rockland; 10.) Peg McCobb, Weymouth; 11.) Connie Koutoujian, Waltham; 12.) Thomas Gallagher, Needham; Jilian O'Keeffe, NE Irish Vice Council; 13.) Nora Walsh, Canton; Joe Deery, W. Roxbury; 14.) Ellen Kelly Leonard, Canton; Ann Kelly Contini, Arlington; Sally Kelly, Cambridge; 15.) Mary Alice Moran, Canton; Jerry Burke, Norton, Connie Koutoujian.





## Commentary

# Destiny has meaning on the Stonehill campus: Father John Denning is now holding the reins

By GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Rev. John Denning, of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the newly inaugurated head of Stonehill, the college his order founded in North Easton in 1948, hardly needed an introduction to the campus when he took office two months ago as the institution's 10th president. Friends say his appointment was the completion of divine order for a priest who had spent the previous 13 years at Stonehill building spiritual and cultural bridges in positions ranging from Director of Campus Ministry, to Vice President for Mission, to Vice President of Student Affairs.

A second-generation Irish American with paternal and maternal family roots in Cos. Louth and Westmeath, respectively, Fr. Denning has come full circle at the distinguished Catholic liberal arts college where he has come to be widely known as "the students' president." Reports Pauline Dobrowski, Stonehill's vice president for student affairs, on the new president's welcome: "People were just elated. 'There was a celebratory feeling.'"

In a recent interview with the *Boston Irish Reporter* in his snug office overlooking a stately red-brick Georgian campus, Fr. Denning said that he seeks to reinforce Stonehill as "a place of learning where the lives of students are changed in positive ways, and where they become agents of their own learning. I want to give our students the education they deserve and the tools to survive. I want our students to ask the question, and never stop seeking the truth of 'where is God, and how does the Lord play a role in my life?'"

"As president," he added, "my primary responsibility is to ensure that we thrive as a community of scholarship and faith. To succeed in doing so requires an openness to reaching out to others for support, advice, fresh ideas, feedback, and ongoing but civil debate."

In imparting sound advice, his predecessor, Rev. Mark Cregan, counseled him to have fun always in what he did, and when making decisions to "go with your heart and gut." Fr. Denning continues to lead with his heart, as he has done throughout his priesthood in keeping with his expansive vision of what Stone-



President Denning takes a stroll on campus with Danielle Berkman '16.

Photo by Kathy Tarantola

hill College should be. His protocol is grounded in the confidence of everlasting faith, one of humility and quiet service and welcome to others, as witnessed during his first days in the President's Office when he casually approached a table in Roche Dining Commons to greet a group of incoming students. "Of course, they had no idea who I was," he later told Stonehill Alumni Magazine. "But to me, it was important to extend a sense of welcome – and a hope that these students flourish here academically, morally, and spiritually. ... To be part of that is something I treasure."

The 54-year-old Holy Cross father has a populist role model in Francis I, the new pontiff whose namesake proclaimed generations ago in Assisi, "Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary use words." Fr. Denning is a man of few

words, opting instead to lead with actions that for him speak far louder.

Growing up in gritty East Providence, he learned the art of listening and serving from his parents. His late father Ed was a church architect who blended the traditional with the modern to incorporate stunning windows of light. He designed St. Brendan's in Riverside, R.I., St. Mary's in Mansfield, and St. Barnabas in Portsmouth, RI, among other churches.

The father's architectural style is much like the son's pastoral style, a blend of old and new that brings in light. Fr. Denning's late mother Mary (Burns) was a homemaker, dutifully raising two boys and two girls in a middle class Irish/Portuguese neighborhood outside Providence. "My folks," he says, "were big on education, stretching the mind and the body as far as they would go."

In high school, the young John Denning ran track and cross country at LaSalle Academy in Providence. He was a good student. In his early years, he played neighborhood street hockey, and worked hours scooping double cones at Scotty's Ice Cream and manning the fryolators at Chicken City. "I'm still trying to get the grease smell out of my hands," he says.

The priesthood at the time was not on the radar screen, but the Lord, as we know, works in mysterious ways. Fr. Denning's come-to-Jesus moment was slow, yet deliberate, in arriving. He wasn't knocked off a horse. "No one ever put pressure on me," he adds. After high school, he attended Tulane University in New Orleans as a European history major, ran some track casually, and joined Zeta Psi fraternity, which strives to be the premier international men's fraternal organization dedicated to academic excellence and life-long bonds of brotherhood.

During his senior year, when some of his colleagues might have been considering a visit to church to seek redemption after four years of late nights, Fr. Denning accepted an invitation to meet with the Holy Cross Fathers who lived a block from campus. In short order, he heard and accepted the larger call to the priestly life.

"What appealed to me about the priesthood," he says today, "was a sense of purpose and mission, a higher quest in the Lord." At first, he assumed a life in the church of pastoral administration, but the pull of academia was tauntingly invigorating.

After graduating from Tulane in 1981 with a bachelor of arts degree, he studied theology at the University of Notre Dame, another Holy Cross Fathers institution, then earned a masters of divinity at University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto.

His first assignment after ordination

was as a parochial vicar at Holy Cross Church in Easton, not far from Stonehill. He then became director of Vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross, followed by an assignment to teach, coach, and serve a chaplain at Coyle and Cassidy High School in Taunton, and, later, the position of campus minister of the Catholic Center at Bridgewater State College.

In 2000, he began his long career at Stonehill. As Director of Campus Ministry, he expanded local and international service opportunities, including a three-week international trip to work with members of the Congregation order in Peru, and provided pastoral care throughout the Stonehill community. As Vice President for Missions, he developed orientation programs, managed budgets, developed strategic plans, and established the Office of Community Service and Volunteerism. As Vice President for Student Affairs, a post he held for about six years, and as a member of the President's cabinet, he helped coordinate the departments of Community Standards, Counseling and Testing, Health Services, Intercollegiate Athletics, Intercultural Affairs, Recreational and Sports Clubs, Residence Life, and Student Activities. Given this full-circle progression to the president's office, to say that Fr. Denning is from central casting is to say that Pope Francis looks good in white.

Aside to Stonehill trivia buffs, per Stonehill Alumni Magazine: The last book the eclectic Fr. Denning read was "A Generation Divided; the New Left, the New Right, and the 1960s"; the last concert he attended was one of Bruce Springsteen's at the old Boston Garden; his favorite food is pasta with white sauce and littleneck clams; and his favorite ice cream is black raspberry. The image of Fr. John Denning at a Bruce Springsteen concert is not a stretch for those who know him. Clearly, now he's "The Boss" at Stonehill.

Still, he remains accommodating and approachable. The walls of his office, with photos of teachers, students, parents, and celebrity types, are testament to this. Asked about his favorite passage from scripture, Fr. Denning doesn't hesitate in response. "Hebrews 13:3," he said, reciting from memory: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this, some have unwittingly entertained angels."

Greg O'Brien, a regular *Boston Irish Reporter* contributor, is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing/communications strategy company. He writes for national and regional publications, and is author/editor of several books. He currently is at work on a book entitled: "On Pluto: Inside the Mind of Alzheimer's."

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# Jack Shaughnessy, at 87 Generous to Catholic causes

John J. “Jack” Shaughnessy of Milton, retired president of Shaughnessy and Ahern Co. and Shaughnessy Crane Service, Inc., and a leading Catholic philanthropist, died last Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013.

Predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Mary E. (Lagace) Shaughnessy, he was the father of Stephen and his wife Hazel of Cheshire, England, Jack Jr. and his wife Barbara of Hingham, James and his wife Joan of Hanover, Michael and his wife Carol of Hingham, Susan Harrison and her husband Ian of Hanover, Linda LeRoy and her husband Peter of Braintree, and Elizabeth “Lisa” Whalen and her husband Mark of Quincy.

Jack, who was born and brought up in Quincy, attended BC High and Tufts University, and served in the US Navy, leaves seventeen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Just three weeks before his death, on Nov. 6, Mr. Shaughnessy was honored by the Congregation of St. Joseph as recipient of the “Making a Difference” award at a dinner at Boston’s Seaport Hotel. The citation composed by the sisters read: “Jack J. Shaughnessy, Sr., a



Jack Shaughnessy, right, with Rev. Dan Finn, pastor of St. Mark and St. Ambrose parishes.

leading Catholic philanthropist in and around the Boston area for more than fifty years, has lavished his time, talent, and treasure performing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy for countless others. Through his abundant gifts for those most in need, Jack has earned the Lord’s acclamation: ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Mr. Shaughnessy was well-known for his philanthropy of such charitable institutions as Catholic Charities, the Laboure Center, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, the Society of Jesus, the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, the Center for Delayed Vocations at

Blessed John XXIII Seminary, Boston College High School, Thomas More College, Nativity Preparatory School of Boston, Fontbonne Academy, the Catholic Schools Foundation of Boston, and many others.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Saint Elizabeth Church Milton on Saturday, Nov. 30, and interment was in Milton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jack’s memory may be made to The Laboure Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127; My Brother’s Keeper, PO Box 338, Easton, MA 02356-0338; St. John’s Seminary, 127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135; or Blessed John XXIII Seminary, 558 South Street, Weston, MA.

# Mayor-elect Walsh opens up about immigration issues

By MATT MURPHY  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

Hoping to meet in the next few weeks with other new mayors from around the country to discuss immigration, Boston Mayor-elect Marty Walsh last month said if he could “get around” enforcing the Secure Communities Act he would.

Walsh attended the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition’s annual free Thanksgiving luncheon and spent some time serving mashed potatoes before dishing on how immigrants would have a “friend” in City Hall.

“People that get pulled over, I don’t think that necessarily we have to bring in immigration for that,” Walsh told reporters before the event. Asked if he would “continue implementing” Secure Communities in Boston, Walsh said, “If we can get around it, we won’t.”

Secure Communities is a program that gathers data submitted by local and state law enforcement for the FBI to perform identity verification and immigration checks on arrestees. Though many immigrant activists argue the program has eroded the relationship between police and immigrants afraid to report crimes, Immigration and Customs Enforcement says the program has effectively

removed dangerous people from the country.

The program was first presented to states as optional, and Boston was one of the cities that piloted it. Gov. Deval Patrick resisted implementation of Secure Communities in Massachusetts, but in May 2012 the federal government announced it would be mandatory in every state.

Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton) and Rep. Carl Sciortino (D-Medford) have filed legislation (S 1135/H 1613) known as the “Trust Act” that is designed to scale back Massachusetts law enforcement’s participation in the Secure Communities program. The bill would limit state enforcement of ICE detainers, provide attorney privileges to individuals before they are interviewed by ICE, and require reimbursement for the expense of participation.

“I’m looking at that. I haven’t had a chance to see it yet. I know Mayor Menino was leaning that way and it’s something I’m going to make a decision on very soon,” said Walsh, who later in the interview said he was “very strong in favor” of the Trust Act, but deferred to Menino, who still occupies City Hall.

Walsh plans in the next couple of weeks to travel to Washington to meet with federal officials and new mayors where he hopes

the topic of immigration is a focal point. California Gov. Jerry Brown in October signed a version of the Trust Act for his state, which was seen at the time as an expression of the frustration at the state level with Congress’s inability to address immigration laws.

“I can remember in my house where people who were here, family members who were here, they couldn’t go back to Ireland for a funeral or a wake because they weren’t here properly, and I think that one of the things I promise to do as mayor of the city of Boston is to go down to Washington and work with Congress, work with the Senate so we do get some immigration reform legislation passed in this country. It’s very, very important,” Walsh said.

Speaking to members of the MIRA coalition in the Great Hall, Walsh tried to connect by sharing his own family’s immigration story, which brought both his mother and his father to the United States from Ireland in the 1950s. He said his mother only became a citizen about 25 years ago.

Once in City Hall, Walsh said he hopes to implement a “Boston Integration Agenda” that will weave the needs of immigrant communities and immigrant business owners into the city’s business development plans.

# Happy holidays!

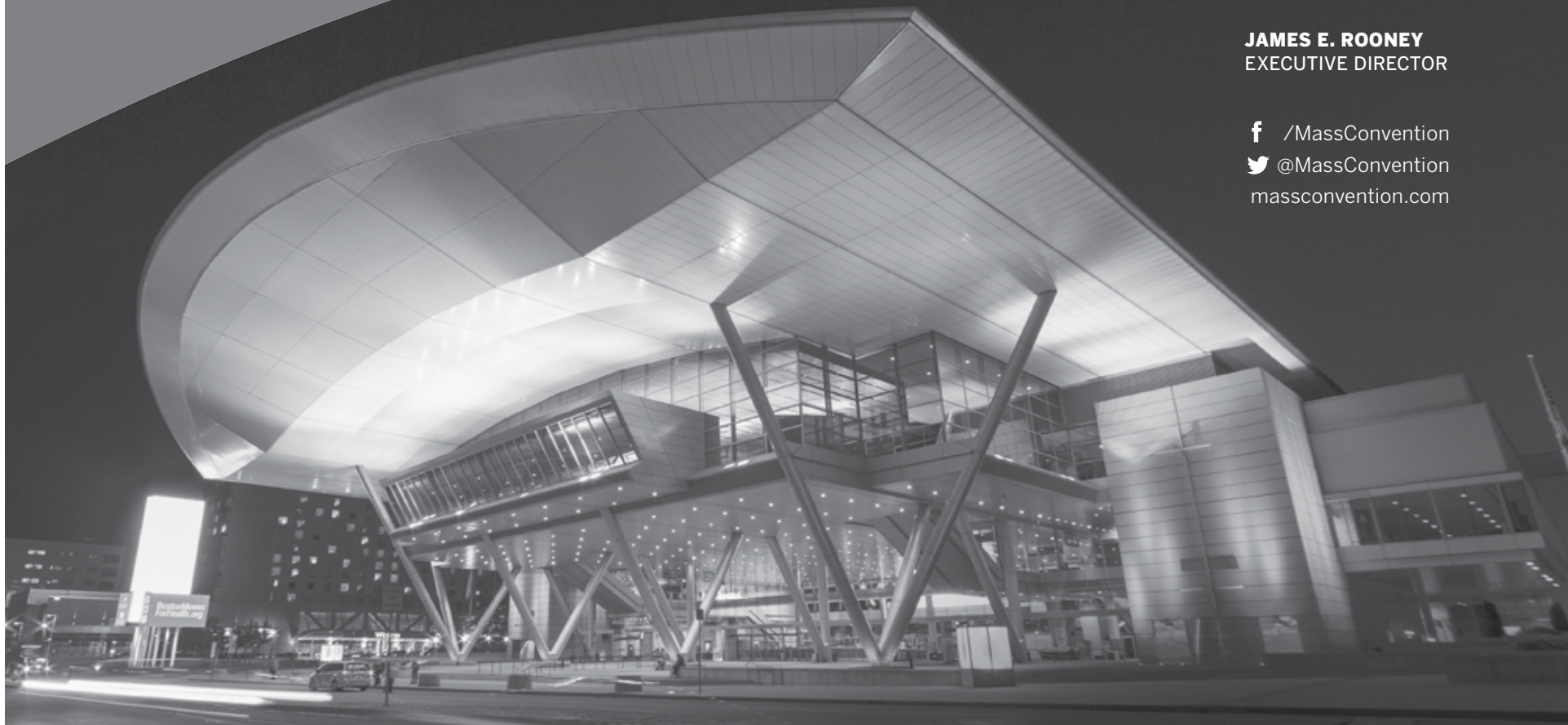
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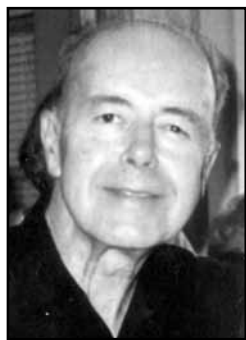




# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

**Storm Clouds Gathering For Gerry Adams** –Sinn Fein Party Leader and Dail Deputy from County Louth, **Gerry Adams** has led a relatively charmed life as prisoner, negotiator with the British, Good Friday peacemaker, and immensely successful politician with stakeholds in a persistently divided Ireland. However, that charmed life may be about



**Bill O'Donnell**

to be interrupted by British government and loyalists forces in the North who finally have the scent of a weakened Irish republican in their sight.

The most tenacious charges that bedevil Adams are the widely publicized allegations that as an IRA war council member he ordered the murder and burial of many victims, with the most notorious charge involving the disappearance of **Jean McConville**, a Belfast mother of ten. Her body was found in 2003 and at least two now-deceased republican colleagues have implicated Adams in the McConville execution.

Despite accusations by former IRA members that Adams was a highly placed provo leader, he has steadfastly denied ever belonging to the IRA. The Sinn Fein leader, in a move redolent of **OJ Simpson's** widely ridiculed call for help in finding his wife's killer, has made appeals for information about McConville and other disappeared. They followed an RTE documentary about the victims and drew heavy criticism of Adams for his remarks.

Further threatening Adams's image and his lofty political position are the fresh allegations that he withheld information on his niece's serial abuse by his brother Liam. **Liam Adams** was recently found guilty in a Northern court of long-term sexual abuse of his daughter. Gerry Adams has admitted that it was nine years after he learned of his niece's abuse that he reported what he knew to the police.

**Howard Baker**, the senator of Watergate Committee fame, first and famously asked of **President Richard Nixon**: "What did he know, and when did he know it?" Those same words could mean a relegating of Gerry Adams to some form of political exile, even if the McConville charges go unproven in any court proceedings. Time will tell.

The Northern unionist newspaper the *Belfast Telegraph* suggests that Adams is an ongoing liability to Sinn Fein and its election hopes and that having Adams lead his party into the 2016 national election is clearly "problematic." He certainly is wounded. Make of that what you will.

**Exorcism Rites Still Happen in Ireland** – They are not done often and are most prevalent in the west and midlands, the *Connacht Tribune* reports in noting that exorcisms do occur and that the Catholic Church has procedures for dealing with the requests they receive. When people contact their parish priests claiming to be troubled by demons, they are assessed for psychiatric problems before being sent to priests who handle such matters. There are now three priests who are specially trained to carry out exorcisms. They include a **Jesuit in Galway** city, a **Franciscan in Carlow**, and a **priest** based in the **Killaloe Diocese**.

Before taking a troubled church member through the exorcism rite, the local priest or the regional bishop would come to their homes, say prayers, and bless the house with holy water.

**Irish President Will Make History – Michael D. Higgins** will become the first Irish head of state to make an official visit to the UK. Higgins and his wife **Sabina** will be guests of the royal family during a state visit scheduled for next April. The three-day call at Windsor Castle follows the **Queen Elizabeth's** successful trip to Ireland in the spring of 2011.

It was thought by many that Michael D., because of his age, generation, and lengthy tenure as a Labour TD might be a caretaker Irish president, but, like Pope John XXIII, Higgins has turned out to be an outspoken leader in wading in on political issues and being heard on controversial matters of state, a traditional, if unserious, breach of presidential power.

The Higgins visit is, of course, not the first trip to the UK by an Irish president. Both **Mary McAleese** and her predecessor, **Mary Robinson**, attended functions in Britain but those were not official visits.

There is a full agenda set up for the Higgins visit and the scope of it, with a state dinner and formal time with the mayor of London, the prime minister, et al., strongly suggests that the queen and the British government are enthusiastic about building an ever-more substantial post-peace relationship between Ireland and the UK. The visit has the warm support of Taoiseach **Enda Kenny** and the Irish government.

**Immigration Bill Dead, Says House Speaker** – Signaling an unequivocal end to any attempt to move immigration reform legislation through the Republican-controlled House this session,

Speaker **John Boehner**, in a few words, killed any hopes that that would happen this year, saying, "I'll make clear we have no intention of ever going to conference on the Senate bill." The deal breaker is something the Republicans call "amnesty" and the

Democrats refer to as a "path to citizenship."

Obviously, the 11 million undocumented people in the US constitute the elephant in the room, but the GOP leaders, as fractured as they are, continue in their fantasy moments to talk about somehow sending millions of undocumented back to their homes. Or maybe they will, as **Mitt the Romney** used to say, "self deport." Yes, indeed, watch those piggies fly.

The Senate has passed an expansive legislative proposal, but Boehner and his mainstream GOP colleagues are singing the Tea Party tune these days and a compromise or negotiated agreement is not about to happen, this year, or God knows when. The hope of folks like myself is that given the chaotic Republican Party, next fall's midterm elections might see Democrats gaining control of the House while retaining at least their slim majority in the US Senate. But then again, they may not.

It is what it is, as someone once opined, but after Boehner's stonewalling statement and next year's elections, the prospect of real immigration legislation, shamefully, appears dead until maybe late 2014 or into 2015.

**Justice Minister Says "No Guards For Bertie"** – One of the Dublin punters earlier this year said aloud what many in Ireland feel: He called former Fianna Fail leader and Taoiseach

**Bertie Ahern** "the most despised man in Ireland." I hope that's not true. Incompetence, relentless self-absorption, and more than a few flights of fancy with the truth shouldn't be a hanging offense.

But a recent minor pub scuffle between a disgruntled voter and the former Irish leader and some verbal hate attacks along the way suggest that Ahern is not all that popular at home. In any event, Minister of Justice **Alan Shatter** has announced that former PMs like Ahern earn enough money from the Irish state to pay for their own security. The minister said he believes they are in a position to arrange that themselves. Currently, after cutting back on former politicians perks, the only people in government that have Garda and personal cars assigned for security reasons are the sitting Taoiseach, the Tanaiste, and the justice minister.

Shatter is probably right. Bertie Ahern has a lifetime Irish government pension of \$182,000 a year, or \$3,500 a week.

**JFK Wanted To Return To Wexford** – The coverage of the 50th anniversary of President **John F. Kennedy's** death in television, magazines, and newspapers was wall-to-wall throughout the days of November. For a young generation that has only newsreel memories and grainy tape recall, and for myself and a declining population who sat in sorrow and numbness through the three days of a long goodbye, the American media did their job plus some. I confess that I did not seek out nor want film replays of the gunshots from the Dallas book depository, but several times they popped up, as haunting and unforgettable as ever.

A poignant sidebar of the young president's visit to his cousins in Dungantown are the memories of **Patrick Grennan**, a direct descendant of the original family emigrant, **Patrick Kennedy**. Grennan, who today runs the Kennedy farm, said that while the president and cousin **Mary Ryan** were sitting together having a fireside drink in one of their rare quiet moments, JFK turned to Mary and asked if he could come back privately. It seems that Kennedy, aware of how his personal entourage and security officials were ubiquitous and overwhelming, kept apologizing for bringing the big crowd. Years later, the late friend and aide to JFK, **Dave Powers**, repeatedly talked to me in our sessions in his JFK Library office, about how much the president enjoyed his trip to Ireland and his ancestral homestead. His "happiest time ever," Powers said. JFK's wife **Jacqueline** fulfilled her husband's wish to return by visiting the Wexford homestead with **Caroline and John** in 1967.

**Good Times, Bad Times for Taoiseach** – One of Irish leader Enda Kenny's resolutions this year was his determination to abolish the Irish Seanad Eireann (Irish Senate). Kenny and many others strongly believe that the Senate serves no constructive purpose and is merely a holding room for failed candidates seeking election to Dail Eireann (Parliament), the real source of legislative power.

Well, the Irish people (or at least 39 percent of them did) voted and Kenny and the government went down to defeat, 51-48, an uncomfortable result for the elected head of Ireland. Yet the affable Kenny, a veteran Fine Gael TD for many years prior to becoming Taoiseach, took the loss well, saying "You've given your verdict and decision and I accept it fully."

While his national constituency was handing Kenny a defeat, the European Union was making a poor secret of wanting to induce the Taoiseach to take a very senior post with the European Union. Kenny is well thought of by the British prime minister and similar well-placed Europeans in the EU. The early line on Kenny's possible jump to the EU has Kenny and the Finnish prime minister tapped as solid frontrunners as the next European Union President.

It is unknown if the Taoiseach would even consider leaving his Irish leadership post, but it is known that he is a Euro-friendly advocate of the EU and might like to be the leader of its

27 nations, a job similar to president of Europe. My guess is he will be staying put, but might very much like to be asked later on, if the position were still be open. But that seems unlikely.

**Big Demand For Police Openings** – In a recent recruiting drive by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to fill some 100 jobs, 7,500 applicants applied. It may be the stagnant Northern economy, the pensionable police jobs, or simply a desire for stable, long-term employment with the security forces, but the openings are attracting young people in the North with clean records. Also, this was the first recruiting outreach in three years.

Catholics made up nearly one-third of the applicants. Deputy Chief Constable **Judith Gillespie** said the PSNI was "particularly keen to draw applications from Catholics and women. The average age of almost half of the recent applicants was between 18 and 24. The starting salary is \$37,000 a year – after 21 weeks of intensive training. Plans are to have the new police on the streets in March of 2014.

The volatile flag protests that filled the streets of urban Northern Ireland earlier this year convinced police officials that the PSNI today is understaffed. The 50/50 recruiting drive by the PSNI to increase the number of Catholic police officers ended in 2011. Before the drive, only 8 percent of the force was Catholic; today the number is 30 percent of the PSNI.

**Obama's ACA Rollout Flaws are puzzling** – The failure of the Obamacare rollout enrollment is baffling to this observer. But what can you expect from one of the faithful! It is also exasperating when we take a closer look at the president's 2012 get-out-the-vote computer technology that has been described by experts as "extraordinarily sophisticated, state of the art Plus" – and, by the way, hugely successful.

Called Narwhal, and involving digital, technologic, and analytic operations, it far outstripped the Romney campaign GOTV capability. The Obama GOTV campaign had 1,979 employees and a list of 16 million addresses. It added redundancy to the system, tested and retested the computer technology, and well before election day put the technology through what the geeks call live-action role-playing to determine how the computer system would perform under every possible disaster situation. Say that again: "under every possible disaster situation."

If you were scoring computer success on election day, Romney's technology crashed that afternoon and Obama's worked superbly and was described as the ninth wonder of the world by one impressed computer expert.

Contacting people to vote or putting an interactive computer system online and enrolling medical plan subscribers is not the same, by any means, but it seems to this recovering Luddite that the genius of Obama's Narwhal could have and should have been hired by the ACA to do the enrollment. It could hardly be worse than what we have seen in the opening days of the system.

## RANDOM CLIPPINGS

First things first: Congratulations to Boston's mayor-elect, **Marty Walsh**. I thought either man was up to the job, but Marty's Connemara roots and his down-to-earth Galway approach is a gift to the city of my birth. ... An Irish legal case was set for a five-hour court session but finished a couple of hours early. The lawyer's fee: \$72,000 (no kidding). ... SDLP Leader and friend **Dr. Alasdair McDonnell** had it right about Sinn Fein and **Ian Paisley's** old DUP – "the parties of disappointment, false promise, poor government, bad politics and no results." ... Great to see the statue of the biggest winner in team sports, **Bill Russell**, standing tall on Boston's City Hall Plaza. ... There's **Dick Cheney** on TV and out with a book on his heart troubles. Couldn't this war-monger and war criminal and certified liar do his thing from a cell at the Hague? ... A monumental traffic jam in Galway City popped up when thousands of the faithful without warning came to the cathedral to see relics of **St. Anthony of Padua**. ... The Irish Minister of Finance, **Michael Noonan**, says that a more favorable tax regime north of the border would benefit both regions and attract overseas investment, Good man, Michael. ... Ian Paisley, now **Lord Bannside**, has softened on Sinn Fein, saying that **Martin McGuinness** and Co. are not the party of old. ... **Martha Coakley** is a gangbusters AG but can't she find a bookkeeper who knows how to do her books? ... **Richard Haass**, a well-worn diplomat, has his hands full in NI, but he insists he'll wrap it up by New Year's. ... Congratulations to the Irish Pastoral Centre on 25 compassionate and productive years helping young immigrants make a go of it. ... Ireland has just received the welcome news that the country will exit the EU-IMF bailout without the usual credit line, a big boost to the people of Ireland who have been picking up the tab for bad banks and poor politics. ... A favorite scheme in Galway and elsewhere has the Inland Revenue tax people rousting flash companies who close shop, skip their taxes, and open under a new name. Time's up for most of them. ... The Irish love their holidays. It's now official that Nov. 14 kicked off the 2013 Christmas season there. ... The EU's director of economic affairs has told Irish leaders that drug prices in Ireland are too high and "not sustainable" Right on!

To one and all: **Beannachtai Nollag!**



# IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER



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100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110  
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Website: [iiicenter.org](http://iiicenter.org) Email: [immigration@iiicenter.org](mailto:immigration@iiicenter.org)

## 2013 Solas Awards celebration marks launch of IIC's 25th Year



Bill and Joy Cummings

On Dec. 6, you're invited to join the Irish International Immigrant Center at our annual Solas Awards Celebration as we launch the IIC's

25th year of serving immigrants from Ireland and from around the world. We'll be celebrating the many low income immigrant families who, with



John Hailer

support from our legal, wellness, and education services, are moving towards a brighter future. We'll also highlight the success of our Learning Exchange Programs that help young Irish men and women learn new skills, grow in confidence, and become the next generation of leaders in Ireland.

Named from the Gaelic word for "light," IIC's Solas Awards are presented annually to those whose commitment to a better world is an inspiration to others, and we are delighted to be presenting our 2013 awards to:

John (Jack) Joyce, Managing Director at Deutsche Bank Securities; Joyce and Bill Cummings, Cummings Foundation founders; Raj Sharma, head of The Sharma Group of Merrill Lynch Private Banking & Investment Group; and John Hailer, President and Chief Executive Officer - The Americas and Asia for Natixis Global Asset Management.



Jack Joyce



Raj Sharma

This year's Solas Awards recipients have all contributed in their own ways to creating a city – and a world – where all people are welcomed and valued and enjoy equal opportunities, protections, and respect.

To reserve your seats, or if you are unable to attend but would like to make a contribution in support of the IIC's programs, contact Mary Kerr at [mkerr@iiicenter.org](mailto:mkerr@iiicenter.org) (617-695-1554), or visit [iiicenter.org/solas-awards-2013](http://iiicenter.org/solas-awards-2013).



**Do you want to become a US citizen? The IIC can guide you through the naturalization process, from completing the application to preparing for your citizenship interview. We offer free, weekly citizenship clinics on Thursday evenings. Come in for a confidential meeting with a Citizenship specialist about your individual situation. For further details call Beatriz at 617-542-7654, Ext. 41. We hope to see you.**

## Matters Of Substance

### The Gift of Grace in Recovery

"It seems that all my bridges have been burnt But you say that's exactly how this grace thing works. It's not the long walk home that will change this heart But the welcome I receive with every start" – Mumford & Sons "Roll Away your Stone"

Whether it's depression, anxiety or addiction that you struggle with, it's hard to imagine anyone will understand. You feel that you are alone and the only option you have is release from the pain – in more drugs, alcohol and for some people, suicide. Former Cork hurler Conor Cusack wrote recently of dealing with his depression "It's as if someone placed a veil over your soul and never returned to remove it. This endless, black, never ending tunnel of darkness."

The abundance of support from all corners of Irish society in response to Conor's story is incredibly encouraging. Conor's message gives us all hope and raises the question: If others who have strug-

gled, been vulnerable, and found recovery shared their story, would the stigma that keeps people from getting help be removed?

All too often the media celebrate the failures, the messes, and the car accidents. People who make headlines with public displays of their vulnerability are ridiculed by late night talk show hosts and the message is sent - your problem is your problem because you are weak, immoral, and don't deserve help. This is why Conor's piece is so welcome. He says "There is no situation that is without hope, there is no person that can't overcome their present difficulties. For those that are suffering silently, there is help out there and you are definitely not alone." Mental health agencies have always shared this message but when someone who has experienced it says it, those who are suffering will hear it much more clearly.

The Irish community in Ireland and its diaspora

in Boston and across the USA have suffered losses to suicide recently. When I meet people through our Suicide Prevention Campaign, I am awed by the stories of the hope they found in recovery. We don't have to share our story in a blog or on a late night talk show to be useful. It is as simple as sharing it with family and friends, volunteering at mental health agencies, or participating in a support group. If you would like to share your story, we at the IIC would love to hear from you.

Whether it's depression, anxiety or addiction



that you or a loved one struggles with, reach out to our Wellness team at the IIC. You will receive a warm welcome every time. Call Danielle at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, to get the help that's needed. IIC - Together For Hope!

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## IMMIGRATION Q & A

### Be very wary of immigration scams

**Q. I hear that there are a number of scams being practiced on immigrants in the US. How can they protect themselves?**

**A.** There are indeed many immigration scams, with new ones appearing all the time. One that came to our attention involves a telephone call to an immigrant from someone claiming to be from US Citizenship and Immigration Services. The caller claims that there is some discrepancy in the agency's information on the immigrant, and that there is a penalty that must be paid to clear it up. Next – you guessed it – the caller instructs the immigrant to wire money to an address provided. Real US immigration officers will never ask for money over the telephone, nor will they seek personal financial information such as bank account or Social Security numbers, which can be used in identity theft.

The general principle to remember with regard to telephone scams is that one never should give out sensitive information or send money to anyone. This applies, by the way, to all unsolicited telephone calls, emails, and other communications, whether they relate to immigration, sales offers, investment opportunities, claims that relatives need money in an emergency, and so on.

It also is important for those seeking immigration benefits to be very careful in dealing with anyone offering application support online. Aside from outright fraud, there also is a large risk that websites will contain outdated or incorrect advice. And beware in particular those sites that are dressed up to look like official government sites, using symbols such as the seal of the United States, the US flag, photos of President Obama, etc. But it is easy to recognize authentic official websites: they always end in the suffix .gov, never .com, .net, etc.

Note also that all government application forms are free. USCIS forms can be downloaded from [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov). Never pay anyone for copies of blank forms. And never pay application fees to third parties; these fees are always paid directly to the government in accordance with instructions on the application forms.

The safest course for prospective applicants is to visit one of our weekly legal clinics for a free, confidential consultation with an immigration lawyer concerning any applications that you are planning to file.

**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 IIC immigration legal staff.



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

LEGAL IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE

The Irish International Immigrant Center provides free legal support and representation to the Irish immigrant community. Weekly legal clinics are held throughout the Greater Boston area, where you can receive a free and confidential consultation with our staff and volunteer pro bono attorneys.

For support or information, call us at (617) 542-7654.

**Upcoming Clinic Schedule**

**Tuesday, December 3rd**  
IIC, 100 Franklin St., Downtown Boston

**Monday, December 9th at 6:30pm**  
The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton

**Tuesday, December 17th**  
IIC, 100 Franklin St., Downtown Boston

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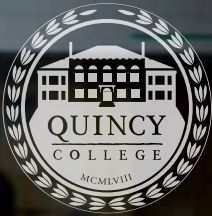
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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,  
ENTERTAINMENT,  
TRAVEL & MORE**



Carolynne Warren misses Dorchester's sense of neighborhood.

## Dot's Warren back home in 'I Love Lucy'

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Christmas is coming a little early for Dorchester native Carolynne Warren, who has built a successful career as an actress and entrepreneur in Los Angeles. The actress will find herself onstage at Boston's Colonial Theatre from Dec. 3 to Dec. 22 as a member of the national tour of "I Love Lucy: Live On Stage."

When she was growing up on Geneva Avenue in Fields Corner, she says she never dared dream of such a gig. Her Boston story includes local iconic highlights like the school dances at Florian Hall, Mass at St. Peter's, dance classes at Fields Corner, high school at Boston Latin, and regular appearances "in my Nana's kitchen." Along the way, she picked up a diploma from Harvard University along the way.

Warren has been a member of Second City in Chicago, has appeared in several one-woman shows, and is the founder of Hey Dollface! Productions. She was back in Boston previously to appear in "Menopause: The Musical" at the Stuart Street Playhouse and "The Light In The Piazza" at SpeakEasy Stage.

"I Love Lucy," of course, ranks as one of the most popular TV shows of all time. In turn, Lucy, Ricky, Fred, and Ethel stand as one of the sitcom world's most fabulous foursomes.

"I Love Lucy: Live On Stage" whisks theatergoers back to 1952 to become members of the studio audience at Desilu Playhouse where everyone is anxiously awaiting the filming of two episodes of "I Love Lucy." Meanwhile, a charming host enlightens the crowd to the behind-the-scenes process of the relatively new thing called "television." Carolynne plays the role of Eugenia in addition to understudying the role of Ethel Mertz.

During the show's stop in Toronto, we spoke by phone about "Lucy," the World Series, and her old neighborhood. Here's an edited look at our conversation.

**BIR:** Thinking back to your childhood in Dorchester, what do you miss?

**CW:** I think the thing I miss the most, especially living in LA, is a sense of neighborhood . . . You ask someone what parish they're from and someone knows

(Continued on page 16)

## 'New sounds' emphasis helps keep Celtic Sojourn a 'fresh' attraction

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Boston-area musicians Maeve Gilchrist and Mariel Vandersteel will be among the featured performers as "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn" begins its second decade of flavoring the Christmas holiday season with music, song, dance, and storytelling from Irish, Scottish and other Celtic – even non-Celtic – traditions.

The annual production, hosted as always by its creator and guiding spirit,

Brian O'Donovan, will be on stage at the Cutler Majestic Theatre in Boston for a slate of performances from Dec. 15 to Dec. 22, and also at venues in Worcester (Dec. 17) and Derry, NH (Dec. 14); the Dec. 16 show at Rockport is already sold out.

Irish super-band Solas – including Seamus Egan, the show's music director – will mark another return to "Sojourn," supplemented by longtime collaborator Chico Hufon bass and a new percus-

sionist, Steve Holloway. Also back in the line-up is fiddler Steve Hickman, whose brilliant demonstration of "hambone" – a style of body percussion rooted in folk tradition – has entertained audiences of all ages.

Joining Gilchrist, a Scottish-born harpist and vocalist, and Vandersteel – who in addition to Celtic and American fiddle styles is an expert in Norwegian hardanger fiddle – in making their debuts on "Sojourn" will

be two singers: Maureen McMullan, a Scottish native fluent in jazz, folk, and contemporary genres and featured on the PBS special "Highland Heartbeat"; and Moira Smiley, an American singer whose work as a soloist and with the band VOCO embraces not only Irish and Appalachian music but Eastern European traditions.

One of the most popular features of "Sojourn," the performances by children

(Continued on page 15)

## New CD and concert DVD in hand, Childsplay troupe is hitting the road

By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It's another landmark year for the Boston-based all-star fiddle ensemble Childsplay, which heads out on its annual tour this month on the heels of a new CD, "As the Crow Flies," and concert DVD, "Fiddlers, Fiddles and Fiddlemaker."

The group comprises two dozen or so musicians – many from Boston or elsewhere in New England – performing fiddle music mainly from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, Scandinavian, French Canadian, and American folk traditions. All the fiddlers use violins created by Cambridge resident Bob Childs, who also plays in the ensemble and serves as its artistic director.

Childsplay will be in concert at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington on Dec. 5 and 8, with stops at the Zeiterion Theatre in New Bedford on Dec. 6 and the Portland, Me., High School Auditorium on Dec. 7.

The ensemble's history stretches back more than two decades, and its roster of current and past members – including not only fiddlers but also other instrumentalists – is the essence of quality musicianship, including among others: Laurel Martin, Hanneke Cassel, Steve Hickman, Sheila Falls, Mary Lea, Mark Simos, Lissa Schneckenburger, Naomi Morse, Pete Sutherland,



Childsplay will perform at Lexington's National Heritage Museum as part of its annual tour.

Sam Amidon, Joe and Graham DeZarn, Dave Langford, Amanda Cavanaugh, Katie McNally, Kathleen Guilday, Mark Roberts, Aoife O'Donovan, Shannon Heaton, Keith Murphy, Ariel Friedman, Ralph Gordon, Pierre Chartrand, Kieran Jordan, and Nic Gareiss.

Childsplay's ranks change a little every year, as some members opt out because of scheduling conflicts or other factors and are replaced by new or returning members, but over time the group has built up a durable cohesiveness, says Childs.

"What I see – and I think this is evident on the new CD and DVD – is a kind

of maturity to the band. We don't have exactly the same people year in and year out, but there is enough consistency where we can adapt to changes readily and all the while keep building on what's been done in the past. For me, Childsplay's signature sound is our arrangements, and that has evolved in a remarkable and satisfying way."

It's become axiomatic to describe most any organizational entity, musical, business or otherwise, as "a family," but to hear Childs talk, the term seems very appropriate for Childsplay, especially given its longevity. As some members of the

Childsplay family have moved on to other projects, interests or phases of life, representatives from a new generation – like McNally and Cavanaugh, who were barely out of diapers when Childsplay began – have come into the fold. And those who have sustained their involvement in the ensemble have continued to hone their own musical development, all the while experiencing those personal milestones – such as marriage and parenthood – that shape one's overall life perspective.

One of the most important recent changes for Childsplay has been the

(Continued on page 16)

## December goings-on

A look at some other Christmas and holiday-related dance, music, and social events taking place this month in the Boston area:

- The Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann School of Music will present a holiday concert and fundraiser on Dec. 7 from 4-6 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 645 Main Street, Melrose. CCE Boston Music School faculty and students will be the featured performers at the event,

which will provide opportunities to support the school – in particular, its "exchange program" that will bring noted concertina player Mary MacNamara and students from the CCE Tulla to Boston next June. A raffle will take place at the concert, and suggested donations will be accepted.

For more information about the event and CCE Boston, see [ceeboston.org](http://ceeboston.org).

- Accomplished singer, multi-instrumentalist, and music scholar Mick Moloney teams with fiddler Athena Tergis – who has played with artists such as Sharon Shannon and Laura Risk and toured with "Riverdance" – for a musical celebration of Christmas and other midwinter traditions on Dec. 10

at Boston College as part of its Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, and Lecture Series. The free concert takes place at 6:30 p.m. in Walsh Hall on BC's Chestnut Hill Campus. See [bc.edu/gaelicroots](http://bc.edu/gaelicroots).

- Local husband-and-wife duo Matt and Shannon Heaton will perform their annual "Fine Winter's Night" concert on Dec. 14, welcoming to the festivities another couple, Vermont-based Lissa Schneckenburger and Corey DiMario. The concert, featuring traditional and original carols, takes place at 8 p.m. at Club Passim in Harvard Square. Ticket information and other details at [clubpassim.org](http://clubpassim.org).

- Also on December 14 will be "Nollaig Shona" at the Canadian American

Club in Watertown, with a concert by Troy MacGillivray, Andrea Beaton, and Nuala Kennedy plus special guest Jake Charron. A Down East Dance will follow. The evening starts at 7:30 p.m., and admission is \$15. See [canadianamericanclub.com](http://canadianamericanclub.com).

- Dec. 14 is also the date of the Irish Cultural Centre of New England Annual Christmas Open House, from 6-11 p.m. The event will include Irish music, dancing, singing, refreshments, and a raffle featuring several large cash prizes. Information on purchasing raffle tickets, and other details about the event, is available at the ICC website, [irishculture.org](http://irishculture.org)



# ‘Grace Bay,’ courtesy of The Burren’s Tommy and Louise

BY SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

With all their various activities and accomplishments – like running one of the most popular and storied Irish pubs in North America, hosting innumerable sessions, or organizing performances of leading Irish music acts – there was something husband-and-wife musicians Tommy McCarthy and Louise Costello had never gotten around to doing: recording an album of their own music.

You can check that one off the list, too.

McCarthy and Costello, owners of The Burren in Somerville, are marking the release of their debut CD, “Grace Bay,” with a concert as part of the pub’s Backroom series on Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to benefit the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

To say “Grace Bay” was worth the wait is putting it awfully mildly. McCarthy’s West Clare-style fiddle (he also plays mandolin and ukulele) and Costello’s Galway-influenced banjo and accordion sail, caper and glide together through an assortment of venerable traditional tunes like “The Broken Pledge,” “The Drunken Gauger,” “Strop the Razor,” “A Stór Mo Chroí” and “McFadden’s Handsome Daughter.” There are also some intriguing McCarthy originals, including the title track, an air with a contemplative, winsome feel to it, and “Grand Turk,” a strikingly accented slow reel.

The album carries a distinctive hallmark of family pride and tradition, since McCarthy and Costello both grew up in households with fathers greatly respected for their musicianship. “Grace Bay” achieves an enviable balance of embracing the past while being very much in the here and now, its creators finding strength and inspiration in the tradition they’ve long championed.

McCarthy recently chatted with Sean Smith of the *Boston*



Tommy McCarthy and Louise Costello, longtime musical partners as well as husband and wife.

*Irish Reporter* about “Grace Bay,” and related topics.

**Q.** Tommy, your friends would probably say that you and Louise took far too long to make a CD, so how did it come about?

**A.** There was a lot of talk regarding making the CD. I suppose that because Louise and I spend so much time together, we often put tunes together, even while we are out walking. It just came about very naturally. Once we had the sets of tunes for the album, we began to rehearse at our home in Galway. The actual recording itself only took about a week.

We have dedicated the CD to both our fathers, Dinny Costello and Tommy McCarthy. Without a doubt, we can only praise them for all of their years of encouragement when we were children playing music in our family homes. In fact, a lot of the tunes on the CD we would have heard from our fathers’ playing.

**Q.** And there are a few of your originals on the CD, too.

**A.** Yes, I wrote the title track, along with “Grand Turk”—those are names of locations in the Turks and Caicos Islands, a place very close to our hearts. I also composed “The Inishbo-

fin Waltz,” which refers to the island off the coast of Galway where we got married in 1993. I wrote the tune for the people of the island, who made us feel so welcome. “The Blue Road” and “The Trip to Miltown” also are my compositions.

**Q.** You obviously have strong ties to Ireland, but you got together with Louise through the Boston music scene, right?

**A.** I first met Louise at a session in the Kinvara Pub in Allston in 1986. She was sitting in the session playing the banjo, and I sat down beside her and joined in. After the tune was

over I said “Hello.” We have been playing together ever since.

**Q.** Talk about the musicians who appear with you on “Grace Bay.”

**A.** Martin O’Malley, who plays guitar, is from Dublin. We first met him at the Brendan Behan Pub in Jamaica Plain in 1991, and started playing together then and there. Martin and his wife Ann moved to Miltown Malbay in 1993 and opened the world famous recording studio Malbay Studios, which is where we made the album. Martin made the whole recording process very easy and made us feel very comfortable in his studio.

We first met Noel O’Grady, who hails from Swingford, Co. Mayo, in London in 1993. He was a big hit on the London Irish music scene with his beautiful bouzouki playing. Noel has been living in Westport, in Mayo, and is a major presence at Matt Molloy’s pub.

As for [bodhran player] Johnny “Ringo” McDonagh, what we can say about this legend of a man? We’ve known Johnny a very long time from the early days of De Dannan, and we play at many sessions with him when we are home in Galway.

Our daughter, Rose McCarthy, has been playing fiddle from the age of six, and we were delighted to be able to have her on the album.

We’re very happy that Johnny McDonagh will join us for the concert at The Burren. We’ll also be asking some Boston-area musicians to come along.

**Q.** You mentioned dedicating “Grace Bay” to your fathers, who were big influences on Louise’s and your musical development: Where else do you think they made an impact on your lives?

**A.** Well, one important thing they taught both of us was how to treat musicians with respect. We believe that has gone a long way for us.

## ‘New sounds’ helps keeps Celtic Sojourn a ‘fresh’

(Continued from page 14)

from the Harney Academy of Irish Dance in Walpole, will be enhanced this year by appearances from their teacher and mentor, Liam Harney, whose credits include two World Champion dance titles and a stint in “Riverdance.”

And to top it all off, the show has enlisted local musician Dietrich Strause to assemble and arrange a few pieces for a brass band.

“I think one aspect of ‘Christmas Celtic Sojourn’ is, we’re always looking for new sounds, a few new things to throw into the mix,” says O’Donovan, who along with his wife Lindsay will contribute to the “Sojourn” songfests. “Sure, there are some elements that stay pretty much from year to year, and some performers appear regularly. But we –Seamus Egan, our artistic director, Paula Plum, and others involved in the production – always try to keep the show fresh.”

That “new sounds” dynamic is embodied in the presence of Gilchrist and Vandersteel, says O’Donovan. “Maeve brings jazz and world-music influences to her playing and singing, which makes for a fascinating blend with the Irish and Scottish harp traditions. In addition to her solo work, Mariel has had experience in many kinds of collaborations—including bands like Annalivia and Blue Moose and the Unbuttoned Zippers, among others – but her skill on the hardanger fiddle is really extraordinary. There are a lot of links between Scandinavian



Mariel Vandersteel and Irish band Solas will be part of the “Christmas Celtic Sojourn” line-up.

music and the traditions of Celtic lands, and she will explore these in the show. She and Maeve embody the youth of this great musical scene.

“And when Maeve and Mariel play together,” he adds, “there’ll be lots of fireworks.”

The addition of McMullen and Smiley (who has appeared in the “Celtic Sojourn” St. Patrick’s Day show) is another cause for anticipation, O’Donovan says. “Maureen has performed on our ‘Celtic Sojourn’ live broadcasts, and we’re looking forward to having her in a whole different context. As for Moira, we’d been trying to get her for ‘Christmas Celtic Sojourn’ for several years, and now it’s finally worked out. Not only is she an accomplished and adventurous singer, she’ll be in an added role of vocal director, and coming up with

harmonies and arrangements – it’s something we’ve never really had before.”

Hickman may be the oldest of the featured performers, says O’Donovan, but his spirit and sense of play is not far removed from that of the Harney Academy kids, with whom he frolicked during his last “Sojourn” appearance. “Steve is just a real character, and he has the perfect demeanor for a show that celebrates Christmas: He’s a ham, as well as a ‘hambonist.’”

In fact, the confluence of Hickman, Smiley, and Harney for this year’s show has produced an unexpected windfall. “Liam is, of course, an unbelievable dancer, and we’re so happy his schedule finally allowed him to take part. As it turned out, Liam and Steve have been together in the Footworks ensemble in the

past, and Liam also mentioned to me that Moira—in addition to everything else—does body percussion. So I think these three will probably cobble together some sort of hambone-body percussion collaboration, which should be amazing to behold.

“And see, that’s what makes ‘Christmas Celtic Sojourn’ such a pleasure to organize: You do all this planning, you figure out who you want in the line-up, and what they’ll contribute – and then something you didn’t anticipate just falls into your lap.”

The past year has been a particularly memorable one for Boston and the region, which has experienced the full range of the emotional spectrum: the shock and horror of the Boston Marathon bombings, which segued into collective expressions of hope, solidarity, and strength;

the mounting anticipation and joy that accompanied the surprising Red Sox championship season; and, what with last month’s mayoral election, contemplation of a new era of leadership in the city. While “Christmas Celtic Sojourn” has never made direct reference to events of the day, these certainly constitute a backdrop for the show, O’Donovan says, and that will undoubtedly be the case this year.

“Everything we produce in regard to ‘Christmas Celtic Sojourn’ has an emotional aspect,” he explains, “because Christmas is a time for reflection of the year that has passed, and to pore over memories good and bad. The bombings made us feel vulnerable, and we were saddened by the deaths and injuries. We also felt keenly other losses within our community, of people like Seamus Heaney, during 2013. And yes, it was definitely a treat to see the Red Sox win the World Series – it seemed to mean that much more this year.

“We don’t address these things overtly in the show, but clearly they are on all our minds as we celebrate the season with our family and friends, and turn to the traditions and rituals we observe at this time of year. So we hope people will look at ‘Christmas Celtic Sojourn’ as an opportunity for this reflection and celebration on a wider scale.”

For ticket information and other details about “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn,” see [wgbh.org/celtic](http://wgbh.org/celtic).



# Dorchester’s Warren back home in ‘I Love Lucy’

(Continued from page 14)

right away what you’re talking about. What it looked like and felt like. Being able to walk down the street and wave and talk to people and have them know you and your family. And all the things that happen throughout a year. Events through church or through your school. I miss that a lot . . . There’s something so grounded in being able to look people in the eye and talk about anything just because you shared this common neighborhood experience.

**BIR:** When you were attending high school, you were just down the street from Fenway Park. So were you following the World Series while you were on tour.

**CW:** A couple of my new friends (in the show) were just amazed at how happy it was making me when they won . . . How engaged I was. I said you don’t understand, it’s a lifetime. It’s your grandparents’ lifetime of watching them lose. Of loving them and having your heart broken . . . (During one of the games) someone was feeding me the scores during the show. (Later) I ran to this sports bar and met someone from Hyde Park, someone from Danvers, and we were all screaming our heads off.

**BIR:** Let’s talk about everybody’s favorite redhead. Is this new stage show aimed at “Lucy” purists, or is it for just about anybody?

**CW:** Anybody, and this is why. I’m not going to reveal any secrets (*laughing*), but you really feel as if you have traveled back in time . . . Like you’re in Hollywood and it’s 1952 and you’ve walked onto the soundstage and you are about to see the taping . . . You’re getting a feel of what it’s like. Especially for people who’ve never been to Hollywood. It’s an experience they probably wouldn’t have had in their lifetime . . . Part of my job is to be out in the audience for a while. And people are so excited to tell me, and tell each other – strangers – about how much they love Lucy and what’s their favorite episode.

**BIR:** Do die-hard fans show up dressed as Lucy?  
**CW:** I loved that you asked me that. Yes! Especially here in Toronto. The other night, we had a night of Lucy drag queens, which was hilarious. Some of them, really big men, full-on dressed as Lucy, with big black mustaches. But then my favorite was a group of 12 women, dressed like Lucy – I mean head to toe, the whole shebang – they all came in carrying cocktails and smoking fake cigarettes . . . As the Lucys were going to their seats, they got applause! It was so funny.  
**BIR:** In addition to playing a character, you also understudy the role of Ethel Mertz. It must be special when you actually get to go on as Lucy’s legendary best pal.

**CW:** All day today I’m rehearsing as Ethel. (In the show) I have a moment where all of that good mojo from their friendship – I think it’s both Lucille Ball and Vivian Vance *and* Lucy and Ethel – when it transcends time and the women and their characters. That’s what women all over the world connect to. That best friend. The one who’ll be there to help you get out of trouble. The one who’ll help you get *into* trouble. Being able to be in Ethel’s shoes and have that connection with someone who is Lucy, right next to you, is such a powerful experience . . . it appeals to the little girl in me.

**BIR:** It has to be pretty special for you to be coming home with such a major production.  
**CW:** When I first got the job (on this tour) and they said it was coming to Boston . . . I’ve just been over the moon since that day . . . I can’t even tell you how happy I am to be coming home . . . It’s so close now . . . I keep telling my cast mates what a special treat they’re in for.  
*R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of onstageboston.com.*

\*\*\*  
“I Love Lucy: Live On Stage,” Dec. 3 – Dec. 22, Citi Emerson Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston Street, Boston. Tickets: 1-866-348-9738 or [BroadwayInBoston.com](http://BroadwayInBoston.com).

# New CD and concert DVD in hand, Childsplay troupe is hitting the road

(Continued from page 14)

departure of O’Donovan as lead vocalist, a position that has now been filled by Schneckenburger. It’s not exactly the biggest leap, since she had backed up, and occasionally spelled, O’Donovan in the past. Still, the Childsplay repertoire encompasses a variety of styles and genres, which requires a singer to be equally versatile and convincing.

Schneckenburger is more than equal to the task. Versed as she is in folk and traditional music, Schneckenburger – whose voice has a sharper definition to it than O’Donovan’s gauzier quality – can cross over to contemporary, even pop: She has, after all, recorded one CD of folk songs from New England, and another of pop tunes like “I Think I Need a New Heart,” “Crimson and Clover” and “You Don’t Mess Around with Jim.” On “As the Crow Flies,” she es- says a sprightly Irish song, “Hawk and Crow” (avian commentary on the ways of love), the stately mournful American traditional classic “Dear Companion,” a rousing Uncle Dave Macon composition “Don’t You Get Weary Children,” Shannon Heaton’s sublime “Starry Lullaby” and – perhaps most impressively – “Leave No Millionaire Behind,” a vivid, semi-journalistic medita-

tion by Pierce Woodward on the corrupting influence of money.  
Childs’s praise for the group’s trademark arrangements is borne out by the evidence on “As the Crow Flies,” which contains some of Childsplay’s most ambitious work yet. And at the top of the list is the “Child Suite,” a Keith Murphy masterpiece (he wrote as well as arranged the four tunes) that is full of countermelodies and contrasting simultaneous rhythmic patterns, with the focus on Heaton’s unfailingly superb flute alongside the lead fiddles of Graham DeZarn and Sam Amidon. Gradually, Murphy’s piano and the rest of the band coalesce behind the trio as the set moves along to a concluding reel. All told, it’s breathtaking, in concept and execution.  
“We take a few weeks to get together and practice in earnest before the tour,” says Child, “but, obviously, there’s a certain incubation period before then, and I talk to various people about ideas for sets. Keith said that his inspiration for the suite came from the nature of dreams, though he really didn’t know where it was going at first – this was something very new for him. But he found that unique space between fiddle, folk, and a whole

other kind of music. It’s an amazing accomplishment.”  
In fact, a substantial amount of Childsplay’s material is composed by its members. Besides the “Child Suite,” Murphy contributes “The St. Croix Jig” and a triptych of Celtic-flavored fun, comprising a Scottish-style strathspey fused with a jig and two Irish-style polkas. “As the Crow Flies” also includes two Heaton tunes – the mystical “Bow for Rama” and the sweet-toned “Maybe I Might” (which appears in “Starry Lullaby”) – Schneckenburger’s menacingly beautiful “Katrina” (named for the hurricane), a bright slip jig by Sheila Falls drolly titled “Slips and Falls,” and from Hanneke Cassel, a characteristically spiritual waltz (“The Last Alleluia”) and a reel set that blends the gritty “Lianne MacLean’s Revenge” with the euphoric “Catchy Bug” (which at one point pauses for a bluegrass-like cello break).  
It’s also worth noting that the title track is supplied in the form of a reel penned by legendary Irish fiddler Liz Carroll, who produced the CD. “For the Childsplay CDs [“As the Crow Flies” is the band’s sixth], I’ve recruited people who have never produced an album

for someone else,” says Childs. “What happens is, that person becomes a big part of the process, and that was definitely the case with Liz. She commands such respect, as a musician and as a person, and everyone responded to her so well.”  
“As the Crow Flies” stands on its own, but “Fiddlers, Fiddles and Fiddlemaker” – filmed at their 2012 concert in the Zeiterion – makes for an enlightening complement. You get to see the engagement and repartee among the ensemble members, and the sound is a little more diffuse so that it’s possible to discern some subtleties you might have missed on the CD (although the tent revival-style chorus on “Don’t You Get Weary, Children” doesn’t come across as well as it does on the CD). And watching the unique footwork and joie de vivre of Nic Gareiss – surely one of the happiest people on the face of the planet – is always a pleasure.  
“Nic isn’t just a dancer, he’s a musician,” says Childs. “He really uses his feet as a percussive instrument, with a number of different sounds.”  
There is also a set unavailable on “As the Crow Flies”: “Turka,” a Russian gypsy violin piece by Oleg Ponomarev that is performed by Falls and Bonnie Bewick, both of whom have strong classical backgrounds. It’s a splendidly hyperbolic extravaganza, as Falls and



Bob Childs on the job.

Bewick trade riffs and the rest of the ensemble adds little flourishes to keep stirring the pot.  
“Turka” is another example of how Childsplay has grown and matured as a band,” says Childs. “We’re seeing more and more how people are willing to move outside their comfort zone and push things, and each other, a little. And they rise to the occasion.”  
Inevitably, the film seems to focus more on Murphy, Heaton, Cassel, Falls, Schneckenburger, and Bewick, who along with Childs appear in interviews between the musical selections. That’s where some discerning viewing, and listening to the CD, is helpful, to appreciate the textures added by, for example, Mark Roberts’s five-string banjo, Ralph Gordon’s string bass or Kathleen Guilday’s harp – and, for that matter, the full-bodied sound all the Childsplay fiddlers supply.  
“There is not a conscious effort to ‘feature’ individuals on the DVD,” says Childs, who points

out that the film had to be edited for length so it can be broadcast on TV. “The members who are responsible for most of the arrangements tend to be more visible, but everyone’s role in Childsplay is valued, and you can get a sense of that when you watch how everyone interacts together.”  
Besides, Childs adds, there’s always the opportunity for other members to formulate and share ideas – and that includes McNally, who has arranged her first Childsplay piece for this year’s tour, one of five new selections that will debut.  
“It’s been very exciting to see how the group has been going into new territory,” says Childs. “This year, for example, one of the new pieces is a tango. That may seem a departure for Childsplay, but really, when you step back and look at the path we’ve traveled, it makes perfect sense.”  
*For details on Childsplay’s performances and other information, see [childsplay.org](http://childsplay.org).*

## Emmanuel’s Stewart wins Ladies Under 20 title in All Ireland competition

Boston-area college student Emily Stewart captured the Ladies Under-20 title at last month’s All Ireland Dance Championship held in Belfast.  
A California native en-

rolled locally in Emmanuel College, the 19-year-old Stewart was one of two New England regional finalists to place in the top three of the Ladies Under-20 competition:

Kelsey Latham of Connecticut took third.  
Stewart, who studies Irish dance at the Scoil Rince Naomh Attracta in Brighton, won the 2012 North American title for her age group and competed in the World Irish Dancing Championships that were held in Boston this past March.  
– SEAN SMITH

## Cat’s Melodeon on Cape sets Philippines benefit

Members of the Cape Cod “Cat’s Melodeon” session group will present an evening of Irish traditional music and song on Dec. 7 to benefit Red Cross and Catholic Relief

Services assistance efforts in the Philippines.  
The all-acoustic event will take place beginning at 7 p.m. at the Beach House, 17 Nathan Ellis Highway, North Fal-

mouth. Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted.  
For further information, contact Bill Black at 508- 540-5324 or at [bill@capeirish.com](mailto:bill@capeirish.com).

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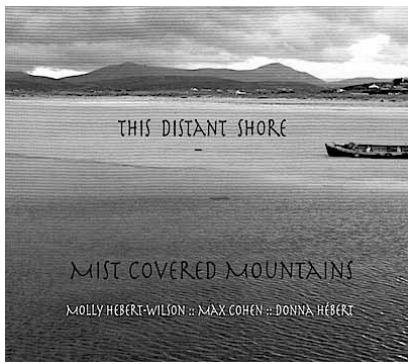


CD Reviews

BY SEAN SMITH

Mist Covered Mountains, "This Distant Shore" •

A most pleasant, if somewhat abbreviated (only eight-plus tracks), debut from this Western Massachusetts-based trio, consisting of Donna Hébert – well-respected fiddler in Celtic, French-Canadian and American styles – her daughter, lead vocalist Molly Hébert-Wilson, and guitarist-vocalist Max Cohen. There's a real homespun character to the album, centered as it is on the sharing of music



between generations: Molly's sources for most of the songs here were her mother, Cohen, and her Donegal-born NYU Irish language professor, Pádraig Ó Cearúil. Hébert-Wilson's incredibly polished and assured singing – in English and Gaelic – will justifiably draw a lot of attention, notably on the traditional songs "Caidé Sin Don Té Sín" (described as "the Irish language equivalent of 'mind your own business'") and the Scottish "Fear An Bhata (The Boatman)." But this is a trio, after all, so Hébert's masterful fiddling and string arrangements, along with Cohen's equally capable accompaniment, merit notice as well. The opening track, the American folk song "Katie Cruel," brings out all these qualities, from Cohen's intricately rhythmic backing to Hébert's expressive fiddle breaks.

Things really click on Archie Fisher's "Witch of the Westmerlands," about the generosity and succor a wounded knight receives from a woman of strange and magical ways. Fisher's original was mesmerizing and gentle, while Stan Rogers' much-loved cover gave it folk-rock gusto, but Hébert-Wilson and Cohen find yet another dimension to the song, their sweet harmonies underscoring the unlikely but profound bond between knight and witch.

In a similar yet contrasting vein is "The Gifts," by Amherst-area songwriter Richard Berman, which recounts a departure from home and loved ones with a vague yet palpable foreshadowing – Hébert's multi-tracked fiddle looms ominously in the background, like an approaching dark cloudbank. Its setting in an undefined past serves as a reminder that long journeys can mean wrenching and immutable life changes, and its timeless theme of choices and consequences – and the regrets that can follow – is conveyed with apt starkness by the trio.

The other tracks offer a charming three-part harmony *a cappella* version of "The Parting Glass" (with an extra verse supplied by Cohen), the rather melancholic Berman-Cohen composition "The Wedding Dance" and the sensitive but not maudlin "Let Them In, Peter," Elma Dean's World War II elegy for fallen soldiers that was set to music by songwriter John Gorka.

(There's also a bonus track, Cohen's "Hamster Heaven," whisker-close to being overly cute but redeemed by an amusing twist at the end; sure to be appreciated by any parent who's had to contend with the trauma of missing and presumed dead four-footed friends.)

Mist Covered Mountains will make their way east on Feb. 27 to perform at Boston College's Gaelic Roots series [[bc.edu/gaelicroots](http://bc.edu/gaelicroots)], and "This Distant Shore" should build anticipation for hearing more of their repertoire.

The Jig is Up! "On Yer Toes!" •

Deep in the heart of Texas dwells The Jig Is Up! (exclamation mark included), a Houston quintet with a Lone Star State-sized sound, mustering accordion, flutes, whistles, fiddle, viola, banjo, guitar, and bodhran, among other instruments, for their repertoire of mostly traditional Irish



tunes and songs. There are plenty of familiar session favorites – "Maid Behind the Bar," "Galway Rambler," "Last Night's Fun," Hag with the Money," "Maid of Mount Kisco," "Bird in the Bush" – played with energy and vigor, as well as other tunes that present a higher degree of difficulty: Check out their set pairing the Scottish "Tuamgraney Castle" with "The Belfast Hornpipe," the latter distinguished by its ridiculously elaborate, triplet-heavy third part.

At various junctures, The Jig Is Up! puts the full-band format to the side and showcases a few members' talents. Flute/whistle player Larry Mallette gets his turn in the spotlight with a leisurely take on one of Clare fiddler Paddy Fahey's numerous untitled compositions, and then fiddler Diehl Moran has a go at an American contra dance classic "The Bus Stop Reel" – throwing in some variations and improvisations along the way – while guitarist Matt Lewis does an estimable job backing both. Later, Lewis does a duet on E-flat flute with Mallette on those wonderful chestnuts "Maid Behind the Bar" and "Galway Rambler," accompanied with zest by guest pianist Kendall Rogers. Accordionist Judson Heartsill spearheads a medley of slides

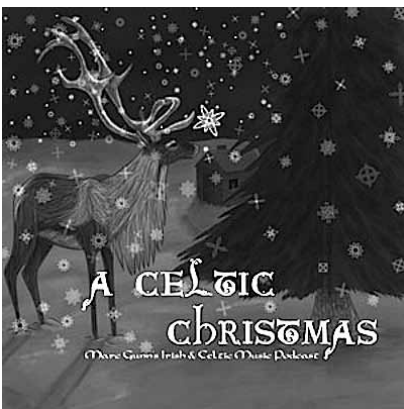
that includes the Sharon Shannon-Mike Scott-Steve Wickham creation "The Kings of Kerry."

The band's Texas persona is in joyful evidence on a pair of songs, "Pretty Fair Maid" – Moran's country-style fiddle evoking the Bill Monroe-Tim O'Brien offshoots of this centuries-old ballad, sung here by Lewis – and "When First Into This Country," with bodhran player Robert Shaddox's splendid tenor voice riding along on Lewis' cantering guitar and Heartsill's riffs, which eventually give way to the reel "Christmas Eve." Shaddox also takes the lead on the more sedate and wistful "Erin Gra Mo Chroi" and "I Once Loved a Lass" (which finishes up with Moran, on the Scandinavian hardanger fiddle, taking up the Shetland air "Da Slockit Light"); Lewis, meanwhile, does a bluesy-jazzy turn on a lesser-known version of "Wild Rover." Be it songs or instrumentals, there is good attention to detail and arrangement, and plenty of verve and liveliness.

**"A Celtic Christmas: Marc Gunn's Irish & Celtic Music Podcast"** • This is an uneven but not by any means disagreeable collection of tracks featuring so-called "indie Celtic bands," assembled by Marc Gunn, creator of the Irish and Celtic Music Podcast and other ventures associated with Celtic music and culture. The material is a mix of traditional and other well-known Christmas-associated tunes and songs with original compositions that are (theoretically) in the holiday spirit, with varying degrees of "Celticness." Among the highlights are: "Galician Carol," an energetic instrumental from Spain's Celtic region by the Alabama (!) band Mithril; Heather Dale's infectious, sprightly version of "Hunting the Wren"; Jed Marum's inspired "Banjos We Have Heard on High"; and "Christmas in Pittsburgh 1943," a nostalgic nod to the Greatest Generation by Boston Blackthorne.

On the other side of the ledger, however, are renditions of chestnuts (musical, not roasting on the open fire) like "Silent Night" and "I Saw Three Ships" that are less than memorable, and songs that rely on the all-too-familiar rowdy/drunken/loopy Irish persona. Not to mention a tiresome "Bog Down in the Valley" reworked for Christmas.

Still, if nothing else, "A Christmas Celtic" helps to put a spotlight on acts that perhaps warrant a second, or third, listen among Celtic music aficionados. Pretty good tidings.



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# Christmas Flavors of Ireland

by Margaret M. Johnson

## CRANBERRY-CASHEL BLUE TART

This tart is a real crowd-pleaser, full of interesting flavors and texture. Make it as one large tart or as tartlets. The recipe is adapted with permission from Ocean Spray Cranberries Inc., and for authentic Irish flavor, substitute Cashel Blue, Ireland's first farmhouse blue, for Roquefort.

- 1 refrigerated pie crust, at room temperature
- 8 oz./225 g cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup/60 g crumbled Cashel Blue cheese, at room temperature
- 2 tbsp. milk
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 3/4 cup/90 g sweetened dried cranberries
- 2 tbsp. chopped chives
- 2 tbsp. chopped pecans

1. Preheat the oven to 450° F/230° C. Slowly unroll the pie crust and place in an ungreased 9 in./23 cm tart pan with removable bottom. Press firmly against the side and bottom. Fold excess crust under and press together to form thick crust edge; flute the edges. Prick bottom and side with fork and bake 9–11 minutes, or until lightly browned. Cool ten minutes; reduce oven temperature to 375° F/190° C.
2. Beat the cream cheese and blue cheese with an electric mixer on medium speed until blended. Beat in milk and egg until smooth. Stir in the cranberries and chives. Spread mixture into the prepared shell and sprinkle with pecans.
3. Bake for 20–25 minutes, or until the filling is set. Let stand thirty minutes before serving. Can be made one day ahead; cover and refrigerate. To serve, cut into wedges.



## BACON-CHEDDAR BISCUITS

These savory scone-like biscuits are a terrific addition to a mid-day meal. Try them with spiced apple compote (page 62).

- 3 slices Irish breakfast bacon, chopped
  - 2 1/2 cups/300 g all-purpose flour
  - 2 tbsp. granulated sugar
  - 1 tbsp. baking powder
  - 3/4 tsp. cream of tartar
  - 1/2 tsp. salt
  - 8 tbsp. chilled unsalted butter, cut into pieces
  - 1 cup/225 g grated Kerrygold Cheddar cheese
  - 2 tbsp. minced fresh herbs, such as parsley, rosemary, and chives
  - 1 large egg
  - 1 1/4 cups/300 ml buttermilk
1. In a large skillet over medium heat, cook the bacon, turning frequently, for 7–9 minutes, or until crisp. Transfer to paper towel-lined plate.
  2. Preheat the oven to 400° F/200° C. Spray the cups of two 12-well muffin pans with non-stick cooking spray.
  3. Combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, cream of tartar, and salt in a food processor fitted with a metal blade. Pulse 2–3 times to blend. Add the butter and process for 10–15 seconds, or until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
  4. Add the cheese and herbs and pulse 2–3 times to blend. Add the egg and buttermilk and process for 10–20 seconds, or until soft dough forms. Add the bacon.
  5. Spoon the batter into the prepared pan and bake for 23–25 minutes, or until the biscuits are lightly browned and a skewer inserted into the center comes out clean. Remove from the oven, transfer to a wire rack, and let cool for ten minutes.



DUBLINER-ROSEMARY PALMIERS



Just about any type of finger food made with prepared puff pastry—Pepperidge Farms brand in the US, or Jus-Rol brand in Ireland and the United Kingdom—is a no-brainer for a holiday party. These easy, but impressive rolled pastries are an absolute essential. You can fill them with grated Dubliner cheese and rosemary, or with any of your favorite cheeses and herbs. For an easier filling, (see Variation).

- 2 sheets frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 3–4 tbsp. wholegrain mustard, such as Lakeshore brand
- 1 1/2 cups/175 g grated Dubliner cheese
- 2–3 tbsp. crushed rosemary

1. Place pastry on a lightly floured surface with one of the short sides closest to you. With a rolling pin, roll gently to smooth creases.

2. Spread each sheet with mustard and sprinkle with the cheese and rosemary. Starting from the short side at the bottom, roll up the pastry sheet just to the center; roll the other side toward the center; and lightly press rolled halves together. Repeat with second sheet.

3. Wrap in plastic and freeze for at least three hours (or up to one month). Just before baking, let stand at room temperature for about fifteen minutes.

4. Preheat the oven to 375° F/190° C. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Cut each roll into 24 slices.

Place slices 1/2 in./7 cm apart on sheet and bake for fifteen minutes, or until golden. Serve or at room temperature (Can be made ahead, wrapped in plastic and frozen. Reheat in 375° F/190° C oven for about five minutes.)

Variations

Cheese-Filled Stars:

Follow directions for defrosting and rolling 2 pastry sheets as above. With a pastry cutter, cut out pairs of star shapes in various sizes. In the center of every other star, place a small cube of Dubliner.

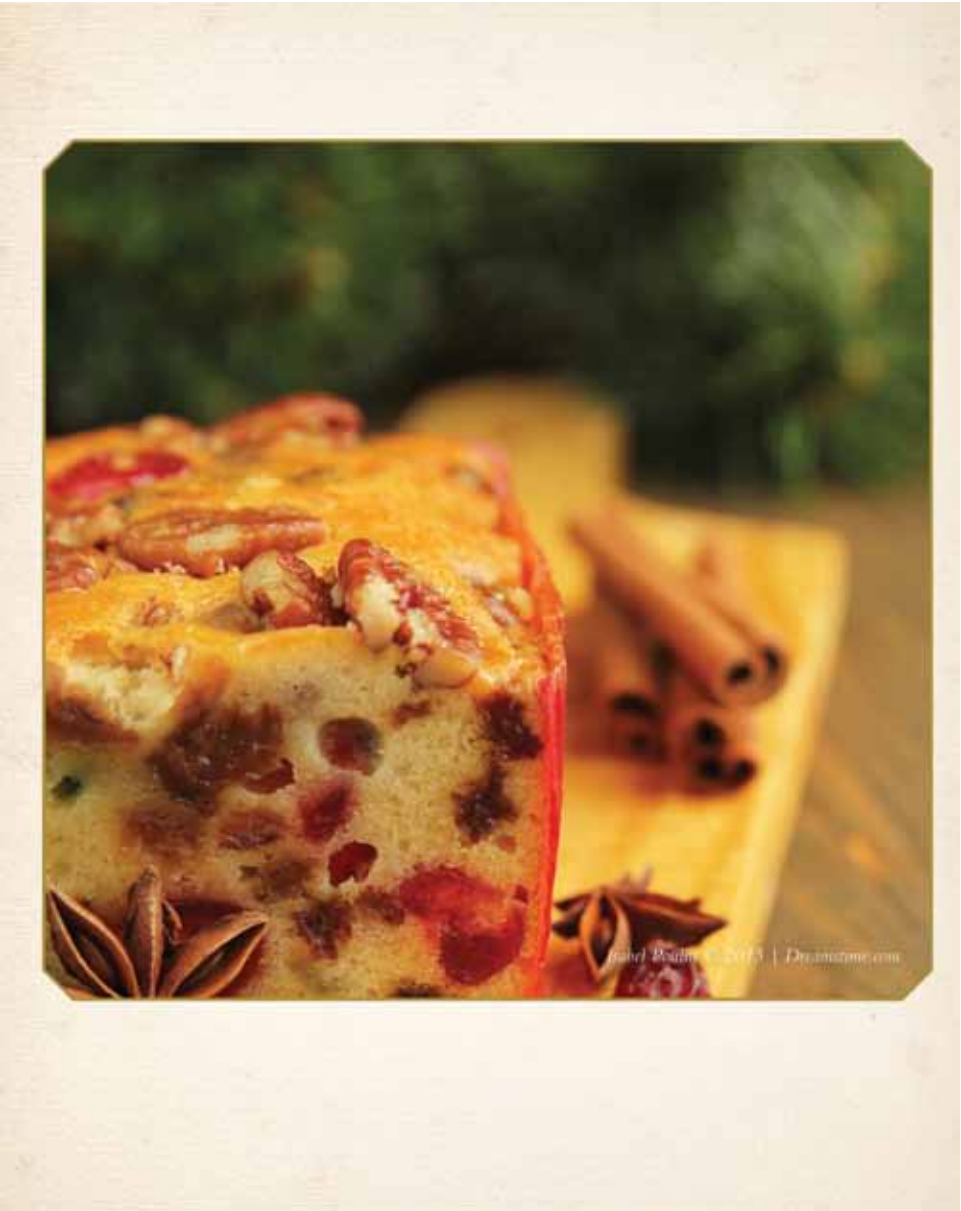
Wet the edges of the stars with milk, cover each star with the other star in the pair to make a sandwich, and press the edges together with your fingers or a small knife. In a small bowl, whisk 1 egg yolk. Brush over the stars and sprinkle with 1 tsp. sesame seeds. Bake as above. Makes about 30 stars

MAUREEN'S LIGHT FRUIT CAKE

Maureen Fennessy has been the head chef at The Park Hotel in Dungarvan, County Waterford, for more than two decades. She can recite most of her recipes from memory, often adding an anecdote or cooking tip about a special ingredient, pan size, or favorite embellishment.

For this cake, she strongly suggests you “sprinkle it with a little whiskey (Knappogue Castle Single Malt or Clontarf 1014 preferred)—more than a little if you want—as soon as it’s baked.” She also says it is a perfect cake to put an end to all those fruitcake jokes.

- 2 1/4 cups/300 g all-purpose flour
  - 1 tsp. baking powder
  - 8 oz./225 g butter, at room temperature
  - 1 cup/225 g granulated sugar
  - 3 large eggs
  - 2 tsp. grated lemon rind
  - 1/4 tsp. vanilla
  - 3/4 cup/115 g sultanas (golden raisins)
  - 3/4 cup/115g currants
  - 1/3 cup/60 g candied cherries, quartered
  - 1/3 cup/60 g candied mixed peel
  - 1/3 cup/60 g sliced almonds for topping
  - Irish whiskey for sprinkling
1. Preheat the oven to 350° F/180° C. Butter a 9 in. x 5 in./23 cm x 12.5 cm loaf pan. Sift the flour and baking powder into a medium bowl. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar with an electric mixer on medium until light and fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating in thoroughly and adding some of the flour with each egg. Fold in the lemon rind, vanilla, remaining flour, sultanas, raisins, cherries, and mixed peel (batter will be thick).
3. Transfer to the prepared pan, sprinkle with the almonds, and bake for 75–80 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the center comes out clean (cover with aluminum foil after one hour if almonds brown too much). Remove from the oven, prick the top with a skewer, and drizzle with the whiskey while still warm.
4. Let the cake cool completely, wrap in wax paper, and then in foil. Cake will keep for ten days (can be frozen).





# Strong push is on to give Old Irish Goats rare breed status

By JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It would probably be fair to call me a stalker—in the nicest sense of the word, of course.

For at least a decade, I have stalked Old Irish Goats all around Mulranny, Co. Mayo. I desperately wanted to photograph them with their shaggy, unruly coats and huge, almost other-worldly horns.

Friends had advised me to drive the curvy Belmullet road. “The goats are always there on the hillside,” they said. Yet, no goats, no matter how many times I drove the route.

“They are always in the town (Mulranny),” friends said. I had never seen them there until one evening when we went to dinner at the Park Hotel and the most magnificent, regal Billy Goat, sporting a long, grey beard, was there, busily snacking on the hotel’s specimen plantings. Of course, I didn’t have my camera!

Every spring when I visit Mayo, I stalk these amazing-looking creatures. There are said to be about 70 inhabiting the hills around Mulranny.

This May, friends visited from Co. Westmeath and, because it was raining, we decided to have lunch at The Beehive on Achill Island. I asked them to stop in Mulranny en route so I could run into the Tourist Office (totally manned by volunteers and exceptionally helpful.) As I exited the car in the parking lot across from the office, I spotted two Old Irish Goats huddled against a small yellow house seeking shelter from the storm. I grabbed my camera and took as many shots as I could before they hopped over a hedge and disappeared down the hill.

Later that week, we spotted one of the goats on the Great Western Greenway that runs from Westport to Achill Sound. We pulled over and took pictures until a car roared up behind us and we had to move on.

## RARE BREED STATUS

So, why would anyone feature goats in a pre-holiday column? Well, because the effort the people in Mulranny are making to save the Old Irish Goats is a “feel good” story about volunteering and giving back and rescue and about the Irish and their efforts to preserve heritage and wildlife. It all goes with



Resident of The Donkey Sanctuary in Mallow, Co. Cork.



Feral goat in search of food along the Great Western Greenway in Co. Mayo. Judy Enright photos

this giving season.

To me, the Old Irish Goat movement mirrors the wonderful efforts made down in Co. Cork at The Donkey Sanctuary, where rescued donkeys from all over Ireland are taken in, fed, and cared for. There are currently more than 650 rescued donkeys at the sanctuary (thedonkeysanctuary.ie) in Liscarroll outside Mallow.

Paddy Barrett and his family started a donkey rescue many years ago that linked up in 1987 with The Donkey Sanctuary, based in Sidmouth, Devon, UK. Since the effort started in Ireland, more than 3,800 donkeys have been cared for there.

To date, the two groups have taken in more than 12,500 donkeys in England and Ireland.

Visitors are welcome at the Liscarroll Sanctuary and one of their fun projects at this time of year is the “adopt-a-donkey” program. Adopters receive details of whichever donkey they choose, with a drawing and adoption certificate. They also get a bi-annual report on their donkey. It’s a great Christmas gift and hopefully heightens the sensitivity of the recipient to the benefits of rescue for these animals that are too often neglected after having spent their lives working hard on Irish farms. I “adopted” a

donkey several years running for my young Pittsburgh granddaughter, who seemed to enjoy the information and the gift.

For more details, visit the website where you can see five donkeys from which to choose, including Jacksie, who was brought to the sanctuary at two days old because his mother’s milk had dried up. Jacksie was bottle fed every two hours around the clock, thrived and survived.

## OLD IRISH GOATS

There is a major undertaking now in the Mulranny area to have the Old Irish Goats win rare breed status, which would hopefully keep them from being destroyed by angry homeowners whose gardens they have destroyed. Even a small group of these critters can devastate a garden overnight so they are not wildly popular with Mulranny residents who have spent effort and money on greenery.

The goat project, according to Sean Carolan, chairman of the Mulranny Environmental Group (cbiocentre.ie) was stimulated by the work of Dr. Ray Werner, a noted authority on goats in England and Ireland, and “is a collaborative effort between the Old Irish Goat Society and the Mulranny Environmental

Group.” The latter group, working with the tourist office in Mulranny, offers films and guided walks of the area.

With funding from the Department of Agriculture, stuffed goat heads – three from Westport House alone – have been collected so genetic typing could be done from DNA to prove that ancient goats that thrived on marginal land have the same DNA as today’s feral goats. One of the stuffed heads dated from 1895 and was owned by a local farmer. The goats have a long lineage, said to stretch past the Neolithic Age to the Ice Age.

Dr. Ruth A. Enright (no relation) was working with the Mulranny group last spring to study DNA and propel the effort for rare breed status. She did her PhD thesis on feral goats, animal behavior, group composition, and how herds work.

While there are many goats roaming the hillsides in Ireland, there are few that are pure Old Irish Goats, she said. In other parts of the country, such as the Burren, goats have been bred with dairy and other domestic goats so the Mulranny herd is unique.

In his wonderful Saturday column – “Another Life” – in *The Irish Times*, Michael Viney writes: “This was not the best of winters in which to be a goat, at least not one of the wilder sort that Robert Lloyd Praeger described in “The Way That I Went” – ‘See them on some rocky place – a herd of them, of all ages – led by a grand old patriarch with huge curving horns! They fit in so naturally among heather and gnarled rock, and mount a miniature Matterhorn with such a regal, king-of-the-castle air!’

“Praeger’s glimpse, getting on for a century ago, was of the ‘wild’ goats around Mulranny, tucked beneath the mountains at the corner of Clew Bay in Co. Mayo. They’re still there, browsing the bushy Mediterranean heather above the road or, on the rawest days this winter, even clattering into the village to sample garden shrubs across the walls. What Praeger didn’t know (apart from the fact that it’s the oldest nanny goat that is the leader) was that Mulranny’s goats – some 50 or more – could be descended from some of our oldest animals, at least as native and Irish as red deer or the Kerry bog pony,” Viney wrote.

## ESSENCE OF MULRANNY

Cheryl Cobern-Browne is one of many devoted volunteers working to save the goats. A rehabilitation area has been set up in an abandoned house on her Mulranny property where injured goats are treated before being released back to the wild.

Cobern-Browne also runs an arts retreat center (EOM) for small groups in Mulranny and hosts groups of visitors “for the Mulranny experience.” On her website, [essenceofmulranny.com](http://essenceofmulranny.com), you can see courses of-

fered, accommodation and meals specials, spectacular views from her lovely home and, of course, the goats.

Her ten-bedroom home is a short walk from the beach and in a round tower building down the driveway there is a large, bright studio where she offers classes in making glass beads, landscape photography, botanical drawing, and more. Guest workshops are also offered during the season and there are themed bio weekends, one of which focuses on the Old Irish Goats. Sounds like great fun.

Cheryl also leads a volunteer group, called “Gift of Hands.” The group works in the studio and makes functional items from textiles, glass, and other recycled materials. There are 20 regulars and visitors are welcome to join them in crafting or just stop by to purchase accessories to wear, items for the table, the wall and floor as well as handmade glass buttons and jewelry. Scraps are donated to the group by nearby Foxford Woolen Mills and are used to weave rugs, hats, scarves, and gloves. Many of the items made there are also for sale in the Mulranny Tourist Office.

“We find a skill level for everyone,” Cheryl said, adding that guests at the Park Hotel in town are invited to join the group as part of their Irish experience. “The only pressure here is that they have to do the project right!”

Several years ago, Cheryl came up with the idea to make wonderful, goofy Old Irish Goat hand puppets. Each one is handmade and has a comical face, curly beard, and the funniest boots. Sales benefit the Old Irish Goat project.

See these websites for more: [mulranny.ie](http://mulranny.ie) and <http://bit.ly/TheChanceToSurvive>.

## CONCERT FOR KYLEMORE


Back in the States, a VIP reception and Winter Gala Concert, featuring Julie Feeney, from Co. Galway, will be held Dec. 18 at the House of the Redeemer, 7 East 95th St., New York City, to benefit the new Education Center at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara.

Suggested donations start at \$500. For more information on the evening, please contact Mary Reed at 914-420-3517 or send an e-mail to [mreed@friendsofkylemoreabbey.com](mailto:mreed@friendsofkylemoreabbey.com). To make a tax-free gift, please contact [friendsofkylemoreabbey.com](mailto:friendsofkylemoreabbey.com). All funds raised will go toward building the new Education Center for College Studies.

The Benedictine Nuns plan to establish an Education Center at Kylemore, which they envision will be utilized by many American colleges and church groups.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We wish all our readers very happy holidays with the hope that the New Year brings them much health and happiness.



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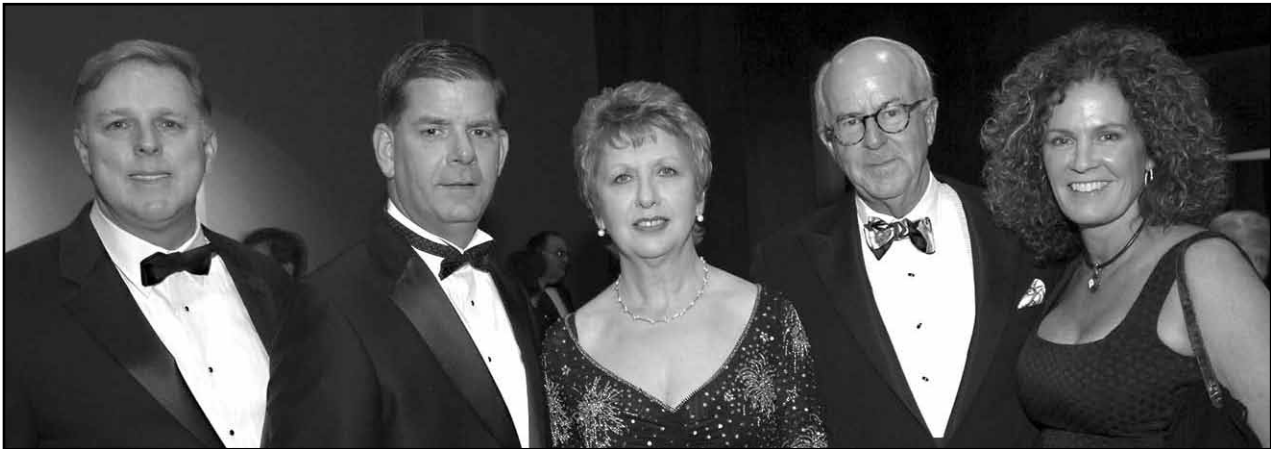
# American Ireland Fund cites Mary McAleese before 1,100

At its 32d Annual Boston Dinner Gala at the Westin Boston Waterfront on Nov. 21, The American Ireland Fund honored Dr. Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland, and currently a visiting professor at Boston College. In a special Irish twist, Boston's Mayor-elect and son of Galway Marty Walsh introduced

President McAleese. [See a separate interview with Dr. McAleese on Page 6 in this edition.] The gala, chaired by Des Mac Intyre, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Standish, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNY Mellon, raised \$2.3 million for The Worldwide Ireland Funds*Promising*

*Ireland* Campaign to support nonprofit organizations across the island of Ireland and around the world. The Boston Gala is one of the largest of The Worldwide Ireland Funds' 100+ international events. Mac Intyre offered this as testament to the purpose of the American Ireland Fund: "As an Irish kid, I saw that The American Ireland Fund had an immeasurable impact on the Irish people's sense of self-worth, their sense of hope and aspirations and above all the sense of connectivity to the US. To have the opportunity to give back is wonderful

now, but to have the sustained help of The American Ireland Fund is a necessity – especially in these difficult times." Other guests included Bob Reynolds of Putnam Investments; Robert Kraft of the New England Patriots; Jay Hooley of State Street Corporation; Mike Sheehan of Hill Holliday, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Chairman of The American Ireland Fund; Mike Mahoney of Boston Scientific; Ron O'Hanley of Fidelity Investments; and Scott Powers of State Street Global Advisors.



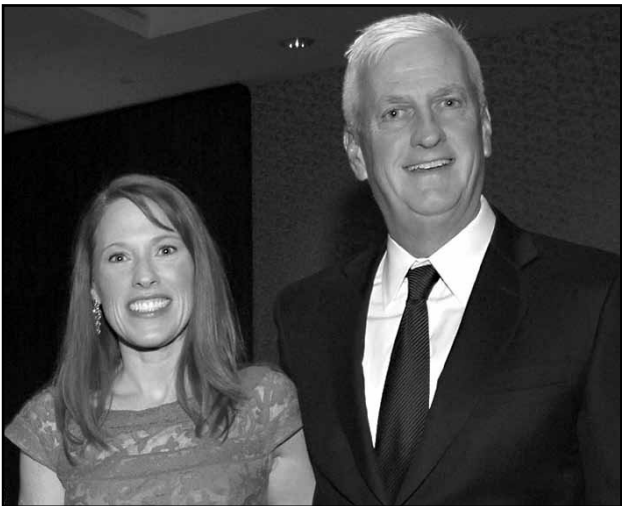
Jack Hart, Mayor-Elect Marty Walsh, Mary McAleese, Bob Crowe & Toni Yacobian



Amy Koch & Steve Flynn



Gala Dinner Chairman Des Mac Intyre, Mary McAleese, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, New England Director of the American Ireland Fund Steve Greeley



Maureen and Mike Sheehan

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

**Nollaig Shona Doibh!** “Happy/Merry Christmas to you-all.”

Last month we discussed both gender and plural of some nouns. Although we touched on it, we primarily avoided the subject of **Case** – specifically the **Genitive Case**.

What is a **Genitive Case**? For new readers, it is the form of a **noun** when it is used as a descriptor—as an **adjective**. English examples might be ...

“roof of the *house*.” “seat of the *chair*”  
“member of the *committee*”

However, in English it is more common to “*front*” the second **noun**, giving us, “*house* roof”, “*chair* seat” and “*committee* member.” Irish cannot “*front*” the second **noun** but can eliminate the little word “*of*” at times. This may seem awkward to English speakers but is normal to say in Irish, “Captain the boat”, **Caiptin an báid** /KAP-tuhn uh bahj/. Here the word for “boat” must be in the **Genitive Case**.

**Fear an tí**, “man (of) the house” refers to the Announcer of a **Feis** or **Céile**.

Recent studies have shown that younger speakers are simplifying the Irish language and eliminating the **Genitive** – but “Official” Irish and older speakers still use the **Genitive Case** – and so will we.

You have already had one use of the **Genitive** in the expression, “How much?” followed by a noun in the **Genitive Case**. Of course you can fudge if you don’t know the name of something by asking, “How much are these?”, **Cá mhead iad seo?** or “How much are those?” **Cá mhead iad sin?**

Fudging aside, how do you form the **Genitive**? The **Genitive singular** is the same as the plural of most **nouns**. You will learn the exceptions because I will explain new nouns by giving you the **singular, plural**, and **Genitive Singular** forms. You will use the **Singular** form of the **Genitive** most often.

Also, there is the problem of dialect. You will come across many dialects. Some **nouns** that I gave you in the last lesson show dialect differences. These are shown on the following table:

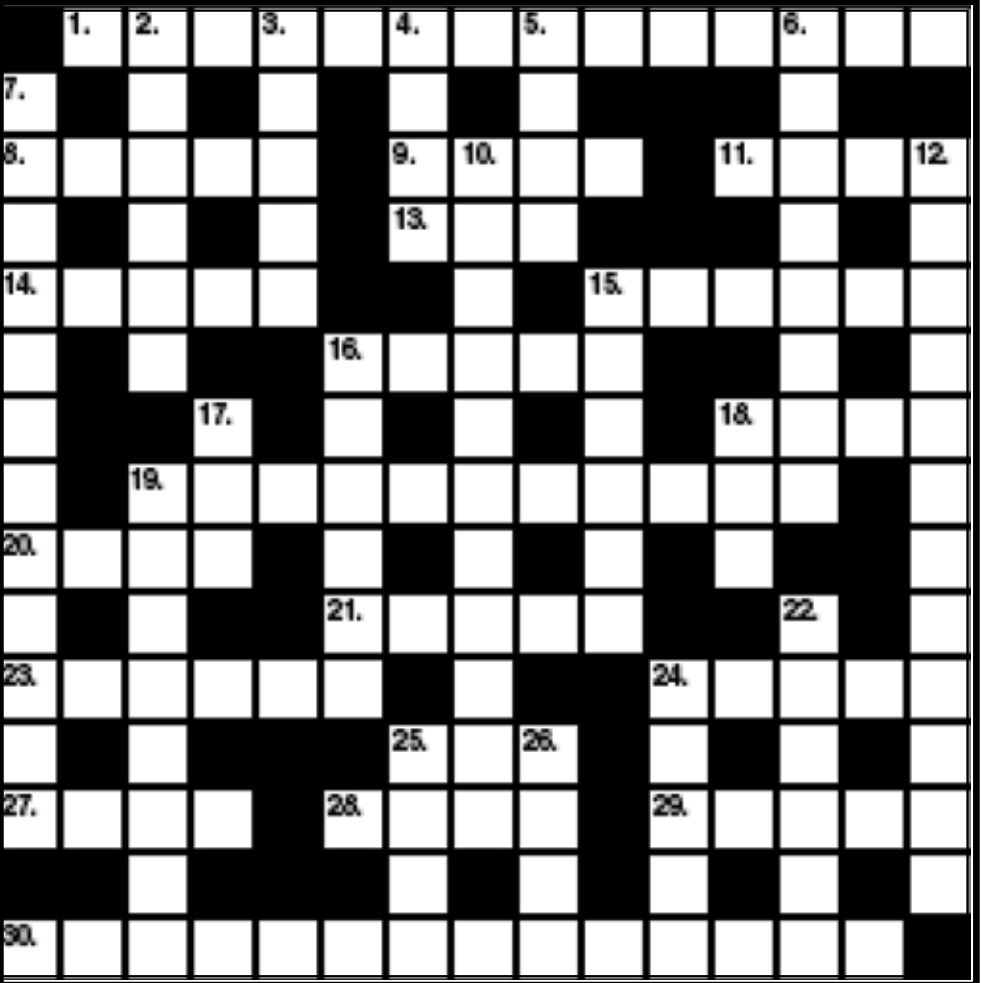
Noun	Singular	Plural	Genitive Singular
“river”	abhainn	abhann or aibhneacha	abhann
“woman”	bean	mrá	mrá
“church”	eaglais	eaglaise	eaglaise
“ship”	long	loinge	loinge
“mother”	máthair	máthar or máthaireache	máthar
“fire”	tine	tinte	tinte
“night”	oíche	oícheannta	
“kitchen”	cístin	cístine	cístine
“boat”	bád	báid	báid
“cat”	cat	cait	cait
“door”	doras	doirse	doisis
“son”	mac	mic	mic
“house”	teach	tithe	tí
“fish”	iasc	éisc	éisc
“shop”	síopa	síopaí	siopaí
“man”	fear	fir	fir

There is a tendency in modern spoken Irish to make nouns plural by suffixing (adding to the end) **-(e)ache** or **-(e)annta**. Some of these have become standard.. You will quickly learn these as you visit the Gaelteacht.

Sometimes **Genitive** forms are marked in Irish dictionaries as *Gen*. However, this form of a **noun** is often omitted in “pocket” dictionaries. You will quickly learn these variants when you visit the Gaelteacht. Go with the **plural** if you know it.

CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited to visit\_ [www.bigwood.com/heraldry](http://www.bigwood.com/heraldry)



IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

ACROSS

1. I'd be Ginger Hill. (anag.) Carlow birthplace of scientist John Tyndall in the Barrow valley. (14)
8. Vine about right for small Donegal fishing village at the mouth of the Eaney River where Tom Nesbitt, inventor of the whale harpoon was born. (5)
9. “Widgery didgery dok, the army ran — —. The judge said ‘No, it wasn’t so; they didn’t run they wok’” Derry street rhyme following the Widgery Tribunal into Bloody Sunday in 1971. (4)
11. Join one to use one, of course. (4)
12. This produces moving air for the devotee. (3)
14. “Bernard Shaw hasn’t an — — in the world, and none of his friends like him.” Oscar Wilde. (5)
15. Lover gets disturbed after note and will plead in a self-humiliating way. (6)
16. He will put her after us when showing where the seats are. (5)
18. Mary got confused by the military. (4)
19. Kneel, try net. (anag.) Principal Donegal town near the head of Lough Swilly. (11)
20. Ireland of the poets and songwriters gets in after Queen Elizabeth. (4)
21. Search recklessly and rob firearm coming back from Listowel firing range. (5)
23. Speaks formally even though sore at mix-up in Kilfenora tests. (6)
24. Can no letters be enough for the law of the church in Lucan only? (5)
25. Of that family in Spancil kinship. (3)
27. Small metal spike fixing wood that’s lain up in Ballina illness. (4)
28. Christina comes around at last and is against it. (4)
29. Starting softly, alto goes to pieces for author of “The Republic”. (5)
30. Neil and colonel get ordered to see barrister who secured Catholic Emancipation for Ireland in 1829. (6,8)

DOWN

2. Was jealous of the end I’ve contrived. (6)
3. Nothing grey about north Wexford town near the Wicklow border with a 1798 Memorial Cross. (5)
4. Flea hops over the page in Rathkeale afterwards. (4)
5. Small number on at midday. (4)

6. Lied very badly about the birth. (8)
7. Fit women live up here in small Tyrone plantation town near the Fermanagh border. (12)
10. Her flag team wavers in Derry market town near Lough Neagh, and angling centre for Moyola River. (11)
12. Ann shall by no other means go to the largest town in south Donegal on the banks of the Erne. (12)
15. Agree certainly to include 29 across’s country. (6)
16. Speaks in truest fashion. (6)
17. Farm layer seen in Glenbeigh enclosure. (3)
18. “That passed the time. It would have passed in — case. Yes but not so rapidly.” Beckett. (3)
19. Bail into disorder and produce a drink fit for the gods. (8)
22. Settle the land and restrict its possession in tale of chaos. (6)
24. Fowl with its head covered? (5)
25. Towards the centre in Dublin town. (4)
26. A thousand times in front metrically when 49 go into knockout. (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 23

Irish Sayings ...

A narrow neck keeps the bottle from being emptied in one swig.  
Show the fattened calf but not the thing that fattened him.  
Marry a woman from the mountain, and you’ll marry the mountain.  
It’s better to solve the problem than to improve the law.  
The thing that is closest to the heart, is closest to the mouth.  
Don’t bring your troubles to the person who hasn’t got sympathy for your case.  
A scholar’s ink lasts longer than a martyr’s blood.  
Take gifts with a sigh , most men give to be paid.  
A country without a language is a country without a soul.  
The person that isn’t strong, has to be clever.  
Youth sheds many a skin.The steed (horse) does not retain its speed forever.

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# Ireland to exit bailout program without backstop

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN — Ireland will exit its international bailout agreement this month without the safety net of a precautionary credit line, Prime Minister Enda Kenny announced late last month in a sign that the Irish are confident they won't suffer a beating in the bond markets.

The decision means Ireland will be the first of the Eurozone's four bailout recipients to wean itself off of emergency aid from the European Union and International Monetary Fund. The move comes three years after Ireland was forced to take 67.5 billion euros (\$91 billion) in loans to avoid bankruptcy.

"We will exit the bailout in a strong position," Kenny told lawmakers in Dublin.

Ireland sabotaged its own credit rating by deciding, in 2008, to insure the nation's banks against losses incurred in a collapsing property market. That commitment ultimately cost taxpayers more than 65 billion euros, a bill the state couldn't finance. But Ireland's reputation has steadily recovered as, under EU-IMF scrutiny, the government has slashed spending, hiked taxes, and exceeded a series of deficit-reduction targets.

Reflecting his cautious outlook, Finance Minister Michael Noonan initially had said he wanted Ireland to take a precautionary credit line of potentially 10 billion euros to ensure the success of any bailout exit. Both the European Central Bank and IMF had said Ireland would be wise to secure one.

But Noonan told an emergency Cabinet meeting last month that such aid would come with unattractively restrictive conditions, so Ireland should make do without it. He and other government leaders said taking out EU-IMF insurance would create the impression that Ireland was still subject to foreign aid.

In Brussels, the EU's Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner, Olli Rehn, said Ireland's decision would "send a very clear signal to markets and international lenders that the adjustment effort undertaken in Ireland ... has paid off."

Kenny said would-be buyers of new Irish bonds should be reassured that the country has built up more than 20 billion euros (\$27 billion) in emergency reserves. He added that the government next month would unveil a medium-term plan to spur economic growth while continuing to rein in the national debt.

"It will be an economic plan based on enterprise, not speculation. Never again will our country's fortunes be sacrificed to speculation, greed and short-term gain," Kenny said in reference to the previous Irish government's decade-long stoking of a runaway property market and weak regulation of banks.

The Finance Department in a statement said the treasury's reserves would be sufficient to fund Ireland through 2014 if, in a worst-case scenario, global investors again dumped Irish debt securities as happened in 2009 and 2010.

It said Ireland expected to post a 2013 deficit of 4.8 percent of economic output, better than the EU-IMF goal of 5.1 percent. Ireland posted an EU-record deficit in 2010 of 34 percent, reflecting that year's gargantuan bank-rescue costs.

The reserves mean Ireland's treasury does not need to rush into the bond markets next month, but can sell securities gradually through 2014 and pause in the event of any new short-term crises of confidence in the eurozone.

Ireland has already resumed limited auctions of bonds over the past year at relatively affordable prices. The yields on Irish bonds have even fallen below those of Spain and Italy.

Economists said Ireland's decision to forego EU-IMF insurance was better news for Ireland than for the Eurozone, whose 17 members still must find a way to guide Greece, Portugal and Cyprus back into the markets.

"The region has missed the opportunity to establish a precedent for how (bailout) program exit is managed," said Malcolm Barr, an analyst at JP Morgan Chase in London.



The Irish Emigrant hosted a November 7 event titled Irish Heroes of New England, recognizing heroic actions at Sandy Hook school and in the wake of the BAA Marathon bombings. Among the recipients were (l-r): Ken Casey, Dropkick Murphys; Lt. Sean O'Brien, Boston Fire Department; Lt. J. Paul Vance, Connecticut State Police; Michael Sheehan, Hill Holliday and Co-founder of One Fund Boston; Claire O'Brien, co-founder of "Dance out for Jane;" MBTA police Officer Richard Donohue; Boston police Officer Richard Moriarty; and Alana O'Brien, co-founder of "Dance out for Jane." Boston's Irish Consul General Breandán Ó Caollaí, (rear left) presented Irish Heritage certificates to the honorees on behalf of the Irish Government. (Sandie McDaid photo, courtesy Irish Central.)

## IRA car bomb targets Belfast's top shopping mall

BELFAST — A suspected Irish Republican Army car bomb targeting Belfast's biggest shopping center failed to detonate on Mon., Nov. 25. Police say the driver, who was ordered to deliver the bomb, was traumatized, and security in the Northern Ireland capital is being increased in the run-up to Christmas.

Police evacuated a cinema, restaurants, and apartments connected to the Victoria Square complex after the car, containing about 130 pounds (60 kilograms) of homemade explosive, was abandoned Sunday night at the entrance to the shopping center's underground parking lot.

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Contact Barry Hoey, a Roscommon native, who is the Seller/Realtor at [www.rivershannonhome.com](http://www.rivershannonhome.com). Business for sale in Ireland also: [www.rooskyengineering.com](http://www.rooskyengineering.com)

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with Brian O'Donovan

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